

COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE END OF THE

NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
(NIGF 2022) EVENTS



NIGERIA INTERNET
GOVERNANCE FORUM
NIGF 2022

HELD ON

SEPTEMBER 14 – 15, 2022

Introduction

The annual Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) facilitates fruitful partnerships and dialogue between various stakeholders, aimed at redefining the position of Nigeria at regional and global IGF meetings. The eleventh NIGF was held as a hybrid event tagged Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) 2022, with some stakeholders in the Nigerian Internet Community physically present the Zone Centre, Gbagada, Lagos State, Nigeria, while other participants joined virtually.

The NIGF 2022 was organized by the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group (NIGF-MAG) which is a collaborative effort of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMCDE), the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA), Internet Society (ISOC) Nigeria Chapter, with other Internet Stakeholders. The main event, which held on 15th September 2022, focused on discussing the theme: **“Achieving Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria”**. The NIGF 2022 was preceded by the Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) and Women Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (WNIGF) which held in parallel on 14th September 2022.

Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF): September 14, 2022

Observations:

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.

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.

Key Considerations and Recommendations from High Level Panel:

- The skills the youths should leverage on to increase their capacity in the digital space – Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Process Automation, Data Analytics etc.
- We can see machine learning being applied to software solutions like converting text to speech, language transcription, and process automation in businesses and schools.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

From the different breakout sessions of the NYIGF 2022, the following key observations and recommendations were made:

Session 1: Data governance: A youthful drive?

Key Considerations

- What are the impactful measures Nigerian youth can undertake to push for data governance to achieve its goals?
- Why is data governance such an important component of Digital Transformation and how it does affect the Nigerian Youth.
- Data governance is important because it enables us to control the usability, availability, and security of data in compliance with global policy frameworks.
- How can the youths get involved in data governance?
- 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.
- Nigerian youth need to join community groups, professional networks, technological hubs to take advantage of several opportunities that abound on the Internet.

Recommendations

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 regulators
- Let's hope to start a journey of becoming the driver with the requisite skills.

Session 2: Shaping the Nigerian Digital Narrative.

Key Considerations

- Enable development across various sectors (**as positive digital narrative**): All sectors in Nigeria, including healthcare, education, commerce, finance, and governance, are being transformed by the increased adoption of digital technology.
- Social Change (**as positive digital narrative**): 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 (**as positive digital narrative**): Digital technology democratizes communication, fosters open discussions, and empowers individuals by allowing them to tell their stories.
- Misinformation (**as negative digital narrative**): 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 (as negative digital narrative):** 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.
- Building the future should be championed by the next generation as they are the most concerned party in this case.
- 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.
- Nigeria still has a lot to do in ensuring that the youth know how to leverage the technology and resources available.
- Inadequate funding: There is limited access to funding for businesses run by youth, many of which face high risks that could potentially stifle their businesses.
- 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.

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.
- Proactive advocacy at all levels. Youth should be encouraged to build coalitions at an individual and organizational level by taking responsibility for advocating the transformation we seek to see in the digital ecosystem.
- Changing mindsets of Citizens through positive use of the internet.
- Discussing emerging issues in peer-group meetings, encouraging others to get involved.

Session 3: Removing Barriers of Digital Transformation.

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.
- Digital Literacy: individual adoption of digital tools, policies, and technologies to exist in a digital space. 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.
- Moving from a traditional to a remote workspace requires a full understanding of the process.

Recommendations

- 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.
- Digital Literacy should be pursued fervently by all stakeholders.
- Internet resources and content should be made available in local languages.
- Specific actions should be targeted at people that have been excluded from internet connectivity, such as women, rural dwellers, differently abled people, and children.
- As employers, employees, and students, we should look for ways we can adopt technology to enhance our lives and make them better.

Women Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (WNIGF): September 14, 2022

The virtual WNIGF 2022 themed “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 State, Nigeria. It discussed the following topics:

- Dealing with Gender Violence Online
- Dealing with Child Protection Online
- The marginalization of women in the digital space
- Combatting Online Gender Violence as Key to Enhancing Women Participation in the Digital World.
- Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Mainstreaming Women Participation in the Digital Economy
- Getting More Women involved in the Digital Profession for Better Representation of Women in the Digital Economy?

In order to ensure more involvement of women in the Information Technology sector, government, individuals and private companies must create equal opportunities for both men and women; focus on research and development; have a system that rewards female teachers in the area of technology; create strong collaboration between the entertainment industry, technology sector and policy makers; have more STEM programs that focus on girls and boys in order to co-create and collaborate; and put more effort to support people (women) who are already working in the area.

Observations:

The following observations were raised:

- Women are more likely to fear physical harm when abused online.
- One of the long-term negative impacts of gender violence online is that women experience is self-censorship. Women start censoring themselves online due to Online Abuse.
- There is need for public awareness for people to understand its consequences which in many cases metamorphosed to offline environments.
- Women are the major victims of terrorism and other forms of violence
- 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.
- Online violence attempts to keep women from major sectors of the public sphere because public only take physical violence seriously.
- The different types of Gender Violence Online, which include 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.
- Girls in local communities are being violated but they are not even aware they are being violated
- Public only take physical violence seriously, ignoring or believing that online violence does not exist
- Some women leave the online platform after being harassed
- When browsing the internet, children may be exposed to hate speech and violent content – including messages that incite self-harm and even suicide.
- Cyberbullying and Peer-to-Peer Violence.
- The increased use of social media and online services allows children to share and consume tremendous volume of personal information online.

Recommendations:

- Education in local languages
- Increase Sensitization/Advocacy - culturally responsive and relevant
- Consent and privacy
- Human Rights Enforcements by Public and Private
- Employ AI for Filtering offensive contents

- Content Enhancement
- Enable more support and help channels for victims
- Drive programs that amplify voices of the marginalized women and girls
- Support NGOs working around the subject
- 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
- There is need for public awareness for people to understand it consequences which in many cases metamorphosed to offline environments.
- 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.
- 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.
- Service providers should require the consent of the parents or guardians if the data collection affects a child below the established age.
- There is need to digitalize the Nigerian courts and repeal some laws to ensure efficient and quick judgments related to children abuses.
- Internet Service Providers and Electronic Service Providers need to ensure their platforms are secure and do not put children at risk.
- 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.
- Service providers should implement privacy and security by design and default.
- There is need for increased digital literacy for both children and their Parents/Guardians.
- Parents/Guardians should ensure they always install safety tools on their wards' devices which will protects children from inappropriate behavior and laying their hands on inappropriate online content.

NIGF 2022 Event – September 15, 2022.

The theme for the NIGF 2022 was “Achieving Digital Transformation and Trust in Nigeria. The NIGF addressed the following subthemes:

- (i) Data Sharing and Digital Sovereignty in Nigeria.
- (ii) Building Trust in Nigerian Digital Services.
- (iii) Internet as an Enabler of Inclusive Development.
- (iv) Nigeria’s Position in the Future of the Internet.

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 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 and ensured that the outcome of the forum will be shared with academia, civil society and all stakeholders for adoption and implementation as applicable.

Mrs. Mary Uduma, West Africa IGF Coordinator stated that the West 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 West African IGF will report the recommendations at the forth coming African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF).

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.

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.

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.

Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami) FNCS, FBCS, FIIM – Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy (FMCDE) gave the keynote address, highlighting 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.

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.

In all, there were about 330 participants (online and onsite) who attended the NIGF 2022, including participants from public/state institutions, private sector groups, civil societies, professional bodies, students and youths, media, and the public.

Observations from the High-level panel session:

The following were observed during the Plenary of the 11th Nigeria Internet Governance Forum:

- 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 from the High-level Panel Session:

- 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 maligned 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.

From the different breakout sessions, the following key observations and recommendations were made:

Session 1: Data Sharing and Digital Sovereignty in Nigeria

Observations:

- 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 from Session 1:

- 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.

Session 2: Building Trust in Nigerian Digital Services

Observations:

- 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 from Session 2:

- 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 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.

Session 3: Internet as an Enabler of Inclusive Development

Observations:

- 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.
- 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 from Session 3:

- 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 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

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

Observations:

- 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 from Session 4:

- 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.

For further information, please refer to the full NIGF2022 Report on the NIGF website: www.igf.ng or contact Program Manager, NIGF Secretariat via pm@nigf.org.ng.