



8th National Internet Governance Forum (Hybrid Format), The Gambia

Communiqué

14th and 15th June 2022

Theme: “Digital Sustainability: Data Innovations for post covid recovery the Gambia Context ”

We, the participants at the 8th National Internet Governance Forum held at the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Conference Centre, The Gambia on the **14th and 15th of June 2022** organized by the Gambia National Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, The Gambia (MOCDE).

Recalling that this is the 8th session of the National Internet Governance Forum held in The Gambia.

Recalling that the 14th West African Internet Governance Forum in 2022 took place as a hybrid event in Ghana, from the 26th - 27th May 2022 under the theme ‘*Digital Sustainability: Data Innovations for Post Covid Recovery*, ahead of the Global Internet Governance forum to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 28th to December 2nd 2022.

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 8th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following:

On Digital Sustainability: data innovations for post covid recovery, The Gambia context. WE AGREE:

1. To ensure that systems and solutions are built with inclusive measures put in place that ensures all citizens can have access to them.
2. There is a need for collaboration among stakeholders to create community networks across the country that provide internet services in the areas where connectivity and access is a problem.
3. That there is a need to bridge the digital literacy gap to ensure equal and gender-neutral accessibility
4. There is a need to ensure that information is accessible in the languages that people understand.
5. There is a need for proactive disclosure of public information without request being made.
6. Protection of personal data should be a priority to ensure safety and privacy.



7. There should be a needs assessment to understand the context of our realities that are unique to the Gambian context in order to build innovative data solutions that are inclusive.
8. That there is a need for internet service providers to consider the cost of internet access levied on citizens.
9. The government should look at taxes levied on internet services providers that are impacting the high cost of internet connectivity in the country.

On The Digital Inclusion and Access to Information Act, WE AGREE:

There is a need to simplify the systems and processes put in place to ensure that information is accessible to the general public in the way they understand it.

Access should be inclusive and affordable.

Civil society needs to be engaged by the government in the implementation process of the Access to Information Law.

All citizens must be aware that Access to Information is a Fundamental Human Right.

The government should ensure that there is an open data platform.

The government should adopt digital inclusion strategies in carrying out its functions.

On Data Innovation and Privacy in the Gambia, WE AGREE:

1. That there is a need to raise awareness on existing data protection laws .
2. There is a need to have legal and regulatory frameworks in place for the populace on privacy and data protection.
3. There is a need for the proper implementation of the Access to Information Act 2021.
4. There is a need to raise awareness on the importance of protecting personal data and privacy.
5. There is a need to create ways for people without formal education to safely access platforms.

On Cybersecurity and Trust, WE AGREE;

1. There is a need to strengthen cyber security in the government, and across all sectors.
2. Recommendations regarding actors in the Cyber Security Ecosystem should be presented by the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy in consultation with other stakeholders to the Ministry of Justice for approval.
3. There is a need to speed up the process of reviewing the IC Act of 2009 regarding laws on Cyber Security in order to ensure the protection of all vulnerable groups particularly women, children and the differently abled.



4. There is a need to speed up the enactment of the Cybercrime Bill into Law.
5. There is a need for more public training and awareness on Cybersecurity and combating Cybercrime.

Addendum

We, the stakeholders agree to participate fully in national, regional, pan African and global Internet governance fora to make the Gambia's position clearer and known world wide in regards to issues on Internet Governance.

We, the stakeholders, agree to maintain the multi stakeholder nature of the National Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee for subsequent National Internet Governance Fora ensuring a hybrid format is maintained to ensure an inclusive audience.

The National Steering Committee comprises of the following organizations and institutions:

1. Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy
2. Information Technology Association of The Gambia
3. The Gambia Press Union
4. National Youth Council
5. Gambia Chambers and Commerce and Industry (GCCCI)
6. Jokkolabs Banjul
7. Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
8. The Association of National Non-Governmental Organizations
9. Internet Society Gambia Chapter
10. University of The Gambia
11. GAMCHIX
12. The Gambia Cyber Security Alliance
13. Ministry of Justice
14. Serekunda Internet Exchange Point
15. Give1 Project
16. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

Note: Stakeholders at The Gambia National Internet Governance Forum both present and those attending virtually made a submission to the UN Global Digital Compact.



WE Thank the Ministry Communications and Digital Economy (MOCDE), UN IGF, UNDP, PURA, YEP, Jokkolabs Banjul, ISOC The Gambia, ITAG, Alliance Francaise (Gambia Tech Project), The Gambia Cyber Security Alliance and all stakeholders and participants for participating in this hybrid forum and we look forward to seeing you participate in the 17th Global Internet Governance Forum that will be held in a hybrid format from November 28th to December 2nd 2022 to be hosted by the Government of Ethiopia. We look forward to the committed participation of all stakeholders in the subsequent IGF meetings.