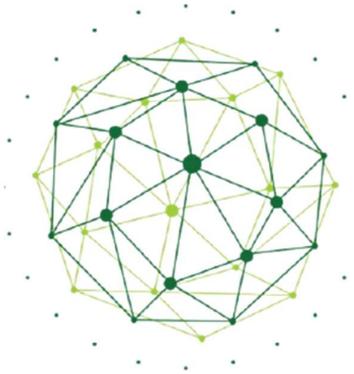


**REPORT OF**

**THE**

**VIRTUAL NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE  
FORUM (vNIGF 2021) EVENTS**



**NIGERIA INTERNET  
GOVERNANCE FORUM**  
**N I G F 2 0 2 1**

**HELD**

**ON**

**SEPTEMBER 29 – 30, 2021**

## Table of Contents

1.0 Background	3
2.0 Pre-events (September 29, 2021)	3
2.1 Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF)	3
2.1.1 Overview of NYIGF	3
2.1.2 Opening Ceremony	4
2.1.3 High-level Panel Discussion	5
2.1.4 Breakout sessions	6
2.1.5 Wrap up session / Way Forward	10
2.1.6 Zoom registration statistics	12
2.2 Nigeria Women Internet Governance Forum (NWIGF)	12
2.2.1 Opening Session	12
2.2.2 Panel Session 1	13
2.2.3 Panel Session 2	15
2.2.4 Closing Session	17
3.0 Main Event (September 30, 2021)	18
3.1 Opening ceremony	18
3.1.1 Welcome remarks	18
3.1.2 Goodwill messages	19
3.1.3 Keynote address	21
3.1.4: Vote of thanks	23
3.2 High Level session	23
3.3 Breakout sessions	27
3.3.1 – Session 1: Accessibility	27
3.3.2 – Session 2: Infrastructure	31
3.3.3 – Session 3: Policy and Regulation	35
3.3.4 – Session 4: Capacity Building and Development	37
3.4 Wrap up Session	40
3.5 Closing Remarks	40
3.6 Zoom Participation Statistics	40

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) is an annual gathering of domestic stakeholders, which provides a platform to express common national interests in preparation for the annual global Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The 2021 edition of the NIGF held as a hybrid event, with a physical hub in Abuja and with most participants attending online. Hence the event was tagged virtual Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (vNIGF) 2021, with support from the following organizations:

- 1) Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMoCDE)
- 2) Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA)
- 3) National Information Technology Development /Agency (NITDA)
- 4) Nigerian /Communications Commission (NCC)
- 5) Internet Society (ISOC) Nigeria
- 6) DigitalSENSE Africa Media
- 7) Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD)

## **2.0 PRE EVENTS – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **2.1 NIGERIA YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (NYIGF)**

#### **2.1.1 OVERVIEW OF NYIGF**

##### **(I) Overview**

The 2021 virtual edition of the Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) was convened by the Nigerian youth Internet stakeholders as part of the 2021 Nigerian Internet Governance Forum, in line with the principles of the United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

##### **(II) Objectives**

1. To provide a platform for Nigerian youth to assess the state of Internet technology in Nigeria and communicate challenges and opportunities to the appropriate stakeholders.
2. To enable Nigerian youth to learn about the principles of Internet Governance and how they can contribute to developing infrastructure, policy, and standards for telecommunications in Nigeria.

3. To encourage the integration and inclusion of Nigerian youth in national Internet-related public policy meetings and events.

### **(III) Why NYIGF?**

The theme for the 2021 NYIGF event “Internet for All: Rights, Responsibilities, and Opportunities for the Youth” addressed the need to encourage the integration and inclusion of Nigerian youth in national Internet-related public policy meetings and events, and also to maximize Internet opportunities as well as address risks and challenges that arise. It also addressed the need to learn about the principles of Internet Governance and contribute to developing infrastructure, policy, and standards in Nigeria.

### **(IV) What Does a Virtual NYIGF Event Offer?**

Due to global disrupts caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, youth participants met online to offer the following:

- ENGAGE with pathways to influence policy making and contribute to priority setting in the public and private sectors.
- CONNECT with youth from across Nigeria working to map solutions to complex ICT and digital economy problems and find partners to help put them into action.
- LEARN through workshops and skill-building seminars with the industry youth experts and take advantage of recorded content to learn at your own pace.

## **2.1.2 OPENING CEREMONY**

The session started with a welcome address from Boluwatife Adisa, representative of the NIGF MAG chair, who expressively gave a brief overview and expectations of the gathering, and further encouraged all participants to keep up with the conversation.

A keynote address was given by Mrs. Oluwakemi Ann-Melody Areola, SA ICT, who represented Mr. Sunday Dare, the Minister of Youth and Sports. In the words of the Minister, she expressed great pleasure in speaking to matters concerning the most important resources of the 21st century. She stated that national and social development, improved quality of life, and reduction of unemployment rates can all be rapidly addressed by leveraging on the possibilities the Internet has to offer, noting that the all-important Internet is not void of negativity. She underlined the recent progressive growth of Internet penetration to 51.44% in 2021, with a projected plan of 57.4% by 2024. She highlighted the recent increase in Internet fraud, cyberbullying and Internet addiction which calls for great concern, and must be addressed not only by government

regulations but by first interception within the Nigerian youths as to how online talents can be employed towards a collective goal for the nation. She drew the attention of participants to the fact that time spent online should be qualified and evaluated by positive achievements to self and community development. Finally, she commended the Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum for their works in the space, and further appealed to all stakeholders to join forces with them to ensure better derivation of benefits from the Internet for all Nigerian youth.

### **2.1.3 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION**

Moderator: Uffa Modey

Speakers: Igulu Kingsley Theophilus, Lecturer, Ken Saro Wiwa Polytechnic  
Oladele Dada, Co-Founder of Kreateng.

The session focused on the theme of the forum - “Internet for All: Rights, Responsibilities, and Opportunities for the Youth” under two categories of questions:

- How to ensure a nationwide Internet access for socio-economic development
- How Internet inequality affects the future of the Internet in Nigeria.

#### **Key Considerations and Recommendations:**

The Internet is a global network of computer networks that connects people all over the world. It’s a world and planet itself, which is made up of artifacts that serve as representation of humans. People who are globally connected online are today considered to be more than even a society, which could be referred to as a robotic society.

The Internet has several impacts on society - in the electronic media, social media, electronic mail, businesses, career, entertainment; and without the Internet the NYIGF couldn’t have gathered successfully on the day.

According to [internetworldstats.com](http://internetworldstats.com), Nigeria contributes about 26 – 27% of the Africa penetration statistics of 40%, which means Nigeria has the highest market shares in the digital economy.

Equality of rights over the Internet is not a government alone affair, it calls for the responsibilities of the Internet users. These rights according to the United Nations position demands for universality and equality rights, which means all humans are born free and equal, in dignity and rights, which must be respected and fulfilled in the online environment. This means everyone has an equal right to access, and to use a secured open Internet. The network equality rights states that everyone shall have universal and

open access to Internet content, free from discriminatory prioritization, filtering or traffic control for commercial, political or other grounds. These rights enable the citizens of Nigeria access to the Internet, but also should not invalidate the constitution of the nation.

Our responsibilities demand that we verify any information we share and should always refrain from fake news and misinformation. These responsibilities are also of the government to set up effective policy frameworks that regulate responsible access and use of the Internet towards rapid growth of penetration to about 70% by 2024. The Internet remains as a platform for all, so the Nigerian government should do more to make the Internet available for all.

In the discussion of inequality in the digital world today, the discrimination on gender should be discouraged by government and private sector, stating that women also perform some jobs better than most males. The Internet is for all and not for one gender or another, hence the Internet of today should be void of gender bias.

#### **2.1.4 BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**(I) Session 1:** The Role of the Internet in empowering the Nigerian Youth - Challenges and Opportunities.

Moderator: Precious Adigwe

Speakers: Hanson Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Start Innovation Hub  
Iniobong Udoh, Founder, Tech Skills Hack  
Dunsin Fatuase, Country Director (West & East Africa), Coven Works

Rapporteur: Oluwaseun Ajani

#### **Session Summary**

The moderator provided a background and acknowledged that COVID-19 pandemic has exposed people to the opportunities and challenges of the Internet. The Internet has evolved to an ecosystem where people interact, do business together and as a tool for self-expression. Making the Internet available for all is important in bringing the opportunities it has to offer. Nigerian youth are being empowered by the Internet in terms of education, career, business, social issues, among others. However, there are challenges that make the Internet for all to be a herculean task; hence the need to identify these challenges and proffer solutions that enable Nigerian youth harness the opportunities of the Internet.

## **Key Issues**

- The Internet has a lot of profit to offer to the developing nations.
- Nigerian youth need to focus on innovation vis-a-vis emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things etc.
- Nigerian youth need to join community groups, professional networks, technological hubs to take advantage of several opportunities that abound on the Internet.

## **Internet for All - Challenges**

- Overregulation and under-regulation of the Internet causes setbacks to opportunities.
- Lack of Internet access has prevented people from the underserved communities from accessing opportunities on the Internet.
  - Inadequate service infrastructure hinders people from accessing opportunities on the Internet.
- Data cost is not affordable for most youth, hence they are denied opportunities.
- There are concerns around cyber security for young people online.

## **Internet for All - Opportunities**

- The Internet is an enabler of opportunities for youth that have requisite skills to solve people's problems.
- The Internet being a repository of knowledge is useful in education for all.
- The Internet is a powerful channel for communication for people to access over 4 billion people in the world who use the Internet.
- 80 percent of those that apply for opportunities online get them.

## **Recommendations**

- Government should make policies that promote inclusion, for all to access opportunities on the Internet.
- Stakeholders should work towards making data to be affordable for all.
- Government should provide service infrastructures in order to facilitate Internet access for the underserved communities.
- Youth should consult statistics to recognize high paying skill sets they can learn to carry out business online.
- Youth should position themselves online and engage meaningfully on social media such as LinkedIn to attract opportunities.
- Nigerian youth should leverage on social media marketing and actively engage in professional communities.

## **(II) Session 2: The Impact of Enhancing Internet Rights and Inclusion**

Moderator: Moriam Sulaimon

Speakers: Folashade Braimoh, Programme Manager, Women's Technology Empowerment Centre

Lily Edinam Botsyoe, Coordinator, Ghana Youth IGF

Isaac Oloruntimilehin, Community Leader for Internet Advocacy, Digital Grassroots

Rapporteur: Loveday Onyeanula

### **Session Summary**

Access to the Internet is an essential basic human right as declared by the UN General Assembly, which leaves no one behind. Despite the growth of broadband access to 51% , over hundred million Nigerians still have no access to the Internet. This exclusion is the dominant feature of the rural settlement posed with high levels of poverty and digital illiteracy. Language is still a major issue of the Internet platforms, which has left people of local languages excluded. One of the key points of exclusion aside from having a device is digital literacy. Participants looked at inclusion from holistics of meaningful connectivity, protection and security, privacy and ability to use the digital tools for common good.

In the session, participants identified how critical it is that everyone is carried along and connected to the Internet space for national economic advancement, thereby calling for synergy between the government, policy makers, youth and other relevant stakeholders in building the Internet we want.

### **Key Considerations**

- Internet rights in Nigeria is a bit complicated at the moment, especially as regards data privacy and freedom of expression.
- According to the definition of Freedom House on Internet rights, these rights in Nigeria could be described as “on progression”, as the country still has issues on violations and restrictions of users’ rights while using the Internet, like the Twitter ban which delimited citizen’s freedom of expression.
- Government must do more to take the youth where the need to be - the youth need to consistently engage with the government to ensure that their rights are protected. The good way this can be achieved is by showing the economic impact of their digital rights to national development.

- Internet rights brings about a fine blend of the legal, awareness part and the technology youth are building on.
- In ensuring that peoples' rights are protected online, there must be proper enforcement of these rights - users should be able to report any form of infringement acts.
- To ensure that enforcers are actually doing what they're expected to - as an advocate raise awareness, and as a user be aware of what to do when rights are infringed.
- People should be cybersecurity aware and be sensitive/careful with their personal data while using Internet platforms.
- Legal parts of our Internet rights can only fight to a certain extent. So, we shouldn't leave ourselves vulnerable to online abuse.
- The growth of the Internet can be measured by how we make use of the Internet.
- Advocacy is important towards ensuring that we have responsible use of the Internet.

### **Recommendations**

- We have access to the Internet and we have opportunity to use the Internet, whatever we do with the Internet should be for good.
- The Internet should be used to explore youth careers as students, and as professionals for research and advancement.
- The social media platforms should be used to add positive values to careers.
- Youth should do their part by encouraging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Public Public-private partnership (PPPs) to reach out to communities or individuals with no access
- Internet rights and inclusion starts with you and I, now and the future, as well as the government and policy makers.

### **(III) Session 3: Data (Governance, Privacy, Data localisation, Big data)**

Moderator: Victor Idonor

Speakers: Ridwan Oloyede, Co-Founder, Tech Hive Advisory  
 Simbiat Sadiq, Project Manager, Digital Security Co-creation Hub. Joshua  
 Josh, Access and content Limited

Rapporteur: Ayomide Akinbode

## **Session Summary**

Data is information; whatever is taken from anyone as information is data. In defining Data Governance, one of the speakers explained that it is the process of managing the availability, feasibility and integrity of data, the control measures in place in terms of policies and regulation of the Internet. Then, by the definition of Data localisation as the ideology of having data within a confined system of which it's acquired and for its necessity, speakers explored discussions on the following key concepts;

- Data autonomy
- Regulatory approaches
- Safety and privacy concerns.

## **Key Considerations**

- Where data is stored territorially has no effect on its security. Therefore, data localisation shouldn't be of great concern, rather data globalisation.
- Data governance covers all aspects around data, how it is acquired and how it is used.
- Data privacy basically revolves around the safety and security of data.
- Despite the need for data globalisation, data is at great risk when it crosses borders without proper regulatory or control measures.
- Exploring cloud services beyond territorial management and control makes data vulnerable to certain risks.

## **Recommendations**

- Adoption of Internet exchange approach in hosting data at certain places without an overhead cost.
- Financial regulatory institutions should work in synergy with relevant stakeholders to protect users' data even beyond territorial borders.
- In achieving data governance, establishment and adoption of regulatory models should be universally accepted.
- The government should own and manage data within its territorial space, through transparent regulatory models that assures security and safety.

## **2.1.5 WRAP UP SESSION/WAY FORWARD**

The wrap up session was moderated by Ekemini Williams, which addressed the underlisted questions from the participants and responses from speakers:

## **Q&A / Open Discussions**

**(I) What is the state of enforcement of NDPR and its awareness among stakeholders?** Nigeria data protection regulation is in the office of NITDA as an agency. Basically, there are kinds of things that have to be done to curtail or maintain what happens there. For organizations, especially the private sectors, there are consequences like if you don't have a compliant document from NITDA you can run certain IT security related projects in any government parastatal, which is also applicable to Multinational operations here. The process of getting the complaints documents required engagement with a data complaints organisation to perform a data protection audit, which report is filed to NITDA for further evaluation and verification, with a compliance certificate issued to the organisation. Basically NDPR has actually been enforced and mostly applicable to organisations seeking to carry out any IT related projects of the Nigerian government. - **Victor P. Idonor**

**(II) In as much as data protection is key, how can the government in Africa protect data without necessarily holding needed information by the citizenry?**

In an attempt to answer this question, we should put locality in this context, this is because there's a global niche on data protection championed by the West. There should be a local context to this, which obviously only exists within the African scope; but coming to Nigeria, we don't have that strength. Because there's a dichotomy between the government that should enforce and the parastatals that are actually pushing for this; where the power lies, the will does not lie, and where the will lies there's no power. The best approach to address this is that there has to be an alignment between all the propositions made around data privacy, rules and regulations of private data through legislation - **Dunsin Fatuase**

**(III) Is monetization of the Internet a means to control or regulate it?**

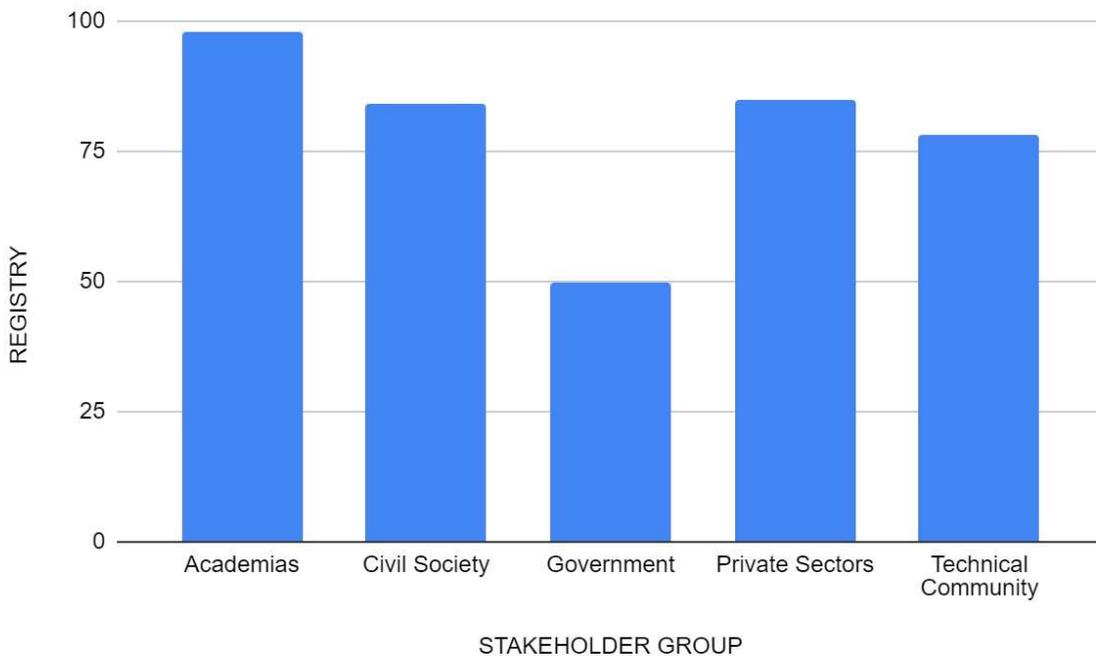
Monetization of the Internet is general, and the intent may vary. But for now it's not clear that monetization of the Internet is a means to control it, because right now, people and organizations will do all that they need to do to profit from this movement. Lastly anything that has to do with enforcement there has to be a law behind it, you don't address anything into law until it has passed all the steps that needs to have passed. This is because the Internet has come to stay and it is becoming the basic ingredient of our human rights, that it's supposed to be part of our constitution or laws of the country. But in other places, there could be a taskforce that handles implementation of these laws in submission to all transparency. – **Dunsin Fatuase**

## Closing Remarks

The closing remark was delivered by Ekemini Williams (Coordinator, NYIGF 2021), who expressed gratitude to all guest speakers for being available to attend their various sessions, and appreciated all the stakeholders who contributed to the success of the event. He also encouraged participants to keep the conversation going, by participating and lending their voices to Internet Governance issues at national, regional and global levels.

### 2.1.6 ZOOM REGISTRATION STATISTICS

In total, we had 395 registrants and over 120 attendees from and across Nigeria in this year's event. See the chart below for more details regarding the registration per stakeholder group:



## 2.2 WOMEN NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

### 2.2.1 Opening session

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) in conjunction with Local Multistakeholder Committee of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum as part of their efforts to promote women digital inclusion and ensure women are involved

in the internet policy making at every level in the country, organized as a pre-event the third Women Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (WNIGF) which held on September 29, 2021, ahead of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum held on September 30.

The virtual WNIGF was attended by over 60 participants from different parts of the country. The event which started at 11am began with a welcome remarks by Mrs. Mary Uduma, the Chair of the West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF). Mrs Uduma thanked CITAD for providing the opportunity for women to discuss issues affecting them, as relates to access and use of the internet in the country. She said it was necessary that all hands were on deck to ensure the digital inclusion of women. She commended the tireless work of CITAD in promoting the digital inclusion of women in the country. She observed that the theme of the Forum “**Women, Patriarchy and Digital Inequality: A Look at Global Efforts to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide**” was apt, timely and should allow participants draw lessons from the experience of countries that had made significant progress in addressing the digital marginalization of women.

The Chair, WAIGF went further to say women inclusion at the global level is gradually increasing, as preference is given to women especially at UNIGF African Union in order to bridge the gender digital divide, which is very important and appreciable. She also stressed that at African level efforts are being put to ensure gender balance in all organizations. She ended by thanking CITAD for consistently advocating for women inclusion in the digital world.

### **2.2.2 Panel Session 1**

The first panel, moderated by Dr. Amina Salihu of MacArthur Foundation, discussed the **Challenges of Mainstreaming Women in the Digital World**. Chioma Agwuegbo of TechherNG, Abuja spoke on the *Challenges to Women Participation in the Digital Economy/Mainstreaming Women in the Digital Economy*, Hamza Ibrahim of Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) discussed on *Do Women Suffer Misinformation on the Net?* And Zainab Aminu, Gender Technical Officer, CITAD presented a paper on *Combatting Online Gender Violence as Key to Enhancing Women Participation in the Digital World*.

The first presenter, Ms. Agwuegbo of TechherNG began by suggesting that girls should be allowed to study whatever field they want, which will enable them reach their full potentials. Giving an example with Nigeria, Ms. Agwuegbo stated that in 2018 there were 10 million out-of-school children, out of which 60% were girls.

Lamenting about the negative consequences of patriarchal system in the underdeveloped countries, the speaker stated that the system dictates what and who women become in the society, thereby denying many women access to technology which is the main liberator of women backwardness, and leading to the silencing of their voices.

Closing her presentation, Mrs. Agwuegbo suggested that there is need for increased collaboration between public and private sector to ensure more involvement of women in ICT, encouraging them to take careers in technology-based areas, and resourcing of materials that will allow women to occupy the digital space. She concluded the presentation by asking the participants amidst advocacy, if Nigeria is really a society that will allow women pursue their dreams.

In her presentation, the **Gender Technical Officer of CITAD, Ms. Zainab Aminu** stated that Gender-Based violence refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender which is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power, and harmful norms. She also stated that Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening issue.

It is estimated that one in three women will experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetime. Discussing about some forms of Gender Based Violence, she mentioned that it can include sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion and manipulation. This can take many forms such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation; while the consequences of gender-based violence are devastating and can have life-long repercussions for survivors, even leading to death.

Ms. Aminu further stated that a research CITAD conducted on the impact of gender-based cyber violence on victims, discovered gender based violence includes reputational damage, mental illness, physical and medical issues, disruptions to a victim's living situation, invasions of privacy, silencing or withdrawal from the online environment, and damage to personal relationships.

While making comparison on the impact of gender based violence online between women and men, Ms. Aminu stated that cyber violence appears to differ according to the victim's gender. She gave an example of a research conducted by the Pew Research Centre which revealed that 38% of harassed women found their most recent experience with online harassment extremely or very upsetting, compared to only 17% of harassed men. She added that compared to male users, who tend to be more concerned about

damage to their reputation, females are more likely to fear physical harm. This corresponds to the nature of online abuse these groups experience. Where men and boys are more likely to be victims of defamation and libel, women are more likely to be subjected to derogatory remarks or sexual images and threats, such as non-consensual pornography.

Discussing about the impact to women and girls when they experience violence online, Ms. Aminu mentioned that the greatest impact women experience is self-censorship; women start censoring themselves online which is what the abusers want. She also mentioned that public awareness was the key to reducing GBV in the society, and provision of severe laws and punishment that would deter others from committing the same crime.

The third speaker, **Malam. Hamza Ibrahim of the Countering Misinformation Group of the Centre for Democracy and Development** took the participants on how women suffer misinformation on the net. In his presentation, Malam. Ibrahim made it clear that women do suffer misinformation on the net. He gave an example with how perpetrators or purveyors of misinformation spread the news of president Buhari's marriage with Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Sadiya Umar Faruk which had inflicted damages to both the First Lady, Aisha Buhari and Minister Sadiya Umar Faruk. He further stated that women all over the world were being targeted either online or offline, but the most injurious ones happen on the net.

Closing his presentation, Malam Hamza said that more efforts especially around sensitization and awareness creation need to be intensified.

### **2.2.3 Panel Session 2**

The panel featured **Ms. Toyosi Akerele Ogunsiji, Founder Rise Networks/The Rise Labs** who discussed on *Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Mainstreaming Women Participation in the Digital Economy*, and **Dr. Sana Abdullahi Mu'az of the Department of Computer Science, Bayero University, Kano** who discussed on *How Do We Get More Women in the Digital Profession for Better Representation of Women in the Digital Economy*.

Making her presentation at the event, Dr. Mu'az started by confessing that the diffusion of ICT has brought change to all aspects of human lives. She said the digital economy has grown much faster than the rest of the economy and the rapid development of digital technologies has created challenges for inclusive growth which led to under-

representation of women. Discussing about how digital competences shape the careers of women, Dr. Mu'az said women represent about 50% of university students in most developed countries, but the case is different in the underdeveloped countries. And for younger children, there is no difference in the use of computers in most of the developed countries.

Moreover, speaking about how women are using digital technologies, the speakers said most of the software in the world are usually developed by males, even when gender differences in skill are insignificant. She also lamented that women perceive their skills as being lower than those of their male counterparts in such environment. At the end of her presentation, Dr. Mu'az discussed on some of the opportunities or threats career women face between work and life:

- There are “leaks” in the education pipeline of women;
- Research has shown that computer science is seen as a domain for men according to cultural beliefs;
- Some males respond by “chasing” girls and women away from the field;
- Research proves that gender-based differences in organizational rewards were almost 14 times larger than gender-based differences in performance evaluations.

The second speaker, Ms. Ogunsiji lamented that in Data Science, the highest paid job in the world, only one female out of four employees can be found, which she attributed to fact that from the beginning of time, women were encouraged to read Home Economics in schools, while their males counterparts were encouraged to read technology-based courses. In this case, Ms. Ogunsiji said the stereotype created among children is amongst the major factors that discourage women from joining ICT courses. She cited an example with how parents would normally buy toys for their female children and aeroplanes for their male children.

Speaking about the achievements made by women in the technology and science, the presenter said the first individual to win the noble prize twice in the world is female, and the three people that wrote the mathematical formula that sent the Americans to the moon are women; nevertheless the technology is biased towards women.

Moving forward, the presenter stated that, in order to ensure more involvement of women in the Information Technology sector, government, individuals and private companies (most especially the giant tech companies) must:

- i. Create equal opportunities for both men and women;
- ii. Focus on research and development;
- iii. Have a system that rewards female teachers in the area of technology;
- iv. Create strong collaboration between the entertainment industry, technology sector and policy makers;
- v. Have more STEM programs that focus on girls and boys in order to co-create and collaborate;
- vi. Put more effort to support people (women) who are already working in the area.

#### **2.2.4 Closing session**

The following were the overall observations raised:

- i. Women are being underrepresented in the tech jobs
- ii. There is negative stereotype of females in the society
- iii. Women are the major victims of terrorism and other forms of violence
- iv. Technology is biased against women
- v. Women suffer a lot on the net
- vi. Computer science is seen as a domain for men according to cultural beliefs
- vii. Women and girls are being chased away by men from the field
- viii. Online violence keeps women away from major sectors of the public sphere
- ix. Public only take physical violence seriously, ignoring or believing that online violence does not exist
- x. Some women leave the online platform after being harassed
- xi. Online violence is a public health issue and the effects are very detrimental.

#### **Recommendations:**

- i. There is need to create equal opportunities for both men and women
- ii. There is need to focus on research and development
- iii. There is need to have a system that reward female teachers in the area of technology
- iv. There is need to create strong collaboration between the entertainment industry, technology sector and policy makers
- v. There is need for more STEM programs that focus on girls and boys in order to co-create and collaborate
- vi. More efforts to support people (women) who are already working in the area
- vii. Need to create platforms to name and shame perpetrators of misinformation, and at the same time name and praise those working to combat it

- viii. Create platforms for women working in the tech areas to share their experience and successes to encourage the upcoming generations
- ix. Creation of safe and transformative schools for young girls
- x. There is need for the creation of mentorship club for young girls
- xi. Creation of safer environment for women to thrive
- xii. There is need for women in tech to be going to the secondary schools to teach young girls' and boys' technological courses

### **3.0 MAIN EVENT – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **3.1 Opening Ceremony**

##### **3.1.1 Welcome Remarks**

The Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Professor Umar Garba Danbatta gave the welcome remarks. He stated that the NIGF is a tool for personal and national development, providing stakeholders with the opportunity to actively participate and make contributions on the development and governance of the Internet in Nigeria.

He further stated that the NIGF 2021 high level panel session will discuss the theme "Internet that Works for All", and sub-themes in the area of Accessibility, Infrastructure, Policy & Regulation, and Capacity Building & Development.

Professor Dambatta highlighted the fact that the Internet remains one of the most important and critical resources in the 21st century, and has become an essential commodity in our daily activities especially during the covid-19 pandemic: Internet Governance includes more than just administration and distribution of Internet resources, it involves the fundamental causes of social, cultural and economic participation in a digital society.

He stated that the NIGF 2021 will also focus on engaging the multi stakeholders to enhance and aggregate productive ideas towards national digital economic policies by the Nigerian Government. The Forum's outcomes are expected to build consensus among the stakeholders on actionable recommendations for both state and non-state actors in the Internet ecosystem.

The outcome of the forum will be published on the NIGF website and will be shared with academia, civil society and all stakeholders for adoption and implementation as applicable. He reminded everyone that the NIGF platform encourages various opinions and views on best practices that will change and influence Nigeria's Internet policy and decisions.

Finally, he welcomed all participants to the Forum and encouraged them to participate in the discussions and deliberations.

### 3.1.2 Goodwill messages

- (i) **Mrs. Mary Uduma, West Africa IGF Coordinator** commended the country for consistently ensuring that Nigeria organizes her annual NIGF since 2012, stating the country is a good example for national IGF process to other West African countries.

She also expressed her excitement about the theme for 2021, highlighting that "Internet that Works for all", is very important at this particular season in Nigeria as well as West Africa, due to experiences related to Internet shutdowns and ban of some sites. Also, the sub-themes are all relevant to citizens in West Africa.

She stated that the West Africa IGF look forward to receiving reports from the deliberation of the day's event, including the actionable recommendations to Nigerian Internet stakeholders, and stated that West African IGF will report the recommendations at the forth coming African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF).

She finally took the opportunity to invite participants to the forthcoming AfIGF scheduled to hold in November, 2021, and thanked the NIGF for its efforts in organizing the event.

- (ii) **Dr. Margeret Nyambura, EU Consultant, AU-PRIDA** in her remarks, stated that she was delighted to represent the European Union (EU) at the NIGF 2021, which played a role in the Framework of the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA). PRIDA is an initiative of the African Union (AU), European Union (EU) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to enable the African continent reap the benefits of digitization.

She further stated that Nigeria is positioned to benefit from the demographic dividends in the digital era. Digital transformation is a major priority for corporation between the EU and AU. Digitization is the most powerful tool for the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the AU Agenda 2063. Digital transformation will very clearly be a key sector of corporation with Africa in this context.

EU is already targeting crucial areas such as the universal provision of high speed internet at affordable prices, essential skills for all in education teaching and vocational training, business empowerment and digital entrepreneurship as well as the adoption of ongoing services of the digital economy. Since early 2020, the crisis caused by Covid-19 clearly demonstrated the great potential and critical role of digital transformation, and has also shown disparities broadening the digital divide, leaving many citizens behind especially those away from the great business and innovation apps.

Dr. **Nyambura** stated that the existing international digital partnership will encourage compliance or convergence with the EU standard on issues such as data protection, privacy protections, ethical use of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and trust, fight against misinformation and illegal content online, as well as support for the development of digital finance and online administration. Internet Governance is multi-stakeholder by nature, and should ensure transparent and inclusive representation mechanism.

She concluded by thanking the AU Commission for the excellent long term collaboration as well as those who contributed to the organisation of the event in Nigeria.

- (iii) **Dr. Vincent Olatunji** delivered the goodwill message **on behalf of the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)** who was unavoidably absent. He said that the theme of this year's forum is very important for the country's government, with the move towards having a sustainable national digital economy. He re-iterated the efforts of honorable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy and the parastatals under the ministry, making reference to NITDA's implementation of the National Economy Master Plan which would bring the national digital economy policy and strategy to life, and stated that all stakeholders must work together to achieve this. He stated that NITA is putting in place more security measures to ensure efficient and effective government service delivery and to ensure that Nigeria becomes an integral part of global digital economy.

Dr. Olatunji stated that NITDA has developed Nigeria Government Database Architecture which is a 360 degree plan on how to enhance e-Governance in Nigeria. He also stated the existence of a national e-government intervening framework which would enhance how Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) should interact seamlessly without issues; hence they have begun working with MDAs to build capacity of their staff in order to position them to drive digital transformation in the country.

He also noted that NITDA expects the report of the outcome of the forum this year and will look at specific actions which can be taken to enhance Internet that works for the country and for all citizens of Nigeria.

Finally, he congratulated the organisers and everyone that contributed to the success of the forum, stating all stakeholders must work together to achieve sustainable digital economy in Nigeria.

- (iv) **Anriette Esterhuyen, Chairman Internet Governance Forum Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IGF-MAG)** stated the importance for all stakeholders to keep on coming together at national level to tackle to achieve inclusive multi-stakeholder Internet related policies, by collaborating in the drafting of policies and the implementation processes, such that the theme of the forum can be achieved. Such policies must respect human rights, promote innovation and create opportunities for all. She highlighted the fact that it is impossible for an information society that encourages equality to grow successfully without constant access to the Internet. She wished all stakeholders a good event and stated she hopes to see them at the upcoming Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) scheduled to hold December this year.

### 3.1.3 Keynote address

**PROF. ISA ALI IBRAHIM (PANTAMI) FNCS, FBCS, FIIM – Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy (FMCDE)** apologised for not been able to join the event in time due to the commissioning of CSIRT which held same day of the event. He expressed his excitement to be part of NIGF2021, noting that it is a forum important to all key stakeholders in the sector, particularly coming up with a theme "Internet that Works for All".

The Honourable Minister stated the importance to discuss about the Internet that works for all, as those in the urban cities have access and can afford it, but those in the rural areas do not have such access, while some have access but can't afford it. He stated that the forum is a strategic platform where both private and public sectors work together by playing key roles to ensure that access to reliable Internet is achieved for all, especially as it relates to digital economy.

The Honourable Minister highlighted the fact that the Internet is no more a luxury but a prerequisite to economic development, making the Internet a key ingredient for all global economic activities.

In addition, security institutions cannot work effectively without the Internet, because they need it to liberate all and secure the nation and the continent. In the same vein, institutions equally require the use of the Internet to be efficient.

Just recently, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the National Policy on Virtual Engagement in federal public institutions. This policy was incorporated into the nation's public service rules and approved by the Federal Executive Council. Hence, virtual engagement in Nigeria is no more informal as it has been institutionalized as a formal way of communication. This has made the use of Internet mandatory; hence all stakeholders must join hands in other to achieve large percentage of broadband penetration and affordability of the Internet for all, as the Minister cannot achieve this alone.

The Honourable Minister stated that the United Nations set a target to ensure that a minimum of 75% of the world's population has access to the Internet by 2025. As at today, 54% of the world's population has access; hence in Nigeria broadband penetration must increase by landmass and population. Furthermore, in September 2021 FEC approved the national policy on 5G for Nigeria Digital economy, so in the next few months 5G should be available with the help of relevant stakeholders. The Minister also stated that National Frequency Management Council has discussed making spectrum available for 5G deployment in Nigeria, which will in turn improve economic development, education, security, amongst others.

The Minister however noted that only 10% of rural communities have fixed broadband subscription, are also low income earners, hence the need to ensure internet is affordable for them. He stated that most approved policies and intervention by the Government are to address the challenges which made the Internet expensive.

In addition, the Minister highlighted efforts at the federal level to address issues relating to cost of broadband, and protection of critical ICT infrastructure all over the country. However, it is with the support of all stakeholders that the issue of broadband penetration, affordable Internet and quality of service, will be effectively addressed.

The Minister closed by thanking all participants for being on attendance, stating that his office was looking forward to implementable recommendations from the forum. He commended the efforts of the organisers and prayed that the Almighty reward them immensely. May the Almighty bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### **3.1.4 Vote of thanks**

Mr. Mohammed Rudman - President, Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA) thanked the Internet community for making themselves available to attend this year's forum and encouraged fruitful deliberations.

### **3.2 High-level Panel session**

**Moderated by:** Mr. Bernard Ewah - Deputy Director, e-Governance development and Regulation/Coordinator, National Technical Working Group on Mobile Big Data

#### **Speakers:**

- Nasir Daniya - DG, ICT Directorate, Sokoto state
- Nnenna Nwakanma - Chief Web Advocate, World Wide Web Foundation.
- Ijeoma Uju – Partner, Corporate and Commercial practice group, Templars Law Firm.
- Pierre Dandjinou – VP Stakeholder Engagement Africa, ICANN Org.
- Adil Suleiman – Senior Policy Officer, Telecom and ICT African Union Commission.

#### **Summary of the session**

The moderator welcomed all panelists to the session and thanked them for being available amidst other responsibilities. He gave a brief of the need to have an all-inclusive Internet that truly works for all citizens in the country.

Ms. Ijeoma Uju spoke extensively on the need to protect the rights of individuals on the Internet, especially because not everyone is Internet literate. She urged individuals to know and understand their rights on the Internet so they are not taken for granted. She however noted the fact that, though existing regulations from FMoCDE, NCC and NITDA were extensive, there remained the challenge of monitoring digital infrastructure. She stated that the Data Protection Bill was presently at its second reading and hoped it would be passed eventually to the good of every digital citizen.

Mr. Adil Suleiman spoke about the Data Policy for the region which will be introduced to the Council of Ministers in November 2021. He highlighted the need to make access to data local in the region, as consumption of foreign data was not bringing value to Africa. He also spoke about the need for more countries to ratify the Malabo Convention as a way of improving synergy in the region. He also highlighted the obvious – digital cooperation amongst nations is key in order to make the Internet accessible and affordable to all, while promoting cyber resilience. He stated the fact that digital transformation has been adopted by Africa, hence the need for all stakeholders to work together to make this transformation successful in the continent.

Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma stated that stakeholders in Nigeria should not measure themselves with the criteria that African countries are measured in – Nigerians cannot continue to blame the outside world for local problems. She stated that regulations should include what is due to every Nigerian – it is necessary for everyone to have access, benefit, and ultimately be responsible with the use of the Internet. She highlighted the dire need for good governance and a government that is accountable to its citizens, showing that resources are well managed, and allowing citizens to use the internet to feel safe/secure, and to make money for themselves - it is at that point that government can ask citizens to be responsible, as the government cannot expect citizens to be responsible when they (government) are not accountable.

Mr. Pierre Danjinou stated stakeholders must agree what they want to achieve with the internet, it must be an indigenous endeavor. Data is crucial today, and the pandemic has shown that everyone needs the Internet; so it has become a right for all. Hence, the right decisions must be made especially through the multi stakeholder model where all issues are discussed locally by all parties concerned. He stated that ICANN is concerned with securing the Internet and ensuring it is interoperable. He also emphasized that every citizen should have access to public data through an open data policy and strategy developed by countries.

Mr. Nasir Daniya stated that, as relates to data protection and infrastructure, the NIGF should consider the legal framework by NITDA already on ground. He said that state governments have interference in ensuring critical infrastructure is on ground in their states. He also said that telecommunications in Nigeria is under the exclusive list, state has interference as regards what they can do to support federal govt and society. He also advised that there is dire need for stakeholders to critically look at the overall size of citizens to be served, for example how to ensure internet is available in 774 LGAs under 36 states in the federation. He highlighted that there is need to bridge the gap on what state government should do, as there is no clear policy guiding states on how to implement strategies towards attaining Internet for all in Nigeria. He closed with the advice that NIGF should consider the use platforms such as national council to discuss some of these issues on federal level.

### **Key Points Raised**

- Colonization is not the main issue, accountability by government is important to the citizens
- Internet is the right of citizens so it must be used to improve their livelihood
- Every stakeholder keeps looking up to government alone, multistakeholder engagements with stakeholders at the state level should be fully considered too – state actors also have their part to play for an Internet working for all.
- Covid has made the use of the Internet a necessity
- Open data is a subset of "Freedom of Information" and "Open Government/ Open Governance Culture"
- Having the right skill is key – in the digital world we say "Content is king"; the issue is how we move from consumers to producers of content, and how we create content that is most meaningful to Nigerians.
- Telecommunications should be on the exclusive list at state and local governments, incentives to operators to go to underserved and unserved areas.
- Development at grass roots need to be looked at.
- Grassroot development needs to be taken seriously
- Local development issues, connectivity owned by communities work better in some instances.
- There is responsibility of Government, industry and individuals as regards Internet that works efficiently for all
- Reliability of internet in Nigeria will encourage more opportunities for all

- Solve local problems of the region, think locally when providing access, think job creation, skill development
- For an internet that works for all, it is not just about cables, it's all encompassing the required internet infrastructure, hence stakeholders must Find out ways to broaden the scope for everyone
- The Domain Name System (DNS) is crucial for the internet to work effectively; likewise, the management of DNS is vital.
- DNS doesn't work properly in Africa and Nigeria, which means countries in the region are not really visible.
- IP consumption is quite key for reliable internet, hence IPv6 adoption is key for accessibility to ensure an internet that works for all in the region.
- Capacity building required so that the DNS can be managed efficiently.
- There are 13 DNS root servers, there is the opportunity of replicating in Africa
- As a country we must move from consumers to producers
- Nigerian internet does not exist as a silo, we are part of the African and global internet, hence digital cooperation must be put in our agenda (global digital common).
- In encouraging an internet that work for all, there is the need to ensure local languages are available (internalization of domain name, universal acceptance, and data localization)
- Open data encourages transparency and ensures public has access to data
- Efficient legislation – frameworks exist on ground, check their efficiency to ensure internet penetration to underserved and unserved areas
- Internet inclusiveness, privacy of data, security and content on the internet are key for efficient internet for all
- Internet and platform shut downs must stop as it makes the economy of the country worse than it already is – not reinstating Twitter hurts Nigerians and not the company.

### **Recommendations**

- The Government must make regulations that would help its citizens
- Stakeholders must work together to build the Internet that all Nigerians will have access, to build wealth and the economy
- Multistakeholder engagements with stakeholders at the state level should be fully considered

- Decentralization may need to be considered so that different strata of government are given the opportunity to engage directly with telecom operators with incentives to go to rural areas.
- IP consumption is quite key for reliable internet, hence IPv6 adoption is key for accessibility to ensure an internet that works for all in the region
- Internet users in the country must move from consumers to producers of content
- Bridge gap between what government should do and what other stakeholders must do to ensure an Internet that works for all
- Digital cooperation should be put in the African agenda
- Local languages should be accessible on the Internet
- Think more local, solve local problems
- Avoid market saturation by big companies
- Pursue data localization
- Job creation, skills development and universal acceptance are important
- Develop local businesses not to rely on content from overseas
- Enforcement strategies must exist and cascaded down to all levels of operators
- Stop internet and platform shutdowns, as it makes economy worse than it is.
- Look at possibility of private sector to act as financiers of local problems
- Minimize the use of paper in public sector and encourage the use of Internet for document dissemination, which will save the country billions of naira.
- Ensure local languages are available (internalization of domain name, universal acceptance, and data localization)
- Check efficiency of existing data protection and security regulations to ensure Internet penetration is accomplished for underserved and unserved areas
- Internet must be looked at as a digital economy.

### **3.3 Breakout sessions**

#### **3.3.1 Session 1: Accessibility**

**Moderated by:** Mrs. Bukola Oronti - Treasurer, Internet Society Nigeria Chapter

**Speakers:**

- Fargani Tambeayuk - Head of Connectivity, Sub-saharan Africa, Facebook (Lead paper)

- Bunmi Durowoju - Snr. Business Development Manager, Emerging Markets AI and Intelligent Cloud Airband Initiative, Microsoft
- Onica N. Makwakwa - Africa Coordinator, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), World Wide Web Foundation
- Dr Adewale Adedokun - Country Coordinator, Nigerian Network Operators Group (NGNOG)
- Obiora Nnaemego – Assistant General Manager, Information Technology Services, NIGCOMSAT Ltd

**Rapporteurs:**

- Mrs. Oyenike Ola-Fatodu
- Mr. Hussein Abubakar Umar
- Dr. Mohammed Agbali
- Mr. Edward Mamman

**Summary of the session**

Mr. Fargani Tambeayuk in his opening remarks stated that accessible Internet is one that is considered fast and affordable. Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for Internet access across the globe and Nigeria in particular; it has become a basic necessity for everyone and not a luxury. Millions of Nigerians, especially rural dwellers and citizens with low income, still do not have access to Internet. Connectivity should be leveraged for education, i.e. rolling out education online. There is need for technology to be customized for better usage for the differently abled people. It is time for different stakeholders like the Government, private sectors, society etc. to come together to ensure that necessary infrastructure and frameworks are put in place for Internet to be made available to everyone.

As regards to how community networks can help in the area of accessibility, he stated that groups of people need to come together to set up the network themselves by funding it from grants. However, the government still needs to play their own part by providing incentives like waving of import duties on equipment, tax breaks, license fee exemption, universal service funds etc., because maintaining the network still requires financing.

As it relates to the vulnerable and differently abled citizens, Mrs. Onica Makwakwa stated that statistics available as per the affordability of internet shows 60% of Nigerians still don't have access to the internet. This conveys our deep inequality, so stakeholders

must be intentional in closing the gaps and not leaving anyone behind. For people to learn, conduct businesses and other activities online, having access to the Internet is not enough, being connected meaningfully is the best. For example, 1GB of data per month does not give a meaningful connectivity to the Internet; a minimum of 4GB per month is better. Issues of affordable devices is of utmost important too.

Mrs. Bunmi Durowoju, speaking on other initiatives that drive the importance of having access, said there must be urgency of getting things right. Frameworks and policy are to be relied upon to move us forward, hence there must be a multichannel approach to accessibility, that is, we must be broadminded and creative in bringing out solutions.

Mr. Adewole Adedokun speaking on capacity building as it relates to making internet accessible to all in Nigeria, highlighted the fact that Covid-19 pandemic had brought to fore a lot of realities that Nigeria needs to face. Beyond talking about availability and affordability, there is the need to talk about the gaps in knowledge. During the pandemic, academic sessions were lost because of lack of requisite knowledge in the use of technology for teaching and learning. Moreover, the cost of internet is still very expensive in Nigeria. Government needs to become more intentional about the use of Internet especially in education in the rural areas - there are still teachers and students who can't use the internet. He stated that government has to be more intentional because teaching and learning does not stop. He also stated that the Internet should be made available in local languages, and technical people should be trained to make use of the available facility for training.

Mr. Obiora Nnaemego, speaking on how satellite technology can be made possible for all for better accessibility, questioned the reason why the private sector always shy away from rural communities in Nigeria and even globally. He said wherever population is low and return on investment is low, private sector funding is always scarce. He stated that 61% of Nigeria's landmass is currently undercover, and referencing a document provided by USPF, about 31million Nigerians do not have any form of connectivity. The reason for such gap in terms of service availability in Nigeria is the fact that most of the infrastructure used in connecting end users are still microwave-based which is not possible to connect the rural, underserved and unserved areas with wired infrastructure. Communication Satellite technology is one of the key things that should be used for better and wider connectivity.

### **Key points raised**

- COVID-19 has highlighted the need for Internet access across the globe and Nigeria in particular.
- There is need for Nigeria to have Internet resources and content available in local languages.
- Capacity building for citizens is very important to explore the opportunities that are available on the Internet.
- It is not possible to connect the entire country with wired infrastructure such as fiber, thus, ubiquitous platforms in the form of communications satellite technology should be used for better and wider connectivity.
- Internet accessibility is important, but affordability is very critical.
- Issues of affordable devices is of utmost important.
- Community networks and government financial incentives such tax breaks, license fee exemption, access to universal service funds etc. can facilitate accessibility in under-served communities.
- Policy making in government lack innovation and is somewhat slow.
- There is need to address the issue of inequality in access to Internet - we need to be intentional in closing the gap, and government needs to put in place strategies and policies to address the issue.
- We need to start collecting and analyzing data on gender accessibility to understand the gap in digital equity.
- Strong presence of Nigeria's arts and culture online is very important.

### **Recommendations**

- Stakeholders should come together to put in place the appropriate policies and frameworks for better connectivity
- Government and key stakeholders should encourage infrastructure sharing for cost reduction to end users.
- Internet resources and content should be made available in local languages.
- Community network and financial incentives such as such tax breaks, license fee exemption, access to universal service funds etc. should be encouraged to facilitate accessibility in underserved and unserved communities.

- Government should make possible simplified and affordable right-of-way schemes.
- Specific actions should be targeted at people that have been excluded from connectivity, such as women, rural dwellers, differently abled people etc.

### **3.3.2 - Session 2: Infrastructure**

**Moderated by:** Remmy Nweke – Lead Consulting / Strategist, Group Executive Editor, IT Realms Media

**Speakers:**

- Olusola Teniola – National Coordinator, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) (Lead paper).
- Oyeronke Oyetunde – General Manager, Regulatory Affairs for the MTN Group.
- Wole Abu – CEO, Liquid Telecom Nigeria & New Africa Data Centre.

**Rapporteurs:**

- Mrs. Jamila Abdullahi Umar (NCC)
- Ameh Edwin (FMoCDE)
- Mr. Gbenga Ojo (NITDA)
- John Paul Onoja (NYSC-NCC)

**Summary of the session**

The moderator introduced the panelists and welcomed them to the session on infrastructure. He then moved to explain how internet infrastructure is needed to achieve a large broadband coverage. He invited the lead presenter, Mr. Olusola Teniola to have the floor.

Mr. Olusola Teniola spoke about “Affordability, Accessibility and Availability of the internet” which are key to achieving a wider internet reach.; and how the continent can harness the growth in infrastructure especially in countries of focus (i.e. developing countries) like Nigeria and Ghana, etc.

In his presentation, Mr. Teniola highlighted the importance of creating a broadband policy framework for connecting the unconnected. He informed participants of a

broadband policy framework sponsored and promoted by a member company of Facebook Inc. which launched in London in February 2020, just before the Covid-19 lockdown. The broadband policy framework called the “Rule Broadband Policy Framework (RBPF) aims to provide guidance to the persisting digital divide with the focus on the context and challenges faced in rural areas. The RBPF also focuses on six (6) key areas below:

- The RBPF should improve the availability of high quality, affordable broadband and services in unserved areas.
- The RBPF should draw from real world experiences, locally, regionally and globally.
- The RBPF should harness the resources and capabilities of the private sector and complimentary providers.
- The RBPF should be comprehensive.
- The RBPF must be gender responsive.
- The effective implementation requires evidence and standard internet with defined broadband speed and devices.

Furthermore, the speaker indicated that the key finding was the affordability of smart phone devices as an inhibitor to the usage of the internet, especially where there is evidence coverage. The RBPF also emphasized that the policy making process should be transparent and allow stakeholders to meaningfully participate in the process. Mr. Teniola went ahead to highlight some of the elements of the RBPF as captured below:

- Increased market competition whilst addressing market failures.
- Streamlining regulatory processes.
- Invest and improve public access (TV White space, Wifi and universal service and access funds (in Nigeria’s case the USPF).
- Effectively manage spectrum resource.
- Leverage innovative technologies, business models and architectures.
- Adopt appropriate tax and fee’s structure (remove multiple taxes)
- Stimulate demand for broadband services.

The moderator ended his remarks by commending the Nigerian Broadband Policy Framework 2020 - 2025, which has 55 recommendations with a number of them

focused on infrastructure. One of the areas of infrastructure the policy focuses on, is the wholesale fibre network which is currently needed in Nigeria.

The second panelist, Mrs. Oyeronke Oyetunde started her presentation with commending the Federal Government on the work that has been done with the National Broadband Policy Framework, which she says covers a number of gaps in infrastructure and made sure that there was multiple engagement with key stakeholders. She highlighted areas that have been covered in the NBP 2020-2021 which needs to be maintained. Other areas important to this discussion are captured below: -

- The Nigerian Telecom infrastructure has now been recognized as Critical National Infrastructure and needs to remain so.
- Access/price to federal right of way that has been significantly reduced needs to be maintained and reduced even more.
- Railway lines, electricity lines that will ensure that broadband will be used effectively needs to be improved.
- Open Access framework is important particularly where it involves too many government entities which may give rise to complexity and might impede growth and competition.
- It will be good to have requisite regulatory view, which will help to streamline the whole submarine cable landing system.
- The USPF needs to be properly reviewed in a way to ensure efficient and effective rollout in unserved and underserved areas.

Finally, the presenter indicated that it is important to promote voluntary infrastructure sharing within our ecosystem, which will help the country go a long way.

The third panelist Mr. Wole Abu began his presentation by asking about the enabling factors when talking about infrastructure, the answer to which is Critical National infrastructure (CNI) Bill. He indicated that for over four (4) years, the government has been talking about the Bill, but it is yet to be enacted. He stressed the need for stakeholders to take advantage of the dynamic Minister who has accelerated the digital world globally to close regulatory issues such as the CNI.

He finally stated that the government needs to ensure infrastructure is put in place for people who want to carryout legitimate business to have confidence in putting their finances in the economy, and a uniform permit is required to ease doing business in the country.

**Key Points Raised:**

- Creating a framework to connect the unconnected.
- Affordability, availability, and accessibility are very key areas for the country in terms of Internet infrastructure.
- Nigerian infrastructure is being made a key area of focus in the NBP 2020 – 2021 and should be maintained.
- While 50% of telecommunications infrastructure depends on power, the national power grid is unreliable.
- Security concerns in the country impede improvement/ repair of infrastructure.
- Some government officials are involved in extortion of legitimate businesses.
- Difficulty in protecting equipment due to high rate of unemployment and insecurity.
- Infrastructure shutdown in some part of the country.
- Right of way (ROW) and multiple taxation issues.
- Ban of social media platform (Twitter) which is affecting Nigerian business on the Internet.
- Massive supply chain issue concerning 5G.
- The whole telecom ecosystem needs to be addressed.
- Infrastructure is capital intensive.
- Lack of coordination in getting things done.

**Recommendations:**

- Maintaining the NBP 2020 – 2025 as it is and improving on it in the future, especially areas that focus on infrastructure.
- Putting in a place the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) Bill in order to improve infrastructure by getting the fundamentals right.
- Having a plan in place and getting the funding to implement the plan.
- Access to stable power supply throughout the country.
- Uniform implementation of permits (including the right of way) because it is difficult for a single entity to talk to 36 different states as the case is in Nigeria.
- Review the clauses of spectrum usage with everyone dependent on data and congestion issues.
- The policy making process should be transparent.
- Effectively management of spectrum resources.
- Leverage innovative technologies and architecture.

- Adopt appropriate tax measures (uniform permit in cases of federal and states right of ways)
- A true wholesale fiber network is needed to take internet to unserved and underserved communities.
- Continuation of rolling out of broadband infrastructure to cover the whole country.
- Need for regulatory and legal cover for infrastructure - there should be uniform implementation across the country.
- Nigeria should promote itself as an IT hub to attract more investment in infrastructure.
- More funding required to aid in improving infrastructure.
- There should be more collaboration amongst stakeholders.
- Need for review of spectrum clause.
- Need for better bandwidth to carry huge amounts of data.
- Improvement in the electricity sector is required to help businesses spend less on power generation and more on infrastructure.
- Compliance is required in all aspects relating to infrastructure legislation.
- The need for sensitization of social media rules
- Technology must work for the people and not against the people.
- Need for connecting our institutions such as hospitals, universities, and tertiary institutions to high-speed internet.
- Need for adequate fiber rollout to harness the 5G technology.

### **3.3.3 - Session 3: Policy and Regulation**

**Moderated by:** Engr. Adekunle Olorundare – Nigeria Communications Commission/ Internet Society Nigeria Chapter

**Speakers:**

- Mr. Gbenga Sesan – Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative
- Mr. John Anyanwu - Partner and Head, Cyber Unit Risk Consulting, KPMG Advisory Services, Nigeria
- Adaora Ikenze - Head, Public Policy, Anglophone West Africa Facebook.
- Mojirayo Ogunlana-Nkanga – M.O.N Legal

- Dr. Femi Adeluyi - Technical Adviser to the Minister, Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy (FMCDE)

**Rapporteurs:**

- Mr. Chike Jerry-Alagbaoso (NCC)
- Mrs. Uchechi Kalu (NIRA)
- Mr. Michael Abiola (NITDA)
- Mr. Suleiman Bello (NYSC-NCC)

**Summary of the Session**

The session highlighted that Policy is a task delegated to government on behalf of the entire stakeholders not just the government alone. Internet policy and regulation is a very critical and relevant structure that needs to be given all concentration for proper implementation and execution.

Additionally, network disruption as a result of the Twitter ban by the government was discussed and identified as one of the key examples of government policies in relation to the internet that impacts negatively on internet users. Twitter has been a space where many entrepreneurs manage their respective businesses. The disruption has caused more harm than good, SMEs haven't been able to grow and expand their businesses. Also, some big businesses and government agencies make use of the platform to share information to a global audience.

The Data Protection Bill was another key issue discussed during the session. While making remarks, most of the speakers noted that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, had not signed the Bill into law, which was presented to him in 2019. This Bill seeks to improve the digital rights of people. The Data Protection Bill will help in managing the digital rights framework. Data privacy was also identified as a major area for developing the Internet space.

The speakers also emphasized on the need for independence of government institutions in policy and regulation formulations. Policies should be created in the best interest of stakeholders and not in favour of an individual or certain individuals. The Technical Adviser to the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy explained why there is need for these policies to be reviewed by a supervisory council.

## **Key Points Raised**

- Independence of Institutions in Nigeria.
- Restricting and shutting down access to internet platforms such as Twitter.
- Regulating the Internet through Social Media.
- Access to information due to shutdown of telecom infrastructures in certain states in Nigeria.
- Data Protection - managing citizen's data and digital rights framework.
- Network Disruption as a result of Twitter ban by the government was strongly condemned.
- Government not engaging relevant stakeholders in policy making.
- Taking security side by side with the economy and not in isolation.
- Multistakeholder synergy that aligns policies was emphasized.

## **Recommendations:**

- There is the need for independence of institutions in Nigeria. Policies should be created in the best interest of all concerned stakeholders.
- Government should be proactive in the disclosure of information and also follow international standards while creating policies.
- Policies that enable collaboration, capacity building, and operational excellence are encouraged. This will improve and facilitate investment into the country.
- Engagement of private sector and the youth in making rules and policies in the Internet ecosystem.
- Policy oriented interventions that are inclusive should be adopted.

### **3.3.4 - Session 4: Capacity Building and Development**

Moderated by: Chukwuemeka Fred-Agbata – ICT Consultant, Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA).

#### **Speakers:**

- Dr Amina Sambo Magaji – Assistant Director, Digital Economy Dept, NITDA.
- Toba Obaniyi – CEO, Whogohost Ltd.
- Oreoluwa Lesi – Women's Technology Empowerment Center (W.TEC).

## **Rapporteurs:**

- Umar Shuaibu (NCC).
- Phoebe Alabi (NIRA).
- Ridwan Odunlami (SIWES NCC).

## **Summary of the session**

The moderator went ahead to introduce the speakers. He gave a brief insight to, and the importance of, the Internet that works for all, noting that though the Internet isn't currently accessible by all, it is available which is good and can improve over time.

Dr. Amina Sambo Magaji spoke on “the effort of the government to help build capacity for sustainable development in the digital space in Nigeria”. She commended the efforts of the present administration on the plans put in place to foster the growth of the ecosystem, which includes modifying the Ministry of Communication to include Digital Economy. National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has key stakeholders that help policies to create enabling regulatory instruments to foster the growth of the ecosystem.

Mr. Toba Obaniyi spoke about how the average Nigerian is their own government, they do almost all things themselves and they feel government keeps coming up with policies that are too restrictive. Some of these policies have direct attacks on IT which is not healthy and it also kills innovation, forcing a lot of start-ups to move their businesses up-shore.

Mrs Oreoluwa Lesi gave her responses to the role of stakeholders in capacity building and development. Stakeholders play a vital role; Women's Technology Empowerment Center (W.TEC) works closely with schools especially those that are public, to help extend digital literacy to students. Approval of the state ministries is usually needed before such programs can commence; she stated the fact such programs are currently running in Lagos and Ogun state, with focus on girls and women in the tech ecosystem.

## **Key Points Raised**

- As Nigeria advances further in its digital transformation plan, we must make efforts towards building capacity for sustainable development in the digital space.

- The role of stake holders in capacity building and development must be clear.
- Need to breach the gap between the private and government sectors to enable cooperation.
- The access to government isn't accessible except through acquaintances.
- The government system is not effective as everyone is their own government.
- The right things are being said but not done.
- A balance must be created between cyber-crimes and an internet for all.
- An average law enforcer does not have the basic skill of intrusion detection and prevention.
- Hard work isn't celebrated enough as much as people making the money are celebrated regardless of how the money is made.
- Need to strategize ways to develop and build capacity for young Nigerians to leverage digital economy.

### **Recommendations**

- Stake holders should get more active in education.
- The private and government sectors need to reach out to each other and learn to trust each other for cooperation to be achieved.
- Government should work closely with the private sector and other stakeholders before passing some policies into law.
- The government needs to re-evaluate a lot of policies made because they are restrictive and block innovation of individuals to build a digital economy.
- Government should stop coming up with a policy that affects all citizens due to the influence of less than 2% of unpatriotic citizens.
- Parents and other guardians need to get educated and understand technology so they can properly guide the young ones instead of restricting them from using it.
- Hard work should be celebrated and encouraged more often by the government and tech system.
- The average individual should be educated to protect his/herself from cyber-crime.
- A system should be made where fraudsters can be investigated and punished.
- It should be easy for average person to have access to the internet.

### 3.4 Wrap Up session

The wrap up session was moderated by Mrs. Grace Ojuogboh, the Deputy Director of Public Affairs Department, Nigerian Communications Commission. The following Rapporteur-Generals highlighted key points and recommendations from the various sessions:

- Ms. Rabiatu Bakari (Breakout session 1 and 4)
- Dr. Hamza Salami (Breakout session 2 and 3).

### 3.5 Closing Remarks

The Chairperson of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group Dr. Haru Alhassan noted the increased importance of the Internet during the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked all the guests, speakers, moderators, rapporteurs, participants as well as organizations that supported the vNIGF 2021 and promised that the communique will be developed and shared with all stakeholders, as well as uploaded on the NIGF's website.

### 3.6 Zoom Participation Statistics

Session	Participants
Main session	157
Session 1	33
Session 2	27
Session 3	39
Session 4	20