



IGF Internet
Governance
Forum

**14th Annual Internet Governance Meeting
25 - 29 November 2019
Berlin, Germany**

Post-Meeting Report for Funded Participants

Please submit the report no later than 15 December 2019 to Ms. Lima Madomi from the IGF Secretariat at: lima.madomi@un.org

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1. How would you describe your participation at the IGF meeting? (max. 150 words)

My participation at the IGF 2019 was a mixed bag. On a number of occasions, I was a participant, on a few I was a panellist and others, I was a contributor, but mostly, I was a student. I learnt a lot in regards to the Internet, its governance, working protocols and the divide that is steadily widening between the 'West' and the rest of the world. We, together with Missions Publiques were also able to share findings from two citizen dialogues held over two year with the rest of the world. This session had about 60 participants in attendance in which it was clear that the Internet is not as well understood by the people at the grassroots as we hoped they should understand it.

2. What is the most important benefit you have gained at the meeting? (max. 300 words)

Two things, Digital Identity and Digital Inclusion. The majority of Ugandans are under the age of 30, a majority of them reside in the countryside, although there has been a exodus

from the rural to urban areas over the last 7 years. Internet penetration is about 30% and most of them access the Internet over mobile enabled devices. The country has 4G connection, but this is in the more populous urban areas, the less populous urban areas have 3G, while the rest of the country has either 2G, EDGE and GPRS, while some of the areas do not have coverage at all. Attempts have been made to include the entire country through some sort of connection, but this has been largely done by the private telecom service providers, this thus is profit motivated as opposed to providing a public service, the divide between the urban and the rural is visible as those in urban areas enjoy relatively faster, lower cost internet than their counterparts in the rural areas.

The usage of the Internet brings me to the second issue, Digital Identity. Uganda's young population is politically active, a number of them have sought different identities or have tried hard to hide their true identities so as to express themselves in ways they see best suited.

Attending the IGF 2019, benefited me because I became aware that while we do all these grand things in regards to extending connectivity to all, it does not help if the motivating factor is commerce as opposed to service delivery and inclusion of all. I am already advocating for a change to this.

3. What inputs do you plan to bring to your community from the meeting? (max. 300 words)

Having realized that the country is not doing much to bridge the digital divide and proactively take on inclusion, I engaged a number of individuals from the local chapter of Internet Society, together with CIPESA and Missions Publiques, an understanding is underway to lobby the Government of Uganda to renew efforts undertaken in 2007 to connect all municipal levels administrative units to the national backbone project, this same project is meant to connect secondary schools and police stations at district levels.

In 2020, under an arrangement with Missions Publiques, a citizen dialogue will be held in Kampala Uganda. Some of the themes of this dialogue will include a comprehensive understanding of Digital Identity, Disinformation and Internet Governance, these are not the biggest of the challenges at hand, but they are at the heart of many of the challenges connected Ugandans grapple with. Being a young population, issues of disinformation are rife, as is the case with many other young people, issues of internet governance affect them as their leaders are more interested in extending their own stay in power as opposed to serving them and then there is digital identity. I had mentioned earlier that these are relatively younger people for who actions online at this age do not seem to register to have far reaching implications, this just concluded training will enable me organize an effective training of about 100 random people in June 2020. Should I be asked a complex question, I shall be in position to respond more appropriately.

4. Briefly outline your participation at the IGF meeting, including attended sessions, gained knowledge, networking, recommendations for improvements. (max. 500 words)

During the weeklong stay in Berlin, I attended the Day 0 events for Missions Publiques, Session 24 of Graphs and Sovereignty, Parliamentary perspective and opportunities for action, the Next Generation Internet Governance book launch, the opening ceremony, high level internet governance exchange panels on data governance and safety, the evolving ecosystem: ICANN's role in the security of the internet and protecting public health online: Shadow regulation and access to medicines.

I also attended the High-level internet governance exchange panels on security, safety, stability and resilience; Media development and Internet Governance Symposium; Opportunities and risks for people's wellbeing; High level governance exchange panels on data Governance; Leaving Hotel California; Technology and Surveillance in Latin America; Collaborative leadership exchange; Youth IGF Summit; The Future of AI in Africa; GDPR - after more than one year: how to make it happen?; Civil society coordination meeting; On the Road to the IGF 2019 in Berlin; Equity and Social Justice in a Digital World; Electricity, Community Networks and Digital Inclusion: The case of the undeserved communities; Children's Rights in the Digital World - A Case for Internet Governance; Citizen Dialogue Missions Publiques; The promise of safety and security in the digital world.

The sessions attended were a mix, this was because they generally happened in the same rooms as I was or were those that I required to attend right from the start. They generally covered the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Identities. During the meetings, I met a number of people, most of them young people, in my own age bracket, but there were also some older people such as those from ISOC, AfriNic, Google, APC, the UN and others whom I met in the common areas where we discussed wide ranging topics from local Politics to the next IGF in Poland. On a few occasions I also went out to see the town, we went to club where APC was holding the DiscoTech, I also went to the Mall of Berlin where there were a lot of people rushing out to get their Black Friday deals and then got lost in the subway. Thankfully Google Maps worked, the trains were well labelled and I was able to get back to Estrel after the M41 buses all went on strike for Climate Change.

I have not been to that many conferences and this was my first IGF so it is hard for me to make recommendations. The set up was great, the registration process on Day One was poorly done, it would have been better if everybody had registered a day before and the video tele-links were sometimes static. Other than that, everything was great especially the people.

I am grateful to the UN for according me the opportunity and I hope I shall be accorded similar opportunities in future.

Date of submission:

December 17, 2019

Signature:

