Report of the African IGF Open Forum

Session Title	African IGF Open Forum
Date	20/12/17
Time	1720-1820hrs
Session Organizers	- Makane Faye, Coordinator, African IGF Secretariat - Adil Sulieman, Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission (AUC)
Chair/Moderator	Christine Arida, Executive Director for Telecom Services and Planning National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Makane Faye, African IGF Secretariat
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Ridha Guellouz, Chair, North Africa IGF; Mary Uduma, Chair, AfIGF Charter Working Group & Coordinator West Africa IGF; Adil Sulieman, Senior Policy Officer, AUC; and Makane Faye, AfIGF Secretariat.
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	• Implementation of the African IGF Charter. • All African countries to organize their national IGF. • Use of the AU Capacity Building project. • Creation of an online forum and discussion lists. • Hosting of AfIGF 2018 • Registering domain names with dotAfrica.
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	**The African IGF, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 4-6 December 2017 (by Christine Arida)** The presentation gave a summary of the outcome of the African School of Internet Governance (AfriSIG), then provided a graphical summary of the AfIGF theme and sub-themes, parallel and plenary sessions as well as statistics on participation. Participants were divided into several stakeholder groups from which Government had the biggest share. Also women participation was 43%; this is a quite high figure compared to previous AfIGFs where it was around 20%. Youth participation was also high. **The African Internet Governance Forum Charter (by Mary Uduma)** The presenter gave the history of the Charter development process,

membership and main objective. Then she dwelt on its implementation by indicating stakeholder composition of the African IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (AfIGF MAG) and its time-table.

The West African Internet Governance Forum (by Mary Uduma)
The presentation indicated that WAIGF, organized by ECOWAS was held in 27-28 July in Cotonou, Benin under the theme Digital security for socio-economic development and peace in West Africa, with the participation of a large group of stakeholders from all the West African countries. A communique on the way forward for implementation by countries and stakeholders was produced at the end of the meeting.

The North Africa Internet Governance Forum (by Ridha Guellouz)
The presenter highlighted the challenges related to the creation of the North Africa IGF as the Maghreb Arab Union (MAU) does not include Egypt and Sudan. He dwelt on the first meeting which was held in December in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, prior to the African IGF. He explained the process of adoption of the North Africa IGF Charter in 2012 and the reasons of absence of a Nominating Committee.
He further indicated that the AfIGF Charter and the North Africa IGF charter were compatible and there was no difference that may affect the functioning of the two IGFs.

The Central Africa Internet Governance Forum (by Michel T. Linze)
A written text was submitted to the African IGF Secretariat by Mr. Linze because he had to leave Geneva the same evening. In the text, he indicated that the Sub-Regional IGF was an opportunity for the countries because it allows searching for the common useful resources in order to create necessary dynamics for the regular and planned holding of activities. He further outlined the composition of the multistakeholder groups of the CAIGF, underlined best practices and weak points. He concluded by urging his sub-region to be more involved on Internet Governance issues and the implementation of the African IGF Charter.

The AU Capacity Building Project on Internet Governance (by Adil Sulieman)
The presenter indicated that the African Union Declaration on Internet Governance was adopted by the African ministers in charge of ICT in November 2017 in Addis Ababa. He took the opportunity to indicate that in implementing the Declaration an Internet Governance training programme on IG will be implemented by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the European Union starting from 2018 involving all African Member States and stakeholder groups.

The Nomination Committee of the African IGF MAG (by Makane Faye)
In implementing the African IGF Charter and in line with its Article 4.2.1, a

	nomination committee (Nom Com) was disclosed during the Open Forum by the African IGF Secretariat as follows 1. African Union: Moctar Yedaly 2. West Africa : Koffi Raphael, ECOWAS 3. Southern Africa: George Ah-Thew, SADC 4. East Africa: Lillian Nalwoga, Uganda 5. North Africa: Ridha Guellouz, Tunisia 6. Central Africa: Luc Missidimbaz, Republic of Congo 7. Intergovernmental Organization: AUC will hold consultations for designation
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	Many delegates highlighted the lack of translation in most of the workshops open forums and other important sessions of the global IGF which prevented them from interacting and expressing their views in French. In order to increase domain name registration on the continent, all African countries and stakeholders were urged to register their respective domain names through dot Africa. On issues related to African youth participation in the IGF, the secretariat explained all the efforts made to train them by organizing the Africa Governance School (AFRISIG) every year and by including youth panelists in every session of the AfIGF.
Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)	There is need to raise awareness and to support the remaining African countries to establish their multistakeholder IGF and participate in the continental and global IGF. There is need to implement the African IGF Charter in an inclusive manner by making sure all stakeholder groups are represented. In order to have inclusive exchanges of ideas and information, there is need to put in place an interactive Knowledge Management platform to enable exchanges among various stakeholder groups and make them apprised of the various IGF and African IGF activities. The AU Capacity Building project, PRIDA, needs to take care of IGF intersessional activities in relation to Africa's participation, especially on Dynamic Coalitions, Best Practice Forums and Connecting the next Billion.
Gender Reporting	
Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:	95 participants signed the attendance sheet.

Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:	41 participants had female names.
To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?	It was not part of the agenda but the participants and panelists brought up the subject on different occasions.
If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:	There was recognition by the participants that the secretariat is making progress in ensuring gender equality in AfIGF and AfriSIG processes whether it relates to attendance or active participation of women. Indeed participants noted women participation in African IGF 2018, which was 43%. The secretariat was praised for this effort and urged to continue along this line.

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