



**NIGERIA YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM**



# ANNUAL IMPACT **REPORT** **2025**



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Brief overview of the report

The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) is a youth-led, multistakeholder initiative created to increase awareness and participation of young Nigerians in internet discussions and policy levels. The forum operates with core principles of openness,

inclusiveness, and stakeholder engagement, reflecting the broader mission of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) while centering youth discussions on digital policy, rights, innovation, and governance.

During the year under review, NYIGF continued to serve as a pivotal platform for engaging youth across sectors, including academia, civil society, technology, policy, and government, in meaningful dialogue about how emerging digital trends affect opportunities and rights for young people in Nigeria. The 2025 edition of the forum brought together young leaders, policymakers, technologists, and

digital rights advocates to discuss pressing governance issues, including data privacy, online safety, algorithmic fairness, and the ethical implications of rapid technological change.

The forum's activities helped bridge the gap between youth and policy-making opportunities for skill building, policy literacy, and networking. Through webinars, panel discussions, and hybrid sessions, NYIGF empowered participants to contribute to critical debates about digital policy development and policy implementation that directly affect youth access to and use of digital technologies. The forum emphasized inclusive participation, welcoming stakeholders from diverse geographic regions and professional backgrounds.

This report outlines the achievements and impact of the NYIGF over the past year, showcasing its contributions to youth empowerment in internet governance and its role in shaping inclusive digital policy at both the national and global levels.



# OUR MISSION

The mission of the Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) is to provide factual information and content on various aspects of internet governance, policies, and security. We strive to be a platform where individuals can express their thoughts freely and safely. At NYIGF, participants will engage with like-minded people who share a common goal of advancing understanding and solutions regarding internet governance. We aim to empower young Nigerians with the knowledge they need to participate actively in shaping the future of the internet.

# OUR VISION

We envision a world where the internet is leveraged to foster personal and communal growth. Understanding that many are unfamiliar with the complexities of internet governance, our platform aims to bridge that knowledge gap. We seek to be a place where people can learn about internet governance, policies, and security, promoting smart, safe, and inclusive digital practices. With effective and ethical internet governance, individuals can work more efficiently, and grow in a safe, productive digital environment.

## **Overview of the year under review**

The 2025 Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) focused on providing a platform for young Nigerians to actively participate in shaping the digital future of the country, with a particular emphasis on digital rights, responsible artificial intelligence, and the impact of emerging technologies. As the digital landscape continues to evolve rapidly, the forum's efforts in 2025 were centered on empowering youth to understand and navigate the complexities of internet governance, data privacy, and cybersecurity. The year's activities were shaped by the central theme of the Forum: **"Code, Consent, and Control: Reimagining Nigeria's Digital Rights in an AI-Driven World."** This theme aimed to explore the intersection of digital rights and artificial intelligence (AI), focusing on how these evolving technologies can both enhance and challenge the protection of fundamental rights in the digital sphere. The forum delved into the responsibilities of AI governance, the implications of data collection and usage, and the need for inclusive and transparent digital policies that ensure equitable access and safeguard the rights of young Nigerians. **Throughout the year, the NYIGF focused on the following core areas:**

- Digital Rights and Inclusion: The forum examined internet access, data protection, and the need for online freedoms in a world increasingly governed by AI and other technological advancements. Discussions revolved around ensuring that youth are equipped with the tools to protect their digital identities and assert their rights online.
- AI Governance and Ethical AI: With AI technologies rapidly influencing many sectors, the forum provided a space for youth to explore the ethical considerations of AI, including transparency, fairness, and the potential for biases in algorithmic decision-making.
- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy: The forum highlighted the increasing threats of cybercrime, misinformation, and breaches of data privacy. Participants discussed how youth can contribute to a safer online environment and advocate for stronger data protection frameworks.
- Youth Engagement in Policy Development: NYIGF continued to emphasize the importance of youth-led advocacy in digital policy development, ensuring that young Nigerians are not only consumers of technology but also active participants in shaping the governance structures that will guide the future of the internet.

The forum aimed to empower youth by providing a platform to learn, engage, and advocate on these critical issues. Participants had the opportunity to engage with policy leaders, industry experts, and civil society organizations, fostering a collaborative environment for youth-driven solutions to the challenges posed by new technologies. Through workshops, panel discussions, and collaborative projects, NYIGF in 2025 continued its mission to amplify youth voices and encourage them to take a leading role in digital governance. The year saw greater collaboration between stakeholders, stronger youth engagement in AI governance, and increased recognition of the need for inclusive digital policy frameworks.



### ***Overview of the year under review***

The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) is a critical platform for increasing youth involvement in shaping the digital future of Nigeria and beyond. As the internet continues to evolve and influence every aspect of daily life, it is crucial that young people are equipped to engage meaningfully in the governance of digital spaces. The NYIGF plays a central role in ensuring that youth voices are heard in discussions about the future of the internet, digital rights, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain.

***Empowering Youth as Stakeholders in Digital Governance:*** NYIGF empowers young Nigerians to become active participants in the governance of the internet. By providing access to educational resources, expert-led discussions, and opportunities to collaborate with policymakers and industry leaders, the forum ensures that youth are not just passive consumers of technology but informed advocates for digital rights and ethical governance. This involvement gives young people a sense of ownership in the decisions that impact their digital lives, from data privacy to cybersecurity.

***Promoting Digital Rights Awareness:*** A core aspect of the NYIGF's significance is its focus on raising awareness about digital rights. As more personal and sensitive data is shared and stored online, the importance of understanding and protecting these rights has never been greater. Through its events, NYIGF educates youth on key topics such as data protection, online safety, and freedom of expression. This empowerment enables young people to advocate for policies that protect their digital rights and the rights of others, ensuring that digital environments remain inclusive, safe, and transparent.

**Shaping Policy Discussions through Youth-Led Advocacy:** The NYIGF provides youth with the tools and platforms to actively engage in shaping policies that affect digital governance. The forum facilitates meaningful dialogues between youth and stakeholders from government, academia, the private sector, and civil society. As youth are often the most vulnerable to the impact of unethical AI practices and data breaches, it is vital that they have a seat at the table where digital policies are being created. By fostering youth-led advocacy, NYIGF ensures that the voices of young people are not only heard but integrated into national and global internet governance discussions. **Building Capacity for Digital Leadership:** NYIGF plays a significant role in developing the next generation of digital leaders in Nigeria. The forum provides young people with the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to take on leadership roles in digital policy and internet governance. Through workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, participants learn about key aspects of internet governance, from AI ethics to cybersecurity policy. This training equips youth to contribute to both local and global conversations, ensuring that Nigeria's youth are represented in international internet governance dialogues. **Facilitating Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** The NYIGF emphasizes the importance of collaboration between youth and other stakeholders in shaping inclusive digital policies. It creates opportunities for youth to engage with diverse groups, including government bodies, tech companies, and civil society organizations, fostering a multi-stakeholder approach to digital governance. This collaboration ensures that policies are not only inclusive but also take into account the needs and perspectives of all parties involved, particularly those of youth, who are often underrepresented in digital policy-making processes. **Promoting Digital Literacy and Ethical Practices:** Another significant contribution of the NYIGF is its focus on digital literacy and promoting ethical digital practices. As technology continues to advance rapidly, it is essential that youth are equipped with the tools to navigate the digital space responsibly. The forum's discussions around ethical AI, digital inclusion, and cybersecurity help raise awareness about the ethical implications of digital technologies. By encouraging youth to engage with these issues, NYIGF fosters a generation that is not only digitally literate but also ethically responsible in their use of technology.

## ***Pre-NYIGF Events***



The NYIGF hosted a series of pre-events to engage and equip young Nigerians with the knowledge and tools necessary for active participation in global digital governance. The 2025 NYIGF Webinar Series served as a platform for exploring the roles of key organizations such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), ICANN, and WSIS, while highlighting career opportunities within these global initiatives. These webinars are aimed to inspire youth to get involved in digital policy-making, advocacy, and governance, paving the way for them to become informed advocates for a more inclusive, secure, and accessible internet. The first webinar in May 2025 focused on the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), introducing participants to its mission, structure, and how youth could actively engage in its initiatives. This session explored critical themes such as digital rights, cybersecurity, and digital inclusion, and provided practical guidance on how youth could participate in IGF events and programs. In June 2025, the webinars shifted focus to ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), a key entity in managing the global domain name system and internet infrastructure, Leveraging on the ICANN 83 Public Forum scheduled to be held June 9-12 2025, the webinar timeline served as an introduction to ICANN for participants to elevate interest in the meeting just as it was scheduled. Participants learned about the organization's impact on internet governance, the allocation of domain names and IP addresses, and opportunities for youth to engage through ICANN's fellowship programs, public meetings, and regional initiatives. The series concluded in July 2025 with a session on WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society), exploring how ICT policies can help achieve global development goals. This webinar provided youth with insights into WSIS action lines and how they could contribute to digital policy-making through WSIS forums and advocacy platforms, ensuring they were well-prepared to engage in shaping the future of the internet.

An aerial view of a city skyline at dusk, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The sky is a mix of purple and blue. Overlaid on the image are several digital icons: a large white outline of a cloud on the left, a smaller white outline of a cloud on the right, and a white Wi-Fi signal icon in the center. A white rectangular box with black text is positioned in the lower-middle part of the image.

# The Main Forum



## **Conceptual Overview of NYIGF 2025**

The 2025 Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) is designed as a critical platform to empower young Nigerians with the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to actively engage in shaping the digital future. The forum is centered on the theme: "Code, Consent, and Control: Reimagining Nigeria's Digital Rights in an AI-Driven World," focusing on the intersection of digital rights and artificial intelligence (AI), which are pivotal issues in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape.

**Background and Context:** Nigeria's growing youth population, combined with the country's

increasing internet

penetration and technological advancement, positions the nation at a crossroads in the global digital economy. The rise of AI, alongside expanding internet access, is transforming the social, economic, and political fabric of Nigerian society. Young people, who are the primary drivers and consumers of this digital revolution, must have a central role in the discussions surrounding AI governance, data privacy, and online safety.

The 2025 NYIGF aims to create a space for youth to engage with policymakers, academia, tech innovators, and civil society experts to co-create solutions and policies that address the complex challenges posed by AI and other emerging technologies. The forum seeks to build a multi-stakeholder approach, placing the voices of youth at the center of these critical digital conversations to ensure that Nigeria's digital future is both inclusive and rights-respecting.

### **Objectives of the 2025 Forum**

The 2025 NYIGF has four overarching objectives designed to foster active youth engagement in digital governance:

1. **Amplify Youth Voices in the Digital Rights Discourse:** Position young Nigerians as key stakeholders and co-creators in shaping digital rights and AI policies.
2. **Strengthen Online Safety and Digital Resilience:** Build youth capacity to navigate digital risks, promote cyber hygiene, and advocate for stronger protections against online harms such as cyberbullying, misinformation, and digital exploitation.
3. **Unlock AI's Economic Potential:** Explore pathways for leveraging AI and emerging technologies to drive youth employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation while ensuring ethical development and deployment.
4. **Foster Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Create actionable partnerships between youth organizations, government agencies, civil society, tech companies, and academia to advance youth-centered digital policies.

**Approach and Implementation Modalities** The 2025 NYIGF is designed to be an inclusive,

participatory, and action-oriented

dialogue, focusing on youth perspectives while engaging critical stakeholders across various sectors and gathering youth across Nigeria. The approach emphasizes:



## Conceptual Overview of NYIGF 2025

- Youth-Led Dialogue: Ensuring that young people are not just participants but also agenda-setters, driving the discussions and recommendations.
- Multi-Stakeholder Engagement: Bringing together diverse perspectives from government, civil society, private sector, and academia to enable holistic solutions.
- Evidence and Experience-Based Discussions: Grounding conversations in research, data, and lived experiences of young Nigerians navigating digital spaces and AI systems.
- Action-Oriented Outcomes: Moving beyond dialogue to generate concrete commitments, policy recommendations, and implementation roadmaps that stakeholders can act upon.

## Programme Structure

The 2025 NYIGF featured several key sessions, including:

### 1.High-Level Panel Session

- Theme: *Code, Consent, and Control: Reimagining Nigeria's Digital Rights in an AI-Driven World*
- This flagship session explored how AI intersects with digital rights, focusing on issues like data collection, algorithmic accountability, and the balance between innovation and the protection of fundamental rights.

### 2.Plenary Session

- Topic: *Unlocking Economic Growth Through Responsible AI*
- This session discussed how AI can be leveraged for economic growth, addressing the future of work, digital inclusion, and the ethical development of AI-driven technologies.

### 3.Expert Session on Youth Resilience Online

- Topic: *Strengthening Cyber Hygiene and Online Safety in the Digital Age*
- This session provided practical tools for youth to enhance their cyber hygiene and online safety. It will cover topics such as password security, avoiding scams, and personal data protection.

## Our Expected Outcomes of the 2025 Forum

- 1.A Strategic Vision for digital rights priorities for Nigerian youth in the age of AI.
- 2.A Policy Roadmap with clear recommendations for strengthening digital rights protections and AI governance.
- 3.Stakeholder Commitments from government, private sector, and civil society actors to implement the forum's recommendations.
- 4.Youth Empowerment through knowledge acquisition and capacity-building to advocate for their digital rights.



**SESSION AT A GLANCE**



## **2.0 OPENING REMARKS**

*In her opening remarks, the Coordinator and Steering Committee co-chair, NYIGF, Ms Chibugo mentioned the following:*

- i. She welcomed all participants to the event, describing it as a crucial gathering and a call to action for the young people who will shape Nigeria's digital future.*
- ii. She highlighted that the internet raises important questions about fundamental digital rights. These include how to manage and regulate AI in a way that is fair, ethical and inclusive; how to define and protect consent in an era where data is processed at machine speed; and how individuals can maintain control over their digital identities as algorithms become more influential. She emphasized that the responsibility for answering these questions rests with Nigerian youth.*

## **3.0 GOODWILL MESSAGES:**

*Goodwill messages were delivered by the Chairperson, NIGF–Multistakeholder Advisory Group; Dr. Warriwei Dimie Shively; Coordinator, West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), Mrs Mary Uduma; Hon Minister for Youth Development, Hon Ayodele Olawale, represented by Mr.Chukwuka Anthony.*

**4.0 OPENING CEREMONY** *In her keynote speech, the Chief Executive Officer at DigiSphere Limited, Mrs Arinola Akinyemi, mentioned the following: i. A digital future must be built on a strong foundation of inclusion, ensuring that no group is left behind as technology evolves. ii. In an AI-driven world, access to jobs, books, education and health care is increasingly shaped by technology, creating opportunities for wider reach, improved efficiency and better service delivery. iii. Most people do not give true consent when using digital applications. Instead, users often surrender their rights by clicking "I consent" without reading or understanding the terms, which raises serious concerns about informed digital consent. iv. Policymakers should ensure that any regulatory or governance framework is guided by the technical knowledge, lived experiences and expertise of Nigerian youth who engage daily with emerging technologies.*



## 5.0 PLENARY SECTIONS



L-R: Alie Abbas, Oguntunde Olorunjoba, Martha Alade, Abubakar Mahmud, Blessing Iyare

### **55.1 SESSION TITLE: Code, Consent, And Control: Reimagining Nigeria's Digital Rights in an Ai-Driven World.**

**MODERATOR: Mrs. Martha Alade**

**RAPPORTEUR: Mrs. Adeyinka C. Eseosa**

- ❖ *IT & Cybersecurity Officer, Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC), Mr. Abubakar Mahmud.*
- ❖ *Tech Policy Analyst Hive Advisory, Mr. Oguntunde Olorunjoba.*
- ❖ *Google Women Techmakers Ambassador, Ms Blessing Iyare.*
- ❖ *Founder, North-East Youth Initiative for Development (NEYIF), Amb. Dauda Mohammad.*

**5.1.1 SUMMARY OF PLENARY SECTION / DISCUSSION POINTS** *i. The moderator opened the conversation by asking Mr. Abubakar Mahmood to identify the most significant digital rights violations associated with AI and how the NDPC can address them within its regulatory mandate, particularly regarding data protection and privacy. ❖ He explained that the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) requires that all personal data must be processed fairly and transparently. ❖ The Commission is responsible for ensuring that AI systems operate with unbiased algorithms, especially where automated decision-making affects citizens. ❖ He encouraged users who experience potential violations to file formal complaints with the NDPC. Once a complaint is received, the Commission initiates an investigation to determine how the individual's rights may have been infringed.*

*ii. When asked about the most pressing digital rights issue affecting young people, Mr. Oguntunde Olorunjoba highlighted the challenge of uninformed data sharing: ❖ Many young Nigerians are unaware of the volume and sensitivity of the personal data they give away while using digital platforms. ❖ Companies often exploit these data points to influence user behaviour, shape opinions and target advertisements. ❖ He stressed the importance of strong regulatory safeguards, including clear policies and public education, to address AI-related risks. ❖ He also clarified that the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) is the agency responsible for enforcing the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA), which provides the legal framework governing data privacy and protection in Nigeria.*

*iii. Addressing how AI is influencing young Nigerians' rights, opportunities and wellbeing particularly in relation to technology and education, Ms. Blessing Iyare noted the following: ❖ AI has simplified access to technology, making information and educational tools more convenient and widely accessible. ❖ AI systems generally do not discriminate by gender, nationality or other demographic characteristics when delivering information or learning assistance. ❖ However, she pointed out existing gaps, including the lack of AI tools that support users with speech impediments or those who speak local languages, which limits inclusiveness.*

*iv. In response to a question on how Nigeria can pursue AI innovation without compromising citizens' fundamental rights especially those of women and girls in the tech ecosystem Ms. Blessing Iyare emphasized the following: ❖ Technology must be people-centred, designed to accommodate girls and women in rural areas, people with disabilities and persons who speak diverse languages. ❖ Users should develop the habit of carefully reading consent agreements instead of approving terms without understanding them. ❖ Developers should incorporate security prompts and privacy-check reminders into digital platforms. These prompts should appear automatically when apps are launched to ensure users are aware of data-use implications before proceeding.*



**L-R: Dr. Ibiso Kingsley-George, Priscillia Igba, Chris Odu, Vivian Nesiama, Rotimi Owolabi**

**5.2. SESSION TITLE: Unlocking Economic Growth through Responsible AI. MODERATOR: Chris Odu RAPPORTEUR: Mrs. Adeyinka C. Eseosa** ❖ *Cybersecurity Programs Analyst, Cybarik Limited, Vivian Nesiama. ❖ Head, Internet Governance, Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC), Dr. Ibiso A. Kingsley-George. ❖ Treasurer, Internet Society Nigeria Chapter, Ms Priscillia Igba. ❖ Programs, Nigeria Youth IGF, Rotimi Owolabi.*

**5.2.1 SUMMARY OF PLENARY SECTION / KEY POINTS** ❖ *Through a multistakeholder approach, proper infrastructure should be provided in rural areas to support reliable telecommunications services. This will not only improve connectivity but also create job opportunities. Once deployed, these infrastructures must be protected through adequate security measures to prevent vandalism. ❖ IT infrastructure is critical for national security and economic prosperity. Nigeria can strengthen this by investing in home-grown solutions, including the domestication and local development of AI technologies. ❖ There is a collective responsibility to harness AI for national advancement. Working together across government, industry, academia and communities will ensure AI is used to support Nigeria's development goals. ❖ Ensuring universal access to the internet is essential for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. No group should be left out of the digital economy. ❖ AI is not only a transformative technology but also a transformative opportunity that influences governance and the structure of the economy. The choices we make today will determine whether AI drives inclusive prosperity or widens existing inequalities and leaves vulnerable communities behind.*



**5.3. SESSION TITLE: Youth Resilience Online: Strengthening Cyber Hygiene and Online Safety in the Digital Age MODERATOR: Omolara Esther RAPPORTEUR: Mrs. Adeyinka C. Eseosa**

**5.3.1 SUMMARY OF THEMATIC PRESENTATION / KEY POINTS** ❖ Teenagers often face challenges online, such as cyberbullying, loss of privacy, identity theft, peer pressure, social addiction and exposure to inappropriate content. These issues can influence their behaviour, academic performance and emotional development. ❖ Schools and teachers can support students by strengthening digital literacy. This includes teaching online safety, explaining the consequences of unsafe behaviour and guiding parents on how to monitor their children's online activities. ❖ ICT should not be limited to science students. It should be a compulsory subject for all students to ensure everyone is equipped with essential digital skills. ❖ To protect young users from harmful content, social media platforms should enforce proper age restrictions. Children below the approved age should not be able to download these apps unless they provide verifiable proof of age, such as a valid ID.



**L-R: Erica Okibe, Amina Ramallan, Olufolake Vera-Cruz, Omolara Esther**

**5.4. SESSION TITLE: EXPERT SESSION**

**MODERATOR:** Omolara Esther

**RAPPORTEUR:** Mrs. Adeyinka C. Eseosa

**SPEAKERS:**

- ❖ Olufolake Vera- Cruz -Lawyer, Manager, Technical Regulation and Digital
- ❖ Erica Okibe - Executive Secretary, Ndukwe Kalu Foundation-NKF
- ❖ Amina Ramallan – Technology Advocate and Manager,National Communication Commission (NCC)

**SUMMARY OF EXPERT SECTION 1. Integrating Online Safety into Everyday Learning For schools and government to successfully embed online safety lessons such as spotting scams, protecting passwords and responsible internet use into everyday learning for young Nigerians, it must be recognised that online safety is a shared responsibility. To achieve this:**

- ❖ The government should integrate digital literacy and internet safety into local education systems and ensure teachers are adequately trained to deliver these lessons.
- ❖ School curricula should be reviewed, modified and effectively implemented so that child online safety is taught as routinely as core subjects such as Mathematics and English.

❖ *Clear policies and regulatory frameworks should be developed and enforced, including the Industry Internet Code of Practice currently under review by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). This Code outlines the rights of online users, responsibilities of service providers and specific provisions for child online safety. ❖ Policies and regulations on child online safety should be simple, accessible and child- friendly. There should be targeted adaptations to suit children of different age groups, starting as young as three years, as well as considerations for language, culture, religion and ethnicity.*

*2. Responsibilities of Social Media Platforms in Protecting Teenagers Social media platforms and technology companies have a critical role to play in protecting teenagers from cyberbullying and online abuse. Recommended measures include: ❖ Effective age verification mechanisms, which may include the presentation of valid identification such as birth certificates before app downloads. ❖ Mandatory parental consent for minors before accessing social media platforms. ❖ Clear, accessible channels for reporting cyberbullying, scams and harmful content. ❖ Improved content moderation systems that allow developers to monitor age- inappropriate content, identify scammers and document incidents of cyberbullying for timely intervention.*

### *3. NCC Initiatives on Child Online Protection*

*The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has introduced several initiatives to promote children's online safety, including:*

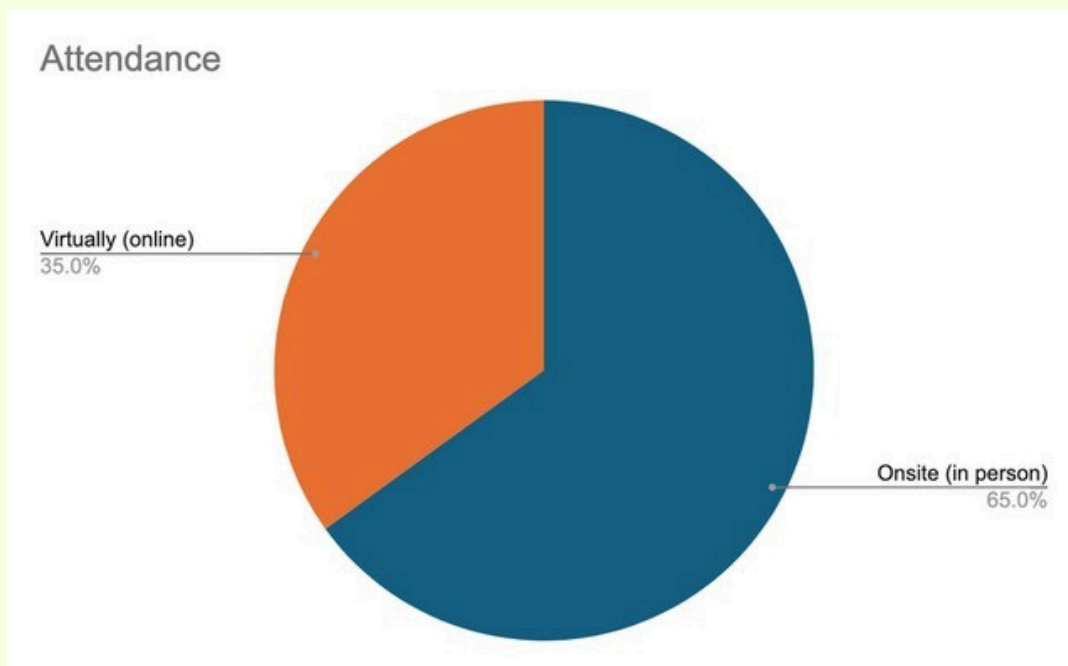
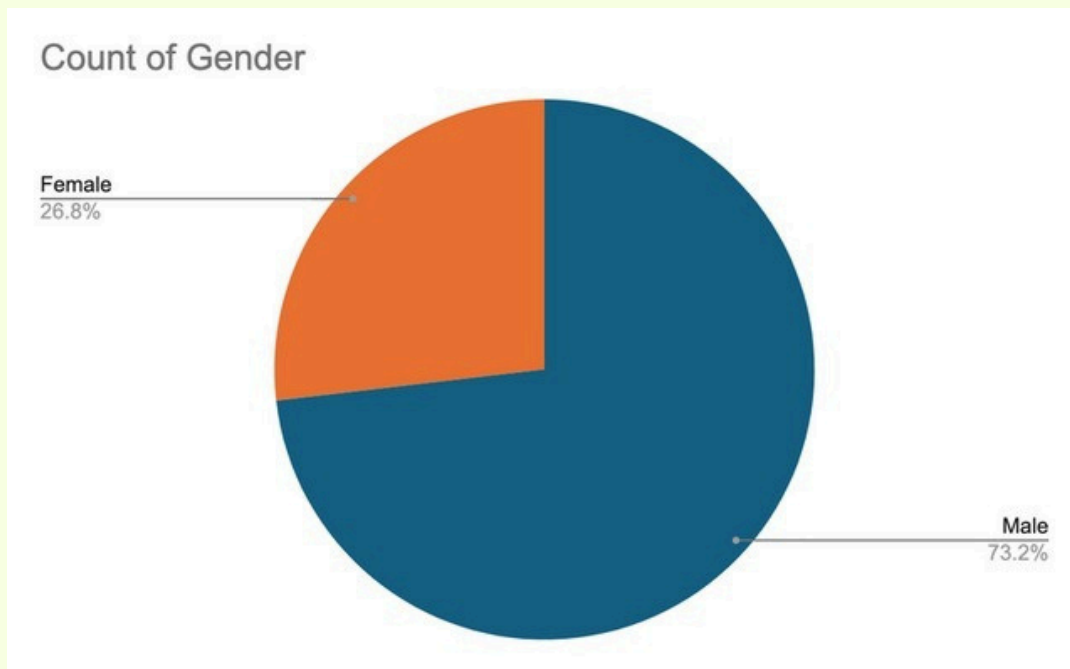
- ❖ A dedicated email address for reporting child online protection cases: [cop@ncc.org.ng](mailto:cop@ncc.org.ng).*
- ❖ Awareness publications designed for parents and caregivers, available in Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa and Pidgin. These materials can be accessed through the Commission's website.*
- ❖ Ongoing sensitisation and awareness programmes targeted at teachers, students, NYSC members and parents.*

*4. Digital Rights and Data Ownership Users have the right to know how their data is collected, processed and used online. This includes the right to access information, control what data is shared and report misuse. Personal data is a form of property, and individuals should exercise informed judgment about what they disclose online.*

*5. Simplifying Data Protection Laws for Public Understanding Nigerian digital laws and policies, including the Nigeria Data Protection Act, should be communicated in simple, relatable language. Government agencies and regulators are encouraged to engage citizens at their level of understanding to ensure widespread awareness and compliance.*

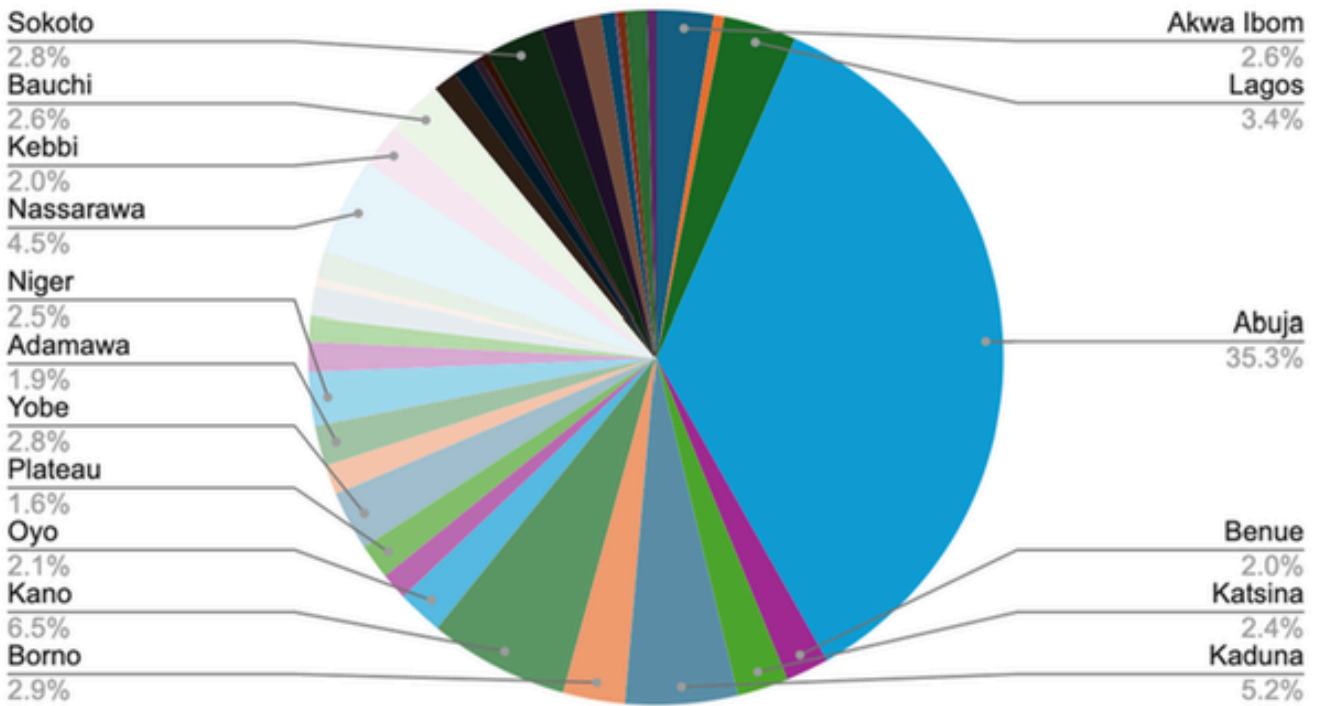
**5.5 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS** *i. Strengthen Digital Literacy Programs: Integrate digital literacy, online safety, and AI awareness into school curricula for all students, not just science students, to equip youth with the skills to navigate the digital space safely and responsibly. ii. Enhance Data Protection and Consent Awareness: Government and regulatory bodies should implement campaigns to educate citizens on informed consent, personal data protection, and safe online practices. iii. Promote Inclusive AI Development: Ensure AI tools and digital technologies are designed to be inclusive, catering to women, rural communities, people with disabilities, and speakers of different local languages. iv. Expand Affordable and Secure Internet Access: Invest in rural IT infrastructure and telecommunications, accompanied by adequate security measures, to improve access, foster economic opportunities, and reduce digital exclusion. v. Encourage Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: Establish councils or advisory groups that include experts, regulators, civil society, and youth to continuously monitor AI, data protection, and digital policy implementation, ensuring innovation aligns with ethical and societal needs.*

## Attendance and Participation

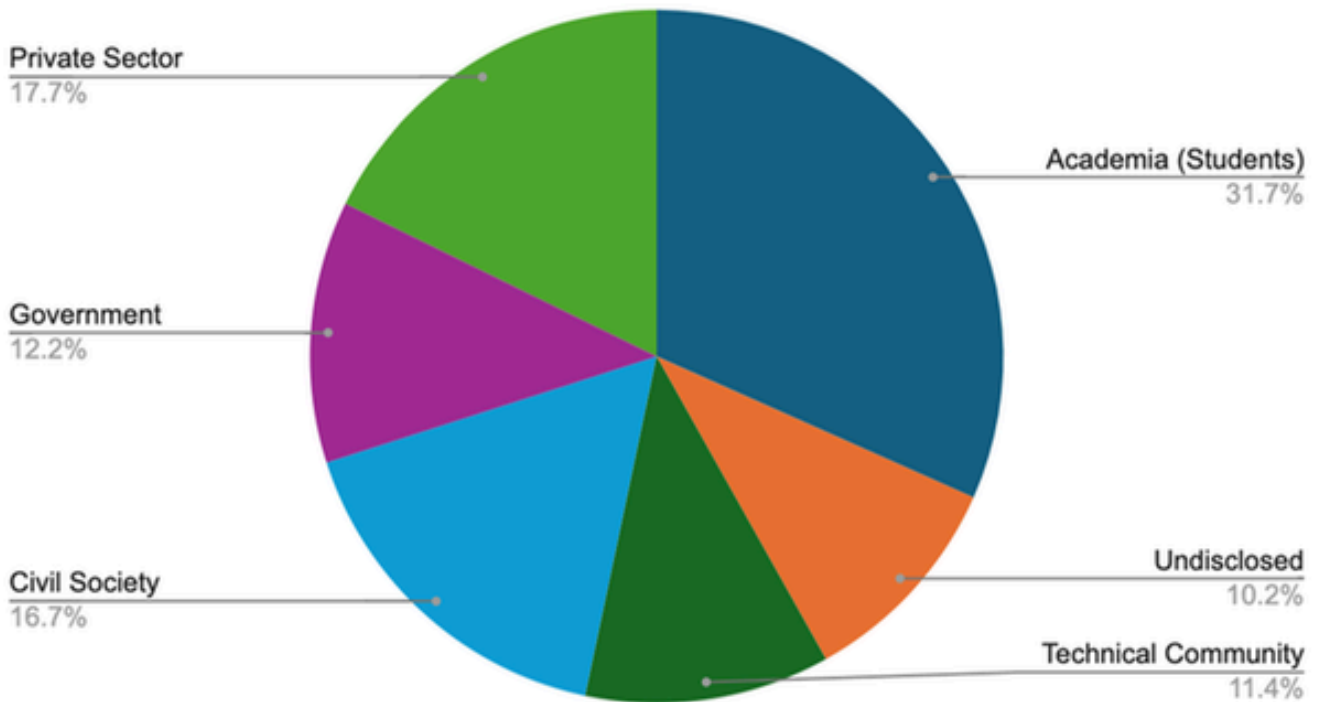


## Attendance and Participation

### States Represented



### Stakeholder Represented



## ***Comparison of attendance with previous years***

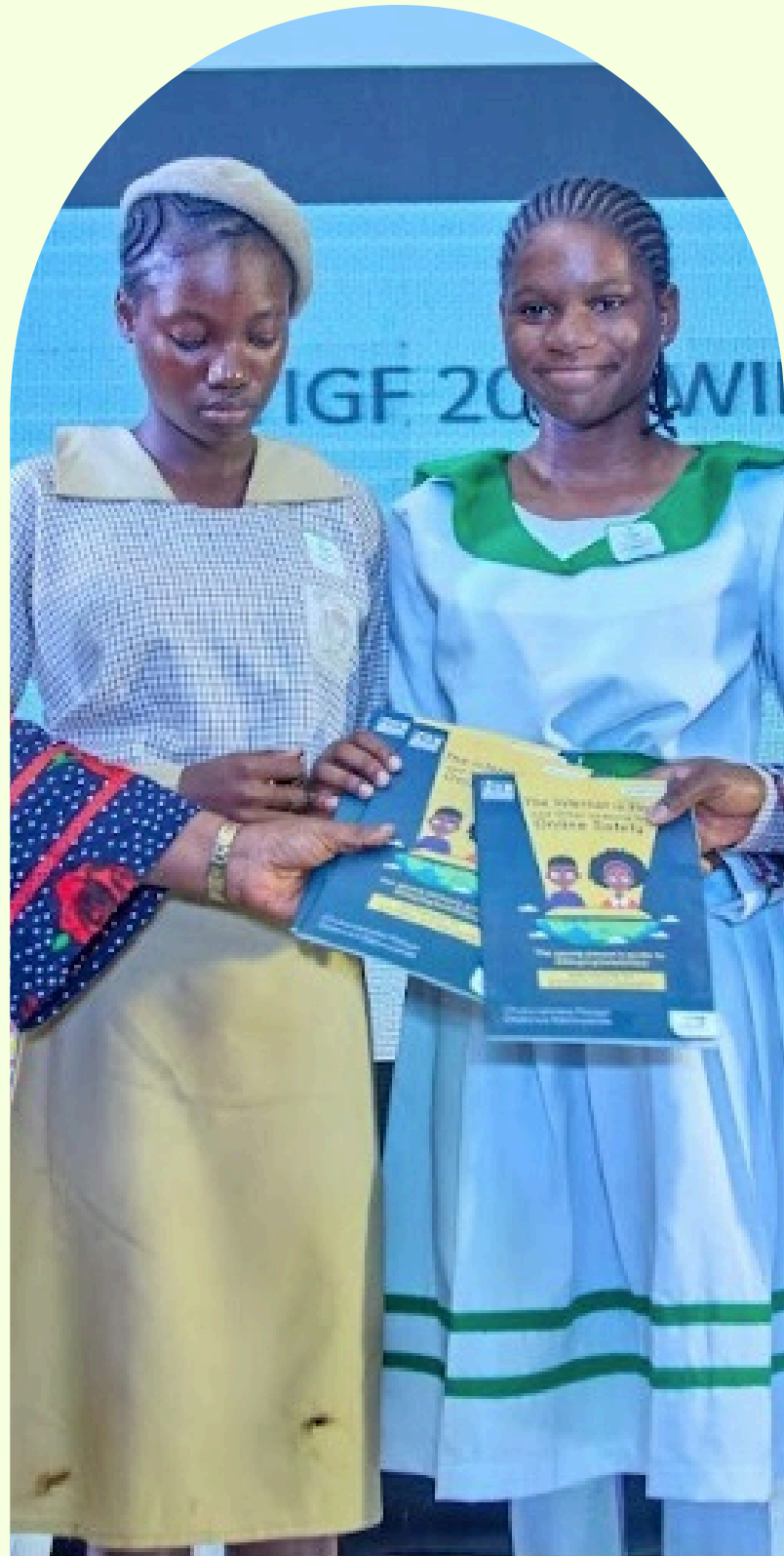
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Total Registration</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>998</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>71.60%</b>	<b>73.20%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>28.40%</b>	<b>26.80%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12.20%</b>
<b>Technical</b>	<b>3.90%</b>	<b>11.40%</b>
<b>CSO</b>	<b>15.50%</b>	<b>16.70%</b>
<b>Academia</b>	<b>37.60%</b>	<b>31.70%</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>24.10%</b>	<b>17.70%</b>

## Challenges Faced

Despite our dedicated outreach, youth participation remains lower than targeted, highlighting a gap between awareness and active engagement across our networks. This is as a result of funding and sponsorship gaps; relying on last-minute support from the Nigeria IGF MAG often limits our ability to secure a strategic venue, ~~locate logistics, further publicize, and~~ infrastructure deficits, specifically unreliable internet and frequent power outages, continue to hinder our hybrid model, affecting participants outside major cities.

~~Open response~~ ~~collaboration~~ ~~prioritized~~ external organizations and donors, which successfully enhanced our funding and expanded our publicity reach. To address participation gaps, we established remote hubs in two major cities to facilitate seamless virtual participation.

The key lesson learned is that sustainable ~~financial~~ ~~requirements~~ ~~early~~ and an establishment of more decentralized hubs across major cities in Nigeria to ensure inclusivity and youthful participation despite national infrastructure challenges.



**Strategic Goals for the Next Year - 2026** The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) remains committed to strengthening meaningful youth participation in digital governance and advancing inclusive, transparent, and multistakeholder engagement within Nigeria's digital policy ecosystem. In line with the Internet Governance Forum's mandate as a permanent platform, NYIGF will work to support youth engagement and navigate pathways to ensure that youth perspectives are systematically integrated into national, regional, and global internet governance processes.

As part of its plans, NYIGF is set to launch two strategic initiatives: the Policy Research Network (PRN) and the Digital Campus Ambassadors (DCA). These initiatives will establish sustainable mechanisms for youth engagement, support evidence-based contributions to policy dialogue, and enhance capacity development in internet governance.

The Policy Research Network will facilitate youth-led, policy-oriented research on emerging and cross-cutting internet governance issues, while the Digital Campus Ambassadors programme will promote grassroots awareness and participation through a decentralized network of youth representatives in tertiary institutions.

These initiatives will be supported by structured capacity-building activities, including webinars, workshops, and targeted trainings, and will serve as a pathway toward sustained youth engagement in advance of the 2026 annual Nigeria Youth IGFsession.

**Acknowledgments** The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) extends its sincere appreciation to the institutions, partners, and supporters whose contributions were instrumental to the successful delivery of the 2025 edition of the forum. Their commitment to youth inclusion, digital rights, and participatory internet governance continues to strengthen Nigeria’s digital policy ecosystem.

NYIGF gratefully acknowledges the ISOC Youth Standing Group and the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) for their generous financial support, which enabled the effective planning and execution of forum activities. We also recognize NEYIF for sponsoring essential event materials, contributing significantly to the reach of the programme.

Our appreciation further extends to the YALI Abuja Network for its community partnership, and to NKF for its leadership in community mobilisation, which ensured broad-based teens participation across secondary education centres.. We acknowledge Smartwaka Creative Nest and Preneur Hub for serving as remote hub partners, expanding access and inclusion through hybrid participation and enabling youth from different regions to meaningfully engage in the forum’s discussions. NYIGF also thanks Aridbeep for its donor support, which reinforced the forum’s capacity to drive impacts.

The forum further recognizes the collaboration opportunity with Smart Africa, which emerged during the 2025 pre-event activities and laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Smart Africa Youth Chapter of Nigeria. This engagement reflects a shared commitment to advancing youth leadership and participation in Africa’s digital transformation and internet governance processes.

Collectively, these contributions exemplify the collaborative spirit of the Internet Governance Forum ecosystem and underscore a shared commitment to empowering young people to shape equitable, transparent, and inclusive digital futures in Nigeria. The Nigeria Youth IGF remains grateful for this continued partnership and support.

## Appendices

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Omolara Esther	Onitsha Business School
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## Appendices

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Oguntunde Olorunjoba	Tech Hive Advisory
Blessing Iyare	Google Women Techmakers Ambassador
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Chris Odu	Ecweb Technology Ltd
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Joseph Ndon	Voice of Children Africa(VOCA) and AIIDEV Africa
Collins Bannu	YALI Abuja.and ICBC
Damilola Oluwasola	Novel Generation Limited and SmartNation
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Uzoma Chigozirim Grace	Independent
Eseosa Adeyinka	Independent
Ishaku Beatrice	Independent
Promise Ochibry	Independent
Ugonna Wogu	Independent
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Enekuno Deborah Basse	Independent
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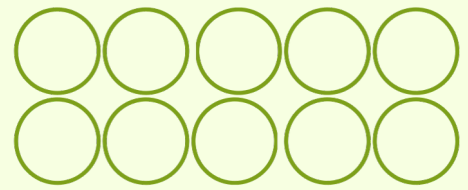


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