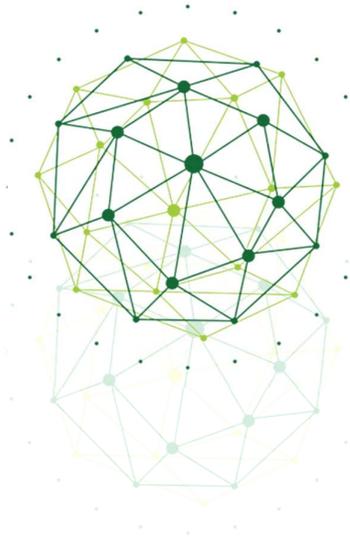


**REPORT OF
THE
NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
(NIGF 2022) EVENTS**



**NIGERIA INTERNET
GOVERNANCE FORUM**
NIGF 2022
**NIGERIA INTERNET
GOVERNANCE FORUM**
NIGF 2022
HELD ON 2022

SEPTEMBER 14 – 15, 2022

Table of Contents

1.0 Background	4
2.0 Pre-Events – 14 th September 2022	4
2.1 Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF)	4
2.1.1 Overview Of NYIGF	4
(II) Objectives	4
(III) Why NYIGF?	5
(IV) What Does a Virtual NYIGF Event Offer?.....	5
2.1.2 Opening Ceremony	5
2.1.3 High-Level Panel Discussion.....	6
2.1.4 Breakout Sessions	8
2.1.5 Wrap Up Session/Way Forward	15
Q&A / Open Discussions	15
Closing Remarks	16
2.2 Women Nigeria Internet Governance Forum	16
2.2.1 Opening session	16
2.2.2 First Technical Session: Dealing with Gender Violence Online.....	20
2.2.3 Second Technical Session: Dealing with Child Abuse Online.....	22
2.2.4 Closing session	24
3.0 Main Event – 15 th September 2022	25
3.1 Opening Ceremony	25
3.1.1 Welcome Remarks	25
3.1.2 Goodwill messages	26
3.1.3 Keynote address	29
3.1.4 Vote of thanks	32
3.2 High-level Panel session	32
Summary of the session.....	32
Key Points Raised	35
Recommendations	36
3.3 Breakout sessions	37
3.3.1 Session 1: Data Sharing and Digital Sovereignty in Nigeria.....	37
Summary of the session.....	38
Key points raised	39
Recommendations	39
3.3.2 - Session 2: Building Trust in Nigerian Digital Services	40
Summary of the session:.....	40
Key Points Raised:	41
Recommendations:	42

3.3.3	- Session 3: Internet as an Enabler of Inclusive Development.....	42
	Summary of the Session.....	43
	Key Points Raised	43
	Recommendations:	44
3.3.4	- Session 4: Nigeria’s Position in the Future of the Internet	44
	Summary of the session.....	44
	Key Points Raised	46
	Recommendations.....	46
3.4	Wrap Up session	47
3.5	Closing Remarks.....	47
3.6	Zoom Participation Statistics.....	48



**NIGERIA INTERNET
GOVERNANCE FORUM
NIGF 2022**

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) is an annual gathering of domestic stakeholders, which provides a platform to express common national interests in preparation for the annual global Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The 2022 edition of the NIGF held as a hybrid event, with the physical venue in Lagos State at the Zone Centre, Gbagada and with many participants attending online. Hence the event was tagged Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) 2022 with the theme “**Achieving Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria**”, with support from the following organizations:

- 1) Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMCDE)
- 2) Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA)
- 3) National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- 4) Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)
- 5) Internet Society (ISOC) Nigeria
- 6) Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD)
- 7) The Nigerian Internet Governance Multistakeholder Advisory Group (NIGF-MAG)

2.0 PRE-EVENTS – 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022

2.1 NIGERIA YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (NYIGF)

2.1.1 OVERVIEW OF NYIGF

(I) Overview

The 2022 virtual edition of the Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) is convened by the Nigerian youth Internet stakeholders as part of the 2022 Nigerian Internet Governance Forum in line with the principles of the United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

(II) Objectives

1. To provide a platform for Nigerian youth to assess the state of Internet technology in Nigeria and communicate challenges and opportunities to the appropriate stakeholders.

2. To enable Nigerian youth to learn about the principles of Internet governance and how they can contribute to developing infrastructure, policy, and standards for telecommunications in Nigeria.
3. To encourage the integration and inclusion of Nigerian youth in national Internet-related public policy meetings and events.

(III) Why NYIGF?

The theme for the 2022 NYIGF event “Youth: The Resource for Nigeria's Digital Future” addresses the need to encourage the integration and inclusion of Nigerian youths in national Internet-related public policy meetings and events and to maximize Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges that arise. It also addresses the need to learn about the principles of Internet governance and contribute to developing infrastructure, policy, and standards in Nigeria.

(IV) What Does a Virtual NYIGF Event Offer?

Virtual NYIGF 2022 offered the following:

- ENGAGE with pathways to influence policymaking and contribute to priority setting in the public and private sectors.
- CONNECT with youth from across Nigeria working to map solutions to complex ICT and digital economy problems and find partners to help put them into action.
- LEARN through workshops and skill-building seminars with industry youth experts and take advantage of recorded content to learn at your own pace.

2.1.2 OPENING CEREMONY

This session started with goodwill messages from Caleb Ogundele, President, ISOC Nigeria, and Mrs. Eyitayo Iyortim, CEO, NIRA (Nigeria Internet Registration Association). Caleb Ogundele appreciated and congratulated the organizers and steering committee for making the event to fruition. He admonished participants to take active participation in internet governance processes. He equally charged participants to collect their Permanent Voters Card (PVC) ahead of the Nigerian 2023 general elections as a way of participating in governance processes. He also intimated the audience about the just concluded Nigeria School of Internet Governance and encouraged participants to look out ahead of next year. He concluded by stating that he looks forward to how the outcomes of the meeting will be pursued and implemented. Mrs. Iyortim in her goodwill message encouraged participants to use the internet to foster innovation and creativity.

Keynote Speech:

The keynote speech was taken from Mrs. Mary Uduma, chairperson of the AfIGF MAG. Madam Mary expressed her heartfelt gratitude for having a youthful discussion with the Nigerian youths on the Internet space. She stated according to Gbenga Sesan that ‘Nigeria stands at the tip of great progress in the information and communication technology sector owing to diverse efforts by mostly youth-led entrepreneurs and

collaborators. And according to Guardian news in July 2022, ‘the country has the largest population of youths in the world, with a median age of 18.1 years, about 70% of the population under the age of 30 years and 42% under the age of 15’. What a huge resource Nigeria has in times of labor, development, innovation, and governance. It's mind-blowing the resources Nigeria has with the youthful population. If we employ 70% of our population that are under the age of 30, you can imagine what we can produce. So, we should learn to use the Internet to produce not only consume. She further challenged the youths by saying that ‘the future is in our hands you have all it takes to make sure that Nigeria does not suffer from lack of digitalization, digital products, services, and digital awareness. Finally, she encouraged everyone to take advantage of the digital skills the government offers, and skill certification opportunities provided by some private sectors and NGOs for young people. Join to learn, share, innovate and collaborate to build solutions for future problems of the national economy. And contribute to research opportunities of the AI center launched by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA).

2.1.3 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Morisola Alaba

Speakers: Mr. Hanson Johnson: CEO, Start Innovation Hub

Bolu Adisa: ITU Generation Connect, Visionaries Board Member

Ibrahim Garba: Fellow, Internet of Rights (IoR), Article 19

Session Summary

This session focused on the theme of the forum - “Youth: The Resource for Nigeria's Digital Future” under the following considerations:

Key Considerations

What are the skills the youths should leverage on to increase their capacity in the digital space?

We can see machine learning being applied to software solutions like converting text to speech, language transcription, and process automation in businesses and schools. These are some of the gaps we can fill when we have these skills. Basic data analytics jobs are out there that require just your basic data skills, knowing how to use tools as basic as excel, power BI, etc. just having basic knowledge of these skills may land you a valuable skill in the job market. Critical thinking and problem-solving are very useful skills. It requires no technical background but is very important for technical-driven skills for innovation and creativity using digital tools. Data governance is a new field in applications because the internet is new and lots of people now know the reasons why data should be governed due to the value of people’s data on the internet. Both government and end-users are more conscious about data generation, process, usage, and storage space which has given birth to several data protection laws and regulations. Companies now create roles for data governance executives which never existed before. Having knowledge of data governance opens new opportunities for the youth. Another field could be Internet policies that deal with issues that cover a variety of communities in the Internet space.

Do you think that a high number of youths in Nigeria possess skills that can enable them to advance the Nigerian digital future?

Enough youths do not possess the digital skills necessary for the evolving nature of work. And there is a wide gap between those who possess the skills and those who do not. Certain factors contribute to this inequality gap in the Nigerian digital space.

What is internet inequality and how does it affect our digital future?

When we talk about Internet inequality, it presents itself across different aspects such as gender – it is not a balanced equation when looking at Internet penetration and usage across the gender spectrum. Inequality can also be observed in people with disabilities. The rate of penetration of access to the internet when it comes to people with disabilities is very low because we have not thought of ways in which we can ensure the inclusion of these people. A lot of persons with a disability find the internet unusable; they can't even access some of the basic things. This makes accessibility one of the key issues of internet governance. Affordability and literacy still present a huge gap in the digital space.

Recommendations

- We need to think about more than just ourselves, think about people who are blind and people who have some challenges and how we can include them in this internet ecosystem. Individuals and companies that build internet products also have a role to play in this regard. Inclusion should also be considered in relation to access to internet usage. The use of local languages aside from English can be a means of enhancing access. The government can investigate ways to adopt local content and languages into the global internet space.
- There should be some technical and regulatory frameworks that will empower the community networks to provide and broaden internet access within our local communities.
- Encourage collaboration between government, technical communities, and other relevant stakeholders in building digital solutions that will advance the national economic future.
- Civil societies should continue to advocate policies that will favor inclusion and meaningful and affordable internet connectivity. Government should prioritize value over revenue. Internet connectivity should be seen from a place of how it can add value to the citizens and not how much the government can get in form of tax and revenue from the Telcos.
- Technology does not necessarily take away jobs, it transforms the existing ones and creates new ones for people to partake in using technology. There is a need to upskill in this new digital age.
- The internet presents diverse opportunities. Youths should be more content creators on the internet and not just content consumers.
- The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) should act in creating alternatives to Telcos and ISPs towards improving internet penetration at the grassroots.

2.1.4 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(I) Session 1: **Data governance: A youthful drive?**

Moderator: Precious Adigwe

Speakers: Victor Idonor - Director General, Cyber Security Challenge Nigeria
Chinwe Ogbujah - Programme Secretary, ISOC NG

Rapporteur: Abosede Hassan

Session Summary:

The session started with a warm welcome and introduction of speakers and participants with a short overview of the expectations by the moderator, Precious Adigwe.

Chinwe Ogbujah on the concept of discussion

Data governance is the set of principles and practices that ensures high-quality data. The word governance suggests rules, processes, and people that make sure data works. Data governance can also be referred to as a management function that ensures the quality, integrity security, and usability of data. One of the goals of data governance is to enable better decisions. So, usable data must be one that aids decisions.

Victor Idonor on the concept of discussion

Data governance tends to focus on securing data, its control, and privacy issues as it relates to government standards. The Nigerian data protection regulatory bill was launched on February 4, 2022, which aims to have more focus and direction on securing data and regulating its access and controls. So, in the context of the Nigerian space, it could be seen as the focus of the Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB) which is responsible for consolidating the gains of its regulations. Basically, its governance can be said to be how data is generated, controlled, stored, and transferred, and its privacy-related issues. The purpose of data protection in the digital space from the African perspective focuses on how data is generated and regulated - who has access to what and what can one do with the data he/she has access to.

Key Considerations

What are the impactful measures we can undertake to push for data governance to achieve its goals? If we don't have good governance policies in place, we can't make good decisions. Good governance aids good decisions. Everybody wants results, but little effort and emphasis are played on the processes and frameworks for all of that to happen. For data governance, there are lots of components and stakeholders that make it work. Understanding these components and why the data collection, who is accountable for what, and the control mechanism for the data is essential. The major stakeholders in the data governance framework are to be mapped properly before any major decisions are taken. So, it is important for all these considerations.

Due to the growth of technology, we talk about cybersecurity which brings about data governance. When we talk about cybersecurity, we refer to the security of our digital assets both the hardware and software and even the user. Today a lot of technologies have evolved, both social media platforms and different platforms, and every second, billions of data is being generated. Now, for every activity that happens on the internet space per time data is being generated. So for this, we need to be privacy conscious; what happens to the data that is been generated, how do we manage this data, all these bring us to the discussion on data governance which talks about usability, availability, and security, implementation of guidelines and policies to help organizations or individuals to ensure that these data is properly utilized and controlled in such a way that they are not maliciously used by malicious attackers.

Why do we need data governance? If there's no governance in place, it means you as an individual can collect any data of anybody and can rightly utilize them without consideration of breach of privacy. Data governance is important because it enables us to control the usability, availability, and security of data in compliance with global policy frameworks.

With the scenario of twitter shutdown in the country, can this also be referred to as controlling usability? First, understand the concept of control as trying to limit something. Data governance is composed of several stakeholders, of which the government is not the only stakeholder. So, the government might not have done due diligence in its actions on the Twitter ban, it looks more like a clampdown rather than a regulatory move. This is because there were no further considerations on certain use cases that justified such action. That is always the problem with power when you exercise power instead of authority. In a democratic system, authority requires consultation when something happens. So, when the 'why' is not known and people have the power to do whatever they need to do, they don't consult all the stakeholders. Now, in view of this, clamping down on a social media platform without considering the antecedent advantages of such a platform is not a control in the data governance sense of it but rather a clampdown.

What are the impacts of the clampdown in relation to cybersecurity? Before you put controls for such, what were the motives? In a situation where there is no information on specific reasons why they regulated or shut down the platform for that period, then it becomes a clampdown, like misuse of power. But again, what were the primary motives behind the clampdown, was it for the general good of the people? In the case of using the internet to create content that drives away the minds of the youth from innovation and creativity as we have currently in Nigeria space; comedy and several other entertainment contents are populating the internet space while some other countries use the same platforms to promote innovations and creativity, in this sense, the government should step in to regulate or control the content of such platforms for the general good of the people. The government should really focus on regulations and control, rather than clampdowns on things that affect them and there should be deliberate, productive, and economic reasons for all their acts of control and regulations of the social media platforms.

Components of data governance

- **Data mapping and classification:** This requires strong analytical skills to be able to analyze data and break them into chunks for a quick understanding of the data you are working on.
- **Implementation:** This identifies the data assets, its existing governance processes, data literacy, and how to increase end-user awareness. Other critical components can be architecture, security compliance, and quality

The relationship between data governance and cybersecurity; data governance deals with more controls and implementation that focuses on the availability of data while cyber or data security focuses majorly on the security of that data. So, data security deals more with the confidentiality and integrity of the data.

How can the youths get involved in data governance?

- Getting involved requires a full understanding of the primary roles of the data protection bureau as launched recently, and the youths should read and understand the applications of the Nigerian Data Protection Regulations (NDPR), guidelines and policies. This alone provides employment opportunities as a data protection regulation officer where you will help organizations certified by NDPB to checkmate companies, institutions implement the regulations.
- As youths, you need proficiency in research and analytical skills, an understanding of privacy laws and regulations, data governance, and being self-motivated because you will be working with people and processes.
- Be consistent, learn, and grow in the space, for there is no academic barrier to getting involved.

Recommendations

1. Nigeria has a vibrant youthful population in the world, which is an opportunity we can leverage, in building and influencing the world and governance with technologies and not just technology consumers.
2. With 15 million dollars' worth of impact on poor data on companies in 2019 according to Gartner, companies are losing revenues every day, and businesses are losing about 20% of their revenues due to poor data quality, this is the right time to learn new skills and harness these opportunities in the data governance space.
3. For those who may consider diving into data governance, you can consider the following roles:
 - **Chief data officer:** whose primary responsibility is to oversee the data governance program in an organization, institution, or government department
 - **Data governance council or committee member:** they're majorly executives from business units. They design policies and standards for organizations
 - **Data governance team:** they specialize in data governance architecture and its management
 - **Data stewards:** basically, in charge of implementing data governance policies, and monitoring compliance with data policy regulatorsLet's hope to start a journey of becoming the driver with the requisite skills.

(II) Session 2: Shaping the Nigerian Digital Narrative

Moderator: Lily Ugochukwu – Tech enthusiast

Speakers: Uffa Modey - Graduate Python Developer at Hedgehog Lab

Oladele John Dada, Co-founder Kreateng

Rapporteur: Oluwaseun Ajani

The concept of Digital narrative

Narratives allow people to tell their stories more directly. The Nigerian digital narrative has been of misinformation and cybercrime on the negative side, while on the positive side, Nigerian young people have amazing tech skills in software development, programming, product design, graphic design, web design, and so on. Nigeria has become the center of excellence for some of these globally competitive areas of technology. However, the negative narrative is a taint, and it is important for youths to discuss this and recommend actionable steps towards shaping a positive narrative that will put Nigeria in the lead of a new global digital economy that harnesses local talent to generate wealth and enhance growth.

Positive digital narratives in Nigeria

Enable development across various sectors: All sectors in Nigeria, including healthcare, education, commerce, finance, and governance, are being transformed by the increased adoption of digital technology.

Social Change: The digital ecosystem has had an increasingly positive impact on the way people share information and experiences, as well as form opinions about their surroundings, across all industries. It is helping people to understand the world in new ways, offering more opportunities, and exposing them to new experiences and people.

Giving people a voice: Digital technology democratizes communication, fosters open discussions, and empowers individuals by allowing them to tell their stories.

Negative digital narratives in Nigeria

Misinformation: social media has become the biggest platform for spreading misinformation, largely because it is the most efficient way to spread a message across many people in very little time. This is especially so when these messages are motivated by hate, fear, and prejudice.

Cybercrime: This has been a negative force in Nigeria over the years. It has aggravated negative perceptions, leading to social and economic problems for the country.

Why should Nigerian youth contribute to shaping the digital narrative?

Building the future should be championed by the next generation: The youths are the leaders. The youth are concerned with the future. Change for the future should be heralded by the youth who will be the main participants in the future, i.e., the youth can

build the future that they want.

Challenges to youth participation in shaping the digital narrative

There is a huge gap between what people are expected to know and what the issues exactly are. When compared to their global counterparts, young Nigerian have a significant gap in their understanding of digital and its capabilities. As the giant of Africa, Nigeria still has a lot to do in ensuring that the youth know how to leverage the technology and resources available.

Inadequate funding: Many young people do not have real jobs that will enable them to be changemakers online, and many of these changes must be made on a voluntary basis. There is limited access to funding for businesses run by youth, many of which face high risks that could potentially stifle their businesses. Many business owners complain about not getting funding from banks and raising capital from the private sector.

An additional need to prove competence: A common challenge for many youth-run businesses is the need to prove their competence. This is because they have not previously held positions of responsibility in the organization or earned big salaries before starting businesses. Businesses that start out as youth-run operations must prove their strength.

Digital footprints and online security: The digital footprints that most online users have are largely not unique, hence there is a need for businesses to tailor-make strategies to protect such users. Such strategies should also ensure the cost of connectivity and Internet connectivity is high, and the absence of a free flow of data has made the Internet a tool for the digital generation to operate by choice.

How Nigerian youths can contribute to shaping the digital narrative

Proactive advocacy at all levels: By looking at the challenges and offering solutions such as training and community engagement that make an impact, we have to remember that what we do in Nigeria can have an impact on the rest of the world. Youths need to know and understand how their actions can impact the positive or negative digital narrative that is developing in our society.

Changing mindsets: There must be a change in mindset regarding misinformation and cybercrime, i.e., information from the Nigerian space must be trustworthy and should not raise red flags. Regarding cybercrime, Nigeria's internet space should be safe for people to participate in.

Discussing emerging issues: Youths should talk with their peers and encourage other young people to get involved. It is not enough for them to just consume content; they should be able to create and share their own content. Young people should be at the forefront of coalition building. Youth should be able to build coalitions at an individual and organizational level by taking responsibility for advocating the transformation we seek to see in the digital ecosystem.

Recommendations

- The financial aspect of the digital space needs to be shaped for a better future. In terms of funding, venture capitalists and external investors have focused on the fintech industry in Nigeria. Other sectors have been neglected, such as education, gaming, health, and other social sectors. Funders should increase investment in these sectors.
- Tech companies should partner with NGOs and the private sector to provide subsidized training in tech skills that will make them self-reliant employers of labor.
- The government should build a tech hub in each state that can incubate 10,000– 20,000 young people every year.
- Youth should learn tech skills for social growth, which is essential in developing economies, as well as to help build a tech industry where people can work remotely.
- Policies should be enacted by the government to promote better funding for the tech industry in Nigeria so that youths can learn tech skills and shape a positive narrative.
- Affordable internet connectivity should be a priority for governments and internet service providers.
- Youths should get involved in digital literacy initiatives that can change the negative narratives of misinformation and cybercrime about Nigerians in the global internet space.
- Youth should be educated on how to use the internet effectively and be involved in policy-making processes.
- Youth should get involved in the electoral process and vote for candidates that have good plans for the digital economy.
- Youth should get involved in tech entrepreneurship to be relevant in the digital space. Youth should take responsibility for the information they share online and ensure that it is credible.

(III) Session 3: Removing Barriers of Digital Transformation

Moderator: Peace Ewor

Speakers: Iniobong Udoh - Founder, Tech Skills Hack
Abdulrazaq Imam - Program Manager, Ndukwe Kalu Foundation

Rapporteur: Rotimi Owolabi

Session Summary

Digital transformation is a term often used to describe the process of transforming into a technology-driven workspace. Considering the emergence of covid-19, technology became an opportunity that people had to leverage to still work amidst several global restrictions to sustain organizational values. Before now, nobody believed that remote work could be realistic in this world today. But it has gained the popularity it needed through the emergence of the global pandemic as its quick adoption by some organizations as an alternative to sustaining their business operations and values gave it strength to revolutionize our conventional workspace.

Key considerations

Digital transformation might not just be focused on technology alone but can also focus

on policies, operations, and management. This is a timely discussion in this post covid era. The pandemic period is a realization of digital transformation as a necessity for organizational and people adoption. It is time we learn to use certain digital tools even as small or medium enterprises to scale their businesses, reach out to partners and work; and students at school for studies, communication, research, and lots more. This discussion isn't just limited to organizations, it also involves individual adoption of digital tools, policies, and technologies to exist in a digital space.

Challenges of digital adoption

- Remote work is perfect for those who understand how it works. In transit to a remote workspace, it must involve operations, someone will have to be there to take the decision which sometimes has to be the CEO. This is because the same energy the CEO will have to exhibit will be the same the employees will have to follow suit.
- Moving from a traditional to a remote workspace requires a full understanding of the process.
- There must be a conflict of interest in remote adoption, and it requires tracking of the whole process and retraining of staff on the use and application of technological tools for daily work routines.
- It is all a process, managing the change, and conflicts and balancing the process of physical and virtual work experience.

What is the importance of digital transitions in our conventional workspace?

There are lots of benefits of digital transformation to our workspace:

1. Sustain revenue: it helps to save cost and increase revenue
2. Energy conservation: It helps to save energy and other organizational resources while we make more profit.
3. Result-oriented: it is result oriented. Everyone is driven by deliverables thereby promoting efficiency in the workspace among staff.
4. You have access to more customers and at the same time reduce the cost of running the physical office with relative impacts on stress reduction poised by mobility thereby enhancing time management.
5. It expands your connections and opportunities to reach out to a wider audience and explore wonderful experiences in a globally connected economy. And these benefits vary based on industries.

Conclusion

There are challenges in the adoption of digital transformation in our daily life activities, we really need to understand those challenges and adequately address them during the process as it does not just happen at once. Time is key for a purposeful digital transformation, it requires patience, understanding of the process, and consistency in adopting and applying digital skills, tools, and policies. With time we shall appreciate the impacts of digital transformation in our lives and businesses. As employers, employees, and students, we should look for ways we can adopt technology to enhance our lives and make them better.

2.1.5 WRAP UP SESSION/WAY FORWARD

This session addressed the underlisted questions from the participants and responses from speakers:

Q&A / Open Discussions

1. What roles do the private sector play in data governance?

It is not just the government alone there are some other stakeholders that are necessary to participate in the regulations such as the CSOs, private sectors, and end-users. It is not just about theoretical regulations; it also involves the full participation of all relevant stakeholders. Education is important for achieving equal participation in the regulatory processes. We need proactive advocacy to clear up misinformation and drive more policies.

2. Are we at a stage where we need to build more skills or better policies to enhance the adoption and compliance of digital transformation?

We still need to enhance our skills. The way the internet is evolving, if we are not hands-on building our skills time-to-time we might just get lost in the digital space. With the recent adoption of the 5G network provisions and its promises in the country, the youth need to develop more skills that will enable them to work within the fifth generation to enable us to stand fit with the rest of the world. The government creates more policies and regulatory frameworks which oftentimes are open for general participation, a lot of youths shy away from these opportunities, investing more time and energy in the entertainment industry. There has always been little youth participation in shaping the Nigerian Internet ecosystem, we need more involvement of the youth in policy discussions, debates, and conversations at different levels and forums. Lastly, the compliance level on the national policies may be too low due to its unfriendly nature towards the ecosystem. When we can engage on policy issues then we will be able to have good compliance.

The misconception of the tech space as a get-rich scheme that is shaping the digital narratives of the country should be properly guided. The youths should understand what works best for them and trust their process so that they rush into building substandard fits of the digital space of Nigeria's tech ecosystem.

Tech should be over ASUU now, while ASUU strikes, tech should reign. The tech space should be more exploited in such a time as this, such that it will help build the intellectual capability of the Nigerian youths. Because, if the youths are out of school, with no engagement intellectually, it will echo loud on the economy of the nation.

More funds are needed in the Nigerian tech space. Whilst there are more volunteering jobs in the ecosystem, there should be available incentives to drive the passion and encourage the youths for more creative and innovative participatory roles in building an inclusive ecosystem.

Closing Remarks

In the remarks of the co-coordinator, Ekemini Williams, everyone's active participation in the discussion and deliberations yielded success to the event. He expressed gratitude to all speakers and panelists who made time to be a part of the discussion. And he further appreciated other stakeholders for their efforts towards convening such a virtual event as this as he encouraged other participants to lend their support towards building a better ecosystem.

2.2 WOMEN NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

On the 14th of September 2022 the Centre for Information Technology and Development held the 4th Women Internet Governance Forum as part of the 2022 Internet Governance Forum activities. The event which is being held annually is part of the Nigerian Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) pre-event activities.

This year, the event theme was **Making the Internet for Livelihood, Love and Life: Tackling Gender and Child Abuse Online and was held online with a limited physical attendance/participation in Kano.** The theme was a well thought one, looking at the global happenings around gender and child abuse online which has become a norm by the perpetrators. Mrs. Mary Uduma, Chair West African Internet Governance Forum served as the chair with Mrs. Ibukun Odusote, Chair, The Ndukwe Kalu Foundation as the Keynote Speaker while Jan Moolman, Co-Manager: Women's Rights Programme, Association for Progressive Communications served as the Guest Speaker.

Also, two technical sessions were held on Gender Violence Online and Child Protection Online. At the two sessions, distinguished personalities and experts on Gender Based Violence and Child Protection spoke and shared their experience and knowledge with the participants. The first session which was titled ***Dealing with Gender Violence Online*** was chaired by Professor Amina Kaidal of the University of Maiduguri while the speakers at this session were Zainab Aminu, CITAD Technical Officer, Mrs. Martha Alade, Founder, Women in Technology and Msen Nabo, Digital Media Associate at Connected Development.

The second session which focused on ***Dealing with Child Protection Online***, had Hajiya Suwaiba Muhammad Dankabo, Programme Manager at ActionAid International as chair while Aminu Adamu Naganye of the Star Newspaper, Harira Wakili, a Gender and Human Rights Activist and Barrister Aisha Mahdi of Green Edge Attorneys served as the speakers.

2.2.1 Opening session

In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of CITAD, Y.Z Ya'u started by explaining the purpose of this year's WIGF during which he stated that, the essence of organizing the forum was to encourage discussion, especially among women, on internet governance and harvest strategies for addressing issues that tend to reinforce the marginalization of women in the digital space. Mr. Ya'u further stated that the

WIGF focuses on two specific issues:

1. Issues of Gender Based Violence: in this regards, Mr. Y.Z said a lot of young women have suffered and still suffering from different kind of gender violence from people whose aim was to deter them from using the internet. He also lamented that in some cases these young women face gender violence by their social media friends. Moreover, the Executive Director also said many women especially political aspirants are being abused and castigated on social media based on their gender, which contributes to furthering the political marginalization of women.

2. Child Abuse Online: on this, the Executive Director stated that the Federal Government of Nigeria has set up panel to advise on a policy framework on how to address this issue. Speaking further on this, Ya'u hoped the forum would give the participants a chance to harvest strategic ideas that can help in shaping the policy, raise awareness and involve other stakeholders in trying to sanitize the digital ecosystem so that the women in particular can be able to make effective use of the internet in the country, have access to educational materials and ability to use the internet without being harassed or intimidated.

Speaking about the importance of the internet, Mr. Ya'u stated that internet allows individuals and academics to make research when there is accessible and safe internet. Fearing that some factors may hinder the proper use of the internet, Ya'u advocated that factors which inhibit people from using the internet needed to be removed and issue of affordability should also be addressed. He observed that women find it more difficult to access the internet than men due to the economic disparity that exists between two. Moreover, Ya'u said the aims of the forum were to: improve user security competence among women, ensure women can use the internet safely & secure their communications and that their privacy is well respected. At the end, he emphasized that "we must take internet as a right for everybody in the country"

Giving her remarks at the Forum, the West African Chair of the Internet Governance Forum, Mrs. Mary Uduma said in discussing about children and women on the net, we need to first understand that these categories of people are already being marginalized and a huge gap exists in the society. She also stated that women and children are every day being abused and violence being meted on them online, but little is being done to curtail the situation. Furthermore, she stated that these categories of people needed to be encouraged and supported to use the internet without being harassed and their rights not being violated in order to benefit from the ample opportunities the internet presents. At the end she encouraged the participants to actively participate at the forum.

The Keynote Speaker at the Forum, Mrs. Ibukun Odusote, Chair, Kalu D Foundation mentioned that in the early days of the internet, it has been a concern to the whole nation. Discussing on the responses to Gender Abuse Online and the multiple questions to address bordering around gender violence online, the keynote speaker said, there is need to develop campaigns messages to counter the misusers of the internet and contributed to the current processes of developing national strategy on child protection online. The speaker also stated that the essence is to find ways on how to address physical and online

abuse, and how to protect vulnerable people from being harmed on the internet. For this, she said more budget need to be allocated to this area.

Mrs. Ibukun went further to state that under United Nations Charter for Child Protection, every child is expected to have a fundamental right to education, a right to health and a right to livelihood, children are supposed to be allowed to speak and to be heard, but a lot of constraints are preventing them from being able to fully access their fundamental rights especially in Africa due to the cultural issues. Speaking about the ample advantages of the Internet, Mrs. Odusote said if there was no internet during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people could have lost their lives. The internet had also served as school for many children during the lockdown, however, it also came with many disadvantages where some people used it to abuse children.

Buttressing child abuse further, the keynote speaker said child and women abuse is a daily reality in Nigeria; six out of ten children experience one form of abuse or the other, one in four girls, and ten percent of boys have also been abused according to UNICEF data. She said Technology when use in the right way has a potential to broaden opportunities and reduce the level of abuse if there are proper guidance. The keynote speaker also lamented that many opportunities are still not fully explored, but people tend to use the negative side of the internet, bullying others and amplifying hate speech on social media platforms.

On the negative consequences of child abuse on education, Mrs. Odusote said report has shown that one in five children skipped school due to abuse, and of recent, kidnapping of school children has also brought a lot of problem to children education in the country.

Discussing about the strategies to follow in preventing gender abuse and safety promotion among children, the speaker said, for that, educational institutions must be protected as well as ensuring privacy of children online. For this, government must ensure all the necessary regulations are in place and civil society organizations need to intensify advocacies to relevant government agencies on the issues. Also teaching digital literacy and online safety skills will go a long way in addressing the menace.

Moreover, there was need to articulate and introduce policies on how to prevent the abuses, promote parental care education, enlightenment on online activities for the children and women need to be properly educated. There is need for guidelines on installation of appropriate technology and software to prevent children falling into the traps of their abusers. And creating trauma management techniques and advocacy for protecting young people online will go a long way in finding the solution to the problem.

In her contribution, the Guest Speaker, Ms. Jan Moolman started her contribution by saying that the journey for the improvement of women's rights especially on the internet is a difficult one, looking at how the internet impact the lives of women from the ICT to digital technology, from the focus of ICT for D from the 1990s to 2000s and even in the contemporary discussion regarding privacy, disinformation, misinformation,

censorship and hate speech, the role of women in influencing, shaping and benefiting from digital technology is getting much more grounded, and this recognition is largely due to the consistent work of organizations and people in the global south that consistently call for inclusion, diversity and bringing gender approaches to all the work that concerned human rights, both online and offline. Information around gender-based violence has been at the core of this work and has duly serve in bringing different actors into the same room to find solution, the speaker added. She went further to say that it took many years of lobbying and advocacy and work within women movement, including building knowledge, research, campaigning, sharing experience and finally getting a common language to get recognition on violation women experience when they are online. And this work and persistency led to the 2018 adaptation of the UN Human Rights Council first ever UN resolution on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital context and other different resolutions including the recent one in Africa has brought more relief to women and girls in the continent.

Speaking on the issues APC and its partners pay more attention to when it comes to women rights and digital technology, Ms. Moolman mentioned the followings:

1. Joy, hope and Justice: according to the Guest speaker, for people who experienced violence online, there is hope they can find joy with regards to connection, information, solidarity, friendship, fun and even in some cases love. And for this, APC and its partners think it is important to encourage people to continue the work they are doing and to keep women safe and in a productive way on the digital space.
2. Access: Even though women face many forms of violence online but there is need to ensure they have access to online platforms as easily and affordable as possible to carry out their normal activities. Emphasizing on how women are being marginalized when it comes to accessing the internet, the speaker said, the 2019 ITBU report stated that globally only 48% of women are online and in the global south this is even lower at 28%. This according to her shows that there is wide gap between the connected and unconnected in the society. And unless we can address the issue of accessibility, many women and marginalized communities will remain in darkness and their voices silent.
3. Third is about companies that own social media platforms that are regulating contents that lacks clarity and consistency and which upon violate the rights of people without accountability or remedy. These companies are determining online discourses with focus on profits at the expense of users' privacy and rights.
4. The fourth is about how feminists organizing online and offline are expanding and taking new forms. These groups are upon targeting for gender-based violence online and it sometimes manifest to offline spaces.

2.2.2 First Technical Session: Dealing with Gender Violence Online

Chair: Professor Amina Kaidal

Panelists: Martha Alade, Zainab Aminu, Msen Nabo

The first technical session was on Dealing with Gender Violence Online. The session which was chaired by Professor Amina Kaidal of the University of Maiduguri had Mrs. Martha Alade, Founder of Women InTechnology, Zainab Aminu, Gender Technical Officer, Centre for Information Technology and Development and Msen Nabo, Digital Media Associate at Connected Development.

In her presentation, Zainab Aminu started by defining the Gender-Based violence which according to her refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender and rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. Mss. Aminu said Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening health and protection issue, which is estimated that one in three women experiences sexual or physical violence in their lifetime.

Zainab further stated that gender violence is not a new phenomenon; it has been existing since time immemorial which can include sexual, physical, mental, and economic harm inflicted in public or in private and threats of violence, coercion, and manipulation. Mss. Aminu also said gender violence can take many forms such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called ‘honour crimes’ while its consequences are devastating and can have life-long repercussions for survivors.

Speaking about the impact of cyber violence, the speaker said it differs according to the victim’s gender. She gave an example with a study conducted by the Pew Research Centre which revealed that 38% of harassed women found their most recent experience with online harassment extremely or very upsetting, compared to only 17% of harassed men. The research further said that compared to male users, who tend to be more concerned about damage to their reputation, females are more likely to fear physical harm. This corresponds to the nature of online abuse these groups experience. Where men and boys are more likely to be victims of defamation and libel, women are more likely to be subjected to derogatory remarks or sexual images and threats, such as non-consensual pornography. She gave another example with another study which found that female college students (age 18-24) who were victims of offline stalking were three times more likely to be stalked online than their male counterparts. The study also found that “while particular variables influence victimization risk among females, virtually none of the variables in the analyses produced statistically significant relationships with victimisation among males”.

Moreover, Zainab said key distinction between offline and online gender-based cyber violence is that it is significantly more difficult “to permanently remove abusive or triggering content from the Internet, which obliges the survivor to re-experience their victimisation all over again.” This can exacerbate the psychological impacts of these

forms of violence, such as flashbacks of the incident and/or perpetrator, as well as increase the victim's isolation period.

Discussing on the long-term negative impact of gender violence online, Zainab said the greatest impact that women experience is self-censorship. Women start censoring themselves online. And that is what the abusers want. Another impact she said is that online violence attempts to keep women from major sectors of the public sphere because public only take physical violence seriously. The third impact is that some women leave the online platform [after being harassed]. The fourth impact which is being associated with online violence is public health issue and the effects which results in physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm, and erodes self-esteem.

Offering some solutions on how one can protect selves online, Zainab Aminu mentioned the followings:

- Creating a strong password
- Having different passwords for different accounts
- Downloading apps from authentication platforms and using two factor verification
- Logging out of accounts when not in use
- Not using public WIFI for sharing sensitive information

At the end the speaker said, to stop gender violence online, there is need for public awareness for people to understand its consequences which in many cases metamorphosed to offline environments.

The second speaker, Mrs Martha Alade started by quoting the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women which defines 'violence against women' as an act of gender-related violence (GBV) that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life [or online].

Discussing on the different types of Gender Violence Online, Mrs Alade said it includes Doxing (leaking unauthorized info to public), Sexist abuse, hate speech, Threat to free expression, Threat to privacy, Impersonation, Defamation, Gender-based discriminatory memes, Cyberstalking, Online misogyny etc. On the category of people that experience Gender Violence, Mrs Martha said women and girls from marginalised communities are the easy targets and their voices are often unheard. Mrs Alade also said, in most of the times, girls in local communities are being violated but they are not even aware they are being violated. She gave a scenario on a case they worked on which happened to a small girl in a community they are working in, and the girl was abused but due to lack of proper awareness about the issue she was not even aware she was abused until she was examined then it was discovered the girl was violated.

At the end, the speaker said, to stop gender violence the followings need to be

considered

1. Education in local languages
2. Increase Sensitization/Advocacy - *culturally responsive and relevant*
3. Consent and privacy
4. Human Rights Enforcements by Public and Private
5. Employ AI for Filtering offensive contents
6. Content Enhancement
7. Enable more support and help channels for victims
8. Drive programs that amplify voices of the marginalized women and girls
9. Support NGOs working around the subject

The third at this technical session, Miss Msen Nabo, Digital Media Associate at Connected Development said appealing to governments to take the issue of GBV more serious is something its advocates need to take beyond social media and people's attitudes need to be changed. Mss. Nabo also stated that Gender Violence especially online is something that people come across everyday but most of the times the victims ended up being punished by the society. The gender activist said when victims of gender violence try to speak out against the violence mated on them, they usually receive silent feedback, or they are advised to keep mute to protect their image.

Ms. Msen went further to say that a clear example where government is an accomplice to this act is the case of Kano State where the State House of Assembly refused to domesticate the Child Protection Act even though the state is ranked among the states with high rate of gender-based violence and child abuse. According to her, this needs intense advocacies and awareness creation.

Speaking further on how people violate others on social media platforms, Mss. Nabo stated that sharing someone's pictures, address, videos without his/her consent are all forms of violence online and these types of violence can turn to offline. And for this, she suggested that advocacies and awareness creation need to be carried out to stop it.

2.2.3 Second Technical Session: Dealing with Child Abuse Online

Chair: Hajiya Suwaiba Muhammad Dankabo

Panelists: Barrister Aisha Mahdi, Harira Wakili, Aminu Adamu Naganye

The second session was moderated by Hajiya Suwaiba Y. Dankabo of ActionAid Nigeria and the Three (3) distinguished personalities and experts on Gender Based Violence and Child Protection spoke and shared their experience and knowledge with the participants.

A Gender and Internet Right Advocate, Harira Abdulrahman Wakili started her presentation with explaining the ample opportunities internet presents to young generations, Mss. Wakili said that growing up internet offers limitless opportunities

through computers, smartphones, gaming consoles, and televisions, children learn, imagine, and develop their social networks. But she cautioned that these platforms need to be used in the right way, where she stated that when these are used in the right way – and accessible to all – the internet has the potential to broaden horizons and ignite creativity. She also said that with these opportunities come serious risks. Harira added that cyberbullying and other forms of peer-to-peer violence can affect young people each time they log on to social media or instant messaging platforms. Speaking about what children can be exposed to on the net, Miss Wakili mentioned that when browsing the internet, children may be exposed to hate speech and violent content – including messages that incite self-harm and even suicide. According to her, what happens online reflects the realities children face every day – at home, at school and in their wider communities. In conclusion, Ms. Wakili emphasized that every child must be protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse on the internet.

The Second speaker at this session was Barrister Aisha H. Mahdi of Green Edge Attorneys, who emphasized that with the widespread use of the Internet, the advancement in technology and the proliferation of Internet-enabled devices have created borderless and unlimited access to information. Barr. Aisha said progress brings by the internet has given the bad eggs in the society the opportunities to exploit, put the children at risk, and make them vulnerable to abuse. She said that there is an urgent need to balance the immense benefits of technology, commercial interest and ensuring online safety of children with appropriate safeguards and strong legal and institutional framework. Speaking on the safety on children online, the speaker said there is a growing concern about the safety and privacy of children online which is amongst the problems identified by relevant stakeholders in Nigeria.

Discussing about the internet penetration in the country, Barrister Mahdi said as internet penetration increases, more children are connected to the grid, and this gives the children better understanding of technology than the average adult. The speaker also mentioned that new phones, smart toys, computers, and privileges for using a device give birth to new responsibilities. Speaking about the exposure of the children to social media, Aisha stated that the increased use of social media and online services allows children to share and consume tremendous volume of personal information online. And at the same time the children use the Internet to learn, share and participate in civic life.

The legal practitioner added that in Nigeria, Section 37 of the 1999 Constitution and Section 8 of the Child Rights Act provide for children's right to privacy. And Section 23 of the Cybercrimes Act 2015 punishes child pornography. The Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Prevention) Act also criminalizes cyberbullying and cyber stalking that could affect children. According to her, though the Act punishes consumption of such contents and provides for other offenses, there is no other specific legal guidelines or direction to protect the online safety and privacy of the Nigerian child. Giving recommendations on how to safeguard children online, Barrister Aisha Mahdi said:

- i. Nigeria needs an online privacy protection law for children which will seek to protect the personal information of children on websites, online services and applications and it should be binding on online service providers

- collecting the personal data of children to ensure consent management.
- ii. Service providers should require the consent of the parents or guardians if the data collection affects a child below the established age.
 - iii. There is need to digitalize the Nigerian courts and repeal some laws to ensure efficient and quick judgments related to children abuses

Sharing his experience at the forum, a Kano based journalist, Aminu Adamu Naganye of The Star Newspaper said Internet Service Providers and Electronic Service Providers need to ensure their platforms are secure and do not put children at risk. He added that Service providers should implement privacy and security by design and default. Service Providers must do more in creating and ensuring age-appropriate contents by managing content and dealing effectively with abuse, misuse of their platforms and illegal contact with children.

Aminu Naganye said the legal framework alone cannot guarantee complete protection for the Nigerian child. Excessive regulation will stifle children's participation and access to the immense benefits of the internet. Speaking further, Mr. Naganye said there is need for increased digital literacy for both children and their parents/guardians. According to him, providing this will ensure children implement best privacy preferences, understand the implication of oversharing, and have good online behavior. Another recommendation the journalist gave was that parents/guardians should ensure they always install safety tools on their wards' devices which will protect children from inappropriate behavior and laying their hands on inappropriate online contents. It will also prevent disclosure of personal information and assist parents and guardians manage time spent on the devices.

2.2.4 Closing session

Following the presentations, participants asked questions and made comments as well offered specific recommendations that would help in making the internet safer for both women and children. This segment also allowed the presenters to clarify on some of the issues they raised and positions advanced as well as father interrogated some of the proposed solutions to the challenges that women and children face online. Participants agreed that there was need to carry both the discussion and the proposed solutions offline to reach more people and especially engage government and other stakeholders to respond to these challenges so that both women and children would use the internet safely and productive to ensure that it serves their needs.

3.0 MAIN EVENT – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2022

3.1 Opening Ceremony

3.1.1 Welcome Remarks

The Chairperson of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group (NIGF-MAG) and President, Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA) **Mr. Muhammed Rudman** gave the welcome remarks. He started by recognizing the presence of all distinguished guests at the venue which include the Honorable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the Executive Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the Chief Operating Officer of the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA), the President of the Internet Society, Nigeria (ISOC-NG), leaders from the Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia, Youth Organisations and all guests.

He stated that the 11th edition of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) is a celebration of NIGF's dedication to promote the Internet as a tool of development for all Nigerians and its activities to make the Internet better with its bottom-up approach of pertinent Internet issues currently being faced in the country. He continued to praise all stakeholders for seizing the opportunity to make contributions and actively participate in the development and governance of the Internet in Nigeria.

He further stated that the NIGF 2022 high level panel session will discuss the theme **“Achieving Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria”** and sub-themes in the areas of “Data Sharing & Digital Sovereignty in Nigeria”, “Building Trust in Nigerian Digital services”, “Internet as an Enabler of Inclusive Development” and “Nigeria’s Position in the Future of the Internet”.

Mr. Rudman highlighted the successes of the NIGF-MAG in the past year such as the provision of well-sourced, well-curated and inclusive recommendations that may help decision-makers in the Nigeria Internet Ecosystem make better decisions for the advancement of the internet for all Nigerians. He also emphasized successes in creating a more inclusive Internet Governance opportunity for the Nigeria Internet Ecosystems as the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the NIGF has been enlarged from 20 members to 34 members while adding a new stakeholder group- Academia to the MAG.

He reiterated the fact that the Internet is indisputably one of the most vital resources in

the 21st century, and has grown over the years to become an indispensable service in our diurnal activities especially after the covid-19 pandemic: Internet Governance incorporates more than just administration and distribution of Internet resources, it involves the fundamental causes of social, cultural and economic participation in a digital society and so it has become imperative for critical stakeholders, to appraise the progress made so far as an industry and chart the course for the future of the Digital Transformation which is already happening in the country.

He stated that the NIGF 2022 will take advantage of the multi-stakeholder nature of the Forum to harness and aggregate productive ideas towards facilitating a more effective approach to fostering Digital Transformation and Trust for the benefit of Nigeria.

The outcome is expected to build consensus among stakeholders on actionable recommendations for both state and non-state actors in the Internet ecosystem. This forum will also advance the nation's position at the regional and global Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

The outcome of the forum will be published on the NIGF website and will be shared with academia, civil society and all stakeholders for consideration and possible adoption and implementation as applicable. He reminded everyone that the NIGF platform encourages various opinions and views on best practices that will change and influence Nigeria's Internet policy and decisions.

Finally, he welcomed all participants to the Forum and encouraged them to participate in the discussions and deliberations.

3.1.2 Goodwill messages

- (i) Mrs. Mary Uduma, West Africa IGF Coordinator commended the country for consistently ensuring that Nigeria organizes her annual NIGF since 2012, stating the country is a good example for national IGF process to other West African countries.

She also expressed her excitement about the theme for 2022, highlighting that “Achieving Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria”, is very timely at this period in Nigeria's digital transformation journey. She emphasized that this also pertinent a pertinent discussion in West Africa and Africa as a whole continent, due to efforts being made by governments across the continent to improve their current IT states. Also, she stated that the sub- themes touch all keys areas that are important in the Digital Transformation Journey of any country with trust at the center.

She stated that the Africa IGF looks forward to receiving reports from the deliberation

of the day's event, including the actionable recommendations to Nigerian Internet stakeholders, and stated that African IGF will echo the recommendations at the forthcoming Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

She finally took the opportunity to invite participants to the forthcoming Global IGF scheduled to hold in November 2022 and thanked the NIGF for its efforts in organizing the event.

- (ii) Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta - Executive Vice-Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (N.C.C) ably represented by Engr. Augustine Nwaulune PhD, FNSE- (Director, Digital Economy, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in his remarks, he stated that the theme of the 11th edition of the NIGF is not only timely but also well-encompassing of Nigeria's Digital Transformation journey.

He stated that the Commission supports effective implementation of government policies, and in stimulating regulatory initiatives is focused on advancing Nigeria's Digital transformation. The launch of the Nigerian National Broadband Plan 2020-2025 attests to the fact that Nigeria is poised to join other nations and become a global leader in transforming its economy into a digital one. The Commission's successful auction and licensing of the 3.5GHz spectrum licenses in the last quarter of 2021 for the deployment of 5G technology is set to create many opportunities for the development of the industry and as a regulator, we are conversant with the fact that a dynamic regulatory environment is needed to sustain this industry growth. Therefore, it has become imperative for us, as critical stakeholders, to appraise the progress made so far as an industry and chart the course for the future of the telecoms industry in the country.

Finally, he stated that The NIGF has the power to encourage opinions, suggest best practices, and shape discussions that can influence Nigeria's Internet policies and decisions of those that have the power to drive the required policies.

- (iii) Mr. Bernard Ewah delivered the goodwill message on behalf of Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) who was unavoidably absent. He said that DG is particularly excited with the progress being made by the NIGF-MAG as evident by the visible contributions being made to the role of the internet as a driver to National Development. He highlighted that the theme of this year's forum is very objective as it gives stakeholders the opportunity to address Digital Transformation in a way that recognizes the broad role that different stakeholders play in the internet development of the country. He echoed the efforts of honorable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy and the parastatals under the ministry, referring to the significance to the National Economic Policy and Strategy and NITDA's own road map which recognizes the

internet as a tool of sustainable digital economy. He commended all stakeholders and encouraged them to continue working together to promote the internet and development and sustenance of the digital economy in Nigeria.

He also noted that NITDA looks forward to the discussions and the outcome report of the forum this year and will look at specific actions which can be taken to advance the Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria.

Lastly, he congratulated the organisers and everyone that contributed to the success of the forum, stating all stakeholders must work together to achieve sustainable digital economy in Nigeria.

- (iv) Dr. William Alo - Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMCDE). Dr. Alo reiterated the importance of all stakeholders in the Nigerian Digital Economy. He cited his pleasure to be a part of the NIGF2022 and commended the concept of the multistakeholder platform of the NIGF that facilitates the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to the internet and hailed it a positive development that attained through the cooperation of partners. He continued to state that the theme rightly captures the challenges of Digitalisation is concerned as Nigeria is yet to make the most of the digital revolution that is currently happening the benefits of digital transformation such as inclusive and sustainable growth, improved governance and responsible service delivery still eludes Nigeria.

He expounded on the nation's E-Government masterplan which introduced a planned implementation of twenty-five initiatives in the nation's public sector. This will strengthen the capacity of Government to develop, adopt and deploy technology to make Government more efficient, transparent and improve Nigeria's global standard in doing business.

He correspondingly highlighted that Government amongst other stakeholders is working with the legislative and executive arms of government to facilitate the passing of an E-Government bill into law as soon as possible and establishment of a legal and organizational framework and policies to drive the implementation of E-Government projects in the country. He also referred to the multistakeholder approach the Government is utilizing for its processes.

Finally, he said that the efforts at digital transformation must focus on a platform that is honest, ethical, transparent, resilient, secure, and trustworthy. He also noted that he looks forward to fruitful discussions and emphasized that the Government will not hesitate to implement some of the recommendations from the meeting outcome.

3.1.3 Keynote address

PROF. ISA ALI IBRAHIM (PANTAMI) FNCS, FBICS, FCIIS – Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy (FMCDE) ably represented by **Engr. Aliyu Abubakar Aziz, Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, National Identity Management Commission.**

The keynote address highlighted the theme ‘Advancing Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria’. He addressed the need to encourage the integration and inclusion of Nigerian youth in the advancement of digital transformation, and to maximize digital transformation and trust as well as address risks and challenges that arise. He also addressed the need to learn about the principles of digital transformation and trust and contribute to developing infrastructure, policy, and standards in Nigeria.

The Honourable Minister started by thanking the organizers of the NIGF2022 event for inviting him and key agencies under the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy to participate at this multi-stakeholder forum.

He proceeded to give his keynote address:

The digital transformation journey of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy has been both a daunting task and an interesting experience. The mandate of the then Ministry of Communications was expanded to include Digital Economy and work started to provide structure and framework to accelerate implementation and achievements in digital economy and e-government in Nigeria. Our efforts and hard work paid off with the Presidential launch of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy on 28th November 2019.

The focus has been to use digital technologies to transform our economy and sectors, so that Government can be more efficient and transparent thereby improving Nigeria’s global stand in the ease of doing business index. Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) has been known around the world as the most significant driver of innovation, growth, and competitiveness. Nigeria is no exception to this as the National Bureau of Statistics reported that Nigeria’s ICT sector was the fastest growing sector in both the 4th quarter of 2020 and entire year of 2020. The Sector’s growth rate was instrumental in supporting our country to exit the recession triggered by the COVID-19, far earlier than predicted by the experts. One can see that the unprecedented contribution by the ICT sector to our GDP in the second quarter of 2022, which was 18.44%, is a good example of the important impact of digital economy on the overall economy. Without a doubt, ICT will continue to play a key role in assisting developed and developing countries in moving toward sustainable growth of their economy.

In the same vein and in the last two years, the sector has provided ICT intervention to at least 1,667 institutions at the Federal and Sub-National levels. Two virtual institutions established by the Government have trained about 500,000 Nigerians on digital and emerging technologies while the recent auctioning of spectrums by the Ministry generated over 400 percent revenue to the Federal Government. Furthermore, the Ministry partnered with the Korea International Cooperation Agency to develop a National e-government Master plan which was approved by the Federal Executive Council in 2019 with achievements ranging from training of over 1,400 Nigeria Public Servants in both Nigeria and Korea on e-governance; the launch and hand over of e-government training center to the Federal Government in 2019; as well as the signing off of the Phase 2 of the e-government project – Project for Building Foundations Towards Digital Governance in Nigeria (2020-2026). All these achievements were because of the diligence, hard work and commitment of the Ministry and its agencies to successfully implement NDEPS and transform our economy.

Nigeria's progress in e-governance has elicited recognition from international community and stakeholders with the appointment of the Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy as the Chairman of the 2022 Forum of the highly regarded World Summit of the Information Society. Likewise, in our quest to actualize a digital Nigeria, a Presidential Council to coordinate the development of an indigenous economy was established and inaugurated by the President and Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR; at the state house in August 2022. The Council has been tasked to strengthen the capacity of Government to develop, adopt and deploy digital technologies to enhance digital transformation of all our sectors. We need a digital government, a digital society, and a digital economy for the digital transformation of our nation Nigeria. It must be a nation-wide, coordinated, deliberate and intentional approach to re-organize administration and governance as well as government-to-citizen engagements; government-to-business interactions; to improve the lives of our people and support stronger communities.

To raise awareness and as part of stakeholder engagement; the Ministry championed and obtained approval for the commemoration of Digital Nigeria day every 24th October. This is an awareness creation program in the digital economy sector for continuous and rapid transformation of every sector through digital innovation and emerging technologies.

Technology affects the way we communicate, learn, and think. The role technology plays in society today has positive and negative effects on daily lives and the world at large. The internet and cell phones are typical examples of technological advancements with significant impact on society. The internet as we all know gives us access to

information to anything online on a 24/7 rate. It brought many new methods of electronic communication such as emails, social networking, video conferencing, facetime, etc. While these are useful tools, study have also shown that these mobile technologies can decrease communication and relations between people coupled with loss of privacy because anyone can find you anywhere anytime of the day. It is a known fact that the nexus between the adoption and advancement of digital innovation is Trust. Digital trust is the confidence users have in the ability of people, technology, and processes to create a secure digital world.

Gaining trust in products, services, enterprise's core purpose and principles is key to the success of that enterprise. With the advent of digital technologies and digital transformation efforts to embed technology in every facet of our lives, trust has become a front burning issue. Stakeholders have become used to expecting increased transparency and control in accessibility of personal information held about them. With this knowledge comes the issue of privacy and data protection. To build trust, organizations and enterprises must leverage the very technologies that enable digital transformation to build digital trust on these four pillars – Transparency and accessibility, ethics and responsibility, privacy and control, security, and reliability. What is needed is a combination of right technologies and a cohesive effort across leadership and governance, strategy, principles, policies, processes, and culture. Trust must be weaved into the very fabric of the organization. By integrating these four pillars, organizations can build long term digital trust and strengthen relationships with their stakeholders and customers.

The Nigeria Digital Economy Strategy has identified key areas of focus to drive and enable adoption of digital technologies to foster the safe, vibrant, and consistent growth of our digital economy. It may interest you to know that all agencies under the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy have a role to play in achieving targets set out in the NDEPS blueprint. Government has committed to take the lead in driving the public service delivery through systematic application of technology (a mix of technology and better business processes) to drive efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of service. Similarly, the Federal Government is committed to leveraging ICT to directly target the full range of development objectives; extend the reach of the social, economic, and political reforms the nation is pursuing now; and support all government efforts and strategies towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is important to discuss about the Internet that works for all, as those in the urban cities have access and can afford it, but those in the rural areas do not have such access, while some have access but cannot afford it. He stated that the forum is a strategic platform where both private and public sectors work together by playing key roles to ensure that access to reliable Internet is achieved for all, especially as it relates to digital economy.

Finally, the Honourable Minister informed the audience that the NDEPS document is available for download and appealed to all participants to endeavor to study the strategy for us to seek areas of collaboration to transform Nigeria.

On this note the Minister closed by thanking all participants for being on attendance, stating that his office was looking forward to implementable recommendations from the forum. He commended the efforts of the organisers and prayed that the Almighty reward them immensely. May the Almighty bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

3.1.4 Vote of thanks

Mr. Caleb Ogundele – President, Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter ably represented by Engr. Kunle Olorundare, Vice-President, Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter gave the vote of thanks to round off the Opening Ceremony of the NIGF 2022. He commended all participants for their presence and contributions to the Nigerian Internet Space. He rounded off by thanking all the speakers and various internet stakeholders for their constant support to the NIGF over the years.

3.2 High-level Panel session

Moderated by: Mr. Ben Ewah (Ag. Director- eGovernment Development and Regulation, National Information Technology Development Agency).

Lead Paper: Mr. Biyi Oladipo (Vice-Chairperson- ICANN ccNSO)

Speakers:

- Engr. Augustine Nwaulune PhD, FNSE- (Director, Digital Economy, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC))
- Mr. Segun Akano - (Chief Executive Officer, Upperlink Limited) - to be Represented by Mr. Adesola Akinsanya (Chief Operating Officer, Upperlink Limited).
- Mrs. Amina Salihu - (Senior Program Manager, MacArthur Foundation)
- Chief Toyin Oloniteru - (Co-founder & CEO of Spindlar Cyberlaw Centre, Lagos)
- Mr. Gbenga Sesan - (Founder and Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative)

Summary of the session

The moderator welcomed all panelists to the session and thanked them for being available amidst other responsibilities.

Mr. Ben Ewah, the Moderator, began by highlighting that the purpose of the high-level session is to dig deeper and build upon the discussions from the various breakout

sessions. The primary focus of the discussion is digital transformation, the innovations that enable it and how they impact us as individuals, organizations, and society. Key indicators of the impact of digital transformation such as changes in performance, productivity, level of capacity, etc. are evident. Along with contribution of ICT to economy and the prospective opportunities which are developing daily. This session is going to be looking at what it takes to ensure increased people are actively involved in the process of digital transformation and ensure there is not a disequilibrium, and some people are not left out or taken advantage of in the process.

Mr. Biyi Oladipo, the lead paper, noted that this primary function on was to present the issues for further deliberation and discussion between the panelists. The primary issue on this panel being the role of civil society in navigating the digital shift be it through policy change, development of trust, etc. and staying ahead of the curve (i.e. ensuring that certain groups and demographics are not excluded from the discussion on digital transformation. He proceeded to deliver a high-quality lead paper on the Overarching theme: “Advancing Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria.”

Mrs. Amina Salihu emphasised the duty of civil society to serve as a catalyst for digital transformation. She highlighted the issues of access and how the romanticizing of technology could have dangerous and adverse effects. In our quest for digital inclusion, she urges us to remember that there are harmful, fraudulent, and dangerous uses (cyber bullying, trolling, spreading misinformation, etc.) of digital innovations. She further urged us to consider if the digital inclusion we are championing is truly inclusive (i.e., are we considering the disabled? Or the less literate?). The rights of the maligned must be factored into any emerging technology or digital advancement. She stated that digital transformation should be thought of as an “ART” and the duty of all society first thing to.

- I. Accessibility: There is a difference between hearing and listening and how the people at the bottom of the pyramid have access to technology and how we are stepping down to these people for them to be able to access it, do we leave people with technology.
- II. Relevance: she stated here that it must be relevant to the society and reality. How we are looking at the phase of telemedicine and how it can impact us. Here she spoke on Trolling and Cyber bullying; she stated that our children need to be kept safe from misinformation, she spoke about gender-based violence on the internet. She asked about how we are paying attention to the rights of these people.
- III. Trust: She asked if we could trust our service providers? Call drops are being

charged, mobile data misses, she stated. One thing to address is technology as it transforms society. She stated that technology also helps identify climate change and prevention of post-harvest waste. She talked about how the Government could pay attention to consumer needs and accessibility features. She added that digital technology should be easy to use and understand by the lay man, she talked about language barrier. She stated that Government needs to pay less attention to a need to regulation and give more attention to Digital Literacy.

She further emphasized the importance of digital transformation to the economy. She cited the 18% contribution of data to the overall GDP. “Data is the new oil.”. Considering this, she urged the government to focus more on regularisation than regulation. The government should implement policies that reflect the excitement and innovation of the public with regards to digital transformation.

Chief Toyin Oloniteru suggested that problems should be addressed from the demand and supply perspective (with the government being the supply side and everyone outside of the government being the demand side). He noted that it is generally accepted as normal for us to ask for things from the government, but we never question the role of citizens in contributing to the income and revenue generating functions of the government to afford to provide the critical infrastructure required to facilitate digital transformation. He is of the opinion that without this balance we cannot achieve the transformation. There needs to be a deliberate effort on the part of all stakeholders to collaborate and contribute to the digital development. He questions whether the industry is doing enough to empower academia’s participation in the digital transformation. He also advised the education curriculums at all levels (Nursery – Tertiary) of both the Formal and Informal sector be updated in line with current global standards.

Mr. Gbenga Sesan spoke on data privacy and security; he said most of all issues surrounding digital transformation came out of data breaches. He talked about who accesses our data, how they are accessed. He talked our rights as citizens. He also stated that the government is engaging the populace on digital literacy and corresponding data from this engagement needed to be monitored for change to happen.

Mr. Adesola Akinsanya primarily focused on data sharing and data privacy, he stated the value and importance of data calls for the protection of data. The value of data is in its accessibility and availability, and there is a need for proper data protection law in the country, he stated, he also talked about the creation of terms and conditions to guide data sharing and data privacy, and trust in the Telcos with regards to the sale of data. He emphasised the need for certification/re-certification badges.

Engr. Augustine Nwaulune said in his speech that NCC is harnessing the technology

that is available. He also stated that collaboration is necessary for the fulfilment of the plan in digital transformation. We have many industries involved in this, the users determine what they want to consume and how to consume before the Government acts on that information. He stated that innovators and entrepreneurs drive development, we need this set of people to tell us that for which we need to prepare. He spoke on partnership and emphasised the need for collaboration, even citing examples of NCC partners in different sectors.

- i) They partner with the Central Bank of Nigeria in financial inclusion
- ii) Partnered with the NUC to develop skillset in our consumers

Mr. Bernard Ewah rounded up by emphasizing on collaboration and emphasised on the need for the government to guide the pace of the collaborations. Primarily, he emphasised the need for collaboration between the Government, Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society, Youth Groups, and all other stakeholder in the Nigerian Internet Ecosystem. He encouraged the discussion to continue after the panel and urged the NIGF to continue with its mandate of multistakeholderism in the Internet Space.

Key Points Raised

- Key indicators of the impact of digital transformation such as changes in performance, productivity, level of capacity, etc. are evident.
- There is still sparse number of persons involved in the Nigerian Digital Transformation Journey.
- There is a disequilibrium, and some people are being left out of Digital Transformation in Nigeria.
- The role of civil society in navigating the digital shift be it through policy change, development of trust, etc.
- Certain groups and demographics in Nigeria are currently not actively involved in the discussion on digital transformation
- The duty of civil society to serve as a catalyst for digital transformation.
- The questions of accessibility and how the romanticizing of technology could have dangerous and adverse effects on internet users.
- There are injurious, deceitful, and unsafe uses (cyber bullying, trolling, spreading misinformation, etc.) of digital innovations.
- Is the current digital inclusion being campaigned truly inclusive (i.e., are we considering the disabled? Or the less literate?).
- Rights of Nigerian Netizens and Trust in Nigerian Digital Services.
- Language barrier that exists in Nigeria.
- The role of citizens in contributing to the income and revenue generating functions of the government.
- Is the industry doing enough to empower academia's participation in the digital transformation?
- Education Curriculums at all levels and Grassroot development.

- Digital Literacy of majority of the Nigerian populace.
- Data privacy and security, Data Literacy and Data Localisation.
- Lack of adequate cybersecurity frameworks and personnel in the country.
- Child-online Safety and Gender Based Violence.
- Data Sharing is an important concept to be explored as it holds potentials to boost the Nigerian Digital Economy and Data Privacy
- The value and importance of data calls for the protection of data
- Trust in the Telcos with regards to the sale of data.
- The need for certification/re-certification badges for cybersecurity Professionals.
- The need for competent regulation and periodic evaluation of existing frameworks to confirm their effectiveness to ensure Digital Transformation processes remain inclusive.
- Capacity building required so that trust in Nigerian Digital services can be maintained competently.
- There are very few Security Operation Centers in Nigeria.
- All stakeholders must pursue digital cooperation.
- In encouraging trust, there is a need to ensure local languages are available (internalization of domain name, universal acceptance, and data localization)
- Trustworthiness of Internet in Nigeria will encourage more opportunities for all
- Internet inclusiveness, privacy of data, security, updated legislation and adoption of new and emerging technologies are key for advancing Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria.

Recommendations

- The Government must leverage on the evident key indicators of the impact of digital transformation such as changes in performance, productivity, level of capacity, etc. and utilize them to build the Internet for all Nigerians.
- Language barrier in Nigeria needs to be considered by policy makers.
- All stakeholders need to ensure that certain groups and demographics are not omitted from the discussion on digital transformation
- Civil society needs to take a more leading role in the digital shift by contributing to Policy Making decisions, surveys, development of trust, etc..
- Civil society needs to be empowered to serve as a catalyst for digital transformation.
- The rights of the marginalized must be factored into any emerging technology or digital advancement.
- Child Online Safety should be well-thought-out as a cornerstone for Digital Advancement.
- Government should pay attention to consumer needs and accessibility features.
- Digital technology should be easy to use and understand by the lay man.
- Government needs to pay less attention to a need to regularize and give more attention to Digital Literacy.
- The government to focus more on regularisation of high-quality digital literacy through

curriculums and adult education than regulation of the internet.

- The government should implement policies that reflect the excitement and innovation of the public with regards to digital transformation.
- There needs to be a deliberate effort on the part of all stakeholders to collaborate and contribute to the digital development.
- The industry needs to do more to empower academia's participation in the digital transformation. The education curriculums at all levels (Nursery – Tertiary) of both the Formal and Informal sector need to be updated in line with current global standards.
- More investments need to be made around Cybersecurity, Data Privacy, and protection of Data Assets.
- All stakeholders should actively pursue Data Localisation to ensure complete trust in Nigerian Digital Services.
- There is a need for proper data protection law in the country. Also, there must be creation of terms and conditions to guide data sharing and data privacy.
- All stakeholders should seek to provide scholarships or support for professionals to obtain certification/re-certification badges.
- Collaboration is necessary for the fulfilment of the plan in digital transformation.
- There are very few Security Operation Centers in Nigeria, there is the opportunity of creating more and providing jobs to professionals and services to the Nigerian Digital Services and Africa as a whole.
- Government needs to guide the pace of the collaborations between all stakeholders in the Nigerian Internet Ecosystem.
- Multistakeholder engagements with all stakeholders at the state level should be wholly considered.

3.3 Breakout sessions

3.3.1 Session 1: Data Sharing and Digital Sovereignty in Nigeria

Moderated by: Benjamin Akinmoyeje (Datasphere Initiative and NCUC)

Speakers:

- Dr. Vincent Olatunji. (National Commissioner: represented by Babatunde Bamigboye Esq. Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB))
- Dr. Olubayo Adekanmbi - Data Scientist Network
- Barr. Samuel I. Ngwu, CIPP/E. (Legal Practitioner, Associate, Alliance Law Firm)
- Dr. Olajide Adebola. (CTO, Home-Plus Medicare Services Ltd. (Health Informatics))

Rapporteurs:

- Mr. Osigah Ogedegbe
- Ms. Abimbola Aderigbigbe

Summary of the session

Data is information, whatever you take in from anyone as information is regarded as data and the world has evolved to the point that data is being produced every second. It can be shared, and it can be localized and there is also a need for data to be private and protected and have value.

If shared, is it within the legal parameters? If it is localized, is it private and is its integrity protected? The session was centered around these concepts and discussed in depth.

Dr. Olubayo Adekanmbi stated that Data has value and must be secure. He emphasized on the 4 Cs that must be adhered to in handling data- Not to be Corrupted, Commercialised, Compromised or Criminalised. He proceeded to explain that the value of data goes on with the volume of data that, and when it is mined like oil, we get value from it. this is what is referred to as triangulation of data which brings data together. Big data has value and must be protected. Data linkage brings about data pollution and thus must be safeguarded. We can build a digital economy without data and the value it adds to the system

Barr. Samuel I. Ngwu, stated that the Lack of proper enforcement, workforce, proper data protection law and Lack of finance which is cause by lack of recognition and training of staff has impaired on data protection in Nigeria. He went on to add that Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) does not limit the maximization of data protection, however, it encourages transparency while collating data. He stated that for data to have value it must also be shared, localization of data does not really bring out the duty of data. Furthermore, he reiterated that the lack of independence in enforcing the NDPR is a challenge: inadequate manpower and resources to implement the provisions of this data protection regulation and the bottleneck of too many conflicting provisions in the NDPR.

Barr. Babatunde Bamigboye Esq. stated that there has been an improvement in data protection in recent years from the UN charter, Acts, Regulations, guidelines and charters and constitution have been a leap in the data protection space, we moved from 0 compliance to 1231 companies presently complying. He touched on the principles of privacy in Data Protection and the efforts of the Government of Nigeria through the Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB)

Dr. Olajide Adebola stated that data subjects should breathe in to help data protection as they are the first custodians, and their contribution would be especially important to the growth of data protection. He stated that there is value in sharing data, but we need to know where and how the data is domiciled. He also built on the link between Data Protection and the health sector citing that harmonization of Different sectors is paramount for the purpose of complete Data Protection.

Mr. Benjamin Akinmoyeje in conclusion stated Data has value when it is shared hence

the principles of Data Privacy must be adhered to ensure proper and legal value is gained from it. Over the years, the provisions of the NDPR have faced some challenges but these challenges have the potential to be solved if different sectors, stakeholder groups and Government strengthen their collaborations to protect data. Finally, he added that Nigeria needs to create her own data protection template that will not reflect European cultures.

Key points raised

- The value of data is dependent on the volume and how it is shared.
- Data has value and therefore must be protected.
- Challenges of Data Protection: Lack of Manpower, professionals & Resources in the Data Protection space to implement the provisions of this data protection regulation.
- What is being done about data privacy vs data sharing
- What is the importance of the value of data
- Some Laws that help with data privacy with arguments that they are nonexistent in the country.
- Lack of Independence in enforcing the NDPR
- Many conflicting provisions in NDPR
- Harmonisation of different sectors is vital for the purpose of complete Data Protection.
- The pros and cons of Data sharing and Data localization

Recommendations

- Stakeholders should come together to put in place the appropriate policies and frameworks for better Data Sharing.
- Data is vast and hard to contain all at once, its value is its most important feature, and it must be protected
- There are data privacy and protection laws in Nigeria, and they are very much active, and more awareness needs to be brought to it.
- There is a significant lack of manpower and funding to necessarily enforce the regulations and authority of the NDPR
- Data protection has improved a lot in Nigeria over recent years from little to no compliances to over 1000 in the last year
- Data subjects or who this data is being collected from usually have little to no idea about what the data entails or where it will be stored, it is bad practice as people should know what is being done with their collected data.
- Shared Data contributes to the volume of data existing currently.
- There is no rule against data sharing but there are laws to make data sharing free of prejudice, lawful and fair
- Data localization can create jobs and wealth but there are also cons to it such as ensuring only the right people get access to it.
- African Nations should employ original templates to help with data protection while also reflecting our values and cultures, instead of borrowing other ideas
- Major investments in Data Security, Data Literacy, Cybersecurity and Data

Management are needed.

- Government and key stakeholders should encourage responsible data sharing for related cost reduction to end users.
- All stakeholders should actively pursue Data Localisation and ensure Data Protection.
- Data Centers should be built in Nigeria to improve our economy and generate jobs opportunities.

3.3.2 - Session 2: Building Trust in Nigerian Digital Services

Moderated by: Mr. Igonor Oshoke Samson – Program Manager, Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF).

Speakers:

- Fatimah Adelodun – Information Security Manager, Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading LTD.
- Mr. Samaila Atsen Bako – Director Communications, Cybersecurity Experts Association of Nigeria (CSEAN).
- Mrs. Elizabeth Yisa –Principal Manager, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).
- Prof. Simon Adesina Sodiya –President, Nigeria Computer Society (NCS).

Rapporteurs:

- Ms. Chetachi Alajunronye
- Barr. Emmanuel Olu-Festus
- Mr. Oluwaseun Ajani

Summary of the session:

The Moderator, Mr. Igonor Oshoke introduced the panelists and appreciated them for making time to join the event. He went on further to give a summary brief on the need for building trust in the digital space, data protection and privacy, as well as policymaking with citizen’s rights in mind to ensure the security of the data. It was identified that trust is one of the most important driving forces in advancing digital economy especially in a state like Nigeria.

Mrs. Fatima Adelodun talked about the issues of trust in the digital space as it’s the fundamental aspect of the online world for the development of the digital space. She also talked on the improvements needed to effectively improvise the current policies and the areas of university curriculum reflecting the emerging technologies, and Cyber security is everybody’s business. She elaborated on the policies provided by the government and some social providers to ensure the Nigerian child is safe online and the need to update these policies regularly to keep up with the fast-changing technologies. She also highlighted the importance of the Government to provide better and effective policies that will be used by the public and private organizations to ensure data privacy and protection.

Mr. Samaila Atsen Bako spoke on trust in the digital space as basically knowing that what you are doing or what you're trying to engage in the digital space is legitimate. Trust is a very important pillar to improving the digital space in Nigeria. He emphasized on the need for more training for not only the security professionals in Nigeria but for all Nigerians. He implored all stakeholder groups to work together to improve Digital Literacy and provide support for already existing initiatives and policies. Furthermore, he added that some policies need to be updated to reflect the new and emerging technologies. He also talked on the importance of raising awareness as the initiative needed to be taken to improve the child online.

Mrs. Elizabeth Yisa explained that having the knowledge of the digital space is the most important element to be used to improve trust in the digital space. She laid special emphasis on the need for parents, teachers, and school administration to undergo security awareness trainings and the efforts of the Government in targeting this group as they are at the forefront of child online safety in Nigeria. Furthermore, she discussed that the government have strategies put in place together with the social media providers, Nigerian security agencies are working together to combat the rise of cyber security in the country.

Prof. Adesina Sodiya explained in his discussion, the major ways of implementing the security policies that are efficient, reliable to improve the tackle the rise of the cyber security in the country in the nation at large. He emphasized on the need for innovators to factor in security from the inception stage of all products as that will allow maximum hardening of systems. He also spoke on the need for more cybersecurity professionals and support for them in the areas of training and job creation. He also talked on the cyber security being an important point that needs to be addressed by the government and the private organizations at large as cybersecurity as a field can create jobs for professionals and thereby improving the Nigerian Digital Economy as a result.

Key Points Raised:

- Trust in the digital space speaks to the core of cybersecurity.
- It is essential that only authorized people can access individual and organizational digital space.
- Confidentiality, integrity, and availability of internet services must be guaranteed.
- Trust entails the intention of internet users is What are they?
- The 2021 National Cyber Security Plan and Strategy outlines the role of every stakeholder in ensuring trust.
- Organizations develop in-house capacities
- A lot of SMEs cannot afford cyber security capacities for their businesses.
- The current cyber security policy and regulatory framework should be updated to accommodate current technological evolutions and reflect our current realities.
- Cyber security is everybody's responsibility.
- Educational and promotional awareness of cybersecurity should be done.

- Physical interaction should increase digital trust.
- Introducing an age stratification method to ensure that online content consumed by Nigerian children is safe.
- Parents should be aware of the dangers of the internet to know how to protect their children.
- Digital literacy is the most important thing to ensure cyber security.

Recommendations:

- The Cybercrime Act should be reviewed.
- Infrastructures that ensure cybersecurity should be built
- The current policy and regulatory framework should be updated to reflect our current realities.
- Schools' cybersecurity curricula should be updated to ensure graduates can build trust in the internet ecosystem.
- Social media platform providers and regulators should ensure privacy and security for users.
- Nigerian social media platforms must accept responsibility for what occurs on their platforms in order to keep Nigerian children safe online.
- The government should create an enabling environment for private organizations that will ensure compliance with data protection.
- The government should prosecute cybercrime offenders.
- Organizations should develop their own policies on what their employees/users can do on their network.
- Schools should conduct cyber security awareness for their staff and students.
- Software and emerging technologies should be secured from the onset.
- Cyber security in Nigerian universities is just maturing and there is a need for more expertise to build capacities.
- Innovation of new security policies by stakeholders and Government.

3.3.3 - Session 3: Internet as an Enabler of Inclusive Development

Moderated by: Mr. Remmy Nweke – Lead Consulting Strategist, DigitalSENSE Africa.

Speakers:

- Chukwuemeka Fred Agbata; MD/CEO - Anambra State ICT Agency
- Mr. Teniola Olusola; National Coordinator (Nigeria)- Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)
- Mr. Tosin Abolaji; Program Manager - Paradigm Initiative

Rapporteur:

- Mr. Loveday Onyeonula

Summary of the Session

In the introduction by Remmy Nweke, the moderator acknowledged that the Internet had transformed the Nigerian digital economy's growth. However, the Internet has the potential to improve governance and economic recovery. Our discussion serves as a recommendation to the government and other stakeholders.

Mr. Teniola Olusola the National Coordinator (Nigeria)- Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) highlighted some projects of A4AI on basic and meaningful connectivity and affordability. Meaningful connectivity gives meaningful access. A4AI working to advance connectivity by 2025.

Chukwuemeka Fred Agbata the MD/CEO - Anambra State ICT Agency stated that as a government agency working on formulating digital strategies for the government towards making digital literacy broadband expansion easy and affordable has been one of the greatest achievements of his agency. Citizens must have access to the internet. If people do not have access to devices, they will not evenly participate. As our goal is to pioneer Wi-Fi provisioning to all citizens in Anambra state.

A pertinent question was asked- how do we advance the digital economy when the capacity building space is heavily affected by the poor power supply in the country? And the panelists explained that indeed, the power supply is a challenge in a time of digital transformation here in Nigeria. But we can leverage more on alternative renewable energy sources to improve the national grid system and expand connectivity because our digital devices need electricity to be powered.

Key Points Raised

1. How do you think that public participation using the internet in electoral engagement processes can be improved.
 - From a citizen's perspective - citizens are stepping up for realities. But the challenges still hover around access to devices and infrastructures
 - It is especially important that the government work with telecom providers to improve infrastructure.
 - Poor power supply in the country
 - The need for Dialogue by the legislatures to remove some forms of taxes and to encourage healthy competition
 - There should be public awareness of what citizens can do
 - Private sectors should continue to collaborate for the advancement of connectivity and reduction in price
2. How can we improve digital literacy?
 - More awareness of what we mean by digital literacy

- Technology should be fully adopted as a curriculum in all our primary education
- Engage the legislature to diffuse the awareness of digital literacy.

Recommendations:

- Continuous dialogue and collaboration on areas like; broadband expansion as a benchmark in bridging the digital gender gap; digital literacy; and infrastructure gaps
- Healthy competition - the adoption of innovative technology that adopts low-cost connection
- The government should space and support community networks in order to drastically reduce costs.
- Smart taxation - any taxes that are applied to telecoms should be smart enough and not to increase costs.
- How do we ensure equity and fairness in the implementation of digital public policies?
- Developing policies should be an engagement process and inclusive of a wide range of stakeholders to enable the government to understand the needs of the citizen
- There is a need to seek input from diverse groups to address their needs in public policy developments and implementations.

3.3.4 - Session 4: Nigeria's Position in the Future of the Internet

Moderated by: Engr. Kunle Olorundare (Vice-President, Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter)

Speakers:

- Mrs. Martha Omoekpen Alade (Founder/Executive Director, Women In Technology, Nigeria)
- Mr. Destiny Amana (President, Nigeria Internet Group)
- Mr. Ebuka Ogbodo (Public Policy Manager, Anglophone West Africa, Meta Platforms, Incorporated)

Rapporteurs:

- Bakre Olamilekan A.
- Gabreal Odunsi
- Abdulrazaq Imam
- Anu Ajayi

Summary of the session

Briefly after speakers' introduction, the session started with a highlight on how technology is taking the forefront of economic development in the different sectors such as health, agriculture, and commerce.

Responding to the moderator on her position on emerging technology is, Mrs. Martha

Alade responded that emerging technology impacts everyone. She also further explains how transformative technology had surfaced and how people's lives depend on it sighting example with the 5G. She also further added how data has become the new oil in improving businesses and policies and how they are run.

Mr. Destiny Amana, responded to his presentation on the relationship of the emerging technology with his experience to which he addressed sighting example by how environment influences technology and improving them in return. He also added that the covid-19 pandemic had raised some trust issues knowing clearly that people will be working from home and that the emergence of effective digital transformation can solve that through adaptation required from us. He added that Emerging technologies impact all groups, whether it is the rural woman or the newborn baby or the students. It impacts everyone one way or the other. And a lot of people are finding it difficult to accept and take it as one of the newest things that has happened to humankind. Therefore, understanding these things and how they can transform our lives is particularly important.

Mr. Ebuka Ogbodo clearly highlighted how conversation surrounding emerging technology have increased foresight and in turn developed people's lives. Technology have undisputedly transformed everything from how people interact online and offline to robust problem solving, hence the reason to improve adoption of digital transformation. He added that it is undisputed that with technology we are able to accelerate our ability to innovate and our ability to actually address problems that could be historical or even emerging. However, there are still connectivity issues, affordability and many other infrastructure roadblocks that must be addressed. He rounded up by saying that for a country that does not want to be left out of digital transformation, there must be a global digital inclusive mindset for a true global progression to take place.

Mrs. Martha Alade added that we must learn to showcase success stories through emerging technology on platforms that are made available, noting not only focusing on entertainment, comedy, educational or career-related contents but also highlighting emerging technology and how they affect Human Resources to key in and maximise the usage of technology.

Mr. Destiny Amana further clarified that for success rate to be accessed, it depends on the sectors of adoption. Technology has in modern times helped how people see the world and how they interact physically sighting example with how people are willing to leave a country to a more digitally transformed one.

It is important to improve Nigeria's internet disaggregated data, over 80% of women and girls reside in rural areas and underserved communities. Therefore, we must ensure that the digital literacy projects, the digital skills projects reach underserved communities. to reach sustainable or good success,

Leveraging the use of emerging technology: There is a need to put success stories in

Emerging Technology on the spotlight and encourage the creation of more contents to fuel these platforms. Nigerians are already harnessing the benefits of emerging technologies in Virtual Cross-border education which is evident in the recent youth exodus. There is a need to be constantly aware of developments in the emerging technology space to maximize the accruing benefits.

Key Points Raised

- Reluctance in accepting emerging technology from some quarters thereby limiting the benefits.
- How COVID-19 Pandemic made the use of teleconferencing and work from home model etc. more pronounced
- Contribution of Emerging Technology to the country's GDP and Productivity.
- Visionary motive behind renaming of the FMCO to FMCODE
- Broadband connectivity challenges, Telecommunication Infrastructure Challenges
- Exclusion of certain demographics from the Digital literacy drives leading to a wide disequilibrium.
- Need to showcase successes recorded in adoption of emerging technology
- Encouraging of content creation that will spur an increased use of the internet
- Need to invest in infrastructure, Digital literacy, upskilling of youths and young adults, visionary policies
- Need to encourage E-Governance starting from the Local Government by adopting blockchain technology, incorporate of privacy and data protection.
- The sustainability of Nigeria's digital transformation will rely very much on effective implementation of policies.
- It is important to improve Nigeria's internet disaggregated data, over 80% of women and girls reside in rural areas and underserved communities. Therefore, to reach sustainable or good success, we must ensure that the digital literacy projects, the digital skills projects reach underserved communities.

Recommendations

- There is a need to invest in infrastructure, digital literacy, upskilling and formulation and effective implementation of forward-looking policies while avoiding those that are counter-productive to these technologies.
- There is a need to continue the path of the boom in technology use because of COVID-19 Outbreak, tackle the hurdles of Internet cost, connectivity challenge and infrastructure sabotage.
- Incorporation of blockchain technology in the procurement system to encourage transparency due to its decentralized features.
- There is a need to embrace emerging technologies due to its transformative impact on human life, ease of performing tasks, and innovation.
- It is important to improve Nigeria's internet disaggregated data.

- There is a need for government. Starting from the local government to embrace the use of emerging technologies in conducting tasks.
- Digital Literacy and Infrastructure security- all stakeholders must ensure that the digital literacy projects, the digital skills projects reach underserved communities.
- Closure of gender equality challenges and vulnerability issues because of lack of digital literacy is also an issue that needs to be considered regardless of cost to government.
- Digital Inclusion for ease of doing tasks
- Encouragement of E-Governance
- Encouragement of content creation- There is a need to put success stories in Emerging Technology on the spotlight and encourage the creation of more contents to fuel these platforms.
- Use of SDGs as Progressive Matrix- the attainment of the SDGs should be used as a yardstick for measuring our parity with other countries.
- More investment should be put into building up people's skills, improving infrastructure, and putting policies into place so that Nigeria does not fall behind when it comes to innovative technologies.
- The government needs to showcase success stories of people who have adopted emerging technologies, especially women, so that more citizens can maximise the usage of emerging technologies.
- To be at the forefront of emerging technologies, we must follow the trends by investing in each of these critical themes: capacity building, digital literacy, critical Internet infrastructure, and, of course, the regulatory and policy environment that enables and supports innovation.

3.4 Wrap Up session

The wrap up session was moderated by Mrs. Chioma Keke, the Head of Business Development, Nigeria Internet Registration Association. She highlighted key points and recommendations from the various sessions.

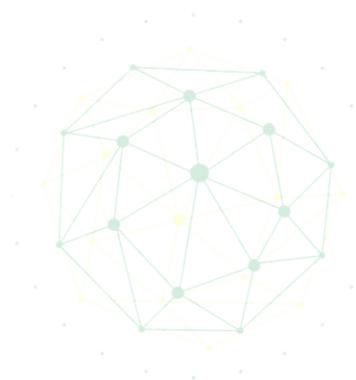
3.5 Closing Remarks

Mr. Toba Obaniyi, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group thanked all the guests, speakers, moderators, rapporteurs, participants as well as organizations that participated and supported the NIGF 2022. He reiterated the Multistakeholder nature of the NIGF bring all stakeholders together to discuss how to improve the internet and advance digital transformation. He

proceeded to invite all participants to the UN-IGF 2022 holding on the 28th of November – 2nd of December 2022 in Addis Ababa. He highlighted that the communique will be developed and shared with all stakeholders, as well as uploaded on the NIGF’s website.

3.6 Zoom Participation Statistics

Session	Participants	
	Physical	Online
Main session	75	277
Session 1	13	38
Session 2	18	32
Session 3	9	29
Session 4	13	28
NYIGF		129
Women		42



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