8ᵀᴴ WEST AFRICAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

THEME: "IMPLEMENTING A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MODEL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNET IN WEST AFRICA "

17 – 18NOVEMBER 2016, PALAIS DES CONGRES, NIAMEY, NIGER

COMMUNIQUE

[ORIGINAL VERSION: ENGLISH]

We, participants of the 8ᵗʰ West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), meeting in Niamey, from 17ᵗʰ to 18ᵗʰNovember 2016, representing the Internet governance initiatives of the following nine(9) countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo; with the participation and support of the following partners:ECOWAS Commission, WATRA, FOSSFA, ICANN, AFRINIC, ISOC, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), APC, SONITEL, SahelCom, and IGFSA.

- Recalling the results of the previous editions of the West African Internet Governance Forum which were held respectively in Accra, Dakar, Lagos, Freetown, Abidjan and Abuja;
- Considering the need to sustainably own the benefits of the Internet at the community level;
- Desirous, on one hand, to build an innovative, dynamic, prosperous, and united sub-regional Internet community and, on the other, a stable and secure Internet ecosystem.

1) Elect to:

a) Invite expressions of interest to host the WAIGF at N+1 and/or N+2

b) Host the virtual WAIGF Secretariat at the ECOWAS Commission

c) Endorse the proposed WAIGF structure consisting of an advisory committee, a WAIGF secretariat, a coordinator, a planning committee and a resource mobilisation committee, with the involvement of national IGFs.

d) Engage Mary Uduma as the WAIGF coordinator

2) Recommend;

All Member States shall establish and or operate their national Internet Governance Forums (IGF) with all stakeholders annually.ECOWAS Commission shall take appropriate measures to monitor the implementation of the process.

a) Restructuring WAIGF

- Create a multi stakeholder advisory committee
- Define clear objectives and timeline for conveying all national IGFS and the WAIGF
- Organise all national IGFs before the WAIGF with a theme related to that of the WAIGF
- Develop a charter for the WAIGF taking into consideration the new structure

b) On Access and Diversity

- Urge countries to offer more services online
- Develop a regional e-government strategy
- Endorse infrastructure sharingto reduce costs
- Encourage the removal of roaming tariffs in theregion
- Encourage the use of public IP addresses and hosting of local content in West Africa
- Encourage countries to develop IXPs and data warehouses
- Urge countries to develop policies that will promote the connection of the unconnected and bridge the digital divide
- Encourage the adaptation of the affordability targets of 1Gb to be less than 2% of average monthly income of consumers

c) On Security and Privacy in the Internet Age

- Urge governments to develop strategies on Child Online Protection (COP)
- Sensitise stakeholders on security, surveillance and online privacy
- **Encourage governments and all stakeholders to adopt the African declaration on Internet rights and freedom**

d) On Critical Internet Resources

- Encourage countries to migrate to IPv6
- Encourage countries to engage in the global IGF and ICANN processes

Express our gratitude to the Government of Niger for hosting this 2016 edition.

Niamey. November18, 2016

WAIGF 2016