6th National Internet Governance Forum, The Gambia

Communiqué

26th and 27th August 2020

Theme: "*Digital Inclusion In the Gambia in times of Covid19*"

We, the participants at the 6th National Internet Governance Forum held virtually on a Zoom platform, The Gambia on the **26th and 27th of August 2020** organized by the Gambia National Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure, The Gambia (MOICI) and UNDP.

Recalling that this is the 6th session of the National Internet Governance Forum held in The Gambia.

Recalling that this is the third national Internet Governance Forum held in The Gambia after a 6 year hiatus.

Recalling that the 12th West African Internet Governance Forum in 2020 took place virtually(online) from the 22th-24th July 2020 and the 8th Pan African Internet Governance forum is yet to be announced, also going virtual, prior to the 15th UN Global Internet Governance forum to be held Online in November 2020. All these virtual forums this year are based on the global COVID – 19 pandemic that have affected the way we interact this 2020.

WE AGREE:

Digital Inclusion in the Gambia in times Covid19

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 6th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following:

1. Government and other stakeholders to make access to the internet more affordable regardless of gender, age or geographical location.

2. Government and regulatory authority to reduce the tax burden to the minimum value to allow more investors into the market.

3. The steering Committee to encourage more active participation from all the relevant Stakeholder groups.

4. Government and other stakeholders should immediately facilitate more submarine cables to complement the ACE cable.

5. Young people should be given more support and the platforms to develop innovative ideas for the advancement of digital inclusion.

On The; Impact of Social Media on MisInformation, Fake News, into the Elections 2021

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 6th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following:

1. For the public to differentiate between the reliable and authentic media platforms from the fake news sites.
2. To educate and provide a platform for media literacy on Information/data being shared.
3. Media houses to verify and be held accountable for disseminating false information.
4. Government to fast track the enactment of the freedom of access to information bill to ensure more Openness and transparency in its processes.
5. The public to fact check the sources of the information and the media platforms.
6. To ensure that the public is educated on digital rights.

On The; Privacy and Data Protection within the Gambia.

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 6th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following:

1. Citizens need to be more informed on policies put in place on Information Technology related aspects especially with personal data.
2. The need for the Government and NAM to ensure we have effective legislation that is in accordance with best practice.
3. Collaborative efforts to raise public awareness and ensure everyone is sensitized on their rights and the provisions of the policies and legislations.
4. Ensure that the Data controllers and processors have the right systems to protect personal identifiable data.
5. The need for public awareness on how our personal data can be protected and how the law protects us in a case of data compromise.

6. The Government to expedite the implementation of the Data Protection and Privacy Policy and Strategy 2019, especially the creation of a data protection and privacy industry of professionals through capacity building.

Addendum

We, The stakeholders agree to participate more fully in national, regional, pan African and global Internet governance forums 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 Forums and hope to resume our regular face to face forum in 2021 when the COVID – 19 pandemic could have been curtailed.

The national steering Committee comprises of the following organizations and institutions:

1. Ministry of Information, Communication and Infrastructure
2. Information Technology Association of the Gambia
3. Gambia Press Union
4. National Youth Council
5. GCCI
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. Gambia Cyber Security Alliance

13. Ministry of Justice
14. Serekunda Internet Exchange Point
15. Give1 Project

WE thank the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI), UNDP and all stakeholders and participants for participating in this virtual forum and look forward to seeing you participate in the 15th Global Internet Governance Forum that will be held virtually in November 2020. We look forward to resuming our face to face forum during 7th National Internet Governance Forum in the Gambia in 2021