



Opening the Internet Governance Forum debate in Africa

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This publication includes various documents:

Foreword:

“More than 90% of the Problem Reside with Africa”

Pierre Dandjinou and Gaston Zongo

***Exploring and Enhancing Africa’s Role in the
Post-WSIS Internet Governance Forum Process***

Professor Clement Dzidonu

***Brief Review of the Paper “Exploring and Enhancing Africa’s Role
in the Post-WSIS Internet Governance Forum Process”***

Nii Quaynor and Mawuko Zormelo

***WSIS and Then? What Prospects and Roles for
African Stakeholders in the Subsequent Internet Governance Processes?***

Mawaki Chango

Statement:

Saly Appeal for the Establishment of an African Forum on Internet Governance

Annexes - Other practical information

(The IGF process – Inaugural Meeting Themes

IG Initiatives and Links,

African Members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the IGF)

Coordinated by Ken Lohento.

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ACRONYMS

AFRINIC	African Network Information Centre
ASO	Address Supporting Organization
CS	Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DNSO	Domain Name Supporting Organization
DSF	Digital Solidarity Fund
GAC	Government Advisory Committee
GIC	Global Internet Council
GIGF	Global Internet Governance Forum
GIPC	Global Internet Policy Council
IAB	Internet Architecture Board
IANA	The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICARSOs	Internet Coordination, Administration, Regulatory and Standards Organizations
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
IESG	Internet Engineering Steering Group
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IG	Internet Governance
IGF	Internet Governance Forum
IIC	International Internet Council
IRPOs	Internet Resource Provision Organizations
IRTF	Internet Research Task Force
ISOC	Internet Society
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAU:	Organization of African Unity, now replaced with the African Union (AU)
PIWA	Panos Institute West Africa
PSO	Protocol Supporting Organization
SOs	Supporting Organizations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
USG	United State Government
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
W3C	World Wide Web Consortium
WGIG	Working Group on Internet Governance
WGIG	Working Group on Internet Governance
WICANN	World Internet Corporation for Assigned Numbers and Names
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society

"More than 90% of the problem reside with Africa"

At a recent conference organized by AfriNIC and ISOC in Nairobi, Kenya, the high panel of Experts convened to discuss the Internet governance issues and the African perspectives came to the conclusion that more than 90% of the problem reside with Africa itself. They all agreed that Internet issues boil down to the overall perception of the development of the Internet and the ICT for that matter and their contribution to socio economic progress on the continent. Therefore, African countries should seek to invest their efforts in capacity building for a sound and meaningful participation in the global fora where policy development takes place.

These conclusions echo the current consensus that has been emerging since the WSIS ended in Tunisia in November 2005 and with the ongoing preparation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), to be organized in Athens, Greece, from 30 October to 2nd November 2006. It is now being recognized that:

- The activities of the IGF should have an overall development orientation;
- Capacity building to enable meaningful participation in global Internet policy development should be an overarching priority and
- Meaningful participation should include both assistance to attend meetings and training in the subject matter of Internet Governance.

This composite document committed by PIWA/CIPACO and entitled “*Opening the Internet Governance Forum Debate in Africa*” is therefore timely as it provides comprehensive fundamental thoughts on the issues and possible positions and actions to be taken by Africa and the international community.

The main paper, dubbed “*Exploring and Enhancing Africa’s Role in the post Wsis Internet Governance Forum Process*”, by Professor Clement Dzidonu sets the stage with a threefold perspective. It provides the needed background information and knowledge on the overall IG issue and the preparation of the Internet Governance Forum. It then embarks on a thematic assessment of Africa’s current status vis-à-vis the Internet Governance sphere, with the perceived role of African actors and institutions. Finally, the paper maps out possibilities for an African full engagement in the process and mechanisms of the Internet Governance Forum. Clement Dzidonu’s paper argues that while African countries have a major role to play at the national, regional and international levels on a number of the emerging key IG issues, they should not just suffice with a call to the international community, and should rather aim at being more active partners in addressing various aspects of the internet Governance issue. One would only regret that the demand side, i.e. the wider Internet user community including the industry, the business and Government and their respective involvement, has not been thoroughly analyzed to provide avenues for an effective engagement.

In his paper entitled: *'WSIS and then? What Prospects and Roles for African Stakeholders in the Subsequent internet Governance processes'*, Mawaki Chango offers a refreshing analysis of the African engagement in the WSIS process. Going through the learning process which was initiated at Bamako 2002 up to the eve of the IGF in Athens, not forgetting the Geneva and Tunis phases of the WSIS, the paper seeks to question the logics of African stakeholders participation and the crafting of their distinct positions during those international fora. An appraisal of reactions from Africa and elsewhere after the release of the WGIG report provides an understanding of the overall environment of the Internet governance and the power play in place. Thus, the USG's statement that "it is at the edges where individuals, groups and corporations alike have the opportunity to add value to the network" and that "the [re is a] need for appropriate public policy at the local and national levels supplemented by cooperation at the international level" clearly indicates that if African countries want to take their own share of the Internet, and have influence in any IGF process, they need to demonstrate their good faith and build their own part of the 'network of networks'.

Analyzing African participation in ICANN, Mawaki Chango comes up with the concept of a 'professional civil society' as opposed to 'general civil society', where "professional specialists, or entities, engaging in a civil society mode of intervention about an issue relating to a subject matter that comes within their professional remit, or is specifically part of their missions or functions' have been representing African interest and views in structures such as AfriNIC, AFNOG, AfriSPA and AfTLD. Noting the incompleteness of such groups individually and their lack of a thorough 'representation' of the needs of the broader Internet community and users in Africa, Mawaki Chango argues for a common and permanent Regional Policy Advisory Committee (RePAC) with the aim of advising on global internet governance issues (this is in line with the idea of an "African Internet Group" (AIG) that had been envisaged some years ago). The AIG was instrumental for organizing the first ever held conference on the Internet governance in Africa in 1998 in Cotonou, Benin.

Indeed, beyond the "networks of networks", current trends witness a steady move towards "systems of systems" and their related emerging governance issues that require due considerations to be paid to local and regional perspectives in IG.

As most IG issues are being identified and addressed initially by the developed world, they do not necessarily carry on or take into account the specificity of Africa, let it be at the socio-economic and cultural levels or at the technological and the infrastructure development ones. Furthermore, most solutions and decisions made at the international level are environment sensitive, and thereby may impact on Africa. Besides the common and traditional IG issues such as DNS management, ENUM (Electronic Numbering) and IP addressing with the emerging IPv6, there is a certain number of others that have direct or indirect links with IG, and they include, but are not limited to the Net Neutrality question, the issues pertaining to security, privacy (RFID – Radio Frequency Identification), piracy, international connexion costs, and IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) that definitely require African specific touches and/or clearance.

Therefore, the significance of IG for Africa goes beyond effective and even efficient participation in ICANN's activities and in any case, cannot stand only with a "follower attitude" or an import of international thinking with simple 'mutatis mutandi' actions. It rather calls for a development and building of capacities and universal capabilities that can foster an African led rethinking of the overall concept of the digital divide and the ICT for development agenda, in times of convergence, fuelled by

IP-enabled technologies, with deeper insights and self thinking that can help define and share African positions with the international community.

In this line of thought, the *Saly Appeal for the Establishment of an African Forum on Internet Governance* (issued at the end of the PIWA/CIPACO workshop in July 2006, to prepare African stakeholders for the IGF) which closes the series of papers, certainly constitutes a sound roadmap for Africa's further engagement in global policy making as related to Internet Governance.

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Exploring and Enhancing Africa's Role in the Post-WSIS Internet Governance Forum Process

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Preamble

The convergence of information technologies, communication, transmission and multimedia presentation technologies is rapidly having a major social, economic and political impact in both the developing and developed countries. Parallel to this development is the rapid growth of the Internet and its widespread use world-wide.

The Internet has, in a relatively short time, become an essential instrument for today's society. There is no doubt that the growing awareness of the Internet's major social and economic impact in both developed and developing countries has brought the question of Internet Governance (IG) into sharper focus in recent years. --- The debate on issues relating to the governance of the Internet and on the policy and decision making process that are governing and shaping the development and allocations of its resources, technologies and related systems is no doubt an outcome of the growing importance of the social, economic, cultural and the political role of the Internet.

The question of who owns or governs the Internet; who are the key decision-makers as per the issues governing the Internet; which aspects of the Internet to govern and by whom; the role of specific international bodies and governments and civil society in determining the rules governing the operations of the Internet including issues relating to the allocation of its resources can all be seen within the context of the growing importance of the Internet.

African countries since the explosion of the Internet on the continent in the mid-90's have been raising issues at various fora on the governance of the Internet in general and in particular on the question of Africa's role in the Internet governance space laying emphasis on how to ensure and enhance Africa's effective participation not only in the use of the Internet and its resources but also in its governance. It is therefore not surprising that African countries working notably with other developing countries played a crucial role in putting the Internet Governance issue on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) agenda during the Geneva phase of the WSIS process.

The Internet Governance debate has since the Geneva WSIS meeting gone through series of international consultative processes, culminating into a resolution passed at the Tunis WSIS meeting to convene a multi-stakeholder and an all-inclusive Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

In this paper, we explore Africa's role in the post-WSIS Internet Governance space by examining a number of issues relating to crystallizing Africa's role in the 'Internet Governance' landscape, in view of the outcome of the Tunis WSIS meeting that proposed the setting up of the IGF. The paper analyzes the implications of this decision as it relates to Africa and explores issues relating to how to ensure and enhance the effective participation of African countries in this Forum. The analysis carried out focuses on exploring key Internet Governance issues within the context of Africa's role in terms of 'what-is' and 'what-ought-to-be' type of analysis.

Some parts of the paper capitalize on [1¹] (Dzidonu, 2005) and [5] (Dzidonu, Quaynor, 2002).

¹ See section "References" at the end the document for the bibliography

1.0 Setting the scene : exploring the genesis and the evolution of the Internet Governance debate and process in the international arena

The debate on the issue of Internet Governance with specific reference to the controversy surrounding the issue of who owns or governs the Internet has been around for some time. According to [1] (Dzidonu, 2005), this debate gained momentum particularly in the late 1990s when the Internet gained worldwide popularity. The Internet governance issue and debate did in fact predate the WSIS process which is the origin of the current on-going debate on the subject. There is however no doubt that the 'Internet Governance' controversy did heighten during the Geneva phase of the WSIS; with a number of developing countries (including African countries) and other key stakeholders arguing for the need to re-examine the issue of who governs the Internet within the context of enhancing the role of all key stakeholders in its governance.

1.1 Scooping the Internet Governance Issue

The Geneva WSIS generated 'Internet Governance' controversy can, in the main, be attributed to a serious disagreement on what is to be the accepted notion of 'Internet Governance' (IG). – It was mainly about 'What is or what is not IG. A debate on whose definition of IG is better or best-fit. It has been argued that the global debate on the 'Internet Governance' issue in the wake of the Geneva WSIS process portrays a total lack of consensus about how to define 'Internet governance', and about which issues and institutions are and should be involved in what manner. --- Similarly, there is a lack of agreement as to whether there are significant problems with existing governance mechanisms, and whether there are any pressing but unresolved issues that need to be tackled through international cooperation.

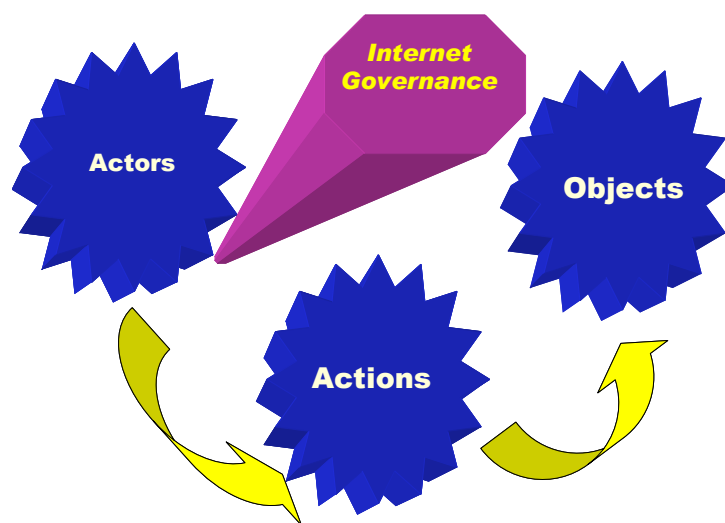
However, despite this apparent lack of success on the definition question, the contributions on the Internet Governance issue during and after the Geneva WSIS meeting, irrespective of what perspective from which the governance issue is examined, have succeeded in enabling us reaching a consensus on a number of key parameters to advance the 'Internet Governance' agenda. One key area of consensus is that the notion of 'governance' presupposes that:

- there is 'something' to be governed (what to govern – the *object* of governance)
- there are governance issues (technical standards, resource allocation and coordination, policy formulation) to be considered (as the *subject* matter of the governance issue)
- there are governing entities who perform the act (*action*) of governance and there are specific governance actions that are taken individually or collectively by the governing entities acting on the basis of an authority or consensus on specific governance issues.

In other words, the scooping of the Internet Governance issue can be addressed in terms of the following broad questions:

- Who are the entities (**actors**) involved in the IG space?
 - who governs the Internet ('what is' -- the status quo)?
 - who should be governing the Internet ('what ought to be')?

- What do they govern (**objects**)?
 - what aspects of the Internet (resources, policies rules, people) are they governing ('what is')?
 - what aspects of the Internet should they govern or should they be governing ('what ought to be')?
- What governance **actions** to take?
 - what actions or interventions are those governing the Internet involved in ('what is')?
 - what actions or interventions should they be involved in (what they ought to be doing or not to be doing)



According to [1] (Dzidonu, 2005), the unbundling of the Internet Governance issue into *actors*, *objects* and *actions* (as described above) can facilitate the process of crystallizing Africa's role in the IG space in terms of the three basic Internet Governance questions (listed above). Before addressing these questions within the context of detailing what should Africa's role be in the post WSIS Internet Governance Forum (IGF), it is important to document the WGIG process that led to the Tunis declaration to set up the IGF.

1.2 The WGIG Process and its Recommendations

Since the controversy surrounding the Internet Governance issue was not fully resolved at the Geneva Phase of the WSIS meeting, it was not surprising that a key action item of the Geneva declaration was a call on the UN Secretary General to set up a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) to sort out among other things the issue of what is or what is not Internet Governance. The Group was mandated to:

- develop a working definition of Internet governance;
- identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance;

iii) develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing intergovernmental and international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries;

(iv) prepare a report on the results of this activity to be presented for consideration and appropriate action for the second phase of WSIS in Tunis in 2005.

The Group presented its report in June 2005 and in it they proposed the following working definition of 'Internet Governance'

'The development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.'

The Group made the point that this working definition:

- reinforces the concept of inclusiveness of Governments, the private sector and civil society in the mechanisms of Internet governance.
- acknowledges that with respect to specific issues of Internet governance each group will have different interests, roles and participation, which in some cases will overlap and
- takes into account issues that go beyond Internet names and addresses (as they relate to the DNS) to include other significant public policy issues, such as critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet.

The WGIG acknowledged that Internet governance includes more than Internet names and addresses, issues dealt with by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN): it also includes other significant *public policy issues*, such as critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet. The Group in their recommendations pointed out that the two overarching prerequisites to enhance the legitimacy of Internet governance processes are:

- the effective and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, especially from developing countries.
- the building of sufficient capacity in developing countries, in terms of knowledge and of human, financial and technical resources.

The Group recommended the creation of a new space (a forum) for dialogue for all stakeholders on an equal footing on all Internet governance-related issues (a number of which they identified). Such a space or forum for dialogue should allow for the participation of all stakeholders from developing and developed countries on an equal footing. The forum, the Group pointed out, should be open to all stakeholders from all countries; any stakeholder could bring up any Internet governance issue.

In the words of the report: *"The WGIG identified a vacuum within the context of existing structures, since there is no global multi-stakeholder forum to address Internet-related public policy issues. It came to the conclusion that there would be merit in creating such a space for dialogue among all stakeholders. This space could address these issues, as well as emerging issues, that are cross-cutting*

and multidimensional and that either affect more than one institution, are not dealt with by any institution or are not addressed in a coordinated manner.”

The forum it was recommended should be reinforced by regional, sub-regional and national initiatives and supplemented by open online mechanisms for participation. It should support the ICT4D agenda emerging from the WSIS and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) processes. With regard to the roles and responsibilities of Governments, the Group put forward the following 4 options (models):

- ***No change to ICANN, but give the oversight role held by the US Department of Commerce to a new “Global Internet Council (GIC)”*** --- This model envisages a Global Internet Council (GIC), consisting of members from Governments with appropriate representation from each region and with involvement of other stakeholders. This council would take over the functions relating to international Internet governance currently performed by the Department of Commerce of the United States Government. It would also replace the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC).
- ***Abolish the oversight role altogether, and strengthen the GAC.*** -- This model dispenses of the need for a specific oversight organization. Rather the recommendation was made to enhance the role of ICANN’s Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) in order to meet the concerns of some Governments on specific issues
- ***Create an “International Internet Council” with responsibility for handling governance issues between nations.*** --- This model proposed that for policy issues involving national interests, and given that no single Government should have a pre-eminent role in relation to international Internet governance, an International Internet Council (IIC) could fulfill the corresponding functions, especially in relation to ICANN/IANA competencies.
- ***Abolish ICANN and create WICANN, GIPC, and GICF:*** -- This model recommended the need to replace ICANN with: (i) a new World Internet Corporation for Assigned Numbers and Names (WICANN) – a private-sector-led body made up of a reformed internationalized ICANN linked to the United Nations, which will be responsible for the “development of the Internet in both technical and economic fields” (a role similar to that performed by ICANN). (ii) a Global Internet Policy Council (GIPC) to be responsible for international Internet-related public policy issues”, and contribute to public policy perspectives to Internet-related technical standard-setting., and (iii) a Global Internet Governance Forum (GIGF) responsible for “facilitating coordination (and discussion) of Internet-related public policy issues”.

The four different proposals (options/models) aimed at defining the role of Governments are intended to complement the proposed multi-stakeholder forum.

The WGIG report and its recommendations attracted comments, responses and suggestions from Governments, private sector and civil society world-wide. Africa’s response to the WGIG report and its recommendation are contained in the **Dakar Declaration** made by Africa’s Ministers of Communication in September 2005, highlighting Africa’s common position as follows:

- *The establishment of a global consultation framework to review in depth the general policies on Internet Governance. Such a framework should authorize equal participation for all stakeholders (Government, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations);*
- *The expansion and reinforcement of the existing institutions for Internet Governance to enable all stakeholders to participate and ensure Internet Governance is efficient, accountable, and democratic, and that Internet services and resources are distributed in an equitable manner among all actors and all continents;*
- *Reinforcement of the role of the Government Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN in all Internet Public policy development issues;*
- *Internationalization of root server management;*
- *African Member States should set up root server instances to facilitate access;*
- *Setting up of a regional high speed Internet backbone allowing the creation of national, sub regional and regional Internet exchange points*
- *Participation of specialized African institutions in technical Internet Governance bodies;*
- *Reinforcement of the Internet Resource Management Institution, African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC), to guarantee the region's independence in Internet resources;*
- *Establishment in Africa of a reference framework for building a multi-stakeholder partnership at the national, regional and continental level, based on the basic principles of digital solidarity and in conformity with the spirit and provisions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);*
- *Contribution of African countries to the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) and utilization of the Fund for building capacity, in particular for women and young people, and financing Internet-related projects in Africa;*
- *Implementation of programmes that guarantee the presence of African languages on the Internet and use of free and open source software in order to fight against the linguistic digital divide and ensure the participation of all in the emerging new society;*
- *The creation, in each African Member State, of a national structure responsible for the promotion and development of the Information Society, of knowledge sharing and the coordination of these structures at the continental level;*
- *The creation of Centers of Excellence around Africa for capacity development.*

In a separate statement (reproduced in the **Appendix**) which was released on 13th November 2005 during the Tunis meeting, on behalf of the Africa's Ministers of Communication (The Africa

Group), further clarified and crystallized Africa's Common Position on the Internet Governance issue.

2.0 The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Consultative Process

The Tunis Phase of the WSIS to which the WGIG report was submitted and debated did not adopt any of the four models proposed in the WGIG report aimed at defining the role of Governments in the IG space to complement the work of the proposed multi-stakeholder forum also recommended in the report. The meeting did endorse the concept of setting up a multi-stakeholder forum and called for the creation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

2.1 The Declaration to Convene the IGF

The text of the IGF recommendations requesting the Secretary General of the UN to convene the IGF as contained in the Tunis Agenda is :

- *We ask the UN Secretary-General, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the second quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue—called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).*
- *The Internet Governance Forum, in its working and function, will be multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent.*
- *We ask the UN Secretary-General to examine the desirability of the continuation of the Forum, in formal consultation with Forum participants, within five years of its creation, and to make recommendations to the UN Membership in this regard.*
- *The IGF would have no oversight function and would not replace existing arrangements, mechanisms, institutions or organizations, but would involve them and take advantage of their expertise. It would be constituted as a neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process. It would have no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the Internet.*

The African Group in its 13th November 2005 Statement (re: **Appendix**) endorsed the decision to create the IGF and specifically stated their support for the establishment of what they called a global consultation forum, to review in depth the general policies on Internet Governance. The Statement pointed out that such a framework should facilitate participation for all stakeholders.

The progress to-date on the IGF process is that: an IGF Secretariat has been set up and two preliminary consultative meetings have taken place, one in February 2006 in Geneva and the other in May 2006 in Geneva to deliberate on issues and modalities for setting up and structuring the workings of the IGF including those relating to the IGF's scope of work and substantive priorities as well as aspects relating to its structure, composition and functions

The IGF as per the above statement is yet to be convened, but an Advisory Group has been set up with membership of 46 people from government, the private sector and civil society, including the academic and technical communities, representing all regions of the world to advise the UN Secretary General on matters relating to convening the IGF. The Advisory Group met on 22nd and 23rd May 2006 in Geneva, (following an open consultation on 19th May 2006) is to prepare the substantive

agenda and programme for convening the first (inaugural) meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, which is to be held in Athens from 30th October to 2nd November 2006.

It is not clear if the membership and the mode of work and structure and the terms of reference, the functions and program of work of the Advisory Group will remain unchanged after the inaugural IGF meeting which may deliberate on all these matters relating to the Advisory Group in addition to deliberating on other substantive IG public policy issues for which the forum is being convened and mandated to consider among other things.

2.2 Documenting the IGF Consultative Process

The IGF consultative process is on-going – and under the auspices of the IGF Secretariat a number of international multi-stakeholder face-to-face consultative meetings, online discussions and deliberations have taken place. Also an international call for papers on the IGF concept has yielded numerous submissions of concept papers and proposals on how to proceed with organizing and structuring the workings of the Forum including proposals and suggestions on the substantive issues and topics that the Forum should be engaged in.

On the whole, the aim of the consultations was to develop a common understanding among all stakeholders on the nature and character of the IGF. The consultative process has so far generated a number of key emerging consensus points and observations including a recognition that:

(i) the activities of the IGF should have an overall development orientation

(ii) capacity building to enable meaningful participation in global Internet policy development should be an overarching priority and

(iii) meaningful participation included both assistance to attend meetings and training in the subject matter of Internet governance.

It is of interest to note that these consensus points coincide with the observations made in a paper commissioned by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations ICT Task Force (ref: 1) that explores the core Internet Governance issues from Africa's perspective after the Geneva WSIS meeting. The relevant key observations and conclusions (of this paper) to this effect are summarized below:

(i) The point was made to the effect that there is a need to devise and put in place mechanism targeted at addressing the various technical, financial and the institutional barriers limiting the involvement and the participation of African countries in the IG space, this, it was argued, will be necessary to support the development of their information society in these countries.

(ii) Specifically on financial barriers to effective participation of African countries in the key activities and processes of the global Internet governance space, entities and fora, the point was made to the effect that African countries' participation is limited by the lack of the necessary financial resources to meet the cost of: (i) acquiring the necessary information, about the IG organizations, institutions, fora and events (ii) attending the meetings of the relevant IG organizations and (iii) gaining the necessary

know-how and expertise to effectively participate in the deliberations and activities of these institutions and events.

(iii) There is no doubt that Africa's lack of effective participation in the IG space to date do have implications on the development of Africa's information society. The key message put forward is that, for the majority of African countries, the enhancement of their role in the Internet Governance space is not an end in itself but rather a means to a bigger end, and that is facilitating (at least not obstructing) Africa's determination to be part of the information revolution and improve the social and economic outcomes of its people in the information age.

(iv) In the final analysis, efforts directed at broadening and enhancing the capacity of African countries to effectively participate in and contribute to the global IG agenda should be judged on the basis of the footprints they made on the developmental process of these countries.

2.3 The IGF Consultative Process – The Emerging IG Public Policy Issues

On the key substantive public policy issues that have so far emerged through the IGF consultative process, these include those relating to: spam; multilingualism; cybercrime; cybersecurity; privacy and data protection; freedom of expression and human rights; international interconnection costs; bridging the digital divide: access and policies, financing and rules for e-commerce, e-business and consumer protection. On the whole, discussions emerging from the IGF consultative process laid emphasis on the need to embrace and address a number of IG related public policy issues including those relating to:

- Privacy and data protection with its relation to human rights and digital identity;
- The security related issue of spam viruses and phishing;
- Issues of freedom of expression and human rights;
- The equitable and transparent management of critical Internet resources;
- Issues relating to Cybercrime and cyber-security and the need for a safe and reliable Internet to ensure access and reliable use;
- Access, policies and financing to bridge the digital divide;
- Multilingualism and local content in the Internet;
- Rules for e-commerce, e-business and consumer protection. – including issues relating to the role of the Internet as a key public infrastructure for economic activity; and consumer rights issues as they relate to on-line purchases of goods and services within a e-commerce environment;
- International connection costs issues and their effect on access, in particular in developing countries.
- The promotion of open standards and non proprietary development methods;
- Emerging issues in technology and their governance, including those relating to network neutrality; Voice over IP (VOIP) and peer-to-peer technologies;
- The rights and duties of users of the Internet;
- A recommendation on the use of effective methods for Internet governance;
- The sharing of best practices in current Internet governance arrangements and
- The adoption of methods and mechanisms that reflect the spirit of the WSIS principles.

A number of these Internet Governance public policy issues raised within the context of the IGF consultative process are more or less similar to those raised leading to and during the Geneva phase of the WSIS process and considered into some details by the WGIG:

- Administration of DNS – The Names Space (Internet names and IP addresses)
- Administration of the Root Server system
- Peering and Interconnection
- Telecommunications infrastructure, broadband access, convergence
- Cyber security, cybercrime
- Competition policy, liberalization, privatization and regulations
- Multilingualization of Internet naming systems
- Spam
- Dispute Resolution
- Security of network and information systems
- Technical Standards
- Affordable and universal access
- Voice over IP (VoIP)
- E-commerce, E-Government, E-education
- Consumer, user protection and privacy
- Unlawful content and access protection
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Education and human capacity building
- National Policies and Regulations

These IG public policies issues are no doubt relevant to addressing the general question of crystallizing Africa's role in the post-WSIS Internet Governance space. The African Group in its 13th November 2005 Statement on Africa's Common Position on Internet Governance (re: **Appendix**) identified a number of IG public policy issues (similar to those raised above) including a call for:

- ensuring the role of Governments in decision making with regard to all Internet Public policy development issues;
- the reinforcement of the Internet Regional Resource Management Institution, to ensure regional autonomy in Internet resources management;
- the Internationalization of root server management;
- the strengthening of the participation of specialized institutions from developing countries in the technical management and standardization Internet bodies.

The conclusion that can be drawn from all these global IG consultative processes, (starting from the pre-Geneva phase of WSIS, through Geneva phase meeting, the WGIG process, the Tunis phase WSIS meeting to the on-going IGF consultative meetings), is that: not much has changed either in terms of the substantive IG public policy issues (as shown above) or in terms of the broad IG questions namely: What to Govern (the **Objects**), Who to do the Governing (the **Entities/Actors**) and What Governance Actions to take --- How to Govern (the **Actions**). Also despite the fact the Tunis meeting did not substantially endorse the key recommendations of the WGIG (especially recommendations relating to

the various models for ensuring Governments involvement in the IG space and issues), the consultative process to convene the IGF is generating a number of IG public policy issues and concerns that are similar to those identified and discussed during the pre-Tunis WSIS phase IG consultative process.

It is therefore safe to conclude that for Africa, crystallizing and enhancing its role in the 'Internet Governance' landscape in the post Tunis WSIS era within the context of defining what its role should be in the IGF process boils down to addressing the questions:

- To what extent are African countries key IG players (Actors) – analyzing Africa's representation and involvement in the IG entities ('what is', and 'what ought to be')
- What aspects of the governance of the Internet are African countries involved in ('what is, and 'what ought to be')
- What IG actions are African countries involved in ('what is', and 'what ought to be')

The 'what-is' analysis substantially involves taking stock of Africa's IG role (to-date) --- (i) as key *Internet Governance (IG) actors* described in terms of its record in this area and (ii) examining the key roles that African countries have played locally (at the national level) and internationally on *Internet Governance (IG) issues and actions*. On the other hand the 'what-ought-to-be' analysis is targeted at addressing the substantive issues relating to what role can Africa play as an active participant in the IG space in general and in the IGF process in particular.

3.0 Assessing Africa's role in the Internet Governance sphere: The 'what-is' analysis.

We assess in this section Africa's role as key IG actors (i.e. addressing the question: to what extent are African countries key IG players or actors – analyzing Africa's representation and involvement in the IG entities) and the extent to which African countries are involved in promoting, addressing and taking actions on the key IG public policy issues and actions points identified within the various IG consultative processes including the WSIS, WGIG and the IGF Internet governance consultative processes among others.

3.1 Key Internet Governance Entities and Actors: An Assessment of Africa's Role

According to [1] (Dzidonu, 2005), it could be argued that African countries are facing a number of challenges that inhibit their effective participation and influence in the relevant Internet Governance organizations, structures and fora. We can identify some of these challenges to include:

- The limited bargaining power and leverage of African countries as compared to other countries and regional blocs;
- The absence of a coherent, consistent position by African countries on major global Internet governance issues;

- The lack of expertise and capacity in relevant Internet governance issues, including IG policy, standards and technical issues;
- The absence of effective cooperation amongst African countries on how to engage in collective negotiation on relevant Internet governance issues for their mutual benefit and;
- The effect of some of the extra-regional block alliances that, for example, some Africa countries enter into --- which, in some cases, makes it difficult for African countries to act as a group to present a common front on Internet governance issues at global fora.

Specifically on the issue of barriers to participation, African countries do experience a number of barriers to participation in the relevant *Internet Coordination, Administration, Regulatory and Standards Organizations* (ICARSOs) --- (these have responsibilities for: Internet Resource Allocation, Administration and Coordination; Rules and Policy Making, Technical Standards Setting, and the *Internet Resource Provision Organizations* (IRPOs) --- (these have responsibilities for Internet Resource Administration, Managing and Services Provision).

Taking for example the case of ICANN (an example of ICARSO), it was pointed out in [1] (Dzidonu 2005) that its current structure and mode of operation present some technical and financial barriers to the effective participation by African countries and other developing countries in the activities and the decision making mechanisms of its constituencies, especially the technical ones. For example, very few African countries do have people with the necessary or requisite technical know-how and expertise to effectively participate in ICANN's technical SOs (supporting organizations) like the: Address Supporting Organization (ASO), Protocol Supporting Organization (PSO), Domain Name Supporting Organization (DNSO), the Government Advisory Committee (GAC) etc. Even among the few that could surmount the technical barriers to participation, not many of them are likely to have the necessary financial resources to attend ICANN meetings on a regular basis.

On the whole according to [1] (Dzidonu, 2005), we can identify the following key barriers to effective participation of African countries in the key activities and processes of the global Internet governance space, entities and fora:

- **Technical Barriers:** This relates to the lack of the necessary know-how, or expertise to:
 - (i) effectively participate in relevant IG organizations, structures and fora;
 - (ii) comprehend the technical details of the deliberations, activities and the outputs of the various IG organizations, structures and fora;
 - (iii) effectively contribute to and make input into the discussions of the relevant IG entities and processes and
 - (iv) learn/benefit from the proceedings and the activities of the various IG organization and fora.
- **Informational Barriers:** This relates to the inability of African countries to acquire or have access to the necessary and relevant information about the various IG organizations, activities, fora and events. For example, information like: What the IG organization or fora is all about?, What it does and its impact on African countries? How to get involved in the activities of the

relevant IG organizations and for a? How relevant is the subject matter of these organizations, fora, events, etc.

- **Financial Barriers:** This relates the lack of the necessary financial resources to meet the cost of:
 - (i) acquiring the necessary information about the IG organizations, institutions, fora and events
 - (ii) attending the meetings of the relevant IG organizations and
 - (iii) gaining the necessary know-how and expertise to effectively participate in the deliberations and activities of these institutions and events.

- **Institutional Barriers:** A number of institutional barriers to effective participation of African countries in the activities and the relevant IG organizations, institutions, events and fora can be identified. The first relates those barriers posed by the very structure, nature and/or the mode of operations of the IG organizations, structures and processes that could serve as a barrier to effective participation of African countries. Other institutional barriers to effective participation could arise as a result of absence of effective cooperation amongst African countries (or a group of them) on how to engage in collective negotiation on IG related issues for their mutual benefit. Also extra-African alliances that inhibit Africa's capacity to present a common front, stand or position on global IG issues can be classified as a type of institutional barrier to effective participation.

3.2 Assessment of Africa's Participation and Involvement in Key IG Issues

To assess the totality of Africa's involvement in the IG space there is a need to go beyond examining their role as key IG actors as done above to carrying out an assessment of the level and degree of Africa's involvement to-date in key IG public policy issues and actions on the local (national, and continental) and the international or global scene. The details are presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Level/Degree of Africa’s Participation/Involvement in Key IG Public Policy Issues

Key IG Policy Issues that Emerged from the WGIG and the IGF Consultative Process	Assessing and Evaluating Africa’s Role and Performance on the Key IG Public Policy Issues
Administration of DNS – The Names Space (Internet names and IP addresses)	African countries do play a role in the administration of the DNS. For example, AfriNIC (is responsible for the allocation of IP addresses for the Africa region) the national ccTLDs organizations (are responsible for the technical management and admin of the ccTLD system in each respective African country) and the local ISPs (are responsible for providing IP related services to their subscribers). Also some selected Africans (as individuals) and groups (e.g. the African ccTLDs, the African ICANN group, among others) have to some extent been active in the ICANN process on issues relating to the administration of the DNS.
Administration of the Root Server system	African countries do not play any role in the administration of the root server system, neither are they involved in the global public policies and technical issues (including standards etc), deliberations and key decisions relating the administration of the root server system. Apart from the fact that none of the 13 root servers are hosted in Africa, the continent currently does not have the requisite technical capacity (both in strength and numbers) to effectively administer such a system. The call for the need to strengthen Africa’s technical capacity to effectively participate in the global IG space can be seen within this context.
Peering and Interconnection	African countries do play some role at the national and in some cases sub-regional level on issues and decisions relating to peering and interconnection. A number of countries have put in place policies and mechanisms for ensuring peering and interconnections between the systems of their communications systems providers (including fixed and mobile telecom providers and Internet Service Providers), a number of these have led to addressing issues relating to affordability of access which is being regarded as an IG issue. However, it is fair to state that Africa countries do not play active a role in the international arena on public policy issues relating to peering and interconnection except the role they play in this area within the content of ITU deliberations and negotiations.
Telecommunications infrastructure, broadband access, convergence	Apart from the role that African countries play as part of their participation in ITU meetings and conferences, they are not major players in international fora where key decisions are made on issues relating to the deployment of telecommunication infrastructure, broadband access and convergence. The major players in this area are the big multi-national telecommunication and communication service providers and no African country’s indigenous telecom service provider is a key player in this arena. Also the policy decisions governing the operations of the big players are taken by the Governments of their parent (host) countries, African Governments have no role in this respect

Cyber security, cybercrime	Some African countries are either drafting or have put in place cyber-security and cyber crime laws as part of their national ICT4D process. The activities of African Governments in this area are basically local (national) in nature. African countries are yet to play any significant or key role in the international decision making process on issues relating to cyber-security and cyber-crime. One hardly sees African countries participating in the big international conferences and fora devoted to these issues.
Competition policy, liberalization, privatization and regulations	A number of African countries either as part of their communications sector reform or as part of their national ICT4D process are putting in place or have put in place policies aimed at the liberalization and introducing competition into their telecommunication and communication sectors. Most have also set-up regulatory authorities and enacted regulatory provisions to guide the sector. All these efforts are at the local (national) level in most of the African countries. Except within the context of some of the sub-regional Economic Communities (e.g. ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA etc), African countries play little or no role on the international scene in conferences, meetings and fora devoted to deliberating and making key decisions (some of which with global implications) on these issues
Multilingualization of Internet naming systems	African countries unlike Asian countries like China, India among others who are in the fore-front of promoting multi-lingualization of the Internet naming system play little or no role in this area. Apart from some attempts by some few African countries, the majority of these countries are not involved in promoting this issue even at the local (national) level. African countries are in most cases absent at major international conferences and decision making fora on the multi-lingualization of the Internet naming system
Spam	African countries (like most countries in the world are at the receiving end of spam problem). Some countries like the US, and Canada among others have taken steps to protect their citizens through legislation. Some international efforts are also being made at appropriate fora to limit and address the problem. African countries, despite the fact that most of them pay a relatively high cost for Internet access, and (in addition to the inconveniences and the nuisance factor of spam) do get a chunk of their relatively limited international Internet bandwidth taken up by spam traffic (meaning increased access costs to their Internet subscribers), have played little role both locally and internationally to combat the spam problem. African countries apart from voicing out their displeasure on the spam issue including the issue of 419 scams that their citizens are subjected to, very few have taken steps to put in place legislations to combat it and protect their citizens.
Dispute Resolution	A number of African countries have voiced their displeasure internationally (especially to ICANN) on the fact that their country's TLD name and other cultural and intellectual property related domain names have been hijacked by people who have no connection whatsoever to their country. Some of these countries who have submitted themselves to the ICANN initiated dispute

	<p>resolution process to retrieve these names were successful, others were not. But on the whole, African countries, play little role in the international arena on issues relating to making key decisions on how to institute and administrate domain name dispute resolutions systems and mechanisms. Although some African countries included domain name dispute resolution processes and mechanism in their cyber-laws they are enacting (most as part of their ICT4D) process, the majority of the African countries are not active both locally (nationally), regionally (on a continental level) and internationally on this issue. For example, the vast majority of African countries do not have in place national dispute resolution mechanisms to address and resolve disputes relating to allocation of domain names and those relating to domain name hijacking and the inherent intellectual property rights (IPR) issues.</p>
<p>Security of network and information systems</p>	<p>A few African countries have in place e-security policies and in some cases laws to protect their critical national public and private networks and systems and to address a number of the security issues arising from the spread of the Internet and the information society. But on the whole, African countries play little or no role on the international scene on issues relating to the security of the Internet and other critical international network and information systems. African countries hardly participate in international conferences and decision making fora on Internet security in particular and cyber-security in general. The issues relating to the need to build Africa's capacity to effectively participate in the global policy and decision making forum on Internet security and on the national and global security and law and order implications of the development of the information society is of paramount importance.</p>
<p>Technical Standards</p>	<p>The Internet is governed by a number of technical standards set by a number of standards organizations including: the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), Internet Architecture Board (IAB), Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG), Internet Society - ISOC, Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) among others. To-date the involvement of African countries, technical bodies and individuals in these organizations and processes been minimal. Apart from the involvement in ISOC activities through national ISOC chapters, mainly focused on Internet user and access issues, the majority of African countries do not contribute to the Internet technical standards process. The lack of Africa's technical capacity to be actively involved in this process has been identified as a key Internet Governance issue that need to be addressed within the IGF process.</p>
<p>Affordable and universal access</p>	<p>African countries have been in the forefront in promoting affordable and universal access to communication services including those of the Internet. They have in the past used fora like the ITU and the venues provided by international ICT4D meetings and conferences like the WSIS, and other regional fora like those organized by the ECA among others to lobby for and raise the issue of the need to make access affordable and the promotion of universal access to communications services in African countries especially for the rural areas. At the local (national level), number of these countries as part of their ICT4D process has established universal access funds and mechanisms with mandatory contributions from Telcos and in some cases ISPs to support rural access and</p>

	access to underserved communities. On the whole, African countries are vocal both locally and internationally on the issue of affordable and universal access and have been leading advocates on the need to address these issues as key IG public policy issues both locally (national and continental) and internationally.
Voice over IP (VoIP)	The Voice over IP (VOIP) service provision is a burning issue in some African countries where VOIP services are either restricted or outlawed because of concern over the possibility of the national Telcos losing revenue sources if calls are terminated in their networks without compensation mechanism being put in place. Mainly; for most African countries the VoIP issues are local in nature, hence their involvement on the international scene in VoIP issues apart from their participation in ITU fora on the issue is minimal.
E-commerce, E-Government, E-education	A number of African countries are promoting e-commerce, e-government and e-education as part of their ICT4D process. Some of these are putting in place or have put in place the necessary laws to facilitate and promote their countries involvement in e-government and commerce. However apart from these local initiatives, the majority of the African countries are not key players on the international scene, where some of the rules and standards are been devised and decided on to govern international e-commerce and e-trade for example. Some of these countries do have some level of involvement in UN agencies like UNCTAD on these issues but little of that involvement relates to their participation in setting the rules and the standards for governing the roll-out and the implementation of these systems.
Consumer, user protection and privacy	Some African countries are addressing consumer protection and privacy issues within the context of the cyber-laws they are enacting as part of facilitating their ICT4D process. Apart from these local initiatives, African countries are not visible on the international scene on consumer protection and privacy issues, as it relates for example to the use of the Internet to facilitate e-commerce and e-government, e-health services among others. A number of the consumer protection and privacy issues are national in nature and the role of African Government and Civil Society group to address these issues within their national ICT4D process as a key IG public policy matters is paramount.
Freedom of expression and human rights	A number of African have enshrined freedom of expression and human rights in their constitution. Most African countries have unrestricted access and freedom of expression on the Internet. African civil societies in these areas have been vocal both at the local (national) level and on the international stage. The majority of the African countries addressing the freedom of expression and human rights issues view them as issues within the context of constitutional rights of their citizens rather than as Internet Governance public policy issues.
Unlawful content and access protection	Not much has been done by most African countries locally (national level) on the issue of unlawful content and access protection as it relates to the Internet. The involvement of African countries on the international scene on these issues has also been minimal.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)	<p>Although issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights have gained international attention because of the spread of the Internet, African countries apart from their limited involvement in WIPO meetings do not play key role at international conferences and fora on the subject. The Intellectual Property organizations of the majority of African countries are not actively pushing onto the international agenda issues relating to the threat to Africa's intellectual properties and copyrights imbedded in their cultural heritage items, artifacts, symbols, names, products and systems --- a number of which are now freely available on the Internet. African countries involvement in IPR issues on the international scene have to-date been limited and a number of these countries are yet to mainstream and promote IPR issues as key IG issues onto their national agenda.</p>
Cultural and linguistic diversity	<p>Cultural and linguistic diversity issues have also become topical on the international scene as a result of the spread of the Internet. African countries have so far played no major role in the international arena in promoting and safeguarding Africa's cultural and linguistic diversity.</p>
National Policies and Regulations	<p>African countries are in the forefront of developing and implementing their ICT4D policies including putting in place the requisite regulatory mechanisms and systems (including enacting relevant regulatory legislations) to support the roll-out and the deployment of ICTs within their societies and economy. A number of these African countries have also been playing a leading role on the international ICT4D scene including active participation in major conferences and decision making fora on ICT4D issues. African countries within the context of promoting the development of their information society and economy, championed within the WSIS process the issue of setting up the Digital Solidarity Fund -- which a number of African countries have contributed to as a demonstration of their commitment to bridging the digital divide through the ICT4D process.</p>
Education and human capacity building	<p>A number of African countries have in place, as part of their ICT4D process, the promotion of ICTs in Education and human resource development to support the development of their respective information economies and societies. An area which most of these countries are weak in is developing capacity and competency in Internet Government public policy issues the key ones being those detailed above. The IG consultative process, within Africa and internationally within the WSIS, process highlighted the issue of lack of the necessary know-how, expertise and capacity in African countries to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) effectively participate in relevant IG organizations, structures and fora; (ii) comprehend the technical details of the deliberations, activities and the outputs of the various IG organizations, structures and fora; (iii) effectively contribute to and make input into the discussions of the relevant IG entities and processes and (iv) learn/benefit from the proceedings and the activities of the various IG organization and fora.

The 'what-is' analysis, carried out above, clearly demonstrates that Africa's involvement in IG entities and in relevant IG decision making fora and avenues as well as their participation in key IG public policy issues nationally, regionally and internationally has been minimal when compared to the active role being played by countries, bodies and key individuals from other regions of the world.

The key barriers to Africa's active participation and involvement in the global IG space, as described in this section, only partly explain the reason why Africa's IG role has been limited in a number of respects. In other words African countries could and can do more in spite of the constraints they face. The 'what-ought-to-be' analysis carried out in the next section highlights some of the roles that African countries should and can play in the post WSIS Internet Governance landscape taking into account the emerging IGF process and other envisaged and anticipated local and global IG processes, activities, fora and venues.

4.0 Mapping and Enhancing Africa's Role in the Internet Governance Space: The 'What Ought to-be' Analysis

To enhance their role in the post WSIS Internet governance space, especially within the context of the IGF process, Africa countries will need to play an active role in all the three IG areas, namely playing an active role in the *actors*, *actions* and *objects* space.

4.1 Enhancing Africa's Role in the 'IG Actors' Internet Space

African countries need to be active as key 'actors' within the IG space in the post-WSIS Internet Governance process in general and in particular in the IGF process by actively getting involved in the relevant IG institutions, structures and processes. On the basis that a number of the identified technical, financial and institutional barriers can be overcome, African countries could enhance their role in the global IG space by actively and effectively participating in the activities of IG related institutions like: ICANN, ISOC, IETF, ITU, IAB, IESG, W3C among others. It will be recalled that the African Group in their 13th November 2005 Statement on Africa's Common Position on Internet Governance (re: **Appendix A**) call for: the strengthening of the participation of specialized institutions from developing countries in the technical management and standardization Internet bodies.

We explore in **Table 2** below, the key role that African Governments, institutions, bodies and individuals can and should play within the various IG-relevant entities, avenues and fora. For each of these IG entities we describe the responsibilities, roles and functions in the IG space including their current membership composition. Candidate Africa IG actors as it relates to each of these entities, given their membership composition, are described; a description of the possible roles that these African IG actors can play is also provided. Given that Africa's role in the IG space is not only limited to the international scene, we explore the scope of Africa's intervention as actors in the IG space within the local, regional (continental), sub-regional levels as well as at the international level.

Table 2: Exploring Africa’s Role as Actors in Key IG Entities and Fora

The Internet Coordination, Administration, Regulatory and Standards Organizations (ICARSOs)					
IG Entities and Fora	Description of Responsibilities & Roles	Membership Composition	Candidate Africa IG Actors	Possible Role for Africa IG Actors	Scope/Level of Action/ Intervention
Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)	<p>The IETF is the protocol engineering and development arm of ISOC formally established by the IAB in 1986.</p> <p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>Internet Standards and Protocols Setting</p>	Individuals and Technical Working Groups	<p>Africa’s Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Bodies, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Currently these IG Technical and Standards institutions and organization do not exist in Africa as is the case in other regions of the world. The need to develop Africa’s capacity in this area is not only essential but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area</p>	<p>Technical contribution to the IETF process in the area of Internet protocols and standards setting.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is a role here for technically competent Africans, and Academia. Also relevant African institutions bodies can be set-up or existing relevant establishments and bodies can be strengthened in terms of their technical expertise and capacity to play these roles</p>	International
Internet Architecture Board (IAB)	<p>The IAB is responsible for defining the overall architecture of the Internet, providing guidance and broad direction to the IETF. The IAB also serves as the</p>	Individuals and Technical Working Groups	<p>Africa’s Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Bodies, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Currently these IG</p>	<p>Participation in the IAB activities and processes in the area of providing technical guidance to the IETF and providing technical advisory services on ISOC and</p>	International

	<p>technology advisory group to ISOC, and oversees a number of critical activities in support of the Internet.</p> <p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>Internet Standards and Protocols Setting</p>		<p>Technical and Standards institutions and organizations do not exist in Africa as is the case in other regions of the world. The need to develop Africa's capacity in this area is not only essential but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area</p>	<p>Internet-related issues to the African and International Internet community</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is a role here for technically competent Africans, and Academia. Also relevant African institutions bodies can be set-up or existing relevant establishments and bodies can be strengthened in terms of their technical expertise and capacity to play these roles.</p>	
<p>Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG)</p>	<p>The IESG is responsible for technical management of IETF activities and the Internet standards process. As part of ISOC, it administers the process according to the rules and procedures which have been ratified by the ISOC Trustees. The IESG is directly responsible for the actions associated with entry into and movement along the Internet "standards track," including final approval</p>	<p>Individuals and Technical Working Groups</p>	<p>Africa's Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Bodies, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Currently these IG Technical and Standards institutions and organization do not exist in Africa as is the case in other regions of the world. The need to develop Africa's capacity in this area is not only essential</p>	<p>Contributing to and participating in IESG activities including those relating to Internet standards and technical specifications setting approval and the technical management of the IETF.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is a role here for technically competent Africans, and Academia. Also relevant African</p>	<p>International</p>

	<p>of specifications as Internet Standards.</p> <p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>Internet Standards and Protocols Setting</p>		<p>but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area</p>	<p>institutions bodies can be set-up or existing relevant establishments and bodies can be strengthened in terms of their technical expertise and capacity to play these roles</p>	
<p>Internet Society - ISOC</p>	<p>The Internet Society (ISOC) is a non-profit, non-governmental, international, professional membership organization that focuses on standards, education, and policy issues.</p> <p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>Internet Policy and Standards and Promotion of Internet User Community Public Awareness Creation</p>	<p>Individuals, Institutions, and Technical Working Groups</p>	<p>Africa's Internet User Community and Relevant Internet Users' Associations and Civil Society Groups and National ISOC Chapters and ICANN-related National and regional groupings and associations</p>	<p>Active involvement and participation in ISOC activities locally (nationally), regionally (continental activities) and internationally. Public awareness related activities on the Internet targeting the African Internet User community. Promotion and support of IG activities nationally, regionally and on the international level. Education and lobbying roles on Internet-related activities and issues</p>	<p>National Regional (Continental), International</p>

<p>Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)</p>	<p>ICANN is the non-profit Californian registered and based corporation that was formed to assume responsibility for the IP address space allocation, protocol parameter assignment, DNS management, and root server system management and other DNS related technical functions.</p> <p><u>Key functions:</u></p> <p>Technical Coordination of the DNS [DNS, Technical Issues Policy, Standards]</p>	<p>Individuals, ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Committees; Governments and Technical Working Groups and Committees</p>	<p>Africa's Internet User Community and Relevant Internet Users' Associations and Civil Society Groups, Africa ICANN-related groupings like the ccTLDs, National and Regional ISP Associations</p>	<p>Contribution to and active participation in ICANN activities nationally, regionally and internationally. Technical contribution to the ICANN process and system. Active involvement in the activities of ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs). Lobbying for Africa's position and interest within the ICANN process and system as well as on all matters, decision making process relating to the IP address space allocation, protocol parameter assignment, DNS management, and root server system management and other DNS related technical functions.</p>	<p>National, Regional (Continental), International</p>
<p>Internet Research Task Force (IRTF)</p>	<p>The IRTF is responsible for promoting research work relevant to the evolution of the Internet by creating focused, long-</p>	<p>Individuals and Technical Working Groups</p>	<p>Africa's Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia.</p>	<p>Active involvement in research and technical work relevant to the evolution and the spread of the Internet.</p>	<p>International</p>

	<p>term and small Research Groups working on topics related to Internet protocols, applications, architecture and technology.</p> <p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>Internet Standards and Protocols Setting</p>		<p><u>Note:</u> Currently these IG Technical and Standards institutions and organization do not exist in Africa as is the case in other regions of the world. The need to develop Africa's capacity in this area is not only essential but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area</p>	<p>Participating in and ensuring Africa's representation on relevant Internet Technical working groups</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is a role here for technically competent Africans, and Academia. Also relevant African institutions bodies can be set-up or existing relevant establishments and bodies can be strengthened in terms of their technical expertise and capacity to play these roles</p>	
<p>World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)</p>	<p>The W3C was created in 1994 to develop common protocols that promote the Web's evolution and ensure its interoperability. W3C is composed of hundreds of member organizations from around the world.</p>	<p>Organizations and Establishments Individuals and Technical Working Groups</p>	<p>Africa's Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia and relevant private sector organizations.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Currently these IG Technical and Standards institutions and organizations do not exist in</p>	<p>Participation and active involvement in the activities of the W3C and ensuring that Africa is not only represented in its Working Groups and various processes but also contribute to them.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is a role here for technically</p>	<p>International</p>

	<p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>Internet Standards and Protocols Setting</p>		<p>Africa as is the case in other regions of the world. The need to develop Africa's capacity in this area is not only essential but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area</p>	<p>competent Africans, and Academia. Also relevant African institutions bodies can be set-up or existing relevant establishments and bodies can be strengthened in terms of their technical expertise and capacity to play these roles</p>	
<p>The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)</p>	<p>IANA is responsible for various administrative functions associated with management of the Internet's domain-name system root zone.</p> <p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>DNS Technical and Admin Issues</p>	<p>Individuals and Technical Working Groups</p>	<p>Africa's Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Currently these IG Technical and Standards institutions and organization do not exist in Africa as is the case in other regions of the world. The need to develop Africa's capacity in this area is not only essential but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area</p>	<p>Active participation in the technical work of IANA including making technical contributions and responding to RFPs and submissions and ensuring that Africa's positions on key issues as they relate to the administration and management of the Internet's domain-name system resources.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is a role here for technically competent Africans, and Academia. Also relevant African institutions bodies can be set-up or existing</p>	<p>International</p>

				relevant establishments and bodies can be strengthened in terms of their technical expertise and capacity to play these roles	
The International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	The ITU is responsible for providing comprehensive telecommunication standards. It also provides international coordination of the allocation and use of the communication frequencies of the electromagnetic spectrum, among many other things. <u>Key Functions:</u> Regulatory and Telecom and Communications Standards	Member States (Governments), Private Sector Establishments Working Groups	African Governments, Telecommunication Service Providers, ISPs and Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia	Involvement in all ITU activities and ensuring that Africa's position on key issues are presented and safeguard. Make efforts towards securing Africa's common position among Africa member states of the ITU on key issues. Make technical and policy contributions to relevant ITU Technical, Standards and Policy Working Groups	International Regional (Continental) Sub-Regional
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)		Member States (Governments)	African Governments, National Intellectual Property and Copyrights Organizations	Active involvement in WIPO activities including its Internet	International, Regional (Continental)

Organization (WIPO)		and Technical Working Groups	Organizations as well as IPR Technical and Standards Institutions, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia	Domain Dispute Resolution process. Promotion of IPR issues as they relate to the IG at the local (national) and other level and fora.	(Continental) Sub-Regional National
The Internet Resource Provision Organizations (IRPO)					
The Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)	<p>The RIRs are responsible for the allocation of IP addresses in their regions of responsibility. There is one RIR for each of the 5 regions, namely: Africa (AfrINIC), Europe (RIPE), Asia and Pacific (APNIC), and Latin and Central America (LACNIC) and North America (ARIN)</p> <p><u>Key Functions</u></p> <p>Regional IP Numbers System Administration</p>	Organizations	<p>AfriNIC and National, Regional (Continental) and sub-regional ccTLD organizations, ISPs and Internet User Groups</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The technical capacity of AfrINIC will need to be strengthened. Also there is a need to develop and support other technical capacity building programs (like those of AFNOG) to develop a pool of technical expertise within the continent to support the work of national, regional (Continental) and sub-regional ccTLD organizations, ISPs and Internet User Groups whose work and activities</p>	Ensure that AfrINIC play a key role on the continental and international level within the ICANN process.	Continental International

			complements that of AfriNIC. The need to develop Africa's capacity in this area is not only essential but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area		
The Root Server Organizations	<p>The Root Server Organizations are responsible for the technical management and administration of the 13 root servers. Of the 13 root servers, 10 are in the US, and the three elsewhere in Europe and Asia. These servers are managed by a diversity of institutions including: academic/public institutions (6 servers), commercial set-ups (3 servers) and government institutions (3 servers)</p> <p><u>Key Functions</u></p> <p>Management of the Root Server System</p>	Organizations and Designated Institutions	<p>Africa's Internet-related Technical Institutions, Organizations, Academia, Government and relevant private and public sector organizations.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Currently these IG Technical and Standards institutions and organization do not exist in Africa as is the case in other regions of the world. The need to develop Africa's capacity in this area is not only essential but urgent if Africa is to play any meaningful role in this area</p>	Promote and campaign for the hosting of one or two root servers in Africa. Ensure that Africa contributes to the technical management and administration of the root server system and process	Continental International

<p>The Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) Organizations</p>	<p>The ccTLD Organizations are responsible for the technical management and administration of the country code top level domain system in each of their respective countries. A number of them provide domain name services to end users within their country of operation.</p> <p><u>Key Functions:</u></p> <p>Domain Names Administration</p>	<p>Individuals Institutions, Governments, Establishments and Working Groups</p>	<p>National, Regional (Continental) and sub-regional ccTLD organizations, ISPs and Internet User Groups</p>	<p>Promote and ensure the effective management and administration of the country code top level domain system in each of the African countries.</p> <p>Promote the setting up of transparent and representative multi-stakeholder ccTLD organizations in Africa countries that are accountable to the Internet user community in each of these countries. Ensure active involvement of African ccTLD organization in the ICANN process and in other regional and international ccTLD grouping and associations. Lobby for and facilitate the resolution of on-going ccTLD transfer disputes involving a number of African countries.</p>	<p>National Regional (Continental) and sub-regional International within ICANN</p>
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<p>Internet Service Providers (ISPs)</p>	<p>The ISPs focus mainly on the provision of Internet services to their subscribers which may be individuals, businesses or organizations. They provide IP related services to their subscriber base with some also providing second level domain name services to end users.</p>	<p>Organizations, Establishments and Institutions</p>	<p>National, Regional (Continental) and sub-regional ccTLD organizations, ISPs and Internet User Groups</p>	<p>Play active role in promoting affordable access to the Internet within various African countries.</p> <p>Play active role in the ICANN process and system and ensure that Africa's interests are safeguard.</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Regional (Continental) and sub-regional</p> <p>International within ICANN</p>
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4. 2 Enhancing Africa's Role in the 'IG 'Objects and Actions' Space'

African countries, individually and collectively, will also need to increase their visibility in the IG 'objects and actions' space, by taking IG-related actions (on a number of IG objects and subject matter) and be more effective, in registering and making their contributions and impact within the global IG policy and decision making fora including the yet to be convened IGF.

There is no doubt that African countries can and should play a key role in the IG 'objects' space (defining aspects of the IG including those relating to Internet resources, policies, rules and mechanism to govern) and the 'actions' space (defining types of IG actions and interventions). African countries can be in the forefront in addressing a number of the key IG public policy issues that have so far emerged through the IGF consultative process, including those relating to policy, Internet resource allocation and distributional issues (as identified in section 2.3)

We, in **Table 3** below, present the details of the 'what-ought-to-be' analysis targeted at addressing the roles that African countries and Institutions can and should play as active participants in the IG public policy arena as they relate to a number of the IG actions points identified within the various IG consultative processes including the WSIS, WGIG and the IGF consultative processes among others. A number of the IG issues addressed include issues like those relating to: multi-lingualization of Internet naming systems, spam , dispute resolution, affordable and universal access, social dimensions and inclusion, Voice over IP (VOIP), e-commerce, e-government, e-education, consumer, user protection and privacy, unlawful content and access protection, intellectual property rights, cultural and linguistic diversity, education and human capacity building, national policies and regulations among others.

We identify, for each of these key emerging IG public policy issues, candidate African IG-relevant entity or entities that could play a key role in addressing them within the context of the IGF. The possible types of actions or interventions that the candidate African entity or entities can take or make are described as well as the scope or level of the intervention.

Table 3: Exploring Africa’s Decision Making Roles and Interventions to Contribute to the Key IG Public Policy Issues

Key Emerging IG Public Policy Issues and Interventions	Candidate/Possible African IG-relevant Entity	Possible Types of IG Actions and Interventions	Scope or Level of Action/Intervention
Administration of DNS – The Names Space (Internet names and IP addresses)	<p>AfriNIC</p> <p>African ccTLDs</p> <p>African ISPs</p> <p>African Governments</p>	<p>AfriNIC, and African ccTLDs and ISPs and their national, sub-regional groupings and associations should continue to play their respective DNS (Names space and IP address) administration, management and resources allocation roles and, as well, actively participate in and contribute to the ICANN system and process on all matters relating to the administration and management of the DNS including presenting African’s common position on all IG related DNS administration issues</p> <p>African countries through their respective Governments and relevant bodies should play an active role in the international arena on issues relating to making key decisions on how to institute and administrate domain name dispute resolutions systems and mechanisms. They should also put in place appropriate national dispute resolution mechanisms and process to address and resolve disputes relating to allocation of domain names.</p> <p>Also those African countries whose country’s TLD name and other cultural and intellectual property related domain names have been hijacked should actively institute a process through relevant dispute resolution mechanisms to retrieve these names. They should use the IGF to raise these matters and actively engage the stakeholders of the IGF to address this issue</p>	<p>International</p> <p>National</p>

<p>Administration of the Root Server system</p>	<p>The African Group of Ministers of Communications</p> <p>Africa Internet-related Technical Institutions, Organizations, Academia,</p>	<p>The African Group should actively promote and campaign for the hosting of one or two root servers in Africa. The Group may use the IGF to raise this issue and put it on the international agenda for resolution.</p> <p>African countries through relevant technical bodies should contribute to the technical management and administration of the root server system and process and participate in the global public policies and technical issues (including standards etc), deliberations and key decisions relating to the administration of the root server system.</p>	<p>International</p>
<p>Peering and Interconnection</p>	<p>African Governments Telecommunications and Communications Service Providers and ISPs</p>	<p>African countries through their Governments and relevant public and private agencies should continue to play a key role at the national and sub-regional level on issues and decisions relating to peering and interconnection.</p> <p>African Governments should put in place policies and mechanisms for ensuring peering and interconnections between the systems of their communications service providers (including fixed and mobile telecommunication service providers and Internet Service Providers)</p> <p>African countries through their respective Governments and other relevant agencies, bodies and Telecom and Communications Service Providers and ISPs should address issues relating to affordability of access as IG issues.</p> <p>African countries should play an active role on the international scene and within the IGF on IG public policy issues relating to peering and interconnection including active involvement in ITU deliberations and negotiations on the subject matter</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Regional and Sub-regional</p> <p>International</p>

Telecommunications infrastructure, broadband access, convergence	African Governments Telecommunications and Communications Service Providers and ISPs	<p>African countries, through their Governments and other relevant agencies, bodies and Telecom and Communications Service Providers should actively participate (where possible) in international fora devoted to key decisions on issues relating to the deployment of telecommunication infrastructure, broadband access and convergence.</p> <p>African Telecommunications and Communications Service Providers including ISPs should invest in expanding the national communication infrastructure and emerging and new communications technologies to improve and spread Internet access and bring down cost of access</p> <p>African Governments should put in place policies, mechanisms and incentive schemes to promote local and foreign direct investment in improving the local communication infrastructure to improve and spread Internet access and bring down cost of access</p> <p>African Governments should collectively through the African Group and/or through relevant regional or sub-regional initiatives promote and support sub-regional and regional (continental) telecommunications and communications infrastructure development modernization and expansion targeting African countries.</p>	National International
Cyber security, cybercrime	National Governments	African Governments should develop enact and enforce relevant cyber-security and cyber-crime laws and legislation in their respective countries	National

	<p>Relevant African IG Civil Society Organizations</p>	<p>African Governments should actively participate in relevant global and international fora on cyber-security</p> <p>Relevant African IG Civil Society Organizations should be engaged in promoting public awareness raising on cyber-security and cyber-crime issues and their impact, as well as lobbying for action on cyber-security issues including highlighting and demanding for national and international action on the adverse impact of cyber-security and cyber-crime on the citizenry.</p>	<p>International</p>
<p>Competition policy, liberalization, privatization and regulations</p>	<p>African Governments</p>	<p>African countries through their Governments should, as part of the ICT4D process, continue to put in place relevant policies aimed at the adequate liberalization and introducing competition into their telecommunication and communication sectors. A number of African countries have already done this or are in the process of doing so.</p> <p>African countries should play a key role on the international scene: in conferences, meetings and fora devoted to deliberating and making key decisions (some of which with global implications) on issues relating to competition, liberalization, privatization and regulations. It is important for African countries to make their position on these issues known and clear given that Africa's experience so far on the liberalization of their communications sector and the privatization of key components of the sector has not been without its failure stories with African countries being the main losers in most of the cases.</p>	<p>National International</p>

<p>Multilingualization of Internet naming systems</p>	<p>African Civil Society Groups, Academia</p> <p>Relevant Public and Private Agencies and Establishments</p>	<p>African countries through its relevant Civil Society groups, Academia and other relevant public and private sector agencies and establishments should actively promote at the local (national), regional (continental) and international (through relevant fora and venues including the IGF) multilingualization of the Internet naming system focusing on those issues that are of relevance to Africa. Apart from some attempts by some few African countries.</p>	<p>National</p> <p>International</p>
<p>Spam</p>	<p>African Governments Internet Service Providers National, Sub-regional, Regional ISP Grouping and Associations</p>	<p>African countries through their Governments and other relevant agencies should take necessary policy steps and put in place specific mechanisms aimed at protecting their citizens from the spam menace which apart from the inconvenience it creates also consumes a chunk of Africa's limited International and local Internet bandwidth and adds to the already high cost of Internet access</p> <p>African Governments should go beyond voicing out their displeasure on the spam issue including the issue of 419 scams to take steps to put in place legislations to combat it and protect their citizens</p> <p>African Governments and relevant agencies should get involved in and contribute to international efforts being made at appropriate fora to limit and combat the spam problem. Africa countries should actively raise the spam issue and its problems at the IGF and other appropriate international fora.</p> <p>Internet Service Providers, national, sub-regional, and regional ISP groupings and associations should individually and collectively play an active role locally and internationally to address the spam issue (using appropriate solutions, technologies etc) to limit the menace caused by the spam</p>	<p>National</p> <p>International</p>

		problem to their subscribers.	
Dispute Resolution	African Government Relevant National IPR and Copyright Agencies	<p>African countries through their Governments and relevant agencies should play an active role in the international arena (including the IGF) on issues relating to making key decisions on how to institute and administrate domain name dispute resolutions systems and mechanisms.</p> <p>African Governments should put in place within their respective national ICT4D processes or within relevant laws or legislations, national dispute resolution mechanisms and processes to address and resolve disputes relating to the allocation of domain names and those relating to domain name hijacking and the inherent intellectual property rights (IPR) issues.</p>	National International
Security of network and information systems	African Government Relevant National Security Agencies International Partner Organizations	<p>African countries through their respective Governments should put in place e-security policies and relevant laws and legislation to protect their critical national public and private networks and systems and to address a number of the IG-related security issues arising from the spread of the Internet and the development of the information society.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is need to build Africa's capacity to effectively participate in the global policy and decision making arena on Internet security and on the national and global security.</p>	National International

<p>Technical Standards</p>	<p>Africa's Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Bodies, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia</p>	<p>African countries through relevant African Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Bodies, Organizations and Key Individuals and Academia should actively participate and contribute to the Internet Standards and Protocols setting process of Internet standards organizations like: the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), Internet Architecture Board (IAB), Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG), Internet Society - ISOC, Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) among others.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> There is the need to build Africa's technical capacity to facilitate its active involvement in the Internet Standards and Protocols setting process. Currently these IG Technical and Standards institutions and organization do not exist in Africa as is the case in other regions of the world.</p>	<p>International</p>
<p>Affordable and universal access</p>	<p>African Governments Civil Society Groups National Communications/Regulatory Agencies/Authorities Sub-regional Associations of Regulatory Agencies/Authorities</p>	<p>African countries through their respective Governments should continue the process of promoting and supporting through policy actions and mechanism (e.g. setting up universal access funds and mechanisms) affordable and universal access to communication services including those of the Internet.</p> <p>African IG-focus Civil Society Groups focusing on access issues; African Governments and National Communications and Regulatory Authorities as well as sub-regional associations of Regulatory Agencies (e.g. WATRA, SATRA etc) should actively promote at international fora like the ITU and the venues provided by international ICT4D meetings and</p>	<p>National Sub-Regional International</p>

		<p>conferences, issues relating to making access affordable within African countries and those issues relating to the promotion of universal access to communications services in African countries especially for the rural and underserved areas.</p> <p>African IG-focus Civil Society Groups and African Governments should actively promote within the IGF, affordable access and universal access as key IG issues.</p>	
<p>E-commerce, E-Government, E-education</p>	<p>African Governments</p> <p>Regional Economic Communities/Commissions (RECs)</p>	<p>African Governments should put in place the necessary laws including cyberlaws to facilitate and promote their country's involvement in e-government and e-commerce systems and activities.</p> <p>African countries should play an active role on the international arena and be part of international fora within which the rules and standards are been devised and decided on to govern international e-commerce and e-trade.</p> <p>African Governments should actively participate in the activities of UNCTAD and WTO and be involved in the setting up of the rules and standards governing the rolling-out and the implementation of e-commerce systems.</p> <p>Africa's regional economic communities (e.g. ECOWAS, COMESA, SADCC etc), should put in place the necessary mechanisms and protocols to govern e-commerce activities within their member states.</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>International</p>

<p>Consumer, user protection and privacy</p>	<p>African Governments Civil Society Groups</p>	<p>African countries through their respective Governments should address consumer protection and privacy issues within relevant cyber-laws and legislations as part of their ICT4D process.</p> <p>African countries should play an active role on the international scene (including the IGF) on consumer protection and privacy issues, as they relate to, for example, the use of the Internet to facilitate e-commerce and e-government, e-health services among others.</p> <p>Relevant African IG-focus Civil Society groups should play an active role in promoting and raising public awareness on consumer protection and privacy issues nationally and lobby African Governments to address these issues within their national ICT4D process and regard them as key IG public policy issues.</p>	<p>National International</p>
<p>Freedom of expression and human rights</p>	<p>African Governments Civil Society Groups</p>	<p>African Governments should, apart from enshrining freedom of expression and human rights in their nation's constitutions, promote unrestricted access and freedom of expression on the Internet. They should also promote freedom of expression and human rights issues as Internet Governance public policy issues.</p> <p>Africa's Civil Society Groups should actively promote freedom of expression and human rights issues locally and internationally and take an active part in international meetings and fora (including the IGF) on these issues.</p>	<p>National International</p>

Unlawful content and access protection	African Governments	African Governments should promote issues relating to unlawful content and access protection as they relate to the Internet as IG public policy issues and play an active role on the international scene at fora (including IGF) addressing these issues.	National International
Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)	African Governments National Intellectual Property Organizations	African countries apart from their involvement in WIPO activities should actively participate in international conferences and fora on IPR issues. African countries through their respective Governments and National IPR organizations should actively promote onto the international agenda issues relating to the threat to Africa's intellectual property rights and copyrights imbedded in their cultural heritage items, artifacts, symbols, names, products and systems which are freely available on the Internet Africa countries should mainstream and promote IPR issues as key IG issues onto their national agenda and play an active part in international meetings and fora aimed at addressing and resolving IPR issues as they relate to the Internet.	National International
Cultural and linguistic diversity	Civil Society Groups African Governments	African countries should actively participate in international fora including the IGF to promote and safeguard Africa's cultural and linguistic diversity.	International
National Policies and	African Governments	African countries should continue to play a leading role on the international ICT4D scene including active participation in major conferences and decision making fora on ICT4D issues.	National

Regulations	National Communications Regulatory Agencies/Authorities	<p>African countries should mainstream IG public policy issues into their national ICT4D policies, strategies and action plans</p> <p>African countries should address within their national communications regulatory system and framework relevant IG public policy issues and concerns.</p> <p>African countries should within the context of the IGF promote issues relating to the Digital Solidarity Fund.</p>	International
Education and human capacity building	<p>African Countries (Governments, Academia, Civil Society, Africa Internet-related Associations and Groups etc)</p> <p>International Community and Partners</p>	<p>African countries working with the International Community and other International Partners should address the problem of Africa's lack of the requisite capacity and competency in Internet Government public policy issues. In particular, capacity-building program will need to be put in place targeted at developing the necessary know-how, expertise and capacity in African countries to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) effectively participate in relevant IG organizations, structures and fora; (ii) (ii) comprehend the technical details of the deliberations, activities and the outputs of the various IG organizations, structures and fora; (iii) (iii) effectively contribute to and make input into the discussions of the relevant IG entities and processes and (iv) (iv) learn/benefit from the proceedings and the activities of the various IG organization and fora. <p>Africa Governments and Civil Society Groups should actively promote with the IGF the need to develop Africa's capacity and competency in Internet Government public policy issues</p>	National International

The analysis carried out in **Table 3** above, shows that African countries have a major role to play at the national, regional (continental) and international level on a number of the emerging key IG issues that have been identified for consideration within the IGF. It is clear, from the descriptions of the roles, that could and should be played by relevant African IG actors and institutions in the IG ‘objects and actions’ space that, African countries can and should be active partners (with other international IG actors and institutions) in addressing various aspects of the Internet Governance issue.

In other words, Africa’s position on the IG issue should go beyond a call on the international community of IG actors and organizations to address the Internet Governance issue, to include concrete details (as discussed above) of the roles that African Governments, institutions and individuals should play within their respective countries, on the continent and on the international scene (including participation in the IGF process) to address various aspects of the IG issue.

4.3 The IGF Process: Exploring Africa’s Rule of Engagement, Process and Mechanisms

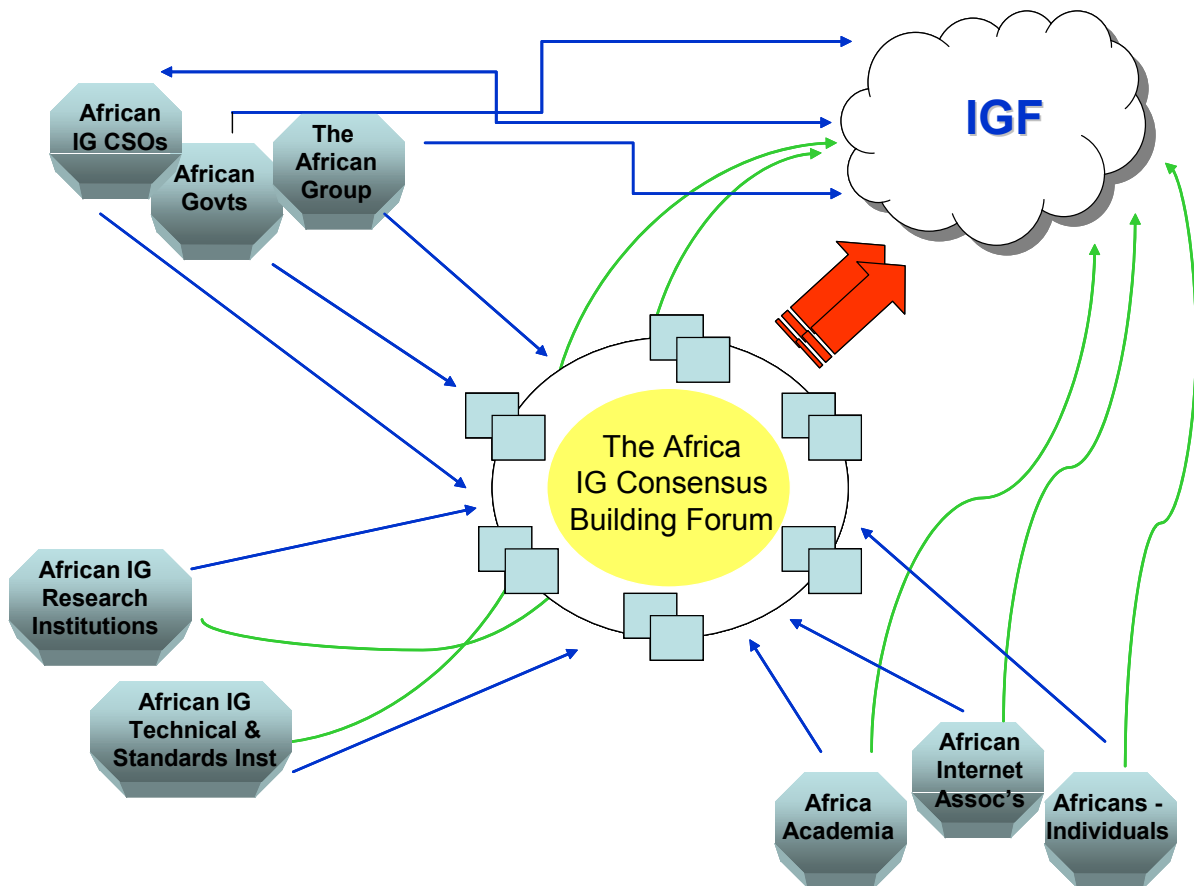
It is anticipated that the proposed Internet Governance Forum will provide a platform for dialogue between stakeholders, from Government, private sector, academia and Civil Society Groups among others on key IG public policy issues and decision items including those discussed in section 2.3 and elaborated on within the African context and roles in section 4.2 above.

It is envisaged that the process of the forum will provide avenues for various stakeholder groups and individuals to submit research and policy papers, statements, discussion documents, common positions etc on various aspects of IG public policy issues, topics and other actions points the Forum is convened to consider or deliberate on. African countries as Governments, the Africa Group (of Ministers of Communications), Civil Society Groups, Internet-related and IG Technical and Standards Institutions, Bodies, Organizations, Academia or Individuals, serving as key Africa IG stakeholders (actors) will be expected to contribute to the IGF process.

It should, therefore, be expected that Africa’s involvement in the IGF process will, apart from its IG stakeholder groups participating in a convened IGF meeting and contributing to its plenary debates and Working Group sessions, substantially involve preparing and submitting to the Forum for considerations submissions that articulate Africa’s positions on key IG issues under consideration.

One therefore foresees, a process where African IG Stakeholders, either individually or collectively will prepare IG concept papers; technical briefings; research or policy papers; common position papers and statements, detailing Africa’s perspectives, views or positions on various IG public policy issues, topics and other actions points under consideration by the forum or being debated internationally.

These African IG stakeholders may directly submit their contribution to the IGF or institute an African consensus building process to arrive at an African common or consensus position on the subject and this will then be submitted to the Forum for consideration. The consensus building exercise may go through a series of processes and may involve online discussions, face-to-face conferences and fora to deliberate on the matter at hand. We present below an illustration of the details of the proposed Africa IGF Rule of Engagement process.



It is obvious that for Africa to be actively involved in the IGF process as described above, there is a need for African IG stakeholders to develop the necessary expertise and capacity to enable them effectively to contribute to and make inputs into the discussions and the deliberations of the Forum. Africa's position on a number of the key IG issues including technical, policy issues cannot be mainstreamed into the IGF process if Africa's IG stakeholders lack the requisite capacity to develop and articulate these positions and views.

It is also of interest to note that the WGIG Report emphasized the point that: the two overarching prerequisites to enhance the legitimacy of Internet governance processes are: the effective and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, especially from developing countries, and the building of sufficient capacity in developing countries, in terms of knowledge and of human, financial and technical resources.

It is clear that the need to develop Africa's capacity to effectively participate in the IGF process cannot be over-emphasized.

Concluding remarks

It has been acknowledged that: the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the information society agenda. The need to facilitate the effective participation of African countries in the global IG space through their involvement as key actors, and players in number of broad range of IG issues has been established.

It was acknowledged that African countries do face a number of barriers to their effective participation in the IG space. It is however worth pointing out that the effort directed at tackling these barriers should be a shared one. Although external assistance could be mobilized to address some of the barriers the bulk of the responsibility to address these barriers lies with the African countries themselves.

Finally as argued in [5] (Dzidonu and Quaynor, 2002), efforts directed at broadening and enhancing Africa's role in the IG space to effectively participate in and contribute to the IG process, including the IGF, should be judged on the basis of the footprints they made on the development landscape of African countries. It is argued that the effective participation of these countries should:

- (i) lead to these countries registering their position, making their case, and making meaningful inputs and contributions to the global IG policy and decision making process and
- (ii) result in these countries translating the gains made at these fora into actions on the ground to make meaningful and significant footprints on their national development process. The IGF consultative process has also reached a similar conclusion -- with the recognition that the activities of the IGF should have an overall development orientation.

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APPENDIX

African Common Position on Internet Governance Submitted by Ghana on behalf of the African Group

Tunis, 13 November 2005

After recalling decisions taken during the first meeting of Prepcom 3, the African Group reemphasized the following position on “Document WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/15-E”, Section 5 of the Chair’s Fourth Thought:

We recognize the efforts deployed by the initiators of the Internet, and the need to guarantee a stable and secure operation of this efficient tool for Humanity. We are also convinced that there is a need for a progressive process towards a new transparent democratic and multilateral framework for governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations in Internet governance.

We further recommend a progressive approach which aims to set up an efficient, transparent and democratic mechanism and ensure equitable resources distribution leading to internationalized multi-stakeholder oversight functions of the Internet public policy in particular with the following actions:

- To ensure the role of Governments in decision making with regard to all Internet Public policy development issues;
- The reinforcement of the Internet Regional Resource Management Institution, to ensure regional autonomy in Internet resources management;
- The Internationalization of root server management;
- The strengthening of the participation of specialized institutions from developing countries in the technical management and standardization Internet bodies.

We support the establishment of a global consultation forum, to review in depth the general policies on Internet Governance. Such a framework should facilitate participation for all stakeholders. We call upon the UN Secretary General to organize the forum before the end of the first quarter of 2006.

We Call for the follow up of this progressive multi-stakeholder approach which should be in the context of the relevant international institutions, and coordinated under the UN system.

Brief Review of the paper “Exploring and Enhancing Africa’s Role in the Post-WSIS Internet Governance Forum Process”

by
Nii Quaynor
AFNOG
and
Mawuko Zormelo
CEO of NBS Multimedia

Prof. Dzidornu refers to the Internet Governance debate since the Geneva WSIS meeting that has gone through series of international consultative processes and passed into a resolution at the Tunis WSIS meeting to convene a multi-stakeholder and an all-inclusive Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

He explores Africa's role in the post-WSIS Internet Governance space by examining a number of the issues relating to Africa's role in the 'Internet Governance' landscape in relation to the Tunis WSIS meeting that proposed the setting up of the IGF. He goes into the implications of this decision as it relates to Africa and attempts to explore the effectiveness of Africa's participation in the Forum.

In doing that, Prof. Dzidornu explores the 'what-is' and 'what-ought-to-be' type of analysis.

For what is, he acknowledges that the debate on the issue of Internet Governance with specific reference to the controversy surrounding the issue of who owns or governs the Internet has been around for some time but gained momentum particularly in the late 1990s when the Internet gained world-wide popularity; that in fact predates the WSIS process which he identified as the origin of the current debate on the Internet Governance.

The issue to him is a tacit acknowledgement that there is something to be governed (what to govern – the objects of governance), that there are governance issues (technical standards, resource allocation and coordination, policy formulation) to be considered as well as the acknowledgement of governing entities who perform the act- action of governance) that are taken individually or collectively by the governing entities acting on the basis of an authority or consensus on specific governance issues.

Prof. Dzidonu recalls that the African Group, in its 13th November 2005 Statement, endorsed the decision to create the IGF and stated support for the establishment of a global consultation forum, to review in depth the general policies on Internet Governance and work out a framework that should facilitate the participation for all stakeholders.

He also outlined larger concerns of the consultative group in the form of activities that should have an overall development orientation, capacity building to enable meaningful participation in global Internet policy development and a meaningful participation and training in the subject matter of Internet governance.

He therefore clearly identified the key substantive public policy issues emerging through the IGF consultative process as issues relating to spam; multilingualism; cyber crime; cyber security; privacy and data protection; freedom of expression and human rights; international interconnection costs; bridging the digital divide: access and policies, financing and rules for e-commerce, e-business and consumer protection.

Then of course, there are technical, informational, institutional and financial aspects that do not only discourage comprehension and effective participation in relevant IG organizations but also the

inability of certain countries to gain access to the necessary and relevant information about the various IG organizations, activities, fora and events.

Prof. Dzidonu's position was that the key barriers to Africa's active participation and involvement in the global IG space only partly explain the reason why Africa's IG role has been limited in a number of respects. That African countries could do more in spite of obvious constraints.

These, in the form of 'what-ought-to-be', may include the willingness and ability to anticipate and be involved in local and global IG processes, activities, fora and venues.

Bottom line for him is the acknowledged fact that: the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and that its governance should constitute a core issue of the information society agenda.

This apparently enforces the need to facilitate the effective participation of African countries in the global IG space through their involvement as key actors, and players in number of broad range of IG issues.

That in spite of the barriers African countries face as they attempt an effective participation in the IG space, efforts directed at tackling these barriers should be a shared one. Although external assistance could be mobilized to address some of the barriers, the bulk of the responsibility to address these barriers lies with the African countries themselves.

Finally, efforts directed at broadening and enhancing Africa's role in the IG space to effectively participate and contribute to IG process, including the IGF, should be judged on the basis of the footprints they make on the development landscape.

The paper further proposes a framework for exploring Africa's decision making roles and interventions that contribute to the key IG public policy issues. The approach related the key emerging public policy issues and interventions to candidate/possible African IG-relevant entities, possible types of IG actions and interventions and scope or level of actions/interventions.

It is also of interest to develop Africa's role further. For example, after assessing in-country IGF related activities, it may be expedient to determine what entities are doing relevant activities for each of the identified intervention areas? How are the gaps determined on the ground?

Dzidonu also submits that any effective participation of African countries should lead to the countries registering their position, making their case, and making meaningful inputs and contributions to the global IG policy and decision making process. That's important, but it is equally crucial that activities of the IGF should have an overall development orientation and outlook.

**WSIS and Then?
What Prospects and Roles for African
Stakeholders in The Subsequent Internet
Governance Processes?**

by

Mawaki Chango

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(Version française disponible)

1.- A learning process for Africa...

End May 2002, was organized in Africa the first of all the regional preparatory conferences that will lead to the Geneva phase of WSIS: Bamako-2002, as it came to be known, was indeed held in the Malian capital. As it will prove, the continent just started a long and unpredicted learning process. At the time, very little work was done at national level within African countries, and the conditions for transnational and international synergies, especially for the civil society groups, were not yet in place.

The continent entered this process with a great heritage and asset – its African Information Society Initiative (AISI), an action framework that was prepared with the UNECA support (<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/>), launched by the Commission's Conference of African Ministers in charge of planning and social and economic development six years exactly before Bamako-2002. Furthermore, AISI will be adopted by the OAU Heads of state summit through a session of the Council of Ministers held that same year, 1996, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Since then, the AISI has been invoked as the framework for most of the significant national programmes and international development initiatives towards Africa whenever they related to ICTs.

During Bamako-2002, a closed meeting was held under the chairmanship of the presidential host of the Conference, Alpha Oumar Konaré, Head of state of Mali, who pronounced the opening address earlier on. The participants in that meeting included: government officials, diplomatic representatives, executives of a few global IT companies, representatives and senior officers from a number of international organizations, and selected individual members of the academia and civil society groups. After that closed meeting, it was whispered that the content of the African contribution to WSIS Geneva was set – thus, the regional conference was completed, in substance.

Equipped with the AISI legacy and subsequent processes, the continent may have been looking too much to its feet – the present – and even to some extent, to the past. The multistakeholder dimension was poorly or only formally implemented; there was only one agenda – the one that was decided or accepted by the government representatives surrounded by a collection of non-governmental actors that they have, directly or indirectly, co-opted. The civil society was most remarkable in the pre-conference workshops and in the exhibition hall of the “Palais des Congrès”, showcasing their grassroots activities and innovative projects. Clearly, the African first preparatory meeting to WSIS did not instantiate the new type of participation the UN General Assembly called for by inviting the organization to associate for the first time the civil society groups as stakeholders in the preparation and the implementation of a world summit, as per its resolution A/RES/56/183 taken on 21st December 2001, during its fifty-sixth session.

Indeed, the actual participation in a bottom-up manner started to take shape after Bamako-2002, with the series of the summit preparatory committees, where the relevant stakeholders from all regions came together to discuss what they wanted to see the summit to achieve, and how they could make it happen. Given the level of activism and organization of the civil society groups in the other regions of the world, the African civil society organizations (CSOs) needed to respond to the challenge. Not

surprisingly, AISI first offered the base and the medium to that response; through its electronic mailing list, the African CSO representatives, researchers and simple individuals started discussing their contribution, drafting inputs, and devising their strategies.

The Bamako Declaration² is more of a declaration of principles, blended with a wish list and an inventory of needs. Properly speaking, there wasn't a plan of action (the action items remain expression of wishes), maybe because of the reassuring legacy of the AISI action framework, and the NEPAD work on its ICT component. In the language of this kind of documents – such as the Bamako Declaration – and from the subsequent actual use of them, it is often hardly clear whether they are a list of grievances and requests to the international community, or an incomplete road map without specific benchmarks or timelines. But maybe that is their nature to remain ambiguous and open enough so that they can be used later on in various advocacy exercises to various audiences.

It is striking that even in the section “*What Africa can contribute to the Information Society*” of the Declaration, the language is plainly at the same level previous requests, with most of the statements on the mode of “should” where the subject of the sentence is none of the African stakeholders (peoples, countries or organizations). One has to wait further down in the section “Narrowing the digital divide,” before one can read “African states should.” So a possible way forward is to organize a monitoring of those requests made to specific African stakeholders, especially those that are relevant to the subject matter – in this case, the Internet governance, – i.e. regulatory policy issues, attracting private investment and/or realizing investment for the development of infrastructure, making progress toward universal access, developing or supporting the development of local contents, etc. and the multistakeholder approach as an overarching and cross-cutting concern.

2.- Internet Governance in global processes: The heart of the matter?

- *WSIS and the Internet Policy: Is Governance anywhere to be found?*

After the Geneva phase of WSIS, there were two main outcome tracks: funding digital solidarity and addressing Internet governance issues. To carry out the latter, the Working Group on Internet Governance was set up as requested to the UN Secretariat General by the Geneva summit. WGIG included in total five African members from all regions of the continent, two of which were prominent members of the African Civil Society group participating in the WSIS process, a group that will later evolve to establish the African Civil Society for Information Society, ACSIS. Those members actively participated in the WGIG deliberations in a way that allowed various individual and organization members of the African CS Caucus to keep abreast of the developments with the work of the WGIG and, whenever needed, to debate and discuss the relevant issues and channel their views and concerns by drafting inputs to feed in to the WGIG for its work. At the same time, the UNECA organized rounds of debates on IG among African stakeholders, notably in May 2005 upon request from the Chair of the African Group (of Ministers in charge of ICTs) from Ghana. Building on the African common position on IG adopted during the summit second phase Regional Preparatory Conference, those discussions suggested new institutional arrangements for global IG

² See on the Web: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/docs/Bamako2002DeclarationEN.doc>

("forum function"), with multistakeholder membership, to be anchored in the UN system, and taking over both the GAC role and the Oversight function now exercised by the USG. At the WGIG final phase, another African civil society participant joined the WGIG Secretariat as a UN Fellow (awarded within the framework of the DiploFoundation's IG Capacity Building online training programme), where he participated in handling the final public inputs as well as in drafting parts of the report in substance relating to international interconnections and development issues.

After the release of the WGIG Report in July 2005, the African stakeholders' reaction was generally positive. The Government of Rwanda made a few points that are worth mentioning:

- "Participation in the development of the Internet is somewhat a prerequisite to full participation in Internet governance";
- "Funds for national and regional information infrastructure are hard to obtain, in fact their importance is not well understood by many donor entities" who put the emphasis on ICT applications projects only, while infrastructure is crucial for connectivity without which there is no progress toward universal service;
- There is no meaningful participation without empowerment of the participating party, just as "having rights is of limited benefit if customers are not empowered to demand them". As a consequence, it is crucial to "empower all stakeholders while making allowances for the challenges faced by certain user groups in participation in global policy dialogue."³

From the other side of the Atlantic, the USG made clear reservations in its comments of the WGIG Report. It argues that "it is at the edges where individuals, groups and corporations alike have the opportunity to add value to the network,"⁴ which may lead to two conclusions:

- i) people shouldn't be focusing much on the necessary DNS coordination and the no less necessary but (arguably) minimal political oversight exercised by the USG, because that supposedly is not where the stake is;
- ii) the true value of the Internet is actually not the business of the UN bureaucracy and its cortège of governments, some of which are probably ill intentioned, rigid and hostile to private business – in other words, this might as well be a denial of competency. The USG further insists on "the need for appropriate public policy at the local and national levels, supplemented by cooperation at the international level. It is at the edge where the true opportunity, promise and full participatory nature of the internet is realized."

The USG clearly distinguishes policy-making relevant at local and national levels, and only cooperation at global level – for the US, it does not make sense to leapfrog over the domestic responsibilities to claim to rule at the global level. It is a common perception to equate the USG position in this issue to a power game, however, if we accept to learn something useful from it, then we understand that if the African countries want to be taken seriously that they have a stake in the Internet, and consequently in its global governance, then they need to demonstrate their good fate: Internet being a network of networks, they need to build their part of it, to augment it, to expand it to the benefit of their people, to have a clear and coherent policy at home about the Internet, then they

³ Rwanda Government commenting the WGIG Report : <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/pc3/contributions/co47.doc>

⁴ The US comments to the Report of the WGIG: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/pc3/contributions/co35.pdf>

can come together with the other participants in the global Internet space to cooperate on common issues.

** ICANN: Wanted and yet deserted*

It is crucial that African governments participate in the ICANN processes, namely through its Governmental Advisory Committee, which means not only being physically present at the meetings, but reading, understanding and reflecting on the working materials and the issues. It is not advisable to the African governments to only rely on the briefings from their more experienced peers. First, because those processes are negotiation ones, and the countries that put an effort into them know the stake and their interests, and would like to see the latter prevail. So it is a risk that they eventually transfer mainly their vision and perspectives to any one who will rely on them for information. Each country has its own policies and legal framework; ICANN is not a venue to make global policy decisions that will circumvent or be imposed upon national legislations, and the best way to ensure this not happen is to participate in a meaningful way so that decisions can be made on as largely common ground as possible. Obviously, where national policies and legislations need to be updated in accordance to any universal principles, such as those included in the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, the relevant countries would be well advised to do so, and not to bring the negotiation ground downwards.

The ICANN processes may be bottom-up but if the bottom is self-coloured or narrow, the outcome is likely to be frustrating to a number of stakeholders. All states are fond of the UN, except the only one that feels stronger outside it. The African governments may gather and issue statements and expect the UN to take their view into account, but this is no longer enough for the type of governance requested by the Internet (and probably in the whole new era the world is entering).

This remark also goes to the other stakeholders, especially the broader African civil society: it is not enough to invade the UN venues and leave the ICANN ones empty... It should be clear by now that the UN are not going to impose anything over ICANN unless the USG lets them do so, and that the USG will not allow this to happen before several years, and that if it is going to allow some change after those several years, it might be first something formal only (meaning superficial) for another number of years, etc. before we see some dramatic change. The African stakeholders may have the excuse of lack of resources, but that excuse will not be enough to undo any decision that has been taken after due process and while they were supposed to be participating. So the African governments and Africa's partners who are interested in, and willing to support participation from the region, would be better off to put the necessary resources into the ICANN processes at least as they did for WSIS. The ICANN processes are subject to heavy lobbying, depending on the interests involved, as we have recently witnessed with the GNSO Council vote on the definition of the WHOIS database earlier this year and up to the Marrakech meeting in June 2006. This fact stands with regard to all the other issues dealt with by ICANN. Those who put their resources in such a lobbying effort do so for the outcome to meet their needs and to address their concerns, no matter if it is harmful to the rest of the world.

It follows from all the above that ICANN is still the venue where most of the decisions are made that “shape the evolution and use of the Internet”; and in that process, it is desirable, and the international

community has, in fact, requested, that all stakeholders, meaning “Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles,” participate in developing and applying “shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes” through which those decisions are made and implemented. Those were the terms of the working definition of the Internet governance by the WGIG⁵. Though WSIS-Tunis did not officially adopt the WGIG Report – mainly because of the proposed models to replace the current IG mechanisms – the IG definition the Group came up with in carrying out its mandate has remained largely unquestioned. ICANN itself claims a bottom-up decision making process, largely opened to any individuals and constituencies duly established who are willing to participate. But there are continuous suspicion and criticism that ICANN’s decisions are biased, the Board’s deliberations not being public while its decisions are sometimes surprising. It may well be, but if so, that is even more facilitated by the absence or the self-limitation of public scrutiny through limited participation – the public here including all stakeholders and constituencies in the Internet communities, especially from Governments (GAC) to individual users (ALAC) to CSOs (NCUC), where participation can still, and should, be dramatically increased. How African stakeholders can improve their participation and enhance their roles in the IG processes?

3.- Regional processes: What’s coming up from the edge?

** Government-CS Partnership*

In Africa, it is relevant to call for such partnership, because the first and overarching issue to be addressed is simply the presence and participation of all the African stakeholders. Adaptation at governmental level may be slower due to necessary changes in institutional practices and the possible transactions costs associated. Even if these are only incurred in the process of the human resources allocation, it is necessary to get this issue on the government agenda, in order to assess the needs and the possible responses in the light of the resources available, then to adopt the relevant decisions and take the necessary steps toward the implementation of a rational and sustainable process that will address the issue. Obviously, this might take long depending on various factors related to the political and administrative environment in each country, and on how urgent the issue is *perceived* as compared to the other challenges the African governments are facing. In effect, the most proactive African governments in the IG deliberations during the WSIS process, such as the South African one, have already resolved to a significant extent, the issue of institutional arrangements at national level. As Chair of the Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development, Ms. Lyndall Shope-Mafole was one of the few government delegates and members of the WGIG who fully accepted the multistakeholder rules of engagement and played along, on equal footing with civil society participants, and actively participated in the process throughout. As a matter of fact, the South African delegate was the only WGIG member from African governments out of the four members from Africa South of Sahara.

On the other hand, there are growing and vibrant African civil society and youth networks, keen to learn and participate, and making good progress to keep abreast of the issues and contribute to the

⁵ See the WGIG Report at: <http://www.wgig.org/docs/WGIGREPORT.pdf>

global processes. After the Tunis Summit and the setting up of the IGF and its Secretariat, ACSIS clearly responded to the call for inputs with regard to the themes to be discussed during the first IGF meeting to be held in Athens later this year. The themes proposed by the African civil society participants include:

- Bridging the digital divide: Policies for affordable access
- Transparent and equitable management of the critical Internet resources
- Promotion of capacity building strategies in IG subject matter

The themes were clearly articulated and based on sound reasoning drawn from the Tunis Agenda. Those themes were also submitted on the global IG Caucus list, concurrently with proposals from other civil society groupings, and they received a high level of attention.

Furthermore, individual African members from the academia and civil society groups have been participating in the IG processes at various levels. Those individuals are still facing challenges to bring themselves up to speed in comparison with participants from other regions with easier access to the information and better support to their participation from their constituencies and relevant stakeholders. However, those individuals from Africa are still well enough informed to be able to advise the African governments with their sometimes difficult arbitrations as to where to put their time and effort and other scarce resources in the overwhelming array of public policy issues that need to be addressed. A well thought out partnership or consultation mechanism between governments and civil society is in order with the aim of gearing the involvement and the role of Africa as a whole in IG related public policy issues, as well as gathering momentum among all African stakeholders to enhance their participation in all IG relevant issues, both technical or policy, at national, regional and global levels.

** A technical community between Business and Civil Society (AfriNIC, AfNOG, AfrISPAs, and AfTLD)*

During the discussions of the WSIS process, I once used the term “professional civil society” – as opposed to “general civil society” – to refer to the community of technical experts within the broader ICANN or Internet community. Such concept has certainly not been elaborated enough at abstract level, and this is not the place to carry out such a task that would first require a discussion of the already complex concept of “civil society”. Yet, the notion implied is useful for our discussion here, and for that purpose I will tentatively put forward the following clarification. The phrase “professional civil society” is not used to mean (possible confusion, ironically) a collection of civil society professionals, or a group of people who specialize in being civil society actors. Rather, “professional civil society” (in connection with a specific subject matter) is a shorthand designation for “professional specialists, or entities, engaging in a civil society mode of intervention about an issue relating to a subject matter that comes within their professional remit or is specifically part of their missions or functions.” You may also note that the prerequisite here is that those professionals or entities are first found in the CS space. In this case of Internet governance, the “professional civil society” includes primarily the Internet technical community, but may as well include the relevant academia, organizational entities and the independent researchers and expert consultants, etc. so long as the focus of their professional expertise and production is renowned as being on the IG subject matter.

In Africa the professional staff and membership (where relevant) of AfriNIC, AfNOG (African Network Operators Group), AfrISPA (African ISP Association), and AfTLD (Africa Top Level Domain Association) are part of that segment of civil society when they bother endorsing any CS objectives and, possibly, sharing its mode of intervention – which is not always the case. Here also there is a need for some sort of partnership, to share information and to consult. AfriNIC, AfNOG, AfrISPA, and AfTLD could set up a common and permanent Regional Policy Advisory Committee (RePAC), including individuals from the ISOC network and/or in their personal capacity, with the aim of advising on global Internet governance issues – or if such body already exists, to make it known, more visible and its voice heard. We are aware that AfriNIC and AfNOG often hold their annual meetings, policy fora and workshops together, but this might not be enough in the view of the needs of the broader Internet community and users in Africa in the face of the global challenges.

For example, the relevant ICANN bodies and constituencies are developing policies for new gTLDs, so potentially for new registries, and policies for registry agreements (contractual conditions, etc.), for Internationalized Domain Names (IDN), for the WHOIS database, etc., and the positions and interests of those African specialized bodies are not necessary visible to the community, often not even to the very few African individuals that are involved at one level or the other in these processes.

The question here is not to imply that those individuals should have an homogeneous view both among themselves and with Africa-based entities and businesses for the sake of being from Africa, but it is crucial that they be aware of the issues those entities and actors are faced with and be able to find information when needed about potential players in the region, what are the challenges they are wrestling with and what is the status in the industry. This will enable them to assess the issues more accurately, taking into account the constraints of the region to enhance its participation and contributing to decisions that would not result into a lock-out situation or a phenomenon of path dependency that would decrease the likelihood of the continent to catch up some time soon. At the least, it would be crucial to have the RePAC monitor the capacity, and the progress, of African stakeholders including network operation businesses to engage as significant players in the industry. In other words, the RePAC will serve public interest as well as business purposes (for the latter, not in terms of the profit of individual businesses, but in terms of equal access to the relevant information to support strategic decisions, and of equal opportunity in market entry).

4.- ... An incomplete learning process

Africa has come a long way during the WSIS process. It has made and is making progress in the multistakeholder type of governance. The African governments have clearly expressed their support to the continent's technical bodies that are involved in the ICANN processes. It is crucial not to lose that momentum, and monitor the interest and attention that was brought about by the WSIS process to the issues, challenges and potentials of the global Internet governance for the continent. African stakeholders need to remain and to enhance their involvement in all the ICANN bodies and processes, in the IGF debates and proceedings, in the other technical and standards organizations that relate to IG, in the IG Caucus that came out of the global civil society involvement in the WSIS on IG issues, etc. And last but not least, the African governments need to develop a regional

cooperation framework to be able to massively reinforce their participation in the ICANN processes through the GAC, and whenever needed, to elaborate concerted strategies and present common front on issues of common concern.

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August 28, 2006

STATEMENT:

**The Saly Appeal for the establishment of an
African Forum**

15 July 2006

From the 13th to 15th July 2006, some forty stakeholders and professionals of media and ICT (regulators, private sector, civil society, public and regional institutions, etc.) met in Saly, Senegal to share information and discuss on ICT policies and African participation in Internet governance. The workshop was organised by the Panos Institute West Africa - PIWA (CIPACO project), in collaboration with AfrISPA (Association of African Internet Service Providers Associations) and ACSIS (African Civil Society for the Information Society). It was supported by the CATIA Programme of DFID, with the contribution of the Association for Progressive Communication (APC). The theme of the workshop was « **ICT GOVERNANCE AND POST-WSIS STRATEGIES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA** ». It's the first gathering conveyed in West and Central Africa to prepare African stakeholders for their participation in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

The aim of the workshop was to assess engagement in ICT policies in West and Central Africa and to contribute to the preparation of stakeholders towards the international Internet Governance Forum.

The discussions centred on various pertinent issues and recommendations, with the main listed below:

1. The importance of strengthening a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach to ICT initiatives in West and Central Africa;
2. The need for strengthening African Internet stakeholder organisations such as AfNOG (African Network Operators Group), AfTLD (Africa Top Level Domain Organisation), AfrISPA (Association of African Internet Service Providers Associations), regional civil society, private and public sector organisations, etc.; call for the support of AfriNIC (African Network Information Center) and encourage it for its achievements;
3. Visibility should be given to the initiatives undertaken by regional intergovernmental organisations such as WATRA, ECOWAS, WAEMU, AU, etc., UNECA, and more visible collaboration should be developed with stakeholders;
4. The need to promote the involvement of local African ICT private sector in the development of African infrastructure and content;
5. The importance of regulation and the capacity building of regulators in regulating, especially, regional infrastructure and the convergence of technology;
6. The importance of public consultations and contributions around the management of public infrastructure and resources (ie. SAT3, RASCOM, etc.) and the need for open consultations around such;
7. The need to encourage the use of 'Open Access' approach to infrastructure of public interests;
8. Telecommunications should be considered as a public asset.
9. Facilitate the sensitization and consultations of the importance of ICTs by all stakeholders namely, government, civil society, legislature, private sector, etc.;
10. Devise funding mechanisms that support the implementation of ICT related initiatives by understudying and influencing regional or continental global partnership frameworks such as PICTA (Partnership for ICTs in Africa) and other such donor networks;
11. The need for exposure of media and policy makers to the changing dynamics of ICT industry;

12. African participation at the WSIS process was positive; in spite of the constant change of Government delegates and other constraints that were real hindrances, participants congratulate the participation of African Governments in the WSIS process;
13. Congratulate ACSIS for the role it played in the WSIS process and call for the strengthening of the network;
14. The need to build capacity at the technical level of Internet governance, extending this to all stakeholders such as private sectors, public service and civil society;
15. Support the African members of the UN advisory committee of the IGF;
16. Internet Governance issues for Africa are to a large extent local therefore there's a need to resolve these issues at a local scale first;
17. The need to encourage African stakeholders to make inputs into the IGF process;
18. The need to encourage the CIPACO project of PIWA and recognise its relevance in West and Central Africa.

The participants continue to advocate the need for universal access to ICTs for development in Africa.

LIST OF INSTITUTIONS PRESENT

AC SIS	AFNOG
AFRINIC	AFRISPA
AG3L (GABON)	ALTERNATIVES-DRC
APC	
ARTAC (CENTRAL AFRICA)	ARTP (SENEGAL)
ASAFE (CAMEROON)	BOKK JANG (SENEGAL)
ECOWAS	DEVNET (NIGERIA)
GROUPE AFRICONCEPT	IICD
IMC/SIERRA LEONE	INIIT (GHANA)
IT EDGES NEWS (NIGERIA)	MINISTÈRE TIC/MALI
MINISTÈRE TIC/SENEGAL	NEXT
NIC.CI (IVORY COAST)	NITDA (NIGERIA)
OPTIC (SENEGAL)	OSIWA
PINET (NIGERIA)	PIWA (WEST AFRICA)
PNUD/SURF	PURA (GAMBIA)
RIA	UNIQUE SOLUTIONS (GAMBIA)
UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDÉ	YAM PUKRI (BURKINA FASO)

(More on this event: <http://www.cipaco.org/igforum>)

Appendixes - Practical information

Appendix 1 : The IGF process – Inaugural Meeting Themes

Appendix 2: IG Initiatives and Links

Appendix 3: The African Members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the IGF

Appendix 1

The IGF Process – Inaugural Meeting Themes

The IGF is a five-year process. Its creation is based on Para 72 (and following) of the Tunis Agenda. Its first meeting will take place in Athens, from 30th October to 2nd November 2006 - <http://www.igfgreece2006.gr/> . The second meeting will take place in Brazil in 2007.

Inaugural meeting:

Overall theme: *Internet Governance for Development*.

The meeting will consist of main sessions, workshops and a plaza. The main sessions will deal with the four broad themes, while the workshops will focus on the specific issues relevant to the Athens meeting themes as well as on other topics of relevance to Internet governance. The Plaza will be an open space for showcasing institutions and projects, aiming to facilitate the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices.

Capacity building will be a cross-cutting priority throughout these sessions.

	30 October	31 October	1 November	2 November
10-13	Arrival Registration	Openness	Diversity	Rapporteur's & Chair's
	Opening Ceremony	Freedom of expression and free flow of information, ideas and knowledge	Promoting multilingualism and local content	The Way Forward
Lunch	Plaza – Open Space for Showcasing Institutions and Projects			
15-18	Multistakeholder Policy Dialogue: Setting the scene	Security Creating trust and confidence through collaboration	Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interconnection policies and costs • Interoperability and open standards • Availability and affordability • Regulatory and other barriers to access • Capacity building to improve access • Management of scarce resources 	Emerging issues Closing ceremony

Appendix 2

Some IG Initiatives and Links

The IGF Secretariat:

The UN Secretary-General has decided to establish a small Secretariat in Geneva to assist in the convening of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Secretary-General was asked by the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis in November, to convene such a Forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue. The Secretariat is headed by Markus Kummer, who has been the Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Working Group on Internet Governance, which was established by the Secretary-General at the request of the first phase of the Summit, in Geneva in 2003.

United Nations

Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland.

Tel: +41 22 917 57 59 - Fax: +41 22 917 00 92 -- Email: igf@unog.ch

Website : <http://www.intgovforum.org/>

Africa and the Internet Governance Forum :

www.cipaco.org/igforum : information and resources on African and the IGF

The Internet Governance Caucus of the Civil Society groups at WSIS

The Internet Governance Caucus has been constituted as a part of the civil society activities at WSIS, with the purpose of hosting discussions on civil society positions about broader Internet Governance matters, including: the actual definition of the Internet Governance concept itself; the models through which Internet Governance should be carried out; policy matters related to the technical coordination of the Internet, including IP addresses, domain names, and the root server system; policy matters related to granting fair access to the network, such as international peering and interconnection policies; policy matters related to usage control over the Internet, such as crime prevention and fight against spam. The caucus has been running a coordination effort for the nomination of proposed civil society members of the WGIG (United Nations' Working Group on Internet Governance) and the Internet Governance Forum. The work of the caucus is primarily carried out through its mailing list hosted by CPSR.

To subscribe, go to <https://ssl.cpsr.org/mailman/listinfo/governance>

The Internet Governance Project

The Internet Governance Project (IGP) is an interdisciplinary consortium of academics with scholarly and practical expertise in international governance, Internet policy, and information and communication technology. Founded in 2004, IGP is conducting research on and publishing analyses of Internet governance. The IGP is based in Syracuse, University Syracuse, NY USA.

Website : <http://www.internetgovernance.org/>

The Internet Governance Capacity Building Programme of DiploFoundation

The Internet Governance Capacity Building Programme (IGCBP) aims to assist individuals involved in IG issues from countries with limited financial and human resources to develop the skills and knowledge required to participate meaningfully in the global debate on IG.

The programme is organised by DiploFoundation with support from partner institutions and individuals with expertise in Internet Governance-related issues.

<http://www.diplomacy.edu/ig/IGCBP/default.asp>

Recommendations of the Internet Governance Training Course for African Policymakers –

Outcome of a meeting organized by the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa in July 2006 in Addis Ababa;

http://www.cipaco.org/article_fgi.php3?id_article=932

Appendix 3

The African Members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the IGF

- 1- Akinsanmi, Titilayo, Johannesburg - Programme Manager, SchoolNet Africa ; Global Facilitator of the WSIS Youth Caucus
- 2- Akplogan, Adiel, Port Louis - Chief Executive Officer, Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for Africa - AfriNIC
- 3- Diop Diagne, Ndeye Maimouna, Dakar - Directrice des NTIC, Ministère des Postes, Télécommunications et Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (NTIC)
- 4- El-Nawawy, Mohamed, Cairo - Chairman and Managing Director, TE Data
- 5- Katundu, Michael, Nairobi - Principal Officer, Information Technology Communications Commission
- 6- Lohento, Gemma Brice Ken, Dakar - Panos Institute West Africa, Coordinator, Center for International information and communication technology Policies for Central and West Africa (CIPACO)
- 7- Quaynor, Nii, Accra - Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Network Computer Systems ; President, Internet Society of Ghana
- 8- Yahaya, Issah, Accra - Head of Policy Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation/Telecoms, Ministry of Communications