



## Mauritius IGF 2021 Report

### Mauritius

#### IGF 2021 Event

Mauritius & Africa Indian Ocean States Island Internet Governance Forum was hosted in Mauritius on 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Hennessy Park Hotel. This multi-stakeholder IG forum encouraged dialogue between State and Non-State actors on issues and importance of Internet Governance.

Halley Movement Coalition has organized IGF events in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, This year's IGF is the fifth edition of the Mauritius Internet Governance Forum.

The theme for the Mauritius IGF 2021 was “**Eliminating Barriers in Internet Governance Processes**”. Speakers and participants included representatives of civil society, ISPs, academia, media and private companies working in the IT field.

#### Host Event details

**Date:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene.

**Time line:**

1. **Event: 09:30 to 16:30 hrs**
2. **Opening Launch: 11:30 to 12:30 hrs.**
3. **Sessions: 09:30 to 16:30 hrs**

### **VIP Guest Speakers included:**

- **H.E. Vice President of the Republic, Mr. Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, G.O.S.K.**
- **Hon. Minister of Gender Equality & Family Welfare, Mrs. Kalpana Koonjoo Shah.**
- **Ms Celine Iemmel, IOM representative &**
- **Mr. Eddy Kayihura, CEO – AFRINIC.**

### **Participants:**

We had a multi stakeholder participation which included:

- The State
- The Academia
- Civil society organizations
- Media
- Corporate sector

### **Topics**

This year enriching topics were:

- Securing the trusted Internet for generations to come, Special focus: Child Online Safety,
- Online Safety and Eliminating Barriers in Internet Governance,
- Advancing sustainability and Social Impact: Shaping the Fourth Industrial Revolution,
- Use of social media by migrants – Rights and Responsibilities &
- Kids, the Internet & COVID-19. How parents can keep children safe online.

## **Recommendations**

All of these informative topics stated the rights of children online. Also, certain recommendations were made that would probably work. These are:

- The use of a computer emergency and response team that was set up by the National Computer Board in 2008 which handles and coordinates security issues at national level. This will especially protect children from online predators that target unsuspecting kids.
- Also, the use of national online reporting system that allows the public to report cybercrimes on social media securely. This will act as a guideline especially for the authorities to follow up on such cases individually and not as a group.
- Parent's conference that will create awareness among parents and on the steps, they should take to ensure their children are safe from online predators. Some parents are computer illiterate and may not know the dangers their children are exposed to.
- Online and IP address tracking for online predators. Systems that would ensure that cyber criminals are caught and prosecuted are important as it will also create warnings for those who are planning to get involved.
- Encouraging parents to create safe spaces for their children to discuss their online activities. This will allow children who are victim to report such cases before matters get out of hand.
- Creating awareness to children (booklets) just as Halley Movement is pursuing to ensure that they have knowledge of their way around the internet and what to avoid while browsing.
- Organization of Podcasts to educate the community on the intelligent usage of the Internet.

## **Outcome of the IGF event**

Mauritius IGF & Af-IOG IGF hope that the following will happen and will be beneficial:

- Children, parents and the Mauritian community together with the communities in the Indian Ocean region will become empowered, and more confident whilst dealing with internet governance.
- The community will become more aware on how child abuse is prevalent in the online world, what is fake news, digital literacy on IOT, Artificial Intelligence & Big Data, and will hence be more vigilant on internet usage.
- We expect to see more reporting of online child abuse cases and we hope to see a decrease in fake news circulation in the society

**Mahendranath Busgopaul**  
**Director, Mauritius IGF.**  
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**Halley Movement is an elected member of the 3rd African Union GA- ECOSOCC; Is in consultative status with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights & Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) & is also in consultative status with United Nations ECOSOC**