



**YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM,  
GHANA 2019**

**DRAFT SUMMERY REPORT**

**10 JULY 2019**

**COORDINATORS:** Lily Edinam Botwoe, Stephen Mawutor Donkor



## **INTRODUCTION**

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the maiden Ghana Youth Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was organised at Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT with 128 youth participants attending. The forum dubbed, *The Future of Work, Digital Jobs and Youth Inclusion* was under the auspices of the Ministry of Communication and jointly convened by the Ghana Domain Name Registry and the Ghana Chapter of the Internet Society. The youth IGF was organised as a pre-event to the main Internet Governance Forum.

## 1.0 SESSION ONE

### 1.1 Opening Ceremony

This Session was steered by the MC for the Forum, Theorose Elikplim Dzineku who welcomed all participants present, introduced various dignitaries, clubs and individuals. She also touched on the purpose of the gathering and the role the Youth IGF plays in the field of internet. A welcome address was read by the Youth IGF Coordinator's, Ms. Lilly Edinam Botsyoe. She outlined the main objectives for the event, which included:

- To raise awareness among young people and new entrants of internet governance issues and to promote their participation in the discussion with a focus on Ghana.
- To groom the next generation of internet users who are able to create digital jobs.
- To bring together people from government, civil society, business and other stakeholder groups to interact and explore common grounds around a public interest-oriented approach to internet governance.
- Building a new cadre of internet leaders who are motivated to learn, engage and act in Ghana, the West African region and beyond.
- Mobilising Ghanaian youth to participate in ICT development and policy beyond internet governance specific topics.
- Partnering with more organisations to improve the participation of youths in internet governance discussions.
- Preparing a report from deliberations which will be incorporated into a communique after tomorrow's IGF and followed through with actionable activities.

Ms. Botsyoe also touched on some vital aspects of the Internet, which included:

- Categories of Multi Stakeholder Group:
  - Governments
  - Civil Society who are end users like us
  - The Private Sector
  - The Technical Community and the
  - Academia
  
- Human Rights activists view internet governance from the perspective of freedom of expression, privacy and other human rights.
- Lawyers concentrate on jurisdiction and dispute resolution.
- Politicians worldwide usually focus on issues that resonate with their electorates such as techno-optimism (more computers=more education) and threats (internet security, child protection).
- Diplomats are mainly concerned with the process and protection of national interests.
- Seven classification according to Diplo's taxonomy of internet governance:
  - Infrastructure and Standardization

- Security
  - Human Rights
  - Legal
  - Economic
  - Development
  - Socio-cultural
- Unemployment in Ghana, the future of work and youth inclusion.
  - Less women pursuing careers in Information Technology
  - Fear of machines taking over the labour force rendering many qualified persons jobless

Ms. Botsyoe concluded her address entreating all to join people around the world and globe to shape the internet to make the digital world a natural extension of the real one, cognisant that, as much as we need the internet, the internet needs us too.

The Session also saw the following representatives from various groups delivering their goodwill messages:

- IOT Hub
- Developers in vogue
- ISOC Ghana
- Ghana Domain Name Registry
- Pyladies Ghana
- Ghana Hacklab Foundation

The representatives commended the organisers for giving them the platform to make their services known to prospective participants. They were also happy with the organisers for coming up with such an initiative, which they found plausible.

## **1.2 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PROF. NII QUAYNOR**

Speaking on the theme for the Forum, the following points and concerns were raised by Prof. Quaynor:

- The internet is what we make of it, thus what you think of it is what it will be.
- There will be diversity within the job market as there will be new jobs. Participants were urged to adapt to the changing trends by getting educated as one acquired new skills.
- The need to stay within one's roles.
- The need to go for things that solved problems in one's area of specification and doing real hard work.
- The need to spend less time talking about ideas as it easily could be developed by someone.
- The need to beware of foreign saviours, since no one could take better care of one's goods than himself.

- The need to be careful when taking certain decisions so that one could be partially self-sufficient

## **2.0. SESSION TWO**

### **2.1. THE FUTURE OF WORK**

**Speaker: Mr. Foster Awintiri Akugiri**

Mr. Foster Akugiri is the Incubator Manager at the Stanbic Bank. He spoke on "The Future of Work," but centered his presentation on how one transposes one's career in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He mentioned that, human beings have transformed from one level of growth to another, resulting in the ever-growing demands of workspace.

The following were some striking points he raised on how one could adapt to these trends:

- Ability to adapt to change and shift one's mind to technology.
- Leverage the internet to drive for digital jobs.
- Position yourself to build the skills required within your workspace.
- Emotional intelligence, thus the ability to manage people by their emotions and maximise their expertise better.
- Build up on what was relevant within the same space one used to work. This he likened to the point that Data Entry Clerks should learn to become Data Analysts most especially in Government institutions where a lot of data is collected.
- Be innovative within your organization.

### **2.2 PRESENTATION ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION**

**Speaker: Dr. Nana Kofi Annan**

This report gives a snapshot of key findings and recommendations of how the internet is used by children and how they should be censored on their internet usage.

Child online protection is one of the emerging issues in Ghana and the world at large. Child online protection is to protect children against cyber threats and its related activities on the internet.

### **2.3. FINDINGS**

The speaker, Dr. Nana Kofi Anna made the following findings:

- Seven out of 10 children or adolescents use the internet for learning.
- On the average, children in Ghana start using the internet at the age of 12 years.
- Some children face barriers to access the internet.
- Children mostly access the internet at home and through mobile devices.
- 4 out of 10 children accept all requests made to them online.

## 2.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made:

- Incorporate certain systems that will make your application child friendly.
- Parents or caregivers should teach their children to accept friendship requests from only people they know in real life.
- Parents must be interested on what children do on their devices.
- Educate and let children understand certain terminologies such as Cyber security, online safety, child netiquette, online abuse, child protection and profile.
- Sensitise and teach children on responsible ways to practice safe online practices including who to share personal information with and who to add as a friend.

## 2.0 SESSION THREE

### 3.1 PANEL DISCUSSION

**Moderator: Lilly Edinam Botsyoe**

Panelists:

- Roger Akrong - GCNet
- Joshua Agyeman - IOT Hub
- Eric Saforo - CSO on SDGs
- Foster Akugri - Stanbic Incubator
- Sabra Asante - GIMPA
- Prosper Tornyi - Avvra Global Shapers Hub

### 3.2. PREAMBLE

The aim of the Panel Discussion session is to give participants more insight and understanding on the theme so as to better position them for the future of work. The future of work on the digital job is a major concern in this digital era as it is taking over the job market and depriving many of their jobs. The importance and benefit of the youth getting involved in the digital world is an area that cannot be overlooked. The panelists centered on the importance of the youth taking up the challenge in building communities in digital areas and getting themselves involved by volunteering to do what the communities demanded of them. This would help them improve on their education and skills which would then help them secure jobs in the digital world.

### 3.3. CHALLENGES

Some challenges were raised at the discussion as follows:

- The change in the world of work and what can be done to catch up with the trending growth.

- Ways of improving security in the digital job to ensure safety of users of the internet while doing the digital jobs
- How to combat the misconception about digital jobs

### **3.4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations were made:

- Communities need to be created to open the digital job for others to take opportunity of these communities and get themselves involved in digital things. This would help build up their digital knowledge and skills. It will also help with the familiarisation of individuals in the communities which will build trust and some level of safety.
- Digital technologies must be adopted to help reduce the low level of knowledge in digital technologies. The adoption of digital technologies will go a long way to inspire people especially the youth to involve themselves in the digital world so as not to be left behind.
- Enforcement of policies by the state and regulatory bodies will provide some sense of guidelines and protection to all digital users in the digital world.
- Branding is a key component in every aspect of our lives that cannot be left out in the field of digital jobs. Branding will help individuals gain recognition and credibility in their field of expertise.
- Investing in technology will not only benefit individuals but the nation as a whole. The government and other stakeholders should consider investing in technology as it will help the nation be recognised by other countries at the international front.

## **4.0. SESSION FOUR**

### **4.1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

This Session was divided into two workshops which saw the participants break into two groups to deliberate on issues and come up with decisions or recommendations. These workshops were the **Youth Inclusion** and **Digital Jobs**.

### **4.2. YOUTH INCLUSION**

This was centered on how the youth could be included in the job space and create awareness to children.

### **4.3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations were made:

- Introduction of STEM to the younger ones will prepare and equip them for the future.
- Organisations should sponsor youth to enroll in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programme.
- Acquisition of skills can give the youth reasons to prepare their minds to face what is ahead of them.
- Incorporate STEM into the curricular from the scratch.
- Youth to get engaged as volunteers to train the younger ones (providing mentorship).

- Diversifying the education system.
- Awareness creation and education to parents and children on the relevance of STEM.
- A positive mindset should be geared towards STEM rather than focusing on the negative.
- STEM should be more accessible and affordable to anyone who wish to grow their knowledge and skills.

#### **4.4. DIGITAL JOBS**

This is focused on jobs centered on the internet and technology.

#### **4.5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations were made:

- The youth should research more on how to apply technology to their expertise.
- People should take advantage of technology and the internet to advertise their works on the job market.
- Local contents must be created to give originality to works rather than picking other people's content.
- To develop a specific in demand skill
- There is the need to network with other people already in the field of digital job.

### **5.0. SESSION FIVE**

#### **5.1. PLENARY AND CLOSING SESSION**

This session had representatives from Youth Inclusion and Digital Jobs workshops present their deliberations and proposed recommendations. A communique was delivered to the participants to brief them on what they had discussed and the necessary actions recommended which they hoped would be addressed by the government, regulatory bodies and stakeholders.

In bringing the whole event to a close, the Youth Rep, ISOC President and GH-IGF gave their closing remarks.

In conclusion, the Youth IGF was a success and participants had the opportunity to voice out their concerns and make necessary recommendations to help improve technology and the internet to the benefit of individuals and the nation as a whole.