

9<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
United Nations  
Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)  
Villa Le Bocage  
Palais des Nations,  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

**Session Proposal: *Digital Activism as a Key Support of Grassroot Inclusion, Perspectives from the Frontlines***

**Overview of Session**

Jokkolabs Banjul, located in the Gambia, with a brief about us below over the last two global IGFs have contributed sessions on Digital inclusion landscape focusing on digital divide and Inclusion at grass root level. Our involvement at grass root level also stems from the fact we have been highly involved in our National Internet Governance forum in the Gambia as a key stakeholder and sitting on steering committee through our Lead / CEO. This our session brings a new dynamism into our work in Digital Inclusion. We collaborating with partners namely Karisma and Iecology who we have worked with since 2017 on Digital security as our respective founders and partners where all Digital Integrity fellows of the Open Technology Fund. We have jointly run sessions at the RightsCon events and Internet Freedom Festivals. Jokkolabs Banjul through support from HIVOS and also APC have run several Inclusion and digital activism programs in the Gambia supporting digital activism and capacity building of women and youth at grass root communities.

It's based on our work that we decided to team up with our partners to create a session that looks at Digital Activism as key for grass root inclusion giving perspectives from the Frontline. Within the Session proposal its abbreviated as "*Digital Activism as a Key Support of Grassroot Inclusion*". The session brings perspectives from three continents of the globe, Africa, South America, and North America on how Digital activism can support grassroot inclusion, it explores various field evidential narratives of how these organizations have operated on the field in creating avenues for folks at grass root level to benefit from various digital inclusion programs through safety approach first for marginalized groups and communities. It also covers various safety considerations looked at in carrying out their work.

The interesting perspective of why this is a must session it brings perspectives from three countries in the Gambia, Colombia and The United States of America representing three continents with certain similarities on how they address digital inclusion within their own context based on digital activism approach at the frontline of dealing and working with marginalized communities or groups.

The session will be very participatory and engaging using factual examples by the speakers who also include two young female digital activist from The Gambia Jokkolabs Banjul and Digital Legal in South African.

## ABOUT US

### **Jokkolabs's hubs**

*An environment to build tomorrow's solutions*

Jokkolabs is a pioneer in open innovation, digital transformation and social entrepreneurship in Africa, and works to structure an ecosystem where collaborative dynamics bring about change.

### **Vision**

Jokkolabs' ambition is to create a digital innovation ecosystem, leading to new ways of collaborating, experimenting and creating. This open and collaborative dynamic aims to contribute to the collective achievement of shared prosperity.

**Jokkolabs Banjul programs target mainly women and youth who make up the majority of our working force in the Gambia. 90% of Jokkolabs Banjul staff are female.**

**Brief Video of our Hub:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RlrVvpq0tA>

### **What We Do Jokkolabs Banjul**

Programs for Startups (Pre-Incubation, Incubation, Mentorship and Training)

Digital inclusion programs for women and girls(Using Digital literacy as a tool of empowerment)

ICT For Development

ICT and Education

Digital Security

ICT Training

Internet Governance

Internship / Research Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies

Communication as a Catalyst for Development

Youth Entrepreneurship and ICT

Digital Media for Advocacy

Kiddies ICT & Creative Summer Camp

Educate and Innovative Monthly Meet up Sessions for Kids.

Examination Testing Services – Only accredited centre in the Gambia for TOEFL and GRE [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org))

IELTS Information Centre for the British Council reporting to British Council Accra, Office, Ghana

Provision of high-quality tested Information Communication Technology equipment (hardware / Software solutions)

Jokkolabs Banjul supports the secretariat of the Gambia National Internet Governance Forum ([www.igf.gm](http://www.igf.gm)) as a partner and provides rapporteurs and all supports to the forum its Lead and CEO is also one of the focal point of the Gambia IGF in the NRI. Jokkolabs Banjul, through its CEO is active as a national resource person of the West African Internet Governance Forum ([www.waigf.org](http://www.waigf.org)) and the African Internet Governance Forum. It's also is a member of Afrilabs group of technology hubs around Africa [www.afrilabs.com](http://www.afrilabs.com) Its also part of IEARN [www.iearn.org](http://www.iearn.org) and runs its programs in the Gambia, our Project Manager, is the country representative for the IEARN project. Jokkolabs is a member of the Association for Progressive Communication ([www.apc.org](http://www.apc.org)). We are also involved in Open Data Charter as a Steward on the implementation committee, <http://opendatacharter.net/>. We also a partner of with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data <http://www.data4sdgs.org/partner/jokkolabs-banjul> We also a local partner for the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership <https://globaldigitalinclusion.org/about-us/our-partners/> It also runs the Google Developers Group in the Gambia <https://gdg.community.dev/gdg-banjul/> and the Humanitarian Open Street Community in the Gambia <https://www.hotosm.org/where-we-work/gambia/>. Jokkolabs Banjul also use to run the YMCA Computer Training Centre and Digital Studio till it closed.

**For Further Enquiries do not hesitate to contact**

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