



# West Africa Youth Internet Governance Forum

## **THEME:**

**SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INTERNET USERS**

**Date:** 24TH JULY

## **Venue:**

METZY RESIDENCE HOTEL BANJUL, THE GAMBIA

## **Executive Summary:**

While youth are the largest demographic group on the Internet, they are still underrepresented at the Internet Governance Forum. We believe that young people have a high knowledge of the digital world they interact with daily and therefore deserve to play a stronger role in decision making, and policy processes regarding the Internet.

This WAYIGF was created with a goal of encouraging and involving young people in a substantive discussion on internet governance across West Africa. Harnessing the regional and global capacity of youths in West Africa in policy dialogue and discussions on Internet Governance through organizing events, networking and advocacy opportunities to support youth participation and foster the dialogue with other stakeholders at the Internet Governance Forum.

107 participants from 11 countries and 50 organisations took part in West Africa Youth IGF 2019. The Forum sessions touched on discussions in regards the youths in West Africa joining the Internet Governance Discussions and potential ways of strengthening the credibility of information on the Internet.

Sponsors of the Forum made it possible to host the maiden edition of the West Africa Youth Internet Governance Forum. Special thanks are due to West Africa Internet Governance Forum, Gambia IGF, Youth Observatory for supporting financially and in kind. Other supporters include the WAIGF Local Organising Committee and the team of volunteers.

The session recordings are available at <https://wayigf.org/resources>

## **SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:**

The WAYIGF 2019 organized by the West Africa Youth Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee and supported by the following organizations:

- Internet Society (<https://internetsociety.org> )
- Internet Society Youth SIG ( Youth Observatory <https://objuv.org/>)
- West Africa Internet Governance Forum (<https://waigf.org> )

## **EVENT OVERVIEW & PARTICIPANTS:**

The West Africa Youth Internet Governance Forum started with registering over 100 West African participants from different sectors namely:

- Civil Society (12)
- Private Sector (8)
- Academia (70)
- Technical Community (7)
- Government (10)

## **Opening Session**

The Conference commenced with welcome remarks from Fatou Muloshi who highlighted the agenda while stressing that the most important part of the Forum was for attendees to interact well and join the Internet Governance conversation.

Mrs Mary Uduma, the Coordinator of West Africa Internet Governance Forum welcomed the participants to the forum and stated how the discussion happening at the event will enable the digital commonwealth for growth and development.

Mrs Uduma gave a brief overview of internet governance. She reminded the audience that the youths are to play an active role in Governance discussions. Mrs Mary spoke extensively on the internet for growth and mentioned that this is necessary for an era where digitalization has taken over. She further spoke on how the West African region can partake in the global digital and smart economy. Mrs Uduma highlighted that trust is an issue that must be taken into consideration and dwell much on sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Mr. Makane Faye, The Chair of West Africa Internet Governance Forum Planning Committee spoke about the essence of the importance of youths in the Internet Governance Debate since they are the youths are the major users of the internet. He furthermore spoke about the fact that the youths use the Internet to build their dreams yet they voice in the internet policy discussions are limited, he, therefore, encouraged the youth to lend their voices in the Internet Policy discussions.

He also advises the youths to work in synergy with the National IGFs

## **SESSION 1: The Internet & Internet Governance**

**Speaker:** Joshua Joshua (Coordinator West Africa Youth IGF)

### **Session Summary:**

This session Joshua gave the participants a brief introduction about the internet and what internet governance means and how the internet started, he also disclosed that internet governance concerns all internet users. He also urged the youths to get involved in Internet Governance policies & discussions.

## **SESSION2: Capacity Building - Collaborative Governance (Group Session )**

### **Speakers:**

1. Bakary Njie (President, Internet Society the Gambia Chapter)
2. Amadou Bah (President, the Gambia Cyber Security Alliance)
3. Wisdom Donkor
4. Frances Cowan

### **Session Summary:**

The participants were divided into three groups to discuss, work and come up with recommendations on tackling fake news amongst in West Africa. The following are some of the recommendations that were provided by the participants.

The main topics of discussions were:

- Misinformation in the digital era
- Exploring the landscape of media
- Fake news
- Freedom of expression

### **Recommendations:**

1. Train more investigative journalists
2. Policy implementation in regards to false news online
3. Media literacy training programs
4. Data protection for all citizens

5. Individuals are advised to find the source of information before sharing
6. Individuals should Take responsibility for what they share online
7. Policies & Laws regarding the Spread of fake news should be adopted.
8. Monitoring mechanism should be deployed to checkmate the spread of news, thus helping to identify news that is fake.

### **SESSION3: Tackling Cybersecurity Amongst Youth/ Fire Side Chat on Youth role on Internet Governance**

#### **Speakers:**

1. Daniella
2. Bakary Njie
3. Amadou Bah
4. Wisdom Donkor
5. Joshua Joshua - Moderator

#### **Session Summary:**

The panelist which consist of Internet Governance related experts explored some ways how youths can get involved in IG discussions and also listed out ways to tackle cybersecurity amongst youths

The following are some of the recommendations that were provided by the participants and panellist:

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Adama Jallow (UN IGF MAG Member & WAYIGF Steering Committee member ) thanked the members of the steering committee of WAYIGF, the host of the first West Africa Youth Internet Governance Forum, the organizing committee, volunteers an participants for attending the internet governance forum. She mentioned that the youth internet governance forum mad innovations in the agenda that made the event discussion stand out, Adama stated that because of

the work, advocacy and support of the internet users that were present, the internet community find ways to govern the internet as it should be governed.

The West African Youth IGF, the participants had a cocktail in the garden of Metzy Residence Hotel to get to network and share internet governance ideas.



**USEFUL LINKS:**

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQA0GtM7KDXrn7OPFMuAh-Q>

**WAYIGF 2019 Photo Album:** <https://wayigf.org/wayigf2019photos/>

**Website:** [www.wayigf.org](http://www.wayigf.org)

- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/wayigf>
- **Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/wayigf>
- **Instagram:** <https://instagram.com/wayigf>

