

Workshop Proposal for 2023 IGF in Kyoto Japan

Proposer (Contact Persons)

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Theme of your Proposal:

Global Digital Governance and Cooperation

Session Title:

Global Digital Governance in Africa: Challenges and Solutions

BACKGROUND PAPER ON SENDiWSA PROPOSAL FOR WORKSHOP ON GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT IN AFRICA: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Introduction

The Global Digital Compact (GDC) is a proposed framework for international cooperation on digital issues. It was first proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General in his 2021 report Our Common Agenda. The GDC aims to promote an open, free, and secure digital future for all [1]. It is based on the following principles:

Human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected in the digital age.

The digital divide must be bridged.

The digital economy must be inclusive and sustainable.

Digital technologies must be used to address global challenges such as climate change and poverty.

Digital security must be ensured.

The GDC is still under development, but it has the potential to be a major step forward in global digital cooperation. It could help to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are shared more widely and that the risks are mitigated.[2]

Here are some of the key areas where the GDC could promote cooperation:

Data governance: The GDC could help to develop international standards for data governance. This would help to ensure that personal data is collected, processed, and used in a way that respects privacy and human rights.

Cybersecurity: The GDC could help to strengthen international cooperation on cybersecurity. This would help to protect countries and individuals from cyberattacks.

Artificial intelligence: The GDC could help to develop international standards for the development and use of artificial intelligence. This would help to ensure that AI is used in a way that is beneficial to society.

Internet governance: The GDC could help to promote a more inclusive and democratic internet governance system. This would help to ensure that all countries have a voice in the development of the internet.

The GDC is a complex and ambitious initiative, but it has the potential to be a major force for good in the digital age. By promoting cooperation on key issues, the GDC can help to ensure that digital technologies are used to benefit all of humanity. This is the reason why we should discuss it more to get a clearer picture especially in Africa. And the SENDiWSA Workshop at the IGF is one of the ways to do that.

Current Situation

DNS Africa Media and Communications initiated the Stakeholder Engagement Digital Webinar Series for Africa (SENDiWSA), a not-for-profits, multipurpose platform for deliberation and sharing of all ICT-Related Goods, Services, Best Practices, and the pillars of Digital Transformation across Africa[3].

The objective is to deliberate on engagement strategies and showcase products and services within and by Africans to address all digital-related issues across sectors and industries towards reducing poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as a non-commissioned, non-profit platform in Africa.

With issues spanning Data Governance, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Internet Governance, the platform would be able to address the difference in development across the Africa continent with attention to educational platforms such as Community Networks, sharing Financial Technologies (Fintech) and advanced solutions without borders. The proposed Workshop on Global Digital Compact in Africa: Challenges and Solutions will enhance what SENDiWSA is doing and it will also elicit recommendations from the speakers during the workshop.

Objectives

The objectives of this session are:

1. To learn new knowledge on Global Digital Compact in Africa: Challenges and Solutions
2. To provide an opportunity to network with other people who share your interests.
3. To get feedback from the attendees as part of the takeaway on the GDC and Cooperation Session on Africa
4. To Increase cooperation and competition to sustain an effective and deliberate economic growth and development.
5. To create, promote and strengthen cooperation among corporate bodies, institutions of learning, research organisations, media organisations, governments, and non-profits.
6. To elicit solutions from experts that will be discussing the Global Digital Compact and Cooperation within the African Community Context.

7. To stimulate the African community via organic discussion bringing organic solutions which are pragmatic for Africa scenario among others

8. To Increase cooperation and competition (co-ompetition) to sustain an effective and deliberate economic growth and development.

This will inspire the African community to achieve its goals.

Challenges

Understanding the scale of divide and the parameters for measuring and accepting the divides.

Classifying and amending policies that may be a stumbling block to the discussions based on disparity in the global divides.

Engaging Governments and the Private Sector on collaborations and support within the short term for a progress report.

Opportunities

The GDC could help to address the digital divide in Africa by providing funding for infrastructure projects that would expand internet access to rural and underserved areas.

The GDC could help to promote digital skills development in Africa by providing funding for training programs that would help people develop the skills they need to use digital technologies.

The GDC could help to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are shared more equitably in Africa by supporting the development of policies that would promote access to digital technologies for all.

The GDC could help to mitigate the risks of cybercrime and other security threats in Africa by supporting the development of cybersecurity programs and initiatives.

The GDC could help to promote responsible and sustainable use of digital technologies in Africa by supporting the development of policies and guidelines that would promote the use of digital technologies in a way that is beneficial to society and the environment.

The GDC has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of people in Africa. By working together, governments, businesses, and civil society can build a more inclusive and secure digital future for Africa. In order to do so, it is pertinent that stakeholders understand the need for lower-cost ways to produce their digital products and services which can lead to healthy competition, which drives prices down and creates a larger variety of choices for consumers in the digital ecosystem.

This can be done when the following policy questions are addressed. This is the reason why SENDiWSA is taking this initiative in a Workshop to discuss the policy question so as to find solutions for the African Community on the Global Digital Compact and Cooperation. The following questions shall be discussed in the Workshop meeting looking at the African situation.

Output

At the end of the Workshop, it is expected that we will come up with recommendations that will help in solving some of the highlighted challenges. These recommendations are expected to be a direction finder for the solutions to the key policy questions enumerated above. Other initiatives are also expected to come up during the Workshop, which will help provide solutions to the listed challenges and concerns. This can also be submitted to the United Nation Consultations when such opportunities present themselves [4]. However, there will be a report published on the SENDiWSA Webinar and Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter Websites which will be used to sensitise the community. There will also be a follow-up webinar series.

Relating the SDG

The Global Digital Compact (GDC) speaks to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a brighter future for all. Through collaborative efforts, we can leverage digital technologies to realise the SDGs and establish a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous world. The GDC and the SDGs are closely intertwined, with digital technologies playing a vital role in achieving the SDGs, while the SDGs ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are shared more fairly.

The proposed topic: “Global Digital Governance and Cooperation in Africa: Challenges and Solutions”, is related to all the 17 SDGs. However, the following are selected for specifics which the Workshop will address.

Goal 1: No Poverty - Digital technologies can help alleviate poverty by facilitating access to education, healthcare, and financial services.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger - Digital technologies can enhance food production and bolster food security.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being - Digital technologies can improve healthcare accessibility and enable preventative care.

Goal 4: Quality Education - Digital technologies can enhance educational access and facilitate personalised learning.

Goal 5: Gender Equality - Digital technologies can empower women and girls by granting access to education, employment, and financial services.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - Digital technologies can promote renewable energy adoption and enhance energy efficiency.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Digital technologies can generate new employment opportunities and foster economic growth.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure - Digital technologies can drive the development of new industries and infrastructure.

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities - Digital technologies can combat inequalities by providing access to education, healthcare, and employment prospects.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Digital technologies can foster sustainable urban development by supplying real-time data on traffic, pollution, and environmental factors.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions - Digital technologies can promote peace and justice by enabling access to information and empowering citizen participation in decision-making.

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals - Digital technologies can facilitate goal-oriented partnerships by serving as a platform for collaboration and communication.

If Africa embraces the potential opportunities brought by the GDC and leverages digital technologies in alignment with the SDGs, we can accelerate progress towards a sustainable and inclusive future in Africa. This will reflect in every aspect of Africa growth and development [5].

Session support

Language: English | Webcast: Yes | Transcription: Yes | Interpretation: No | Zoom: Yes | Twitter Space: Yes | Youtube : Yes | Facebook Live Stream : Yes

Description

SENDIWSA workshop is a structured event or session where a group of people come together to learn, collaborate, and actively engage in discussions and activities related to a specific topic or objective. In this case, the topic is "Global Digital Governance and Cooperation in Africa: Challenges and Solutions."

The purpose of a workshop is to provide participants with an opportunity to develop skills, solve GDC and Cooperation challenges in Africa by generating ideas, building teams, and making recommendations. To achieve these goals, the workshop will be structured as follows:

- i. The Lead Speaker/ Presenter will have 7 minutes to open the workshop by presenting his Lead Paper on the Workshop.
- ii. There will be three other speakers for the workshop who will be engaged in the Key Workshop Question discussion
- iii. Each of the speakers in (ii) above, will be given a question or two from the Workshop Questions to discuss for 5 minutes.
- iv. Each of the three speakers will have 3 minutes to drive home their points as they give their last word
- v. Four minutes for pictures and attendance
- vi. The rapporteur will have 10 minutes to summarize all the recommendations from the workshop.
- vii. Participants and other attendees will have 15 minutes to ask questions and contribute.
- viii. The moderator will have a total of 7 minutes at random to navigate through the workshop.

We hope that this workshop will be an excellent learning curve for all participants. We look forward to your contributions and engagement.

Here are some additional details about the workshop:

The workshop will be held in English and It will be a hybrid event.

Policy Questions:

The following questions shall be discussed and addressed during the Workshop Session:

- i. Connectivity: How can affordable and reliable internet access be expanded to underserved areas in Africa to bridge the digital divide and ensure harmonization of digital infrastructure in Africa?
- ii. Infrastructure: What measures can be taken to harmonize digital infrastructure, including broadband networks, data centers, and digital platforms, to support the growth of the digital economy in Africa?
- iii. Data Governance: Considering Global Digital Compact and Cooperation, how can data protection and privacy laws be developed and enforced to ensure the responsible and ethical use of data while promoting innovation and economic growth in Africa?

- iv. Digital Skills and Education: How can digital literacy and skills be improved across Africa to enable individuals to participate fully in the digital economy and take advantage of emerging job opportunities?

- v. Cybersecurity: What policies and measures should be implemented to enhance cybersecurity capabilities, combat cyber threats, and protect critical digital infrastructure and data in Africa?

- vi. Digital Trade and E-commerce: How can regulatory frameworks be developed to facilitate cross-border digital trade and e-commerce, while ensuring consumer protection, trust, and fair competition?

- vii. Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship: What policies can be adopted to foster digital innovation, support startups and SMEs, and create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship in the digital sector?

- viii. Digital Financial Inclusion: How can digital technologies be leveraged to promote financial inclusion, expand access to financial services, and address the challenges of digital payments and transactions?

- ix. Policy Coordination and Cooperation: How can governments, international organizations, private sector stakeholders, and civil society collaborate effectively to promote a harmonized and coordinated approach to digital policies and cooperation in Africa?

- x. Digital Rights and Internet Freedom: How can policies be developed to safeguard digital rights, promote freedom of expression and access to information, and prevent online censorship and surveillance?

Diversity

It is impossible to have the whole 54 recognised countries in Africa as speakers in the workshop. However, the diversity on gender is carefully dealt with. We also consider the African regional groupings as it were in West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa and North Africa to ensure that the regions are represented. The experiences also diversified into civil society, academia, tech community, business community.

Organisers' Information

Organiser 1. Engr. Kunle Olorundare, Vice President, Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter/ Chair, Advisory Board, SENDIWSA

Organiser 2: Adebunmi Adeola Akinbo Sec Gen, Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter/ DEO DNS Africa

Organisers Websites: <https://sendiwsa.org>;

Participants: The participants in this session will include:

Organiser Body: DNS Africa Media and Communications (Please note that SENDIWSA is an initiative of DNS Africa)

Attendees: They are expected from all over the continents of Africa and beyond. However, our target audience are more in Africa since this is thematic area that is dealing with a global issue from the African perspective.

Collaborators:

1. Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter
2. Community NetHUBs Africa
3. Culture Games Africa
4. C4Urselves

The outcomes of this session are:

1. Elicited recommendations for improved GDC and Cooperation based on the submission of the speakers at the workshop
2. Increased cooperation and competition (competition) to sustain an effective and deliberate economic growth and development.
3. Strengthened cooperation among corporate bodies, institutions of learning, research organisations, media organisations, governments, and non-profits.
4. Elicited Solutions from experts that will be discussing the Global Digital Compact and Cooperation within the African Community Context.

5. Improved the African community solutions via discussion bringing organic solutions which are pragmatic for Africa scenarios
6. Brought improved Africa context into Global Digital Compact through organic recommendations from African Speakers.

Conclusion

The SENDIWSA Workshop which is being proposed in collaboration with DNS Africa and Internet Society Nigeria Chapter will throw up a lot of solution to Global Digital Compact and Cooperation in Africa by discussing the challenges and Solutions. The recommendations from the Workshop meeting will be published on SENDIWSA websites and will be the bases of further engagement in our future programs. This is a way to contribute to the solution of Africa challenges on GDC and Cooperation.

REFERENCES

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- Sustainable Development Goal, <https://sdgs.un.org/gedr/gedr2023>, (Last Accessed:11th May, 2023)

Proposal for 2023 IGF in Kyoto Japan

1. Proposer (Contact Person)

Engr. Kunle Olorundare, Advisory Chair, SENDiWSA/ Vice President, Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter

2. Theme of your Proposal

Global Digital Governance and Cooperation

3. Session Title

Global Digital Governance and Cooperation in Africa: Challenges and Solutions.

4. Proposal Information

5. Time Requested

60 minutes

6. Format

Workshop

7. Relating the SDG

The Global Digital Compact (GDC) speaks to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a brighter future for all. Through collaborative efforts, we can leverage digital technologies to realise the SDGs and establish a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous world. The GDC and the SDGs are closely intertwined, with digital technologies playing a vital role in achieving the SDGs, while the SDGs ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are shared more fairly.

The proposed topic: “Global Digital Governance and Cooperation in Africa: Challenges and Solutions”, is related to all the 17 SDGs in the following way. However, our Workshop shall be strongly tied to the following SD Goals:

Goal 1: No Poverty - Digital technologies can help alleviate poverty by facilitating access to education, healthcare, and financial services.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger - Digital technologies can enhance food production and bolster food security.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being - Digital technologies can improve healthcare accessibility and enable preventative care.

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Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals - Digital technologies can facilitate goal-oriented partnerships by serving as a platform for collaboration and communication.

If Africa embraces the potential opportunities brought by the GDC and leverages digital technologies in alignment with the SDGs, we can accelerate progress towards a sustainable and inclusive future in Africa. This will reflect in every aspect of Africa growth and development [5].

8. Session support: Language: English | Webcast: Yes | Transcription: Yes | Interpretation: No | Zoom: Yes | Twitter Space: Yes | Youtube : Yes | Facebook Live Stream : Yes | Instagram: Yes | LinkedIn: Yes |

Description:

The workshop is a structured event or session where a group of people come together to learn, collaborate, and actively engage in discussions and activities related to a specific topic or objective. In this case, the topic is "Global Digital Governance and Cooperation in Africa: Challenges and Solutions."

The purpose of the workshop is to provide participants with an opportunity to develop skills, solve GDC and Cooperation challenges in Africa by generating ideas, build teams, and make recommendations. To achieve these goals, the workshop will be structured as follows:

- i. Each speaker will be given a question or two from the Workshop Questions to discuss for 5 minutes.
- ii. The lead presenter will have 10 minutes to open the workshop.
- iii. The rapporteur will have 10 minutes to summarise all the recommendations from the workshop.
- iv. Participants and other attendees will have 15 minutes to ask questions and contribute.
- v. The moderator will have a total of 5 minutes at random to navigate through the workshop.

We hope that this workshop will be a valuable learning experience for all participants. We look forward to your contributions and engagement.

- **How will you facilitate interaction between onsite and online speakers and attendees?**
- **How will you design the session to ensure the best possible experience for online and onsite participants?**
- **Please note any complementary online tools/platforms you plan to use to increase participation and interaction during the session. (word count, max 150 words)**

There will be two moderators for the SENDIWSA Worskhop. This implies that there will be an onsite moderator and a second moderator who is going to be active online serving the online participants.

There will be a synergy between the physical and online moderation based on the program of the event.

The online moderators shall be available to attend to the questions, comments, and observations of the online participants. And this will be given a slot in the program of events for those issues to be attended to.

Zoom platform shall be deployed to interact with the online participants. This will also give them access and interactivity with the physical event. Before the event, our graphic team shall design e-flyers specifically meant for this workshop and these will be circulated to the target audience and participants. Social Media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Youtube - FITLY) shall be used for information dissemination before, during and after the event.

Twitter space shall be deployed for online listeners for audio and for twitting of identified hashtag words emanating from the workshop, youtube live streaming shall be used for online participants who want both video and audio, and live comments shall be activated for interactivity. Similarly, the Zoom platform shall be used as the major connection to elicit feedbacks that will feed into the physical event . it is going to be for both audio and video audience who wants to comment, ask questions or contribute in any way. Facebook live streaming will also be used for online audiences for audio and video and participants will be able to make comments on the go.

Diversity:

It is impossible to have the whole 54 recognised countries in Africa as speakers in the workshop. However, the diversity on gender is carefully dealt with and it is balanced. We also consider the African countries beyond one country to ensure that the workshop has many countries represented. The experiences also diversified into civil society, academia, tech community, business and professional community. The age also spreads across the youth and old ones.

Objectives:

The objectives of this session are to:

- a. To learn new knowledge on Global Digital Compact in Africa: Challenges and Solutions
- b. To provide an opportunity to network with other people who share your interests.
- c. To get feedback from the attendees as part of the take away on the GDC and Cooperation Session on Africa
- d. To Increase cooperation and competition (co-ompetition) to sustain an effective and deliberate economic growth and development.
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- f. To elicit solutions from experts that will be discussing the Global Digital Compact and Cooperation within the African Community Context.
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Organisers' Information

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Organiser 2: Adebunmi Adeola Akinbo

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Collaborators

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- b. **Community NetHUBs Africa**
- c. **Culture Games Africa**
- d. **C4Urselves**

Google Document Link to Proposal: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vR92_py1eAxr4kAiq-2GtUfYe0ouYFsc84uKtH9KrTk/edit

Organisers: Engr. Kunle Olorundare and Adeola Adebunmi Akinbo

Moderator : Adebunmi Adeola Akinbo

Rapporteur : Engr. Kunle Olorundare

Online moderator: Omowunmi Olubukola Kuye

Speakers1: Lead Paper Presenter: Caleb Olumuyiwa Ogundele, Board, ISOC Global (Academia, Technology, Civil)

Speaker 2: Sagbo Pierre Dandjinou, Vice-President, ICANN Africa. (Technology, Business)

Speaker 3: Prof. (Mrs) Adenike Osofisan, (Academia, Technology, Civil)

Speaker 4: Rachel Orumor, Trustee Vice-Chair, Africa ICT Foundation. (Technology, Civil)

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