

South Sudan Internet Governance Forum 2020

Concept note

Theme:

Towards a holistic approach to Internet Governance in South Sudan Open Data, data protection, and universal access



Contents

Internet Governance	3
Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF)	3
Aim	3
Format and methodology	4
Core principles of the Internet Governance	4
About South Sudan Internet Governance Forum	5
South Sudan IGF 2019	6
Key milestones	7
South Sudan IGF 2020	8
The South Sudan School of internet governance 2020 (SS-SIG) ...	9
The South Sudan IGF Conference 2020.	9
Expected Outcomes	10
Methodology.....	10
How to partner with South Sudan IGF	11
Convenors	11



Internet Governance

Internet Governance can be defined as the evolving policies and mechanisms under which the Internet community's different stakeholders make decisions about the development and use of the Internet.

Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder forum where public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, such as the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development are discussed. The establishment of the IGF was formally announced by the United Nations Secretary-General in July 2006; with the first meeting being convened in October 2006.

Aim

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) serves to bring people together from various

stakeholder groups as equals in discussions on issues pertaining to the Internet.

At the annual IGF event, participants discuss, exchange information and share good practices. The IGF helps to facilitate common understanding of how to maximize Internet opportunities, and address existent and foreseeable challenges, through a bottom up, multistakeholder, open, transparent and inclusive manner.

Format and methodology

The process and the final meeting brings together stakeholders representing government, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community, and the public in an informal setting for policy dialogue on Internet governance issues on equal basis through an open and inclusive process. A type of cooperative engagement referred to as the multistakeholder model of Internet Governance, which is one of the key features for the Internet's success. Since its first event in 2006, the global IGF has inspired the development of numerous IGF initiatives. National, sub-regional and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs) are IGF events organized by the community at the national, regional and sub-regional levels respectively, in a bottom-up manner with respect to IGF core criteria and procedures.

Core principles of the Internet Governance

- 1) Open and transparent,
- 2) Inclusive,
- 3) Bottom-up,
- 4) Multistakeholder
- 5) Non-commercial.

About South Sudan Internet Governance Forum

The South Sudan IGF is an initiative that aims at engaging different stakeholders in South Sudan to discuss Internet governance issues within an annual IGF process, finalized with the South Sudan School of internet governance (SS-SIG) and the South Sudan Internet governance conference.



Being the first Internet governance Forum in South Sudan, this initiative is intentional on maximizing the opportunity for:

1. Open and inclusive dialogue and exchange of ideas on Internet governance (IG) related issues
2. The creation of opportunities to share best practices and experiences
3. Identification of emerging issues and bringing them to the attention of relevant bodies and the general public; and
4. Contributing to capacity building for Internet governance.

South Sudan IGF 2019

The first SS-IGF conference was held in March 2019 bringing together over 120 participants from various stakeholder groups under the theme “**Realizing potential and creating opportunities**”. This led to the publication of the first SS-IGF report ([Download Here](#)), which explored five thematic issues:

1. Cyber Security and Data Protection
2. Gender and Digital Divide
3. Universal Access and the Universal Service Fund
4. Community Networks
5. Transparency and Access to Information

The report concluded that:

“The need to have a strong and robust broadband connectivity is very vital for the development of a country. This however, needs to also be accompanied with the development of an informed and knowledgeable public who are able to make use of the networks to develop their communities and country. The case for South Sudan needs the two elements cited above to be addressed. The country’s challenges of connectivity are inseparable from that of people’s development.

This first Internet Governance forum was a great avenue to address both challenges in an open and engaging discussion.

We have seen it and can attest to the fact that with multi-stakeholder engagement, South Sudan will be able to realize her connectivity potential and create opportunities for Her people using the internet.

The recommendations on this report are as good as the political will the stakeholders will put into it. The ideas shared here, need to be given keen attention and followed up with action for progress to be achieved.”



Key milestones

Since the last IGF, South Sudan has made several progress; some of which were as a direct recommendation from the IGF report with the following notable changes

- The launch of Dot (.SS) domain name with www.nca.gov.ss being the first official website to be hosted under the new domain name.
- The official launch of an electric grid that will lead to the electrification of Juba city and many other towns over the next few years.
- The National Communication Authority was appointed a new manager for the Universal Service Fund and have started the process of setting up the structure for operationalizing the fund.
- The launch of two mobile money services that offer their services to consumers in South Sudan.
- The launch of a fiber optic line that will lead to the increased connectivity in Juba and open their doors for digital inclusion and entrepreneurship
- South Sudan IGF sent two delegates to represent South Sudan in the global IGF in Berlin, November 2019. During the session South Sudan made a presentation on the internet and human rights.

Amidst these changes, SS-IGF sees a greater opportunity to increase access and include more South Sudanese in the knowledge economy. Such efforts need to be done in an inclusive manner to ensure all voices are heard and included in the process as well as the outcome of some of the major policies that will govern internet development in South Sudan. hence the theme “Towards a holistic approach to Internet Governance in South Sudan : Open Data, data protection, and universal access.”



South Sudan IGF 2020

The theme for this year’s IGF is “Towards a holistic approach to Internet Governance in South Sudan : Open Data, data protection, and universal access.”

This theme is a follow up to the first IGF with a realization that the need to include all voices is a necessity for progressing the discussion and making real changes on the ground.

This year’s program includes two main events:

- The South Sudan School of internet governance 2020 (SS-SIG)
- The South Sudan IGF Conference 2020.



The South Sudan School of internet governance 2020 (SS-SIG)

The South Sudan School of Internet governance is a 3-day training that focuses on teaching a select group of stakeholder the basics of internet governance, technical standards, and key policy emerging issues related to the internet development in South Sudan. The training is very competitive and selection is done based on set criteria by the IGF committee which looks at each application and evaluates its strength while looking at the diversity of the applicants and inclusion of under-represented groups. This year SS-IGF aims to have 30 participants who will undergo the School of internet governance and award certificates at the end of the training.

The South Sudan IGF Conference 2020.

This is the main conference event that will draw over 150 attendees from various stakeholder groups. It will have a one day full of discussions on main issues in regards to the year's theme, and topics submitted by the stakeholders prior to the event. Last year some of the stakeholder groups in attendance included: members of parliament, CEO of the telecoms providers, directors from the national communication authority and the ministry of information..

The reporters from both programs will be published and made available on the South Sudan IGF website and the Global IGF website after the event.

Expected Outcomes

The main outcome of the South Sudan Internet Governance Forum is to maximize opportunities for open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Internet Governance (IG) related issues. This includes but not limited to some of the items below.

Creation of opportunities to share best practices and experiences;

- Identification of emerging issues of relevance for the community and bringing them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public.
- Contribution to capacity building for Internet governance in South Sudan.
- Establishment of new mechanisms and working groups to address some matters within a given timeframe.

Methodology

The format of the Forum will include:

1. Technical workshops
2. Group discussion and sharing of case studies from other countries
3. Presentation on the state of the Internet in South Sudan (Challenges and opportunities)
4. Breakout sessions (Government, Technical community, & Civil Society)
5. Moderated plenary discussions

How to partner with South Sudan IGF

- Provide financial support to help organize the event
- Provide in kind donation (venue, documentation, transport etc)
- Volunteer to be part of the event planning team.
- Become a panelist or a workshop skaper during the School of Internet governance
- Publicise the event and encourage people to sign up

Convenors

#DEFYHATENOW



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