



Namibia Internet Governance Forum (NamiGF)



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Executive Summary

In 2025, the Namibia Internet Governance Forum (NamIGF) consolidated its role as Namibia's national, multi-stakeholder platform for inclusive, rights-based, and resilient digital governance. Operating at the intersection of policy, practice, and public engagement, NamIGF advanced dialogue on critical digital governance challenges while strengthening its institutional foundations and regional engagement.

A key milestone during the reporting period was the successful transition and establishment of a new NamIGF Working Group. This leadership transition reinforced governance continuity, transparency, and institutional maturity, ensuring operational readiness and sustained alignment with global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) principles. The renewed governance structure provided a stable foundation for NamIGF's expanded programme of work in 2025.

Through a consultative, multi-stakeholder process, NamIGF adopted Digital Trust as its overarching theme for 2025. The theme reflected growing national concerns related to cybersecurity incidents, data governance, digital resilience, and public confidence in digital systems. Digital Trust served as a unifying framework across NamIGF's activities, enabling the Forum to connect technical, policy, and societal dimensions of Internet governance in a manner responsive to Namibia's evolving digital landscape.

Strategic engagement with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) strengthened alignment between NamIGF's multi-stakeholder processes and national digital policy priorities. This engagement positioned NamIGF as a trusted, policy-adjacent platform capable of supporting inclusive consultation, technical dialogue, and public awareness. As a direct outcome, NamIGF was invited to partner in regional and continental Internet governance initiatives, further reinforcing its institutional credibility.

A flagship achievement in 2025 was NamIGF's role as co-host of the Annual Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica25), held in Windhoek. This partnership elevated Namibia's visibility within regional and global digital governance ecosystems and strengthened NamIGF's operational capacity to support large-scale, multi-stakeholder convenings. The experience deepened NamIGF's engagement with continental digital rights actors and expanded opportunities for regional collaboration.

NamIGF also prioritised public-facing engagement and sector-specific dialogue. Initiatives such as the Cyber Security Boma Chat series translated complex governance issues into accessible national discourse, contributing to public digital literacy and awareness during Cyber Security Awareness Month. Engagements with the banking sector, innovation hubs, electoral institutions, and media further extended NamIGF's reach into critical infrastructure, democratic processes, and public debate.



Throughout 2025, NamIGF strengthened partnerships across government, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international development actors. These engagements enhanced institutional resilience, fostered cross-sector collaboration, and positioned NamIGF as a neutral convener capable of bridging national priorities with regional and global Internet governance processes.

Collectively, the activities outlined in this report demonstrate NamIGF's evolution from a convening platform into a national anchor institution for Internet governance in Namibia. With strengthened governance structures, expanded partnerships, and an impact-driven programme aligned to global IGF priorities, NamIGF enters the next phase of its work well positioned to contribute to inclusive, trustworthy, and resilient digital governance at national, regional, and international levels.



Institutional Transition and Strengthening of NamIGF Governance Structures

On 5 December 2024, the Namibia Internet Governance Forum (NamIGF) convened a formal Working Group transition meeting at the Thurston Hof Hotel in Windhoek. This transition marked a significant governance milestone, reinforcing NamIGF's institutional maturity, continuity, and adherence to multi-stakeholder principles that underpin the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) ecosystem.

The transition represented the handover from the outgoing Working Group to the newly appointed Working Group that will guide NamIGF's strategic direction and operations. As the third governance body since NamIGF's establishment in 2017, this transition demonstrated the Forum's sustained commitment to transparent leadership renewal, accountability, and institutional stability—key indicators of credibility for national, regional, and international stakeholders.

During the meeting, the new Working Group was formally constituted, and office bearers were elected in accordance with NamIGF's governance practices.

The following office bearers were appointed to lead the Forum during the 2025 period:

Chairperson: Albertine Shipena (Technical)

Vice Chairperson: Vivette Rittmann (Start-Up and CSO)

Secretary: Katarina Kamari (Government)

Treasurer: Nerro Nendongo (Start-Up and ISOC)

The newly appointed Working Group reflects balanced multi-stakeholder representation, drawing members from civil society, academia, business, the technical community, and government. These ordinary members are:

1. Bjorn Wiedow (Business)
2. Jessica Uiras (Academia)
3. Rosevitha Ndumbu (Civil Society)
4. Rehabeam Pinehas (Business)

This composition strengthens NamIGF's ability to convene diverse perspectives and ensures that policy discussions and public engagement remain inclusive, credible, and representative of Namibia's digital ecosystem.

In addition to sectoral representation, the Working Group includes two designated representatives from the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) namely, Raimo Egumbo and Saara Imbili, who serve as formal liaisons between the Ministry and NamIGF. Their participation supports alignment with national digital policy priorities, facilitates structured engagement with government, and enhances coordination on policy and diplomatic matters related to Internet governance.

This leadership transition laid a strong institutional foundation for NamIGF's 2025 programme of work. It ensured operational readiness, renewed strategic focus, and continuity in engagement with national, regional, and global Internet governance processes. The establishment of the new Working Group reaffirmed NamIGF's role as an active, structured, and trusted national platform committed to advancing inclusive, multi-stakeholder Internet governance in Namibia.



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NEW BROOMS ... The Namibia Internet Governance Forum (NamIGF) yesterday announced that a new working group will lead the association, effective from 5 December last year. The outgoing working group is the second from the founding executive body of the forum, which was launched in September 2017. The internet society is a multi-stakeholder forum established to stimulate policy dialogue on prevailing and emerging issues on internet governance. The platform has hosted five annual forums since its inception in 2017. At the 2018 forum, participants reached consensus for the NamIGF to become a voluntary association. The newly appointed working group members were selected through public nomination, while representatives of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and the Internet Society Namibia Chapter will remain to serve the forum. The new members are Albertine Shipena, Vivette Rittmann, Nerro Nandongo, Katarina Kamari, Bjorn Wiedow, Jessica Uiras, Rosevitha Ndumbu and Rehabeam Pinehas.

Photo: Contributed

Adoption of the 2025 NamIGF Theme and Digital Engagement

Following the establishment of the new Working Group, NamIGF undertook a structured and consultative process to identify a unifying theme for its 2025 programme of work. This process included a public call for theme proposals, disseminated through digital platforms, alongside targeted engagement with stakeholders across civil society, government, the technical community, academia, and the private sector.

Through this consultative approach, NamIGF identified *Digital Trust* as the most pressing and cross-cutting Internet governance issue affecting Namibia. The decision was informed by a marked increase in cybersecurity incidents impacting both public and private sector institutions, growing concerns around data protection and digital resilience, and the need to strengthen public confidence in digital systems and services.

The adoption of Digital Trust as the 2025 theme provided a strategic framework through which NamIGF aligned its activities, partnerships, and public engagement initiatives. The theme enabled the Forum to connect technical discussions on cybersecurity and digital infrastructure with broader governance questions related to rights, accountability, institutional resilience, and inclusive participation in the digital economy. In doing so, NamIGF positioned itself as a platform capable of bridging policy, practice, and public discourse on trust in the digital environment.

To support the effective dissemination of this thematic focus and to enhance institutional visibility, NamIGF established a *communications and digital engagement sub-working group*. This sub-group was mandated to strengthen the Forum's digital presence, improve transparency, and expand engagement with national, regional, and global Internet governance communities.

As part of this effort, NamIGF increased its activity on professional digital platforms, including LinkedIn, enabling regular communication on Internet governance developments, institutional milestones, and upcoming engagements. This strengthened NamIGF's role as an accessible and responsive platform, particularly for stakeholders who may not traditionally participate in formal governance processes.

The combination of a consultatively developed theme and enhanced digital engagement mechanisms strengthened NamIGF's institutional coherence in 2025. It ensured that the Forum's activities were anchored in nationally relevant governance challenges while remaining aligned with regional and global Internet Governance Forum priorities, particularly those related to cybersecurity, digital resilience, and trust in digital ecosystems.



Engagement with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

In 2025, the Namibia Internet Governance Forum prioritised strategic engagement with the **Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT)** as part of its mandate to strengthen alignment between multi-stakeholder Internet governance processes and national digital policy priorities.

The meeting served as an important platform to introduce the renewed leadership of NamIGF, align on strategic priorities for 2025, and explore areas of collaboration between the Forum and government in addressing emerging digital governance challenges.

During the engagement, NamIGF presented its 2025 thematic focus on **Digital Trust**, outlining its relevance in the context of increasing cybersecurity incidents, data governance concerns, and the growing importance of public confidence in digital systems. The discussion highlighted NamIGF's role as a neutral, multi-stakeholder platform capable of supporting evidence-based dialogue and contributing technical and policy-relevant insights to national Internet governance discussions.

The engagement further explored mechanisms through which NamIGF could strengthen its contribution as a **policy-adjacent platform**, supporting the Ministry through inclusive consultations, stakeholder convening, and public-facing awareness initiatives. Particular emphasis was placed on expanding NamIGF's reach beyond the capital, with discussions focusing on collaboration with MICT to access regional platforms and promote more inclusive participation in Internet governance discourse across Namibia.

As a direct outcome of this engagement, the Ministry invited NamIGF to serve as a partner in the **CIPESA Annual Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa, 2025 (FIFAfrica)**. This invitation recognised NamIGF's growing institutional credibility and its contribution to national and regional Internet governance processes, while also strengthening Namibia's visibility within continental digital rights and governance forums.

This engagement marked a significant step in formalising collaboration between NamIGF and government, reinforcing mutual recognition of roles and laying the groundwork for sustained cooperation. It affirmed NamIGF's position as a trusted national platform capable of bridging policy, practice, and public engagement in support of inclusive and resilient digital governance in Namibia.



Co-hosted CIPESA's annual Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa

A banner image with an orange-tinted background showing a group of people at a conference. Overlaid on the image is the text "CIPESA Welcomes Namibia Ministry of ICT and the Namibia IGF as Co-Hosts of FIFAfrica25" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**CIPESA Welcomes Namibia Ministry of ICT and the Namibia
IGF as Co-Hosts of FIFAfrica25**

In 2025, the Namibia Internet Governance Forum, in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, was confirmed as a co-host of the **CIPESA Annual Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica25)**. The Forum was held in **Windhoek** from **25–27 September 2025**, bringing one of Africa's most prominent digital rights and Internet governance convenings to Namibia.

Co-hosting FIFAfrica25 represented a *flagship institutional achievement* for NamIGF, reflecting its growing credibility as a national multi-stakeholder platform capable of contributing meaningfully to regional and continental Internet governance processes. The Forum convened policymakers, regulators, civil society organisations, technologists, academia, media, and the donor community to advance dialogue on internet freedom, digital rights, cybersecurity, and inclusive digital development across Africa.

NamIGF's role as co-host extended beyond symbolic partnership and included substantive operational and coordination responsibilities. These included supporting participant visa processes and protocol arrangements for ministerial delegations, coordinating local volunteers, facilitating data sponsorship at the venue, and assisting with on-site response coordination. NamIGF also supported local logistics by connecting the CIPESA organising team with local service providers.

Additionally, through this engagement, NamIGF was able to connect Namibian undergraduate university students, studying ICT, with prominent Digital Rights researchers on the continent, who were able to provide additional research support and guidance.

Through this engagement, NamIGF strengthened its institutional capacity to support large-scale, multi-stakeholder convenings and gained practical experience in managing complex regional events. The collaboration further deepened NamIGF's relationships with continental digital rights actors and enhanced its exposure to emerging policy debates and best practices in Internet governance.

The co-hosting of FIFAfrica25 also positioned Namibia as a strategic venue for dialogue on digital governance and internet freedom, reinforcing the country's visibility within African and global Internet governance ecosystems. For NamIGF, the partnership marked an important step in consolidating its role as a trusted bridge between national stakeholders and

regional and global governance platforms, while advancing its mandate to promote inclusive, rights-based, and resilient digital governance.





Strengthening Regional Digital Governance through Partnerships:

Engagement with GIZ Uganda-

On 24 September 2025, the Namibia Internet Governance Forum (NamIGF) hosted a bilateral engagement with the GIZ Digital Rights and Digitalisation team from Uganda, who were in Windhoek to participate in FIFAfrica25, co-hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), CIPESA, and NamIGF.

The GIZ delegation was represented by Ben Kerry Mawejje, Technical Advisor for Digitalisation and Digital Rights under the Governance and Civil Society Programme, and Brian Chanwat. The engagement provided an opportunity for peer exchange and knowledge-sharing on national and regional approaches to digital governance.

The discussion was led by the NamIGF Chairperson, Albertine Shipena, and Deputy Chairperson, Vivette Rittmann, and focused on:

- GIZ Uganda's digital rights and digitalisation initiatives under the Governance and Civil Society Programme;
- NamIGF's mandate and role in shaping Namibia's digital governance ecosystem;
- Strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability and institutional strengthening of NamIGF; and
- Opportunities for regional and global collaboration, particularly in the area of digital rights and inclusive digital governance.

The engagement was constructive and forward-looking, generating practical ideas for continued collaboration and reinforcing NamIGF's role as an active participant in regional Internet governance and digital policy dialogue.





Engagement with Banking Sector CIOs

In 2025, **NamIGF** expanded its multi-stakeholder engagement to include senior technology leadership within Namibia's banking sector, responding to interest expressed by a group of Chief Information Officers (CIOs) from major financial institutions.

The engagement focused on exploring the establishment of a sector-specific dialogue platform to address digital governance, cybersecurity, and technology-related risks affecting the banking and financial services sector. Given the sector's role as critical national infrastructure, the discussions highlighted the growing importance of coordinated approaches to digital trust, resilience, and systemic risk management.

NamIGF's engagement with the banking sector reflects its mandate to extend Internet governance dialogue beyond traditional policy spaces and into sectors where digital governance failures can have wide-ranging economic and social consequences. The proposed forum aims to support **knowledge sharing, advocacy, and peer learning** on issues such as cybersecurity preparedness, data protection, regulatory alignment, and emerging digital risks.

By facilitating this engagement, NamIGF positioned itself as a neutral convening platform capable of bridging sectoral expertise with broader governance and policy discussions. The initiative also demonstrated NamIGF's responsiveness to stakeholder-driven demand and its ability to adapt multi-stakeholder governance models to sector-specific contexts.

This engagement contributes to NamIGF's broader 2025 focus on **Digital Trust**, recognising that public confidence in digital systems is closely linked to the security and reliability of financial institutions. It further lays the groundwork for sustained collaboration with the private sector on strengthening Namibia's digital resilience and ensuring that critical infrastructure stakeholders are actively integrated into national Internet governance processes.

NamIGF Cyber Security Boma Chat – Cyber Security Awareness Initiative:



In observance of **Cyber Security Awareness Month 2025**, the **Namibia Internet Governance Forum** implemented the [Cyber Security Boma Chat](#) initiative—a four-week public awareness and dialogue series delivered through national radio interviews. The initiative formed a core component of NamIGF’s 2025 thematic focus on **Digital Trust**, translating complex cybersecurity and digital governance issues into accessible public discourse.

The Boma Chat series was designed to extend Internet governance engagement beyond formal policy and conference settings, reaching broader audiences and promoting inclusive participation in discussions on cybersecurity, digital resilience, and trust in the digital environment. By leveraging radio as a widely accessible medium, NamIGF ensured engagement with audiences across geographic, socio-economic, and digital access divides.

The series brought together a diverse group of stakeholders representing government, civil society, the private sector, and the technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem. Guest contributors included senior policymakers, cybersecurity practitioners, and digital governance experts, among them representatives from the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, private cybersecurity firms, regional technology organisations, and national digital rights bodies.

Guest speakers featured in the series included, among others:

- **Dr. Iyaloo Waiganjo**, Lecturer at International University of Management & Senior Consultant, Twanana Cyber Solutions CC
- **Ms Saara Imbili**, Chief Policy Analyst, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), and NamIGF Working Group member.
- **Mr Wuwaola Taiwo**, Senior Programme Manager, CC Hub Nigeria;
Ms Vanessa Maresch, Empowerment Specialist, Salt Essential IT.
- **Ms Melanie Meiring**- Certified Fraud Examiner, Ethics & AI Consultant, SoA Consulting.
- **Mr Michael Shuufeni**, Deputy Chairperson, Namibia Internet Society and.
- **Ms Tanya Hopker**, Cybersecurity Awareness Specialist, Meinert Cybersecurity.



Through moderated discussions, the Boma Chats addressed practical cybersecurity challenges, emerging digital threats, and the shared responsibilities of institutions, businesses, and citizens in fostering a safer and more resilient digital ecosystem. The conversations emphasised not only risk awareness, but also constructive pathways toward building trust in digital systems through informed behaviour, institutional accountability, and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

The Cyber Security Boma Chat initiative contributed directly to public education and digital literacy, reinforcing NamIGF's role as a national platform for inclusive and practical Internet governance engagement. It also strengthened cross-sector relationships and demonstrated NamIGF's capacity to convene diverse voices around timely governance challenges in formats that resonate with the general public.

By anchoring cybersecurity awareness within its broader Digital Trust framework, NamIGF positioned the Boma Chats as a sustained governance intervention rather than a standalone awareness campaign, supporting longer-term efforts to build public confidence in Namibia's



Panels and Media Engagement on Digital Resilience and Governance:

In 2025, the **Namibia Internet Governance Forum** strengthened its role as a national thought leader on digital governance through targeted participation in expert panels and strategic media engagements. These interventions focused on digital resilience, the governance of social media, and the integrity of information ecosystems during electoral processes, issues of heightened national and regional relevance.



Expert Panel Participation:

As part of its contribution to capacity building and knowledge exchange, NamIGF participated in **Tech and Society Week: *Where Digital Resilience Meets Governance***, hosted by Co-Creation Hub Namibia. The panel brought together regional expertise, including contributors from Co-Creation Hub Nigeria, to examine the role of technology and governance in shaping information integrity and public trust.

The discussions addressed social media use during election periods, the dynamics of misinformation and disinformation, and the responsibilities of institutions and platforms in safeguarding democratic processes. NamIGF's participation reinforced its mandate to bridge technical, policy, and societal perspectives on Internet governance challenges.

A key outcome of this engagement was the initiation of a collaborative capacity-building initiative between NamIGF and CC Hub aimed at supporting the Electoral Commission of Namibia. This ongoing collaboration focuses on strengthening technical understanding and preparedness related to digital risks and information integrity in electoral contexts, translating dialogue into practical institutional support.



Media Engagement:

NamIGF further extended its public engagement through national media. On **28 November 2025**, a NamIGF representative participated in a live broadcast interview on **Namibia National Broadcaster**, addressing the influence of social media on the **Local Government Elections held on 26 November 2025**.

The discussion explored the role of digital platforms in shaping political discourse, as well as broader issues related to data governance and digital sovereignty. Through this engagement, NamIGF contributed informed, non-partisan analysis to public debate, supporting citizen awareness and reinforcing the importance of responsible digital governance during democratic processes.

Collectively, these panel and media engagements strengthened NamIGF's visibility and credibility as a trusted source of expertise on Internet governance and digital rights. They also demonstrated the Forum's ability to operate effectively across formal policy spaces and public-facing platforms, contributing to informed discourse, institutional capacity building, and the protection of democratic integrity in an increasingly digital information environment.



Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement:

In 2025, the **Namibia Internet Governance Forum (NamIGF)** continued to strengthen its role as a national convener by deepening and expanding engagement with key stakeholders across government, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international partners. These engagements enhanced collaboration, knowledge exchange, and NamIGF's capacity to contribute meaningfully to national, regional, and global Internet governance processes.

NamIGF's stakeholder engagement approach is grounded in the principles of **inclusivity, neutrality, and multi-stakeholder participation**, ensuring that diverse perspectives inform dialogue on digital governance, digital rights, and emerging technologies. Throughout the year, NamIGF engaged with institutions operating at different levels of the digital ecosystem, enabling cross-sector interaction and fostering shared understanding of complex governance challenges.

Key stakeholder engagements during the reporting period included collaboration with government institutions, international partners, civil society organisations, innovation and technology hubs, and electoral bodies. These engagements supported a range of objectives, including policy dialogue, capacity building, public awareness, and institutional strengthening. Collectively, they reinforced NamIGF's position as a trusted platform for convening stakeholders who may not otherwise interact within traditional policy or sectoral silos.

Through sustained engagement with entities such as the **Electoral Commission of Namibia, United States Embassy, Co-Creation Hub**, and regional and international partners including **GIZ Uganda**, NamIGF strengthened its ability to connect national priorities with regional and global digital governance discourse. Engagements with domestic partners such as the **Namibia Investment and Promotion Development Board** and civil society organisations further supported alignment between digital governance discussions and broader socio-economic development objectives.

These partnerships enhanced NamIGF's institutional resilience by expanding its networks, improving access to expertise, and increasing opportunities for collaborative initiatives. They also contributed to NamIGF's ability to respond to emerging governance challenges in a timely and coordinated manner, particularly in areas related to cybersecurity, electoral integrity, digital rights, and digital trust.

By the end of 2025, NamIGF had consolidated its role as a **national anchor institution** for Internet governance in Namibia, one that operates across policy, practice, and public engagement. The Forum's strengthened stakeholder ecosystem provides a solid foundation for future programming, deeper regional collaboration, and sustained contribution to inclusive, rights-based, and resilient digital governance at national and international levels.



These engagements facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue, promoted partnerships for capacity building and policy advisory, and strengthened NamIGF's role as a national and regional platform for Internet governance and digital development.