IGF South Sudan Internet Governance Forum 2022

23rd September 2022

Palm Africa Hotel

Juba, South Sudan

Theme :

Towards a holistic approach to Internet Governance in South Sudan:

Consumer Rights, Competition, and universal access

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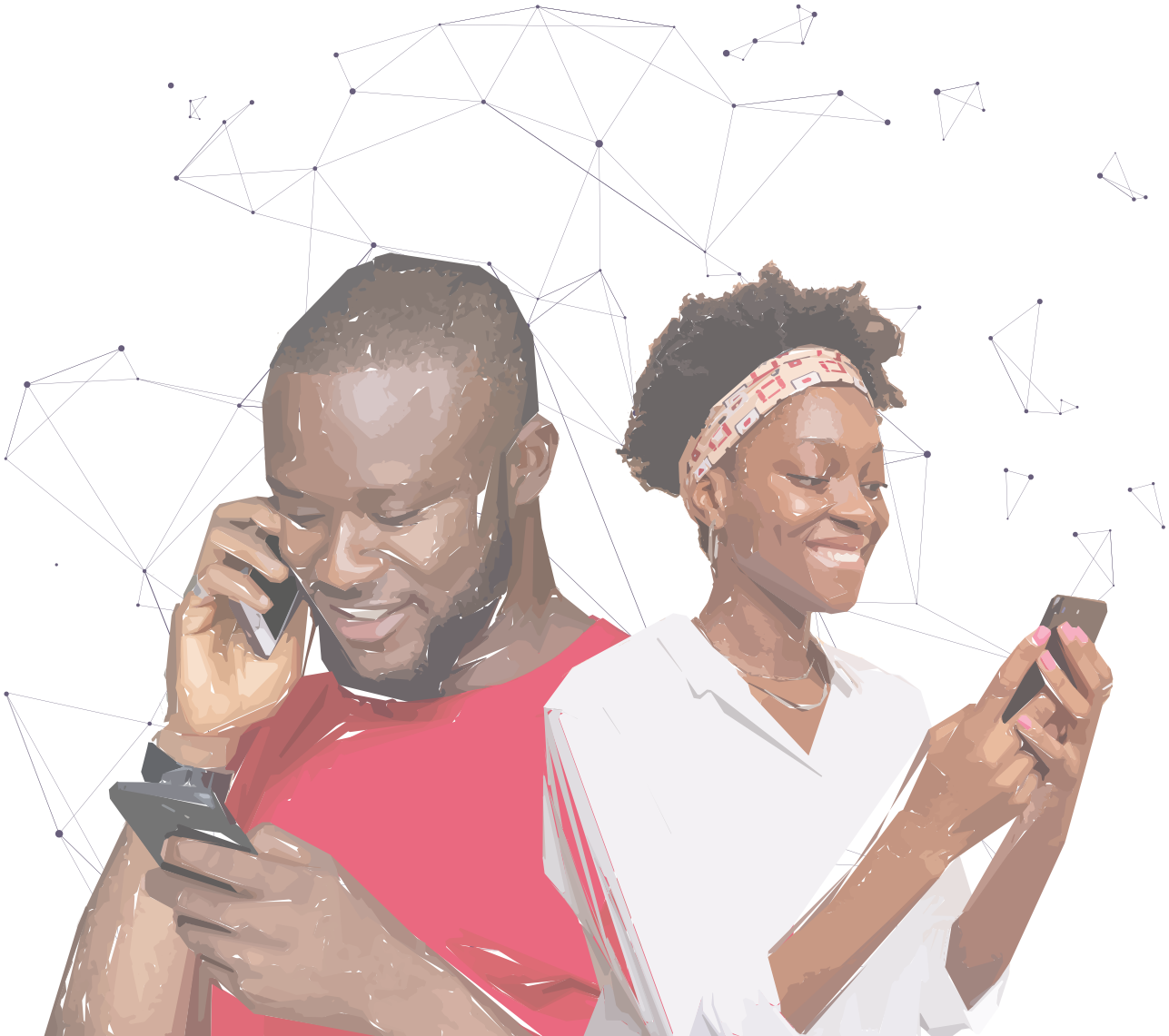

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Internet Governance

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 a 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 bring 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 an equal basis through an open and inclusive process. A type of cooperative engagement referred to as the multistakeholder model of Internet Governance is one of the critical features of 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 engages 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 in 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 the potential and creating opportunities". This led to the publication of the first SS-IGF report 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 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.

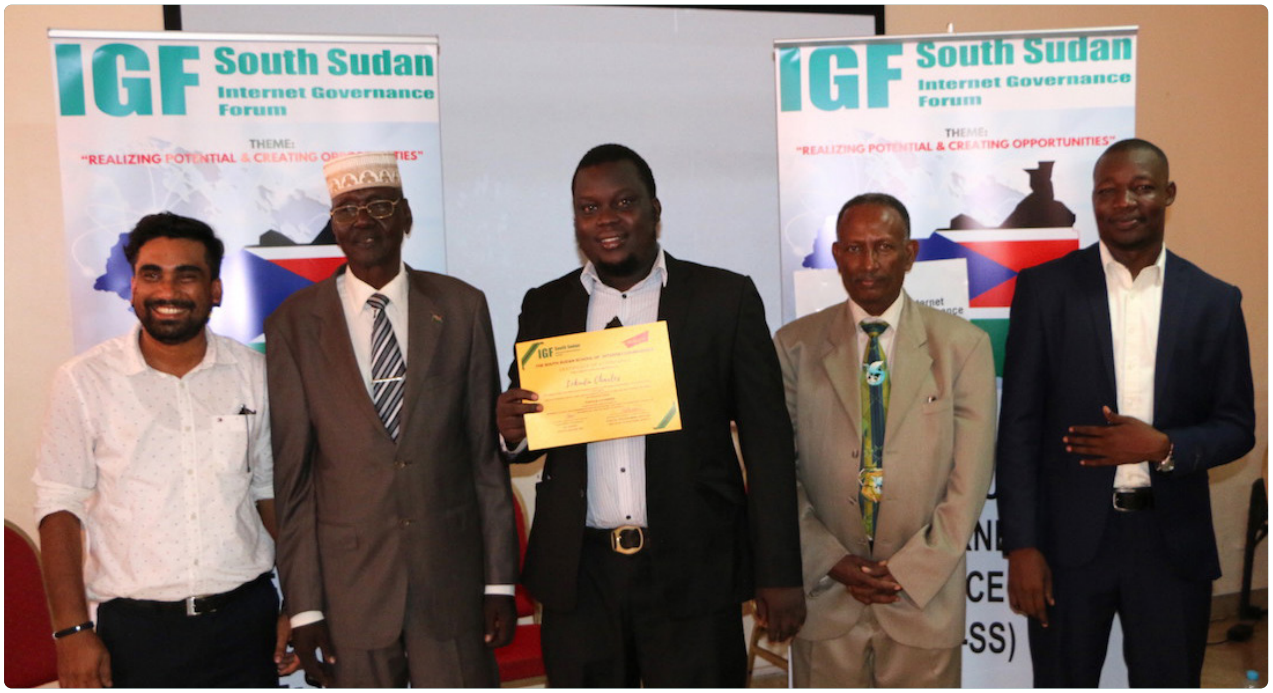
The recommendations on this report are as good as the political will the stakeholders will put into it. The ideas shared here need to be given keen attention and followed up with action for progress to be achieved."

Key milestones

Since the last IGF, South Sudan has made 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 launch of e-government services (Tax, visa, business registration etc)
- The official launch of an electric grid will lead to the electrification of Juba city and many other towns over the next few years.
- The arrival of a new Mobile Network Operator
- The launch of 4G network signals by multiple providers
- The launch of two mobile money services that offer their services to consumers in South Sudan.
- The launch of a fiber optic line led to increased connectivity in Juba and opened its doors for digital inclusion and entrepreneurship
- South Sudan IGF sent two delegates to represent South Sudan in the global IGF in Berlin in November 2019. During the session, South Sudan presented on the internet and human rights.

Amidst these changes, SS-IGF sees a more significant opportunity to increase access and include more South Sudanese in the knowledge economy. Such efforts need to be done inclusively to ensure all voices are heard and included in the process and the outcome of some of the significant policies governing internet development in South Sudan. Hence the theme "Towards a holistic approach to Internet Governance in South Sudan: Consumer Rights, Competition, and universal access."



South Sudan IGF 2022

The theme for this year's IGF is "Towards a holistic approach to Internet Governance in South Sudan: Consumer Rights, Competition, 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 fundamental changes on the ground.

The South Sudan IGF Conference 2022.

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 prominent issues regarding the year's theme and topics submitted by the stakeholders before the event. In 2019 some of the stakeholder groups in attendance included: members of parliament, the CEOs of the telecom providers, directors from the national communication authority, and the ministry of information.

The report from the program will be published and made available on the South Sudan IGF website and the Global IGF website after the event.

Expected Outcomes

The primary 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 is not limited to some of the items below.

1. Opportunities to share best practices and experiences;
2. Identification of emerging issues of relevance for the community and bringing them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public.
3. Contribution to capacity building for Internet governance in South Sudan.
4. Establish new mechanisms and working groups to address some matters within a given timeframe.

Methodology

The format of the Forum will include:

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

How to partner with South Sudan IGF

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

IGF South Sudan
Internet Governance
Forum

info@southsudanigf.net