



KICTANet
The Power of Communities



KeIGF
ASSESSING THE IMPACT



KENYA YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2022

Theme: “Resilient Internet for a sustainable and common future for the Youth.”



2022 REPORT



With support from:
IGFSA

Published by:
KICTANet
Website: www.kigf.or.ke | www.kictanet.or.ke
Email: info@kictanet.or.ke
Twitter: @KicatNet

Organizers:
Keith ANDERE - coordinator
Vallarie Yiega
Rebecca Wambui

Rappotuer:
Lucy Wanyika

Editor:
Jairo Obege

Design & Layout
Elizabeth Ayako - Aya Concepts

SPEAKERS



ALI HUSSEIN KASSIM
Chairman of KICTANet's
Board of Trustees



ROSEMARY KIMWATU
KelIGF MAG Chair,
Kenya IGF



GRACE GITHAIGA
Convener KICTANet



ANJA GENGO
UN IGF Secretariat



SUMAIYAH OMAR
Advocate



ROBERT MUIGAI
Private Consultant



VINCENT O. MWANDO
Youth Representative IGF



JACKIE AKELLO
Internet of Rights
Fellow



VALLARIE YIEGA
Youth Representative IGF



KEITH ANDERE
AG. Executive Secretary -
African Youth Commission



BECKY WAMBUI
PODCASTER

73

**PARTICIPANTS
CONNECTED**

11

**COUNTIES
PRESENT**

13

YEARS

YOUNGEST PARTICIPANT

12

SPEAKERS

4

MODERATORS

5

SESSIONS

“

There can be no future without the youth and are a part of building the future in ICT.

Rosemary Kimwatu, Kenya IGF MAG Chairperson

”



Executive Summary

The Kenya YouthIGF is a youth-led structure to develop the capacity for coordinating, mobilizing, and advocating for meaningful Inclusion and Engagement of young people in the internet governance ecosystem, especially at the Kenya Internet Governance Forum- Kenya’s Premier Policy Platform. Following the success of last year’s edition, this year’s Kenya YouthIGF aimed at serving as an interactive discussion platform for organized youth participation from all stakeholder groups to bring up their ideas and concerns. The Forum further created opportunities for networking, collaboration, and creating long-term partnerships between key stakeholders and the community.

This year’s theme for the Kenya YouthIGF was ***“Resilient Internet for a sustainable and common future for the Youth”***, attracting 70 participants who

consisted of individuals representing various sectors -including the government, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community, and the youth from rural areas.

The forum began with a Welcome and Opening Session and a short introduction on the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) by Ms. Grace Githai-ga with an emphasis that it ensures that there is a public perspective on Government policies that are proposed, on the 4 pillars of KICTANet: Policy Advocacy, Capacity Building, Research, and Stakeholder Engagement. She spoke about the support KICTANet has given the YouthIGF as well as the constant need for young voices to come aboard.

Mr. Ali Hussein, Chair of the Board of Trustees, KICTANet (in his speech), described the think-tank as a catalyst for reform in the Information and Communication Technology Sector. He stated that KICTANet has convened the Kenya Internet Governance Forum for the last 15 years and it had risen to be Kenya's premier internet policy forum.

Ms. Rosemary Kimwatu, Kenya IGF MAG Chairperson, mentioned that there can be no future without the youth and stated that the attendees are a part of building the future in ICT and mentioned the awesome opportunity for young people to come together.

The next session was a plenary dubbed the "Lightning Talk: Youth in Internet Governance. Road to Addis Ababa" which consisted of a presentation by Ms. Anja Genjo, UN IGF Secretariat. Ms. Genjo introduced the 2022 Africa IGF happening in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She touched on the themes and tracks that will be discussed in the over 300 sessions. She also spoke about the growth of the NRI landscape, noting the growth of the Kenya IGF. Anja then shared her presentation on the IGF noting its location in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She spoke about her hope for high engagement and noted the

impact ICT has on Africa as well as the digital divide and the need to access vulnerable groups. Anja finished by mentioning her hope to see the attendees at the Africa IGF.

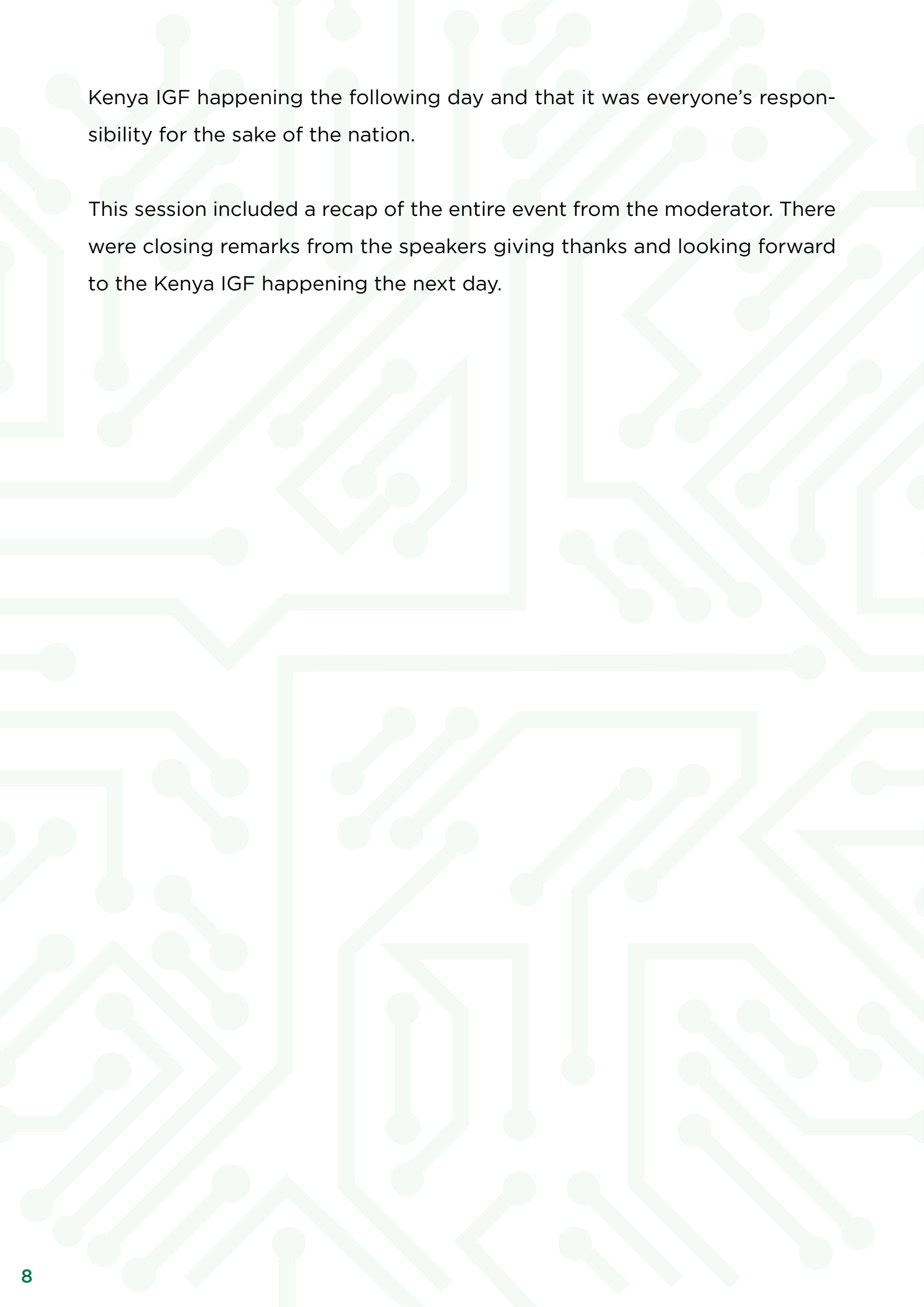
The subsequent panel discussion named ***'Connecting all People and Safeguarding Human Rights'*** included discussions from the panelists on digital campaigns, digital inclusion, access and connectivity, the ICT practitioners bill, and challenges for the youth.

The panelists discussed the need to keep leaders accountable and have a voice and that voice is heard. They went on to describe the power of online campaigns and how they work hand in hand with offline campaign work.

In the next session on “Addressing Emerging & Advanced Technologies”, the panelists spoke about the emergence of new technology, including Artificial Intelligence. They mentioned that it must be built around humans. They spoke about transparency and data mining in Artificial intelligence. The panel also discussed internet governance in education and the digital divide. They finalized by giving their recommendations for internet governance.

They also deliberated the need to build on the infrastructure and argued the solution as community networks. They also cited the government and the private sector giving the example of innovation around the implementation of internet infrastructure.

Barrack Otieno, Member, Board of Trustees, KICTANet closed the session by congratulating the YouthIGF for putting up such an event. He added the importance that the youth demands space on the table and that the sky can only be the limit. He mentioned he was looking forward to attending the



Kenya IGF happening the following day and that it was everyone's responsibility for the sake of the nation.

This session included a recap of the entire event from the moderator. There were closing remarks from the speakers giving thanks and looking forward to the Kenya IGF happening the next day.



“
Since COVID 19, the internet has played a critical role in how we do things from school to shopping and how we work.
”

Ali Hussein, Chair of the Board of Trustees, KICTANet

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Session Title: Welcome and Opening Session

Type: Plenary

Date: 29th June 2022

Time: 2:00 - 2:15 PM

The opening session consisted of welcoming remarks from the various speakers as well as invitations for participation in the Kenya Youth IGF and the Kenya IGF occurring the next day.

Speakers

- Ms. Rosemary Kimwatu - KeIGF MAG Chair, Kenya IGF
- Ms. Grace Githaiga - Convener KICTANet Panelist
- Ali Hussein, Chair of the Board of Trustees, KICTANet

Under the capacity development pillar, KICTANet continues to bring new voices into the internet governance discourse to various flagship projects.

Moderator

- Keith Andere

Keith Andere

Mr. Andere began the session by welcoming the attendees and encouraging them to engage in the chat box. He also asked them to use the #KenyaIGF2022 on Twitter and tag KICTANet. Keith then introduced Grace Githaiga, the convener of KICTANet.

Ms. Grace Githaiga, Convener, KICTANet:

Grace began with a short introduction of KICTANet mentioning that they are a multi-stakeholder think tank that brings together stakeholders in the ICT industry who are interested in ICT policy and regulation. She mentioned that their task is to ensure that there is a public perspective on the policies that are proposed. She went on to speak on the 4 pillars of KICTANet:

- Research
- Advocacy
- Public participation and engagement
- Capacity building

Grace pointed out the short courses as well as the internships that they offer. Grace briefly spoke about the support KICTANet has given YouthIGF in recognition of the need to have young voices coming into the sector and taking over. She gave Keith Andere and Vallarie Yiega as good examples of the result of the IGF courses. She ended by welcoming the attendees and hoping for fruitful discussions. She mentioned her gratitude for the attendance of the UN IGF Secretariat. Keith Andere then continued the session by thanking Grace pointing out a few points from her speech. He then introduced the Keynote speaker, Ali Hussein.

Ali Hussein, Chair of the Board of Trustees, KICTANet:

Mr. Hussein began his speech with a short introduction of KICTANet mentioning it was a catalyst for reform in the ICT sector. He mentioned KICTANet's key pillars and its mission. For the last 15 years, KICTANet has convened and supported the Kenya IGF that is held annually, to become Kenya's premier Internet Policy Forum.

“Under the capacity development pillar, KICTANet continues to bring new voices into the internet governance discourse to various flagship projects.” Ali Hussein then spoke to the Kenya YouthIGF, mentioning that it is a youth-led structure to develop the capacity for coordinating, mobilizing, and advocating for meaningful Inclusion and Engagement of young people in the KenyaIGF. He spoke on the topic of the current Youth IGF and mentioned his hope that youth will continue to develop their capacity for internet governance.

Mr. Hussein mentioned that since COVID 19, the internet has played a critical role in how we do things from school to shopping and how we work. We need to unpack the potential vulnerability of the internet to not only Build Back Better but also deliver sustainable development goals

Rosemary Kimwatu, KeIGF MAG Chair, Kenya IGF:

Rosemary Kimwatu began by mentioning that it was good to have a Youth IGF mentioning that there can be no future without the youth. She went on to give a short background on the IGF mentioning that she had the pleasure of being the chairperson this year and orchestrating an amazing team of talented individuals who come together to put together the IGF. She mentioned that it's an awesome opportunity for us and young people to come together and share voices and set the agenda for what the governing of the internet should look like. Ms. Kimwatu concluded by welcoming the attendees and inviting them to join the Kenya IGF happening the next day.

Keith Andere then mentioned the capacity-building school of IGF, the Kenya School of Internet Governance. He encouraged attendance regardless of one's involvement in the tech sector. He mentioned that as an alumnus, he has received benefits from it.

Session Title: Lightning Talk: Youth in Internet Governance.

Road to Addis Ababa

Type: Plenary

Date: 29th June 2022

Time: 2:20 - 3:00 PM

The session consists of a presentation on the 17th Annual IGF from the speaker and then a question and answer session.

Speakers

- Ms. Anja Gengo, UN IGF Secretariat

Moderator

- Vallarie Yiega

Ms. Anja Gengo, UN IGF Secretariat

Ms. Gengo began by describing the Secretariat as an office that supports the facilitation of IGF as a process. One of the most important aspects of their work is to cooperate with the regional IGFs, including the Kenya IGF and the Kenya YouthIGF.

She mentioned that they had currently listed 152 NRIs speaking on the growth of the NRI landscape and noting the growth of the quality as well.

Anja then started her presentation on the 17th annual IGF noting its location in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It will happen from the 28th of November to the 2nd of December on the premises of the UN Economic Commission of Africa. She spoke about her hope for high engagement from all stakeholders and for cooperation between stakeholders. She noted the impact ICT has

on Africa as a region where one can see a vivid footprint of digital technologies as well as the digital divide. She mentioned the need to focus on vulnerable groups such as women and girls, people with disabilities, refugees, displaced persons, migrants, and many other communities.

The 5 main programme themes that are closely aligned with the Global Digital Compact:

- **Connecting All People and Safeguarding Human Rights**
- **Avoiding Internet Fragmentation**
- **Governing Data and Protecting Privacy**
- **Enabling Safety, Security, and Accountability**
- **Addressing Advanced Technologies Including AI**



**“
Cancel culture is
very important in
keeping leaders
and organizations
accountable.
”**

Sumaiyah Omar, Advocate

The programme also integrates the **high-level leaders' track, parliamentary track, and youth track**. She noted that the call for session proposals has closed and the MAG has received a record number of proposals showing a high level of interest in the Africa IGF.

Ms. Gengo spoke about the parliamentary track, mentioning the parliamentary symposium taking place in Malawi from the 18th to the 21st of July. She mentioned that there will be parliamentary activities at the IGF in Ethiopia. She spoke about the youth track, mentioning the importance of investing in youth. They are working with youth coordinators including those from the Kenya IGF. She mentioned the next capacity development workshop happening in Malawi in July. They plan on the cooperation of the session managers.

She then invited the attendees to explore the IGF intersessional work:

- Best Practice Forums
- Policy Networks
- Dynamic Coalitions

Anja encouraged attendees to join the mailing list for the various topics mentioned. She mentioned that attendees of the 17th IGF will be able to engage in various activities including bilateral meetings and the IGF village.

Finally, she mentioned that the MAG is in the final stage of reviewing the proposals and they will be meeting in Geneva from the 6th to the 8th of July. She spoke about digital cooperation with the UN noting the practices related to digital cooperation and the 'Our Common Agenda' report. She spoke about the commitment to making the IGF more accessible and relevant as well as the Global Digital Compact.

Anja Gengo ended by mentioning her hope to see the attendees at the IGF.

Q&A session 1

Rebecca: “How would you say youth participation in Internet governance processes has changed since the initial IGF convenings?”

Anja spoke about the 7 years that she has been with the IGF noting things have radically changed in favour of young people. More opportunities have been made available. She gave the example of the Internet Society ambassadors program. They are managing to ensure that young people are not siloed and that they have multiple entry channels in IGF. Youth should have the opportunity to speak with those that are currently making decisions.

James: “How can youth participate in advocacy programmes in ensuring their democratic rights in accessing and using the internet are not compromised through poor internet policies?”

Anja responded by saying that she believes that the digital divide is no anymore about who’s connected, and who’s not connected. It also relates very closely to digital inclusion. She noted if one is not lucky to be in a country or a community that has a well-developed system, a process that provides open inclusive engagement, and internal governance, such as the NRIs then it is a problem.

She mentioned that the good thing is that the culture is being adopted in many more regions and awareness has been raised in terms of creating opportunities for young people through parliamentary tracts, they are creating channels for people to ask questions.

Patrick: “What frameworks are in place to onboard youth in rural areas where the majority of the population resides, but with limited internet access?”

Anja admitted that they are struggling with any form of inclusion of all stakeholders living in rural and remote areas. She noted much more needs to be done to meaningfully connect people living in remote and rural areas and create opportunities for them to be part of the discussion and decision-making processes.

Obedi: “How do you address the issue of cybersecurity and Internet Crimes?”

Anja mentioned that Cybersecurity has always been a priority noting, that it is addressed very differently from country to country. The IGF is looking at the different roles including who has access to what.

Jean: “What is the right channel to pass through?”

Anja stated that the best way would be to send an email to IGF and they are going to guide you in detail through all the ways to connect with all of this session work.

Session Title: Connecting all People and Safeguarding Human Rights

Type: Plenary

Date: 29th June 2022

Time: 3:00 - 3:40 PM

This is a session discussion where the panelists discuss connecting people and the safeguarding of human rights.

Speakers

- Robert Muigai, Private Consultant
- Jackie Akello, Internet of Rights Fellow
- Vincent Mwando, IGF Ambassador
- Sumaiyah Omar, Advocate

Moderator

Vallarie Yiega

Vallarie began the session by posing a question to the audience; in line with the theme “Resilient Internet for a sustainable and common future for the Youth”, what is it, that we as young people in Kenya are looking to get from the Internet Governance Forum process and the Internet governance ecosystem altogether?

She also mentioned the sub-themes of the Kenya YouthIGF:

- **Data Governance, Protection, and Privacy**
- **Digital Inclusion**
- **Enabling Safety Security and Accountability**
- **Connecting all People and Safeguarding Human Rights.**
- **Addressing Emerging & Advanced Technologies:**

Vallarie then asked the panelist to give a short introduction of themselves:

- **Robert Muigai, Private Consultant**

Mr. Muigai began by mentioning that he was happy to talk about access to information in the technical sense. Robert is a lawyer, and a qualified advocate of the High Court of Kenya currently practising as a private consultant. He mentioned working employment law, technology issues, and intellectual property issues.

- **Jackie Akello, Internet of Rights Fellow**

Ms. Akello started by mentioning that she was an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and an Internet of Rights Fellow at Article 19.

- **Vincent Mwando, IGF Ambassador**

My Mwando began by mentioning that he is a chemical engineer and he loves tech. He also mentioned that he is an IGF Youth Ambassa-

dor and that he wished to discuss Digital Inclusion

- **Sumaiyah Omar, Advocate**

Ms. Omar began by mentioning that she is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and that she runs her law firm. She spoke about being passionate about tech and the rights of minorities. She is also a digital disruptor at Amnesty International.

The session then began on the topic of Digital Campaigns. Vallarie asked about the importance of Digital Campaigns.

Sumaiyah Omar, Advocate:

Ms. Omar began by mentioning accountability and keeping our leaders accountable. Sometimes cancel culture is very important in keeping leaders and organizations accountable. She mentioned that having a voice is important as well. Having that voice and having people who have the same voice as you, support your voice.

Sumaiyah then spoke about the digital campaign she and her friends

began against the Council of Legal Education, mentioning the difficulty of doing exams during COVID. She mentioned that during the digital campaign, the online works hand in hand with the offline campaign work.

Vallarie then moved on to the topic of digital inclusion.

Robert Muigai, Private Consultant:

Robert spoke about his passion for access to legal information. He mentioned his dissemination of understandable legal information on TikTok. He wanted to create information that was accessible to anyone, everyone and that was also understandable.

Mr. Muigai mentioned that there is no legal definition of Digital Inclusion. He defines digital inclusion as the activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including those who are disadvantaged, have access and use to information and communi-

cation technologies. It is basically to ensure people have access to information that they understand.

Robert brought up the Constitution of Kenya, Article 6.3, which provides that a National State organ shall ensure reasonable access to its services in all parts of the Republic insofar as it's appropriate to do so having due regard to the nature of service. He mentioned a good example of this being how in Kenya, you can register a business online.

He then spoke on how Article 11, 2 of the Constitution promotes the intellectual property rights of the people of Kenya., and how institutions must provide reasonable access as well as promotion of IP protection rights. He also briefly brought up other acts that promote digital inclusion such as the Access to Information Act, and then also the Kenya Information and Communications Act.

Vallarie then brought a question from the audience, asking about

how to get into the YouthIGF. She asked Vincent to answer the question.

Robert Muigai, Private Consultant:

Robert spoke about his passion for access to legal information. He mentioned his dissemination of understandable legal information on TikTok. He wanted to create information that was accessible to anyone, everyone and that was also understandable.

Mr. Muigai mentioned that there is no legal definition of Digital Inclusion. He defines digital inclusion as the activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including those who are disadvantaged, have access and use to information and communication technologies. It is basically to ensure people have access to information that they understand.

Robert brought up the Constitution of Kenya, Article 6.3, which provides that a National State organ shall ensure reasonable access to its

services in all parts of the Republic insofar as it's appropriate to do so having due regard to the nature of service. He mentioned a good example of this being how in Kenya, you can register a business online.

He then spoke on how Article 11, 2 of the Constitution promotes the intellectual property rights of the people of Kenya., and how institutions must provide reasonable access as well as promotion of IP protection rights. He also briefly brought up other acts that promote digital inclusion such as the Access to Information Act, and then also the Kenya Information and Communications Act.

Vallarie then brought a question from the audience, asking about how to get into the YouthIGF. She asked Vincent to answer the question.

Vincent Mwando, IGF Ambassador:

Vincent mentioned that internet governance is a place where stakeholders come in and discuss what affects them. The internet has so much to offer the youth. He gave an example of the Kenya IGF and the Global IGF. Most of the internet users are the youth.

He mentioned that one of the challenges faced by the youth is that they fail to involve themselves. This can be solved by joining the mailing list and finding a channel to be part of the youth governance process such as KICTANet. He finalized by stating that internet governance is a place for everyone.

Vallarie went on to encourage the participants to attend the Kenya School of Internet Governance noting the amazing trainers that give examples within the local context. She then asked Jackie to speak about access and connectivity.

Jackie Akello, Internet of Rights Fellow:

Jackie Akello gave a brief highlight on the state of connectivity in Kenya, mentioning that it is at 23%. She noted that rural areas that have the highest population, have the smallest amount of internet users. She mentioned that some of the causes of the connectivity gap are basic and ICT literacy and affordability of devices and data and accessing meaningful content.

Ms. Akello spoke about her current project on how community networks can bridge the connectivity gap in the country. They are looking at sustainability as well as the challenges communities are facing when deploying community networks. She noted fostering literacy needs to be looked at this moment because without literacy, one cannot meaningfully use the internet. She spoke about the gender divide and how women should be trained on how to meaningfully use the internet and ICT resources. She men-

tioned that the reason rural areas lack internet infrastructure is that telecom companies do not find these areas to be profitable.

Vallarie then invited Robert to speak on the ICT practitioners bill. How do you think it will hinder digital inclusion?

Robert Muigai:

Robert began by reminding listeners how access to information is a constitutional right in the Kenyan context. He went on to talk about the ICT Practitioners Bill being drafted and that he had a few issues with it mostly because he felt that it limits the constitutional rights to access information and is also a hindrance to digital inclusion.

He explained that the bill defines ICT as technologies employed in collecting, storing, processing, and using or sending out information and include those involving the use of computers, mobile apparatus, or any telecommunication system.

He noted that this broad definition would include things such as using social media. It would require registration as an ICT practitioner at the ICT institute. The registration requirements include a bachelor's degree in various fields and or experience in that field.

Robert also spoke about the requirement of payment of a fee, mentioning that it is another way that the act limits digital inclusion. He gave an example of the current most followed person on TikTok, Khabe, who used to work in a factory and would have most likely not fulfilled the requirements of this act.

He finalised that he did not want the ICT Practitioners Bill to be passed.

Vallarie then asked Sumaiyah to speak on digital campaigns.

Sumaiyah Omar:

Sumaiyah Omar began by stating that digital campaigns are versatile and not linear. She used an example of a digital campaign against the ICT Practitioners Bill mentioned previously. The first thing to identify is a theme and what we want to accomplish. The next stage would be to identify supporters, stakeholders, audience, and opponents.

She spoke about the importance of tapping into your support system. Then identify a route for a digital campaign such as active petitions, trending a hashtag, or spamming an email. She briefly mentioned the need to ensure the method is legal.

Ms. Omar then spoke about budgeting and financing. She spoke on impact evaluation, mentioning the impact does not have to move mountains, it can be small. She noted there are many challenges and sometimes a bigger goal isn't achieved but the smaller goals can be achieved.

Vallarie noted this is very important because currently, young people are concerned about how regulation is going to look on the internet and how some of these issues are going to be dealt with within the internet. She then asked Vincent to speak on the challenges for the youth to enter the internet governance space.



“

Digital inclusion is the activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including those who are disadvantaged, have access and use to information and communication technologies.

”

Vincent Mwando:

Vincent began by mentioning that the main issue is the digital divide and needs to be achieved is digital equity through digital inclusion. He mentioned that some of the issues that youth face are digital skills and access to devices. **“We need to have capable devices to access all the services the internet services as a whole.”** He also spoke about affordability, giving an example of the cost of home fibre to the average family in Kenya. He mentioned that in the political space and digital space, the youth are not involved in the issue of governance.

Vincent ended with words of encouragement to the youth. “Don’t wait for the Government, use platforms to network and build meaningful connections.”

Vallarie then asked Jackie about youth and connectivity in terms of regulation and governance.

Jackie Akello:

Jackie firstly spoke about involvement in policy making. We can make our voices heard before these laws are made. She spoke about challenging laws that prevent people from accessing the internet. She encouraged the youth to use channels such as the Kenya IGF and the Global IGF to make their voices heard. Another way is to research issues such as connectivity, internet access, and digital inclusion.

Q&A Session 2

Judy: “How can we as the sector ensure that the ICT Practitioners Bill isn’t passed again? Is that even possible? What is the process for such bills?”

Robert briefly went through how laws are formed in Kenya mentioning the first and second reading and the presidential assent. He thought it was a good thing that the president has not assented to it. He mentioned his happiness at the conversation now taking place.

Robert went on to explain that even if the bill becomes law, a petition may be presented to the High Court to ask them to declare the bill unconstitutional rendering it null and void.

Sumaiyah: answered from the policy-making perspective. She added all policies are formed from a certain way of thinking. She mentioned the importance of asking the why question in the ICT community. How do people in the ICT sector create a framework of what they want? She mentioned that although there is a need for regulation, the ICT community has to sit and brainstorm on what that regulation should look like. She mentioned the need to get ahead of the conversation and begin these conversations ourselves.

Key Takeaways

1. **Digital inclusion is the activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including those who are disadvantaged, have access and use to information and communication technologies.**
2. **Internet governance is a place where stakeholders come in and discuss what affects them.**
3. **The state of connectivity in Kenya is at 23% which is very low. Some of the issues that youth face are digital skills and access to devices.**

Session Title: Addressing Emerging & Advanced Technologies

Type: Plenary

Date: 29th June 2022

Time: 3:40 - 4:20PM

This session consisted of discussions around Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Divide.

Speakers

- Richard Mutuku
- Lumumba Irvine
- Diana Nyakundi, Advocate

Moderator

- Anne Ogolla

The moderator, Anne Ogolla began with an introduction by mentioning her work with youth advocacy, human rights advocacy as well as educating women and youth on social media platforms. She then introduced the topic of the session, Addressing Emerging & Advanced Technologies, and then asked the panelists to introduce themselves.

Dr. Richard Mutuku:

Richard introduced himself as a scholar, a researcher, and an author of technology and how it affects democracy in Africa. He mentioned that he currently runs a small research firm based in Nairobi.

Lumumba Irvine:

Lumumba mentioned he was a channel service engineer at ISOF Kenya. He went on to explain what he would be speaking about; what emerging technologies are available and how that fits into what we should think about in these

technologies as well as what policies regulations and governance measures should be put in place to ensure that we're not only maximizing the utility of the same, and also avoiding all the negative impacts.

Diana Nyakundi, Advocate:

Diana introduced herself as an advocate at the High Court of Kenya and an artificial intelligence policy researcher specifically, responsible and ethical tech in Africa and for Africa and by Africa.

Anne then went on to give a short introduction on the topic mentioning the need to involve governments, multi-stakeholders, civil societies, and other groups to ensure that technologies are developed and deployed in a human-centric and human-based manner.

She then posed a question to Richard, **“what can you say on the technology trends and the policies on Internet Governance?”**

Richard began by mentioning that technologies are emerging every day, much of it around Artificial Intelligence. He mentioned that this tech has to be built around the human perspective so they can solve day-to-day problems. He gave the example of Amazon, noting the website gives recommendations of products.

Diana noted that most people think AI is a futuristic, imaginative technology but in reality, AI is already here with us. She gave the example of Google Maps and how it recommends the fastest route or how Netflix recommends similar shows to what has been watched.

Diana mentioned that when the principles that guide the creation and development of responsible AI are brought up, transparency ranks high up.



“ Access to the Internet is still a big problem, especially in the informal sectors and rural areas of the county. ”

Richard Mutuku

Policies should state and provide criteria that need to be met in the implementation of transparency as a principle. She gave the example that people should be informed when they are using AI and why it is being used. She noted that AI has been shown to display bias concerning the hiring of women and facial recognition.

In regards to data collection, she also brought up the importance of letting users know what data is being collected, how it's being collected, and how it's being stored.

Lumumba brought a different angle, speaking about the data that goes into AI application, research, and instructions. He gave a brief explanation of how AI uses neural networks to give suggestions on what a person does. This is formed from what one consistently shows. He gave the example of, if one consistently watches fictional movies on Netflix, then Netflix will continuously recommend fictional movies to watch.

He noted a disadvantage of this can be seen in politics, in that AI can promote inherent bias ensuring that a person is pushed further into their political beliefs. He gave another example of the Microsoft bot 'Tay' on Twitter that would abuse people because it had been fed negative feedback by users. "As we build these systems, or we look to apply them, it's very important that both the practitioners and the actual developers are alive to the variations of the current state of humanity and how we want to better our existence using this system."

Anne then brought a question for the panelists, **"How will we make sure or ensure that this information reaches people within the informal settlement and rural areas that are not able to access the internet easily?"**

Richard began by mentioning that the question hinges on the digital divide. Access to the internet is still a big problem, especially in the informal sectors and rural areas of the county. He mentioned a few ways this gap can be bridged. Firstly, affordability in that, the community must work with policymakers to make sure that data is affordable and also available to those communities that are facing the digital divide. He mentioned one of the suggested solutions was Google balloon which came to execution during the COVID era but was withdrawn.

Richard mentioned that another solution was cyber cafes run by the community to give those who cannot afford data, an opportunity to get access to the internet and search for information. He noted that youth could also get engaged in gainful employment working online on platforms such as Upwork.

“The bridging of the digital divide is something that we cannot ignore.”

Diana borrowed what Richard said, noting that this is an issue of the digital divide. She went on to focus on emerging tech, mentioning people still don't have access to the internet and some people don't even have IT skills when the internet is so expensive, and there's no digital infrastructure.

She noted the possible huge advantages that technology brings which can only be brought on through the building of IT skills, enabling digital infrastructure in the rural areas, and raising awareness of these emerging technologies.

Lumumba mentioned that due to his technical engineering background, this

was a topic that hit close to his heart. He mentioned a few thoughts on how to bridge the digital divide. He spoke about the need to build a lot of infrastructures which is very difficult to fund and finance. He gave the example of telco companies not financing connectivity infrastructure in a particular region due to low Return on Investment.

Lumumba mentioned that one solution to this was community networks. He spoke about the role Internet Society has had in funding and training for community networks. He also mentioned the Universal Service Fund by the government to support connectivity in marginalized areas. In the private sector, players are building rugged systems that can be built in rural areas.

Anne added to Lumumba's words by mentioning the importance of bringing in the government to tackle the issue of internet access in rural areas and informal settlements.

She then posed a question: is it a Good Idea to introduce Internet governance in a country's education curriculum?

Diana agreed that is important, noting that that is where the building of skills starts. She noted the difficulty in teaching IT skills to the elderly population as opposed to the younger population, especially on the African continent.

She mentioned that relying on the young population to be the next innovators in technology means that we must bank on them at the primary and secondary school levels.

Richard also agreed, noting many of the devices have parental controls that don't serve a purpose. He believed that introducing these in the curriculum will also help in responsible internet use. Children can learn from an early stage how to use the internet safely.

Lumumba noted the difficulty in implementing a border of what is safe for children, and what is unsafe. He brought up being cautious about how the children are trained noting the various risks involved. He also noted that differences need to be established in what is taught to primary school kids versus what is taught to secondary school kids.

Anne then posed the question: “How do you view the trend of internet governance in the next 10 years, in Kenya?”

Lumumba mentioned his optimism about the future of the internet in the country. He noted the increase of bandwidth from the underwater cables landing on the shore to the National Optic Fibre backbone project by the government. He noted leaving these things to the Government can result in maintenance being an issue 10 years down the line.

He also mentioned the high amount of innovation in Kenya and the introduction of multinational companies. The human resource within the borders can be an instrumental weapon as we go into the next 10 years. He spoke about digital economy agreements happening in other countries where they can sign digital trade agreements between countries.

Diana agreed with Lumumba’s optimism about the adoption of technology in Kenya. She noted that there is a lot of awareness about the internet. She mentioned the many tech startups noting that Kenya is in a good place. She also spoke about the various forums such as the YouthIGF that provide the opportunity to discuss policy, champion internet access, and the closing of the digital divide.

The youth have a huge role to play in continuing this conversation and these initiatives. Richard spoke about an advanced level of the internet of things. He noted Kenya will have more internet-connected devices and almost a full implementation of RFIDs and digital nomads.

“Kenya has one of the fastest internet connectivity on the continent.”

He mentioned that in 10 years, Kenya will have smart homes and changes in working methods. He gave the example of Amazon Go, which is a store that replaces supermarket attendants with technology.

A question was posed to the attendees: **“As a scholar, what do you perceive of the education landscape in relation to ICT emerging issues?”**

Richard mentioned that the education system around emerging issues in ICT is a bit rudimentary. Kenya has limited resources, and funding innovations, especially in local universities, which has been a great challenge. He gave the example of China’s national hackathons which bring together software engineers, and mechanical engineers on a national platform to innovate around robotics and artificial intelligence. He hopes for more funding around the education system to support ICT and emerging issues.

Lumumba added to the topic of education, mentioning the Internet of Things training he has been doing in a girl’s school in Kajiado. They are trying to encourage more girls to come into IoT by teaching them programming and IoT. The result of this was that the children built a smart dustbin prototype.

The teachers are now using that content to teach their curriculum and there has been an uptake in the children's grades.

On the topic of recommendations, he mentioned the need for vigilance about what happens in the ICT ecosystem. He also spoke about the value of information exchange with other countries. He gave examples of Botswana, Ghana, and Egypt. "We need to have forward-thinking people and policies in this space to ensure we can steer the future."

Anne then asked the panelists for recommendations for Internet governance.

Diana began by mentioning a few countries that have published an AI strategy. She noted that Kenya as well as an AI and blockchain task force that's working on developing AI policy initiatives and AI strategy.

Her recommendation was the creation of policies to drive the African agenda for Africans and the creation of these policies by Africans.

Richard spoke about policies around data mining, privacy, and the collection of data by third parties. He gave the example of a Google account being a gold mine for data. "From the national perspective, we do not have regulations that are protecting our data from being shared with third parties and advertisers." He brought up the issue of splinternet, noting that it threatens our democracy and also threatens our freedoms to access information.

Thoko Miya:

Ms. Miya began by thanking everyone for their contributions. She noted the importance of engaging in the entire conversation which is ultimately about profit. The drive for human development is led by a profit drive.

She noted that not everyone has the same access but advanced tech continues to develop. Things like robotics, 3D printing, more recently, Blockchain technologies, cryptocurrencies, and the development of NFT are creating a new range and a new bar of opportunity.

She mentioned the need to create policies that protect consumers as well as provide opportunities for people to take part in various 21st-century technologies.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Emerging technologies have to be built around the human perspective so they can solve day-to-day problems.**
- 2. It's very important that both the practitioners and the actual developers are alive to the variations of the current state of humanity and how we want to better our existence using this system.**
- 3. Access to the internet is still a big problem, especially in the informal sectors and rural areas of the county.**
- 4. The education system around emerging issues in ICT is a bit rudimentary. Kenya has limited resources, and funding innovations, especially in local universities, which has been a great challenge.**

There is a need to create policies that protect consumers as well as provide opportunities for people to take part in various 21st-century technologies.

Session Title: Closing Session

Type: Plenary

Date: 29th June 2022

Time: 4:30 - 5:00PM

This session consisted of a recap and closing remarks

Speakers

- Barrack Otieno, Board of Trustees, KICTANet
- Keith Andere, Kenya YouthIGF

Moderator

- **Becky Wambui**

Becky commenced the closing session by giving highlights of the conversations that took place. She spoke about the speech by Chris Ithega at the beginning of the forum mentioning the #letsogo hashtag. She then went through each session making a note of each panelist, their careers, and the main points that they made during the session.

Barrack Otieno, Board of Trustees, KICTANet

Mr. Otieno, on the behalf of his colleagues from the multi-stakeholder advisory group, the MAG chair as well as his behalf, congratulated the Kenya YouthIGF for putting up such an event.

He then thanked the participants for their contribution to the important dialogue. He noted that Kenya's place as an important player in the Global IGF is still assured if the conversations that have been had are anything to go by.

Barrack added it is not just enough for the youth to be on the menu, for lack of a better word, it is also important to demand space on the table.

“

The power of internet governance lies in thinking locally and globally

”

Having a YouthIGF shows that the sky can only be the limit. He mentioned he was looking forward to attending the Kenya IGF happening the next day to discuss more issues affecting internet governance locally, regionally, and internationally. The power of internet governance lies in thinking locally and globally.

Mr. Otieno once again gave thanks to the organizers and the participants noting that it was everyone’s responsibility to build the internet governance conversation for the sake of the nation.

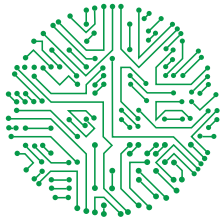
Keith Andere:

Keith, in his closing remarks, briefly mentioned Barrack’s role in the IGF noting he was very instrumental in hosting the Global IGF meeting when it came to Kenya in 2011. He mentioned Barrack was a mentor in the IGF community urging many youth to connect. He then went on to thank the panelists for bringing value to the conversations and the organizers who worked behind the scenes. He also thanked the audience for their participation in light of the COVID circumstances.

He sent his appreciation back to KICTANet, the MAG of the Kenya IGF as well as the sponsors that made the event possible. He mentioned looking forward to the Global IGF happening in Addis Ababa mentioning that it is a great opportunity and he proceeded to close the forum.

Key Takeaways

- 1. The power of internet governance lies in thinking locally and globally**
- 2. Kenya's place as an important player in the Global IGF is still assured if the conversations that have been had are anything to go by.**
- 3. It is not just enough for the youth to be on the menu, for lack of a better word, it is also important to demand space on the table.**
- 4. Having a YouthIGF shows that the sky can only be the limit.**



KICTANet

The Power of Communities

|

Email: info@kictanet.or.ke