Sierra Leone 2022 Internet Governance Forum Report
Bo City, Sierra Leone.

Location: Queen of the Rosary Conference Hall, Ngalo Road, Bo City.

Attendance
Numbers: **Total:** 118   Female: 48   Male: 70

Stakeholder Groups
Internet Society -Sierra Leone Chapter
Government of Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Association of Journalists
University of Njala, Bo
Canadian University of Technology, Mile 91 Yoni
Eastern Technical University, Kenema
Pujehun Women Development Group, Pujehun.
Queen of Rosary Secondary School for Girls, Bo
Government Secondary School Bo
Christ the King College, Bo
Girls Empowerment Network for Development and Advocacy (GENDA S/L), Bo

Multi-Stakeholder Organising Team
Sierra Leone Internet Governance Secretariat – Salieu Mansaray
Internet Society-Sierra Leone Chapter – Miss Ajara Bomah
Government Sierra Leone IGF Focal Person – Fallah Lamin
Pujehun Women Development Group – Mrs Fatmata Fornah

The 2022 Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum was held in Bo City, Bo District in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. After over 10 years of IGF in Sierra Leone this was the first time it was hosted outside of the Capital City Freetown. The key reason for this is that we wanted to broaden the multistakeholder composition and reach areas of the country that have felt left out in previous forums.

We held preparatory meetings both in-person and online to discuss planning arrangements as well as the theme for the 2022 Forum. We held two face-to-face preparatory meetings. We meet stakeholders at the Canadian University of Technology and the University of Njala. Several contributions and recommendations were made. We decided on the Theme: The Internet: An Enabler for Education and National Development based on the pertinent prevailing situation in our country Sierra Leone. We also adopted this theme in line with the Global IGF's Theme: **Resilient Internet for a shared sustainable and common future.**

The forum was well attended by lecturers and students from Njala University, Canadian University of Technology and Eastern Technical University (Kenema). Government, Civil Society Groups and Senior Secondary Pupils, journalists etc. broadened the Multi Stakeholder status of the forum. The Minister of Information and Communications did accept our invitation to deliver the Keynote Address at the forum but couldn't unfortunately make it. A Representative from the Ministry delivered a statement on behalf of government and participated in the Q&A as well as the Breakout Sessions.

We had a full day of dialogue on the Theme: The Internet: An Education and National Development Enabler. Several statements were made by representatives from ISOC, Civil society groups and government. The young people were well attuned to pertinent Internet issues.

Online Participation
We set up ZOOM for online participation. The technical team that offered us support couldn't make it to the venue due to nationwide fuel crisis. The mobile network connection we adopted was unstable.

THE BREAKOUT SESSION
For the breakout sessions, we ensured that each group contained a cross-section of stakeholders. Dialogue was very open. Members contributed freely, while a group rapporteur recorded the key issues on the group poster. At the end of the Breakout Session, each group leader took to the stage and presented the key issues around the topics they deliberated on.

Break Out Session Presentation Topics:
Security
Accessibility
E-Education
Internet Service Providers
Affordability
National Education Curriculum
Gender Rights
Training
Internet Misuse
Cyber Crimes

The final communiqué which is based on the deliberations and presentations from the breakout session leaders has highlighted some of the key concerns that people have and that these should be communicated firstly to the government of Sierra Leone. We hope that the government will raise these concerns at future Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and Africa Union (AU) meetings. And for the IGF channels this communiqué would be presented to the WAIGF Secretariat for onward collective submissions to the AFigf.

The decision to take the SLIGF to the southern part of Sierra Leone was one that was highly welcomed by participants. We received requests from students of the various universities and schools for more forums to be hosted in other parts of the country and for the establishment of ISOC-SL Chapter at the various campuses. This will surely be given consideration in our plans for the 2023 SLIGF.

Our sincere thanks go to the United Nations, the IGF global Secretariat, the ISOC-SL Executive, the Ministry of information and communications and most importantly the Internet Stakeholders in the South and East Provinces of Sierra Leone. Thank you very much.

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