REPORT

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10th WEST AFRICA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

Development of Digital economy and emerging Technologies in West Africa

Hôtel LAICO Ouagadougou, 26 et 27 Juillet 2018,
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Pre-event: First edition of West Africa School of Internet Governance (WASIG)

The first edition for West African School on internet Governance has taken place from July 23 to 25, 2018 in Ouagadougou. Organized in eight training sessions, the stakeholders from different countries of ECOWAS have been taught on (i)the beginning and the working of internet ;(ii) the governance of internet ;(iii) critical internet resources ;(iv) the great debate on the internet governance(v)confidentiality issues (vi)the practice on a real internet policy.

Sponsored by Google and Facebook, the training sessions were animated by eminent experts: Mohamed Tijani BEN JEMAA, Yaovi Atohoun of ICANN; Nnenna Nwakanma of World Wide Web Foundation; Pierre OUEDRAOGO of TSI Sarl; Brice ABBA of Afrinic and Aida N'Diaye of Facebook.

For the first day, Nnenna tackled the session on the governance of internet, then, Tijani BEN JEMAA discussed the origins and functioning of the internet.

The stakeholders were able to learn the number and the problematic of the management of domain names, especially those dedicated to African countries.

It has been shown that internet works on the basis of equipment, IP addresses and protocol.
No one could pretend to control internet, except that there is a set of actors (contributors) who oversee their governance.

- IETF (IAB) for the protocols;
- regional register of domain names
- Register and registrar of domain names;
- ICANN for the coordination of unique identifiers (Communities ...).

On the second day of the training, Yaovi ATOHOUN follow the training with critical Internet resources. He introduced the ecosystem of ICANN, the community of ICANN and the ICANN Board of 16 members and 8 other seats. With support organizations dedicated to

- addressing;
- Geographical extension;
- The generic extension;

Anyone can be part of the ICANN core community, including through public calls for comment. The activities of ICANN mainly concern the control of domain names, including the management of the root L (system tests: penetration tests etc.). ICANN with its headquarters in Los Angeles is present all over the world.
Scholarship programs are generally offered by ICANN although members usually contribute on a voluntary basis.
With regard to the management of domain names in Africa, experiences have been shared. In Nigeria, the Government, the private sector and civil society are in the chain of domain name management. In Burkina Faso, engaged in a process of modernization of the ".bf" domain, the Regulatory Authority (ARCEP) will have to delegate management to the Burkinabè Internet Domain Association (ABDI). In Togo, the authority left the technical management to CAFE.
The principle of universal acceptance in the management of domain names is not yet respected. For the moment it is not yet possible to have domain names with letters with accents.

At the fourth training session, Pierre OUEDRAOGO declined the issues related to the great debate on the governance of the Internet. The higher the level of the Internet connection is, the more the number of attacks increases. The war through digital is often a reality. "Imagine that banks are attacked, a whole economy can collapse."
In addition, there is increasing possibility of new attacks or threats on mobile devices now interconnected. According to the trainer, there is not yet the culture of dematerialization in Africa. To do this, it is recommended to bet on security.

At the fifth session, Brice Abba presented AFRINIC by focusing on the constraints related to the deployment of Internet routes (IPv6). The main problem is that Africans do not produce enough information and they want us to build information highways. "It's like you have people who have motorbikes and bikes and want them to be built highways." 350 out of 6,000 languages would be represented on the Internet. Contents development (African Scientific Productions, African Application Production, and Cultural Production) is an imperative in digital development in Africa.

In this same session, Aida N'DIAYE initiated the participants on Facebook's privacy policy.

The sixth session on group work allowed participants to apply the knowledge gained on practical topics. Four discussions groups have been created to debate on the following topics:

- Digital Economy / Investment Strategy;
- Internet Governance Forum;
- The security of the digital economy in ECOWAS member countries;
- Civic education.

WEST AFRICA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

Openning session

After Cotonou in Benin in 2017, Ouagadougou hosted the 10th edition of the West Africa Forum on Internet Governance (WAIGF) on July 26 and 27, 2018, under the theme "Development of the Digital Economy and Emerging Technologies in West Africa". The Forum brought together digital economy actors from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tunisia. WAIGF 2018 was honored by the presence of the Burkina Faso government authorities, the ECOWAS commission and the various partners including ICANN, Afrinic, Internet Society, World Wide Web Foundation, Google, Facebook, ARCEP Burkina, ARTAO and IGFSA.

The Director General of ICT of Burkina Faso, speaking on behalf of the National Organizing Committee, addressed the participants with the words of welcome, highlighting the importance of the Forum's contribution to the development of digital technologies in general and in the ECOWAS area in particular.

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Mary UDUMA of Nigeria, Coordinator of WAIGF has expressed a word of encouragement to the digital economy actors to work more to overcome the different constraints that may be imposed in their actions. She presented the WAIGF focal points all present, indicating that recommendations from the Forum will also be sent to ECOWAS. She reminded the upcoming deadlines, including the African Internet Governance Forum to be held in Sudan between September and October 2018 and the World Internet Governance Forum to be held in November 2018 in France.

The Director of Telecommunications of ECOWAS, Dr Raphael KOFFI, representing Commissioner Julie BONKOUNGOU reminded people that this Forum was preceded by the first edition of the West African School on Internet Governance held in Ouagadougou from 23 to July 25, 2018. For the Representative of the Commissioner, the importance of ICT is well established because previously inaccessible services are now available to all thanks to technology. This forum is an opportunity to discuss on the Sustainable Development Goals, Infrastructures, Internet of Things, security, blockchain and the digital economy. The various partners and particularly the Burkina officials were congratulated for their support.

Sierra Leone's Deputy ICT Minister, who made the trip to the forum, then took the floor and took the opportunity of the ceremony to remind people on the crucial role that the Internet should play in the strategy development of our countries.
The Representative of the Godfather, François D'Assise YAMEOGO, Secretary General of the Ministry of African Integration representing the Minister addressed a word of welcome and encouragement to the participants

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The opening ceremony will end with the opening speech of the Minister of Development of the Digital Economy and Posts, delivered by Mr. Kisito TRAORE, Secretary General. In his words, he also welcomed the participants while reminding the pride of his department in particular and the government of Burkina Faso in general to welcome in Ouagadougou this important meeting on Internet governance in Africa. He went on to point out that the Internet has became so prevalent and important at all levels, that such a forum is more than relevant.
He reiterated the main objective of the forum, which is to facilitate productive discussions on public policy issues between the private sector, civil society organizations, researchers and administration etc… It is about creating better sharing practices, identify emerging issues and contribute to capacity building. It is on these words that the 10th edition of WAIGF has been declared open.
Before the beginning of the debates, the participants made a family photo and the press proceeded by the interviews followed by a coffee break.

After coffe break, as a prelude to Session 1, we had a session dedicated to partners and the first partner to pass was the World Wide Web Foundation represented by Nnenna Nwakanma, Director of Public Policy.
Web Foundation works to improve access to the Internet worldwide. The team of less than 50 people is also working to promote the digital economy in West Africa. Web Foundation is therefore taking part in this forum in order to work with ECOWAS and better serve the Member States. Web Foundation is interested in topics such as access to the Internet, open data, inclusion among others

Session 1: Internet Governance and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Under the moderation of Inoussa TRAORE from Burkina Faso, this first panel on Internet Governance and the SDGs was animated by Dr Sylvestre OUEDRAOGO from Burkina Faso, Nnenna Nwakanma from Web foundation and Adé Bada from Benin.

First, Dr. Sylvestre OUEDRAOGO made the inventory and presented the West African outlook on Internet Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals. Concerns have been raised.

- Computers consume a lot of energy, and there are not enough initiatives to be taken into account the environmental effects related to this consumption;

- Blind consumption of equipment (software, computers, printers, etc...

- It is important to acquire equipment that respects the environment and ecology for Sustainable Development;

- The need for regulatory standards for electronic components;

- Encouraging the use of common materials and working on cleaner standards (e.g. fairphone phone), OLPC, etc.

Adé A. BADA from Benin through his presentation shows that the achievement of the SDGs necessarily involves appropriate sectorial policies (e-governance, e-agriculture, e-health, e-learning, and e-environment).
In these different sectors, it is important to develop applications.
In terms of perspectives, stakeholder input and capitalization of experiences is important.

For Nnenna Nwakanma, Director of Public Policy at the World Wide Web Foundation, ICT gives us the opportunity to engage as a citizen, with the government, to do more, to do better. She believes that the challenges ahead can be summed up in "REACT."

- Right: Right to the Internet
- Education: The illiteracy of tomorrow is not to access digital
- Access: Internet access
- Content: Content
- Target: Objectives (better use of ICTs, Information superhighway, uninterrupted availability of the Internet

From participants questions and contributions after the presentations, it emerged that a request for funding to the African Development Bank is underway for a study on the treatment of electronic waste in West Africa. Consultants could make proposals for electronic waste treatment units that can be validated in the workshop.

Beyond the exchanges, a synergy of actions is required for a real boom of the digital economy in Africa. The problems do not necessarily come from governments. It is about acting by involving the different actors.

Presentation of country reports

From the national forums to the regional forum, it was considered useful to present the activity reports of the various initiatives for the Internet Governance of each country, under the moderation of the coordinator Mary Uduma. The reports of the countries are available at www.waigf.org

Togo
The governance model of the IGF of Togo is based on an Advisory Committee. The last forum takes place in November 2016 and the next forum is announced for October 2018. The challenge is to hold every year the forum before WAIGF and the creation of a permanent secretariat.
In terms of achievements of some internet issues, there is already a functional exchange point through the 3 mobile operators. The process of strengthening legal measures is under way

Gambia
For The Gambia access to infrastructure has been one of the most costly areas for the Governement.
The production and protection of contents remain the challenges to be taken account. The Gambia report is already available on www.waigf.org,

Nigeria
Thanks to the opening of the government, a statement was made on the governance of the Internet. IGF Nigeria has managed to bring the public's attention to the governance of the Internet. The challenge is that the Internet is a tool of good governance, involving all stakeholders. On the occasion of the 8th edition, many participants were sensitized and recommendations were given to the authorities. For the next edition, IGF Nigeria hopes to touch on aspects of the Internet ecosystem. No matter what you have in your pockets, your level of satisfaction depends on the state of governance, said Mary UDUMA

Sierra Leone
In Sierra Leone, recent actions have focused on:

- The development of digital literacy;
- Taking into account the concerns of stakeholders, taking into account vulnerable and diverse layers;
- Infrastructure, the transition from 3G to 4G
- The question of generational phases in the development of the Internet
- About accessibility: illiterate women have been reunited and networked.

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the actions are based on those of the predecessors who contributed a lot to the organization of IGF-Burkina.

- The public sector, private and CSOs are involved;
- Official Recognition of the organization IGF-Burkina by the ministry of territory administration;
- A web platform is created www.igf-burkina.org;
- A study conducted on the impact of household spending on the Internet on 200 households;
- First e-commerce forum already held;
- 5th national forum held with ARCEP with DGTIC on the sidelines of the National Internet Week;
- The 6th Forum is announced for November 2018.

Benin

Benin hosted the last edition of WAIGF from 27 to 28 July 2017 and the last national forum in July 2018, marked by the presence of the public authorities of Benin and the presence of the various partners. Discussions focused on the following topics:

- Digital regulation has been at the center of the exchanges;
- e-services already available such as the e-visa;
- The forum of the year 2019 is announced.

Ghana

In Ghana the last forum was held in 2016. Government support is guaranteed. The identification of key sectors of development, citizen control, security of citizens etc...

Senegal

In Senegal the next Forum is announced for September 2018.
2018 is also declared a digital year in Senegal;
"Digital Senegal 2025" and the National Cyber Security Strategy are validated plans in progress; The Senegalese government is financing start-ups in the digital sector with 2 billion CFA francs;
The dematerialization of administrative procedures (university registration, competition ...) is a reality;
2 million 900 Senegalese users on Facebook in December 2017

Liberia

In Liberia, the challenge is to open up the community, to take into account the disparities in the Internet between regions, age groups, gender and online surveillance. How to use e-Banking?
IGF Liberia will need to be re-activated.

To summarize the coordinator Mary UDUMA indicated that the key word is Governance and that "We cannot achieve excellence without challenges". She also encouraged the different national IGFs to intensify activities through, for example, inter-session actions (That is say between two editions of the national forum, to hold other activities throughout the year).

Session 2: Access and Infrastructure as Fundamental Elements of the Growth of the Digital Economy

Under the moderation of Mrs. Fatou C. Thiam, Focal Point WAIGF Senegal, the panelists Babou SARR of Senegal, Salieu MANSARAY of Sierra Leone, Galyam OUEDRAOGO of Burkina Faso made the inventory of fixtures on telecom and ICT infrastructures.

It appears that:

- Local hosting must be a precondition for content development;
- Intra-EU traffic in digital content needs to be strengthened;
- The various actors such as ECOWAS, the Governements, and the Regulators must promote the development of digital infrastructures such as Internet exchange points;
- To encourage and promote good spectrum management and access to this resource;
- Encourage the public-private partnership to support the necessary investments;
- Promote synergy of action by promoting infrastructure sharing;
- Anticipate the evolution of technologies.
- Establish a sectorial cyber security strategy and ensure that all ECOWAS countries have their CIRT operational.
- Take advantage of the AXIS program of the African Union to set up the internet exchange points of neighboring countries.

Session 3: Security in the digital economy

Under the moderation of Olusegun H. Olugbile of Nigeria, the issue of security in the digital economy was developed by Dr Steven Bassey of Nigeria, Pierre Ouédraogo of Burkina and Aida N'Diaye of Facebook.

These digital economy experts recommend:

- Network warning centers:
- Develop norms and Standards;
- Locally implement Copies of root servers;
- Establish networks of ICT lawyers in ECOWAS;
- Establish a cyber-security day;
- Establish a group of experts on Internet Security in West Africa;
- Developing diplomacy in the digital world: Calling on all ICT thinkers;
- Set up a cyber-security strategy in each country.

Session 4: Internet of Things

Moderated by Kossi Amessinou from Benin, the 4th session was moderated by Salieu Mansaray from SIERRA LEONE, Montresor Konan from Côte d'Ivoire and Herman Ouédraogo from Burkina Faso on the issue of the Internet of Things.

As a prelude to this session, Afrinic (www.afrinic.net) presented the issues related to data management and the problem of deploying IPv6. IPv4 addresses can no longer support the evolution of the Internet, especially with the advent of the Internet of Things.

The Internet of Things is a new challenge in the development of digital technology with the problem of data storage infrastructure, data collection, storage, security and data retrieval standards.

Initiatives such as the WAZI UP program already under experimentation in Senegal are to be popularized.
There is a wide range of applications for the Internet of Things (smartcity, agriculture, health, transport ...). But beware of the risks to our privacy, intrusions and remote controls.

The promotion of the Internet of Things in West Africa requires several actors such as innovation spaces that give the chance to learners to work with objects and produce solutions, companies, states for the regulation of these objects, the developers.

Session 5: Digital Economy and Blockchain Technologies

First in the partners' session, ICANN was presented by Mr. YAOVI Atohoun.

Under the moderation of Tijani Ben JEMAA of Tunisia, the issue of Blockchain technology was discussed by Jacques Houngbo of Benin, Larba Nadieba of Detecon Burkina and Steven BASSEY of Nigeria.
The advantages and disadvantages of the technology were presented

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It is recommended:

- To act as a group and regulate the field;
- To seek to master the technology;
- To develop a policy framework on blockchain technology that will not discourage innovation.

The closing ceremony

The closing ceremony was punctuated by two important phases; first of all the reading of the final communiqué (see appendix) by the Coordinator of the WAIGF and the closing speech of the Minister of Development of the Digital Economy and Posts that was delivered by the Secretary General. Participants will meet in 2019 in Gambia and 2020 in Sierra Leone.

10TH WEST AFRICAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

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THEME: "DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL ECONOMY AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY IN WEST AFRICA"

HOTEL LAICO
OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO
26 – 27 JULY 2018

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COMMUNIQUE

[ORIGINAL VERSION: FRENCH]

We, the participants of the 10th West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), meeting in Ouagadougou, from 26th to 27th July 2018, representing the Internet governance initiatives of the following fifteen (15) countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo;

With the participation and support of the following partners: ECOWAS Commission, WATRA, ICANN, AFRINIC, ISOC, World Wide Web Foundation, Facebook, Google, IGFSA and ARCEP Burkina.

- Recalling the results of the previous editions of the West African Internet Governance Forum which were held respectively in Accra, Dakar, Lagos, Freetown, Abidjan, Abuja, Niamey and Cotonou;
- Considering the critical importance of the Internet to the economy of countries and the need for greater access to affordable Internet
- Recognising the need to ensure user and market confidence to sustainably own the benefits of the Internet at the community level;

- Desirous, on one hand, to build an innovative, dynamic, prosperous, and united sub-regional Internet community and, on the other, a stable and secure Internet ecosystem.

1) Report that:

a) The 11th Forum shall hold in The Gambia in 2019.

b) The 12th Forum shall hold in Sierra Leone in 2020.

2) Recommend;

a) On Implementation of the SDGs

i. Encourage Member States to adopt standards for electronic components for protection of the environment.

ii. Encourage Member States to promote Internet for all to achieve the SDGs.

b) On Access and Infrastructure

i. Urge Member States to make broadband Internet affordable, accessible and available to users especially in rural communities. To this end invite Member States to implement the ECOWAS Revised Supplementary Act on Universal Access/Service.

ii. Call on Member States to ensure International and National Roaming for both voice and data services according to the provisions of the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Interconnection of Networks and Services as well as the timely implementation of the ECOWAS Roaming Regulation on Public Mobile Networks.

iii. Encourage redundant international fibre optic network links in Member States to avoid downtime during cuts.

iv. Encourage Member States to take full ownership of their country code top-level domain (ccTLDs).

v. Encourage development of local content so as to get full benefits of investments on infrastructures such as Internet Exchange Points (IXP).

c) On Security in the Digital Economy

i. Adopt a digital security strategy which meets the norms and standards and guarantees the use of root servers and Network Operation Centre (NOC).

ii. Urge Member States to have working groups on cybersecurity and have a Cybersecurity Day to sensitise stakeholders.

iii. Urge the ECOWAS Commission to continue their leadership role and identify a champion at a high political level to promote cybersecurity.

d) On Internet of Things and Blockchain Technology

i. Urge Member States to build capacity on Internet of things for all stakeholders.
ii. Adapt IT curricular in institutions of learning on emerging technologies.
iii. Encourage research on vulnerability of systems, security and database.
iv. Develop a policy framework on blockchain technology that will not deter innovation.

Express our gratitude to the people and the Government of Burkina Faso for hosting this 10th edition.

Ouagadougou. July 27, 2018

WAIGF 2018