



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

YOUTH CAFÉ ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Theme: Internet Governance in the New Gambia.

YOUTH CAFÉ ON IG: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was initiated at the World Summit on Information Society in Tunis in 2005 in response to calls for an international platform where public policy issues relating to the Internet can be discussed. The Summit asked the then United Nations' Secretary General Kofi Annan to summon such a forum – a forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue. The IGF, which meets annually, is open to all: governments, civil society, international organisations, teachers and scholars, organisations in the private sector and others. The purpose of the Forum is to examine issues relating to the Internet from a broad variety of perspectives; these range from purely technical aspects to human rights issues. All participants to the IGF are free to speak and share their experiences. Unlike many other fora in the UN community, the IGF has no legislative or executive powers. Young people are a frequent topic in IGF discussions, but to date very few young voices have been heard. Young people have not found a place at the table. Their absence is based on many factors including inadequate capacity, limitation of resources to facilitate their participation. This is why the idea of a Youth Café on IGF was conceived.

The aim is to provide a youth friendly space in the Gambia National IGF for young people to be introduced to the Internet Governance and discuss on the future of the Internet in the New Gambia. To be sure, the voices of the young leaders are heard in the NRIs and Global IGFs, the café is intended to bring together representatives of **National Youth Organisations, Regional Youth Committees, Youth in Civil Society, Business, NGOs, Private Sector, Academia and Technical Community** stakeholder groups face to face with leaders in ICT and Cyberspace to share knowledge and experience and to heighten young leader's awareness of the opportunities the IGF affords and inspire them to get actively involved.

WHY A YOUTH CAFÉ?

Youth as a majority of Internet user group, their voices are however less heard in the discourse related to Internet Governance. With a dedication to raise the awareness of Youth on Internet Governance and encourage the young generation to participate in the policy discussion, the Gambia National Youth Council is initiating the Youth Café on Internet Governance Forum (YCIGF) as a pre-event to the 2018 Gambia National IGF.

The initiative is inspired by the Youth IGF movement and will take the informal approach to bring the voices of Gambian youth at the NRIs and Global IGF tables. Based on the mandate of IGF to bring various groups together as equal stakeholders, YCIGF will provide an open platform for young generation to express , interchange their ideas and own thoughts on Internet Governance freely. YCIGF will be a one-day event in which participants will be drawn from the seven administrative regions of the Gambia and given a space and voices as Youth interest stakeholder group to contribute to Gambia National IGF discussion. During the cafe, participants will be encouraged to think from a new standpoint and different perspectives. This hope to serve as a preparatory session for them to understand various structures, roles as well as of mandates of key players in the Internet policy discussions.

On the positive side, the core feature of the Youth Cafe is that the session facilitators are all youth themselves mainly from the Gambia National Youth Council, Internet Society Gambia Chapter, Gambia Press Union and the Gambia Cyber Security Alliance which signifies the empowerment of youth as well as the peer-to-peer impact.

OBJECTIVES

The cafe hopes to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Provide a platform to introduce and prepare the youth to participate and assist in shaping up their voices in NRIs and Global Internet Governance discussions.
- Map out different IG stakeholders and institutions with a view to highlight or enhances the noble roles of youth for subsequent interventions on IG issues.
- Provide an opportunity for interaction, debate and reflection on the nexus between youth and IGF, with a view to enhance their understanding of the complexities in that relationship.

FORMAT OF SESSION

The format will be a combination of interactive plenary and focused group discussions. In addition to the expert presentations in session one and two which will also set the tone for further deliberations, participants will be divided into the five sub-themes of the Gambia National IGF (**Data protection and privacy, Access and Infrastructure, Security in the digital economy, Intellectual property, Internet Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals**) to discuss and report back to plenary. The idea of this breakout session is to prepare the youth participants before the main Gambia National IGF session and encourage them to participate and make meaningful contributions during the session from a multi-stakeholder perspective.

Following the breakout session, the 5 groups will report back to the plenary, highlighting, among others, specific points important to them as young people and come up with a common youth position to be incorporated into the National IGF outcome document/statement, for consideration by the meeting. All delegates will be encouraged to actively contribute in the main session of the National IGF.

DATE & VENUE

3rd July 2018 | Friendship Hostel, Bakau.

PARTICIPATION

The cafe will target youth (**age: 18-35**) internet users, young professionals and activists in the Gambia, especially the potential ones that we see fit to play a future leadership role in Internet governance. It will be limited to maximum 35 participants (excluding the lead facilitators). That way, each person can receive individual attention during the session and has the opportunity to contribute effectively to the discussion.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

At the end of the session, participants will get;

- A clear picture on what IG is and is not;
- Understand the noble role of each interest stakeholder group;
- Gained knowledge, information and practical skills for better preparation/engagement in future IGF or cyber policy debates;
- Interact with experts and get inspired;
- Key into the National IGF sub-themes or outcome document.

OUTPUT/DELIVERABLE

- Video recording and written proceedings of the session compiled and made available for dissemination.

PARTNERSHIPS/RESPONSIBILITY

The Gambia National Youth Council: Will be responsible for the overall conceptualization, execution of the session and ensuring financial contribution to aid the participation of youth in the session.

Youth IGF Movement: Will be responsible for sharing experience and useful resources for learning

Information Technology Association of The Gambia and Internet Society Gambia Chapter: Will be a knowledge partners in the session to provide strategic guidance/direction for a successful organisation of the session.

The Gambia Cyber security Alliance: Will assist in mobilising participants for the session.

Media Partner(s): The Stone Circle News: Will assist in publicizing the session as well as promoting coverage in various media outlets, including print and online.

LEAD FACILITATORS

1. **Kawsu Sillah (Mr):** *African School on Internet Governance Alumni Class of 2014 and Youth IGF Ambassador for the Gambia*

2. **Haddija Jawara (Ms):** *African School on Internet Governance Alumni Class of 2016 and Communications Officer at Gambia Press Union*

3. **Amadou Bah (Mr):** *Founder and President at The Gambia Cyber security Alliance and Cyber security practitioners*

4. **Adama Jallow (Ms):** *Member of Global IGF MAG*

5. **Alagie Ceesay (Mr):** *Executive Secretary at Internet Society Gambia Chapter*

6. **Poncelet Ileleji (Mr):** *Resource Person at West Africa IGF and member of Gambia National IGF organising Committee*

Draft PROGRAMME

8:30 – 9:00 am **Registration:** Participants

9:00 – 9:45 am **Welcome Statement:** Lamin Darboe, Executive Director, The Gambia National Youth Council

Keynote Statement: Representative of the National IGF Organising Committee

9:45 – 10:40 am **Presentation of the session Goals and Objectives (expected outputs, etc.):** Kawsu Sillah (Mr) – African School on Internet Governance Alumni Class of 2014 and Youth IGF Ambassador for the Gambia, Haddija Jawara (Ms), African School on Internet Governance Alumni Class of 2016 and Communications Officer at Gambia Press Union

10:40 – 11:00 am **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:00 pm **Session I - IGF – History and Key players:** Poncelet Ileleji (Mr) – Resource Person at West Africa IGF and member of Gambia National IGF organising Committee

12:00 – 13:15 pm **Lunch Break**

13:15 – 14:00 pm **Session II: IGF Issues – Institutions and processes at national, regional, continental and Global levels:** Adama Jallow (Ms) – Member of Global IGF MAG, Alagie Ceesay (Mr), Executive Secretary at Internet Society Gambia Chapter

14:00 – 16:00 pm **Group Discussion - Participants divided into 5 groups for focused discussion on the sub-themes of the Gambia National IGF and report back to plenary:** Amadou Bah (Mr) – Founder and President at The Gambia Cyber security Alliance and Cyber security practitioners

16:00 – 17:00 pm **Plenary - session Report of group Discussion:** Group Team Leads

17:00 – 17:30 pm **Final session – Conclusion and Preparation for the National IGF:** Kawsu Sillah (Mr) – African School on Internet Governance Alumni Class of 2014 and Youth IGF Ambassador for the Gambia, Haddija Jawara (Ms), African School on Internet Governance Alumni Class of 2016 and Communications Officer at Gambia Press Union

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