

# **The 2018 INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM**

## **Session Topic:**

**“The Inclusion of IG in the Educational Curriculum in Africa”**

**DURATION: 90 MINUTES**

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**Workshop Moderator:** Marilyn Cade

### **Workshop Description**

The Internet and Internet governance are constantly evolving. Individuals will need both technical understanding of the Internet as well as an understanding of international affairs to participate effectively in the development of internationally accepted global Internet governance strategies. However, schools in Africa are yet to adapt their curricula to fully address the changes wrought by the Internet.

The youth and children are increasingly reliant on the Internet for their everyday lives. They communicate, share and collaborate online. They use it to learn and play. They recognize its importance for their adult working lives. Considering their increasing access, agency and autonomy in using content and services, their protection as a vulnerable group needs to be coupled with their education as emerging citizens to ensure they develop a healthy and positive relationship regarding the Internet. Their general well-being, participation in society, and prospects of employment greatly depend on Media Information Literacy (MIL) as the new set of basic skills for the 21st century, where computational thinking interfaces with the rich and diverse ‘cultures of information.

Through the Sustainable Development Goals, the global community promised all children a quality education regardless of their gender, ethnicity and educational needs. Undoubtedly, much progress has been achieved. For example, the number of pupils in school has increased by a third across Africa since 1999, but considerable challenges still remain in our educational systems and will require attention in the policies and commitments developed for post 2015. However moving from policy rhetoric to practical reality is often the hardest step. For this, we need to challenge existing thinking around systems and practices, harnessing and combining the latest thinking and tools such as findings from cognitive Internet governance and mobile technologies.

There are two overarching challenges in the developing countries. Firstly, access to education and tools. Globally there are still 67 million children out of school, 43% of whom live in Africa. Many of these children live in conflict areas or 'fragile' states and many more live in rural areas. Every year 10 million children drop out of primary school in Sub Saharan Africa. There are multitudes of reasons to explain why these children are not in schools: – lack of facilities, lack of tools, content and innovation to cope with the current technological trends, culture, the need to be in employment and so on, but sometimes simple measures like the introduction of internet governance in education can make a huge difference.

This workshop will examine the potential of internet governance in education in the developing countries and its digital transition, mindful of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. It opens a series of perspectives and alerts on certain trends to ensure that the future of education is part of the global debate on Internet Governance. It posits that Internet Governance (IG) offers a new form of legitimacy for children and young people to go beyond their current "protected" status. The activeness of the academia in Internet Governance can empower people to become actors in policy deliberations. This can be achieved by developing a frontier field integrating the existing Internet studies with Media and Information Literacy (MIL), redefined to comprise Internet Governance principles, protocols and processes. This new field can be integrated in the school's curriculum as a key educational discipline. Such a transition can provide children with competences for cooperation, creativity and social innovation. It can also nurture their human rights and understanding of shared values, which, in turn, will help to build more inclusive societies.

**The workshop aims to achieve the following:**

- Improve Internet Access and Education
- Identify potential stakeholders and partners

Most often, stakeholders do not fully recognize the importance of internet governance in education in Africa.

1. Discussed what guidance already exists and how widespread awareness is with internet governance in education
2. Discuss how to enlarge the multistakeholder governance in the educational sector in Africa
3. Discuss how to align internet governance with the current educational systems of Africa curricular in Africa.
4. Discuss the educational mismatch in Africa and the lack of transition from school to work
5. Discuss the sharing of responsibility of the internet governance in education in Africa.

In the multi-stakeholder process of Internet governance, three major stakeholders have been implicated since the beginning:

1. Public sector and governments
2. Private sector and business
3. Civic sector and civil society (NGOs, foundations).

This three need to be brought around the table to consider how Internet governance can support education when considered as part of the educational curricular, beyond the scope of educational institutions. Having all stakeholders share the responsibility of supporting its development, including their own participation, creates a continuum between all sectors of the society.

**The workshop would be organized around four (4) themes aiming at achieving the following outcomes:**

**Theme 1: Addressing internet Governance issues in education in Africa**

- Discuss the internet governance policy framework in Africa and how it can help create the enabling environment for the educational sector in Africa.
- Discuss opportunities to further develop the educational systems with the views of ensuring harmonization, comparability, and quality of education for all in Africa.
- Present possibilities for using Internet and technology to address educational Challenges and also engage new actors
- Identify possible approaches for addressing internet governance issues in education

**Theme 2: Encouraging the adoption of internet governance as part of the educational curricular in Africa**

- Have an open dialogue with stakeholders to discuss the internet and Internet access issues within the educational systems in Africa.

**Theme 3: Strengthening the internet governance Ecosystem and capacity building in education**

- solidify the multi-stakeholder approach to achieving and measuring the SDGs 4, and create strong internet governance educational communities in Africa.
- Identify and discuss solutions to major capacity building programs.

**Theme 4: Improving Educational Systems in Africa**

- How can the promotion of internet governance in the education support the implementation of SDGs 4 in Africa
- What kind of technology and educational regime is needed for the most effective and robust educational system for the implementation of SDGs 4.

Speakers will be invited to make 3-minute comments, followed by questions from the online and in situ participants. The goal is to have 5 speakers, with then Eight - Ten minutes for responses to questions, to speed the engagement with participants and remote participants, a unique approach will be used to gather questions in writing /text from both in the room and remote participants, to speed the ability to address questions. The questions will be grouped, and read out for the speakers to offer 1-minute responses to each of the questions, but rotating across the speakers.