

NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (NIGF)

INTRODUCTION

The Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) is the national Internet Governance initiative which is a collaborative effort of many internet stakeholders in the country to make available a coordinated mechanism for stakeholders' participation in national, regional and global internet governance dialogues.

NIGF ORGANIZING PROCESS

The forum process was reinvigorated in 2012 and has continued till date, it is an annual event where Internet governance issues are discussed. The NIGF process is managed by a planning committee called the Local Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (LMAG), and the LMAG is endorsed by the Ministry of Communication Technology with stakeholders from the Government, Private Sector, Civil Society, Technical Community, and the Media. The LMAG has developed over time with addition of more sector members to make the group all-inclusive.

The NIGF is a platform to stimulate productive ideas, best practices and experiences that can be harnessed and used to address critical national internet governance challenges. Over the years, participation has included various organisations and individual from all sectors of Nigerian economy. In 2013, a new agenda was added to the national IGF; a youth forum which is organized to keep the youths abreast of the issues involved in internet governance and how to address such challenges positively. It serves as a pre-event and usually includes a workshop or hands-on training where youths are taught new technical skills. Ultimately, the goal of this special forum is to give the Nigerian Youths the opportunity to make contributions during the general NIGF.

NIGF AGENDA

The main objective of the NIGF is to advance Internet Governance issues in Nigeria through a multi-stakeholder framework as well as facilitating partnerships and coalitions that deliver coordinated domestic response, initiatives, and synergy that best promote and protect the nation's position on the internet governance ecosystem.

Consultation

The agenda of the main forums are usually set to align with the Global Internet Governance discussions for the year, though usually adopted to suit local needs. The process takes the bottom up approach by first consulting the stakeholders and the internet community on the theme and sub-themes. A discussion forum is also undertaken to collect views and issues that are imperative to the Nigeria's socio economic development. Input and suggestions from the stakeholders are analyzed by the LMAG and a theme will emerge from the submissions.

The chosen theme and sub-themes are published on the NIGF website to inform the stakeholders accordingly. Resource persons and facilitators are then chosen based on the agreed topics.

Program Structure

Draft program of event is usually published on the NIGF Website. The event usually holds in a day with parallel (breakout) model to enable stakeholders discuss in smaller groups on the sub-themes. The event usually starts with a plenary opening session where there are remarks from organizing and sponsoring partners, and then the tone of the event is set by the Chairperson's speech and the Convener's address. There is also an overview of the previous forums that occurred in the past year(s).

Afterwards, there are break-out sessions where seasoned panelists are pre-selected to engage participants in the sub-theme of their choice. This is done to enable people who are experienced in these various sessions to actively engage in discussions and proffer relevant recommendations.

When these various sessions are over, there is a plenary session involving all participants where Emerging Issues are discussed. Thereafter, the moderators for the various sessions give a summary of the outcomes of their sessions, and then there is a presentation of the way forward. All of these make up the closing session.

Themes

In 2012, the main theme was "Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development", with a main goal of harmonizing the nation's multi-stakeholders' position based on the Global IGF 2012 six-point agenda.

The 2013 edition of the NIGF was centered on the theme "Internet Governance for Empowerment, National Integration and Security through Multi-stakeholders' Engagement", while the subthemes covered topics including, Digital Inclusion and Integration; Building Trust, Confidence & Assurance; Policy and Regulatory Model for the Internet; Encouraging Local Resources on Internet Development; Addressing Critical Internet Resources and Infrastructure in a Cashless Society. There was an introduction of a Pre-Event for the Youth which focused on Business Opportunities in the Internet Industry.

The Theme for the Forum in 2014 was "Harnessing Multi-stakeholder Framework for Internet Governance and Economic Growth" with sub-themes on IGF & Future of the Internet Ecosystem; Internet as an Engine for Growth & Development; Enhancing Digital Trust; Policies Enabling Access; Critical Internet Resources and Emerging Issues.

This year, on the 20th and 21st of July, 2015, in Abuja, Nigeria had the 4th renewed edition of NIGF. The program started off with a Pre-event for the youths, as has been the custom for the past two years. The Youth forum was tagged "Internet of Everything & Your Business Opportunity", with the prime goal of including the youths in the national dialogue on Internet Governance. NIGF 2015 took advantage of this multi-stakeholder platform to call for national contributions towards empowering Nigeria youths, emerging sustainable development issues, and global policy menu on connecting the next billion. The theme for the NIGF-2015 was "**Harnessing the Potentials of Internet Governance for Sustainable Development in Nigeria**" with tracks covering the following:

- i. Connecting the Next 50 Million for Economy Growth

- ii. Bridging Internet Knowledge Gap for disconnected groups in Nigeria
- iii. Engaging National Cyber-security through Multi-Stakeholder Mechanism
- iv. Using Internet to fight Corruption
- v. Accountability and trust in the management of Critical Internet Resources.
- vi. Other overarching issues discussed were IANA Stewardship Transition; Internet and Human Rights; and Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation.

The number of participants at the event in 2015 was over 300 with a wide range of stakeholders. The breakdown of attendees according to their sectors is as follows:

	STAKEHOLDER	PERCENTAGE (%)
a.	GOVERNMENT	38
b.	MEDIA	15
c.	BUSINESS/PRIVATE COMMUNITY	27
d.	TECHNICAL COMMUNITY	4
e.	ACADEMIA	8
f.	CIVIL SOCIETY	8
TOTAL		100

MAIN ORGANIZERS OF NIGF

The main organizers of the NIGF whose representatives form the LMAG are:

- **Government**
 - Federal Ministry of Communication Technology (FMCT)
 - Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)
 - National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- **Civil Society**
 - Internet Society (ISOC)
 - Creative Technology for Development Initiative (CTDI)
- **Private / Business Community**
 - Continental Project Affairs Associates (CPAA)
 - DigitalSENSE Africa
- **Technical Community**
 - Nigerian Internet Registration Association (NiRA)

CONTACT DETAILS FOR NIGF

WEBSITE: www.nigf.org.ng

CONTACT PERSON: Praise Maduoma

EMAIL: desk@nigf.org.ng

info@nigf.org.ng