

KENYA YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (IGF)

REPORT 2023

THEME: The Internet We Want: Empowering all Kenyan Youth!



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KENYA
Youth 
internet
GOVERNANCE FORUM

3rd Edition

Venue: **MERCURE HOTEL UPPER HILL-
NAIROBI**

Date: **21st JUNE
2023**

Attendance: **86 physical attendees
and 30 online attendees**

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Acknowledgements



KENYA YOUTH IGF

Young people are key stakeholders in the IGF ecosystem as they are the majority in Kenya, Africa, and the world over. The Global IGF secretariat has since recognized the importance of meaningful youth participation in the IGF processes and promotes the strengthening of Youth IGF Initiatives. Youth Initiatives of the IGF are created with the goal of encouraging and involving young people in substantive discussions on Internet governance. These forums, as well as the national, sub-regional, and regional IGFs (NRIs), are expected to follow the main IGF principles of being open, inclusive, and non-commercial with multi-stakeholder participation during the whole preparatory phase and the event itself, all in line with a bottom-up decision-making process.

Kenya Youth IGF is a youth-led initiative aimed at developing the capacity for coordinating, mobilizing, and advocating for meaningful inclusion and engagement of young people in the Kenya IGF, in partnership with industry stakeholders to address key Internet issues.

PARTNERS



Message from convenor

OPENING REMARKS



Keith Andere- Kenya Youth IGF Coordinator

Welcome to the 3rd Youth IGF Kenya. This has been an amazing journey with one accomplishment being recognized by the United Nations. The IGF is divided into National and regional initiatives. We have country IGFs i.e. Kenya IGF then we have the East African IGF, the African IGF, and lastly the global IGF which the latter will be held in Kyoto- Japan. All the chapters have great opportunities for the youth such as the calls for sessions at the Africa and East Africa IGF. We also encourage the youth to apply to participate in ICT ecosystems.



Grace Githaiga- CEO / Convenor KICTA Net

There has been a lot of emphasis on youth and Internet governance, and the turnout(100 physical and 50 online) is an indication that the youth are interested and engaged in this space. This demonstrates a huge growth in the Internet governance forum in Kenya, particularly among the youth sector. Nonetheless, because youth is a transient state, individuals should make use of it while they can. This calls for being engaged heavily in these forums and maximizing the resources they acquire. In addition, the vision of the youth to make an impact and to be heard in the ICT ecosystem and participating fully is in line with the theme of Kenya Youth IGF namely THE INTERNET WE WANT- EMPOWERING ALL KENYAN YOUTH!

OUR PARTNERS

KICTANet

- Among the Youth IGF stakeholders is the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet). KICTANet is a multistakeholder think tank for ICT policy and regulation whose guiding philosophy encourages synergies for ICT policy-related activities and initiatives. The network acts as a catalyst for reform in the ICT sector and is guided by four pillars: policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and research. The network provides mechanisms and a framework for continuing cooperation and collaboration in ICT matters among industry, technical community, academia, media, development partners, and government. It is therefore important for the government to be involved in conversations such as Artificial intelligence, and how enabling policies can be formulated. Currently KICTANet is working on the conversation on AI with META and the youth are encouraged to participate in whatever capacity since these policies will be their future. How can the youth be involved?
- Several ways in which the youth can be active in this ecosystem include:
- The Kenya School of internet governance (KeSIG), which ensures that the youth gain the capacity to participate in ICT Forums through intensive training and testing what has been learnt through various assessments.
- The Youth IGF especially being part of the multistakeholder Advisory Groups (MAG

allows the youth a seat at the table where the decisions are being made. This is also a preparation for the global IGF -Kyoto. The Kenya Youth IGF is proud to be among the pioneers of Youth IGF, as the Kenya IGF celebrates its 16th year, and the global IGF in its 17th year. Kenya IGF is therefore keeping pace with international standards and the involvement of the internet and its governance. The youth are the future and continuity of the Kenya IGF.

META

- The youth are serving as ambassadors to the stakeholders of the region. This allows them to hold META accountable for their actions in the internet space. Moreover, Meta has also made the youth a part of their community by giving them opportunities to directly work with them.
- Who is META? And Why the name META? In a recent live stream event, Zuckerberg announced that Facebook has changed its corporate name to "Meta." The metaverse is being heavily promoted as a business tool for remote working (as it will eliminate the need for long commutes or physical offices), as well as a leisure venue. You will even have a unique virtual home that acts as a kind of central hub, known as "Horizon," which you can decorate with both real-world and fictional objects.
- Meta supports the participation of the Youth in the IGF to allow for the youth's contribution to the internet the youth want. Events such as this help the youth voice their opinions and thoughts and through various platforms such as META improve hence the reason for META being an enabler of such opportunities

THE GOVERNMENT

The Senate ICT Chairperson indicated that it was an honor to be invited to this Ideal platform for discussing policy issues regarding ICT governance. The policies include robustness, security, sustainability, and development. "The event serves as an interactive session to discuss the ideas and different scopes facing the Internet governance ecosystem". The turnout is a testament to the youth being engaged in the internet and governance. Tech is evolving for instance there are new conversations coming up such as AI and content creation which are emerging topics for the youth and which they need to be engaged in. "Our role as the government in this has been seen by the development of the data protection act which regulates the processing of personal data and protecting the rights of data subjects."



**Senator Allan Chesang,
Chairperson, ICT
Committee, Senate**

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

The Data Protection act of 2019 is subsequent the regulation that restricts further processing of data to third parties. It ensures data processors and data controllers are protected and regulated.

Moreover, it shows the government's steps in creating an impact in this space. It has focused on digital inclusion by making sure women, youth, the disabled, and people from minority groups get access to the internet. There has also been an increase in modern mobile applications such as UBER eats, Bolt, and Jumia creating employment. In addition to this, the government has initiatives on digital literacy. They include Wi-Fi hot-spots and also integrating ICT in schools. Nonetheless, the advantages of the internet also come with a downfall. Therefore, concepts such as cybersecurity come up and thus the government is looking for more solutions to deal with this

We are proud of the achievements the Kenyan government has made in this space with programs such as Jitume which have been successful.

SESSION ONE:

Linda- Moderator

Youth IGF MAG | | Human
(Digital) Rights|Legal Tech|
Policy & Diplomacy



Dr. Bright Gameli- Panelist

Cybersecurity lead at Mara. CEO
of AfricaHackthon and Lecture at
Strathmore University and Moringa
School



Fraiser Kilonzo- Panelist

Cybersecurity and Information
Security expert and a Mentor at
Textors



CYBERSECURITY

The biggest cyber-security capacity-building challenge faced by Kenyan youth is getting resources and spaces where to learn about cybersecurity. Most spaces and resources in this sector are expensive. However, even as this statement is true, the youth cannot entirely blame this on the expensive resource since the resources can still be found on the internet for free. Most of the time the youth do not use the Internet for research or make an effort of looking for these materials. The youth need to have a yearning and curious mind to be able to actually gain this knowledge. Information is everywhere in the contemporary world and we cannot blame anyone but ourselves.

Capacity building also comes in ways in which education is done and includes giving out the skills. The first gap in our education system is that the faculties in universities use the same curriculum over the years. Therefore, the things taught to the students are obsolete with little or no practicality in the real world. The second gap is that faculties do not go out of their way to research new things about the topic at hand. This leaves them to teach theories hence the gap that is seen between graduates and the workplace. There is also a gap in the workplace where they ask for 5 years of experience when a student is just out of school. This becomes a hindrance to the youth and companies should look into this.

CYBERSECURITY

In addition, the assessments or tests where the ab exams for cybersecurity are timed and administered, with questions on theories. This usually limits the students' abilities because they then focus on the exams instead of the practical work in the market. Institutions can upscale by teaching practical skills and students going out of them to look for materials on YouTube. Also using Artificial intelligence they can even learn more.

There are many opportunities in Cyber security and not only the technical bit of it. Cybersecurity is way beyond hacking and learning the right things as part of capacity building. The youth need to be assertive and have the zeal to research. They need to look out for opportunities such as cyber shujaa and Africa Hackathon and UNSECO Cyber Czar, African hub, Hack Boss, and many more platforms to actually build their capacity in cybersecurity both for free and some that require a little payment.

In conclusion in order to fight the hacking in companies, a company first needs to be aware that there is something called hacking and their security systems are not safe. For example, safaricom pays people to hack them so they can improve this as one way of addressing hacking and the youth can tap into this. Moreover, it is not about the credentials but about a person being able to do the job.

SESSION TWO:



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Moderator:

Ochieng A Ogango, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya| IGF Global Youth Ambassador 2022. Youth IGF MAG 2023

Panelist Diana Rose Ouma is a dedicated program coordinator at the Horn of Africa Youth Network, where she spearheads the Africa Regional Program. This initiative aims to empower girls and young women,

Sarah Muiruri is a Counseling psychologist and the director of Misty Roses Africa-counseling hub & rehab. Sarah is skilled in confidential listening, empathy and has ability to work with wide range of people. She is an experienced counsellor

Dr.Maina he is a physcoligist and an expert on mental health issues

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH.

Majority of the people living in today's world especially the youth have 80% of the following applications (apps) in their phones: TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Twitch, YouTube, LinkedIn and WhatsApp. All these apps have affected how people live their lives either positively or negatively. Some of the positive impacts of social media include people being able to express themselves in different ways with art, Music, and dance. This has enabled youths to earn a living or just have fun and adds a positive impact on their health, especially mental health. Mental health does not necessarily mean mental illness, but that you are in a capacity to live your life not hindered in any way, including how you approach life. Nonetheless, there are still some negative effects that have resulted in using these apps. They include time wasting due to regular usage, bad sleeping patterns (no wonder some people are just moody), and cyberbullying whether intentionally or unintentionally- There are people who just post not knowing how it will affect other people. This negatively affects the youth's mental health. However, the perks and the perils of social media is determined by the user and how they are

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH.

going to use it.

Thus to promote mental awareness with social media, one needs to answer a few questions. For example, how many hours do you spend on your social media? When you immerse yourself in social media influencers do you get affected by their lives? Do you participate in cyberbullying or do you promote it? It is easier to post negative comments than to say it face to face.

To protect the youth, communities need to be involved in order to support each other. Things such as group therapy or therapy, in general, are very helpful during cases such as cyberbullying. We need to create a safe internet. This starts at the individual level such as not making things that are harmful to certain people trend. Moreover, we need to make sure we have the consent of other people before posting a picture of anyone and also verifying the photos taken. The next step is to ensure the apps we use are safe. This burden lies in the hands of the companies. They need to ensure they have policies to protect their users from cyber bullies and ensure a safe internet. Meta and Google are examples of such companies with these policies.

Social media can be used to promote businesses, earn money and be very informative. it is up to us to shape these platforms to what we want.

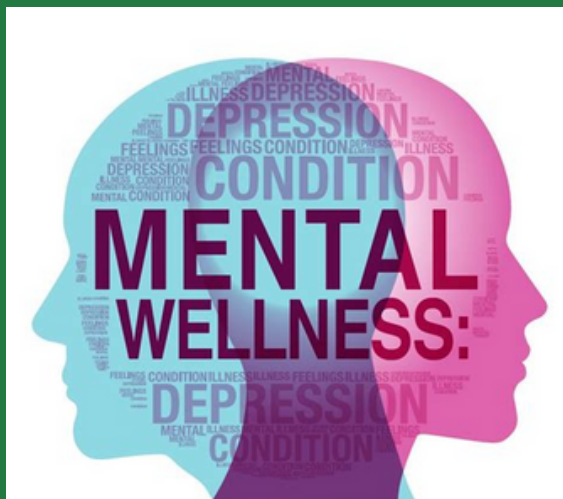
MY STORY-

ALLAN CHESANG

My interest in ICT developed in 2012. I had insomnia and thus decided to use the time by familiarizing myself with the internet. I had passion for it and didn't have money to go out so I just stayed in.

I didn't want employment so when I visited my cousin who was a marketing manager at a sisal farm, he indicated he was looking for customers online. Therefore, I took a keen interest in this due to the commission that I would earn. I researched the market of sisal and marketed sisal even in my school. However, this was not profitable. As such, I made a website where I could sell this sisal online. People are making money out of applications such as Tinder, Jumia, and many more. For online marketing, I earned a lot of Money. We just need the knowledge. I Opened Argo international limited and had a good website with no office, and I became bigger in terms of the online market and earned my money that way. However, am still in the ICT space as am creating a game for the Kenyans which is 78% complete, and I hope will go well. The Internet is the future! I will support the ICT world, especially the Kenya School of internet governance.

CALL FOR ACTION



SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Avoid stigma on therapy.
- Individuals should step up to address their own mental health issues.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON CYBER SECURITY

- More adverts are needed for platforms that enable cybersecurity, and capacity building that is free and accessible for everyone.



GOVERNMENT

- Create local policies for ICT.
- Ratification of the Malabo convention and data protection.
- Introduction of ICT in Schools and capacity building for Teachers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE YOUTH IGF MAG 2023

Lillian Kariuki, Kevin Kariuki (tr. Karis), Conrad Keya, Nelly Nyadzua, Rebeccah Wambui, Linda Gichohi, Elsie Sirengo, Polycarp Ochieng, Vallarie Yiega, Faith Karori, Ochieng A Ogango

KENYA IGF MAG 2023

LIVE STREAM AND TECH SUPPORT

Ndinda and the team.

CAMERA PERSON

Neema Mujesia, From KICTANet Comms

Special Thanks to:

Grace Githaiga, Rosemary Kimwatu and Nzambi Kakusu for their guidance.

Special Thanks to:

To the entire IGF community and all those who honoured the invitations both online and physical.

**"The internet we want
Empowering all Kenyan
youth"**

The end.