



## Recommendations from the 9th AfICTA Summit Held Virtually From 8-9 December 2021

### 1. First Panel Session (IGF Workshop Session)

The first panel session was a session organized by AfICTA @ the 16th IGF held in Katowice, Poland titled Digital Inclusivity in DLDCs: Data Connectivity Vs Content.

- Governments should digitize their processes and records without any more delays and put citizen-facing services online while also ensuring that digital infrastructure deficits are vigorously addressed.
- Government should create a level playing field and provide some level of support to local content creators to ensure they meet the standards generally acceptable by users at an affordable price.
- Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations should undertake enlightenment and digital literacy programs to sensitize the general public, the benefits the Internet provides, and as well debunk the fears of coming online.
- Government to grant telcos tax holiday, loan facilities, important infrastructures i.e energy, and reduce the cost of "right of way" in order to reduce the cost of connection which is currently quite high.
- Telcos should engage in infrastructure sharing to reduce waste and strengthen access

### 2. Second Panel Session (Digital Literacy: The Bedrock for Bridging Digital Divide in Africa)

- The session agreed on engaging AfICTA with the support of other relevant private sector actors to champion the course of training and retraining at least one thousand (1,000) teachers on digital skills in 2022 in support of the effort of government so as to positively equip our children with relevant skills set and to also stimulate the government to earmark more funding and support to digital literacy.
- A National Day of Code is another recommendation from Melissa Sassi who is passionate and sure about the huge impact this is going to have on the level of digital skill of each nation that would adopt it. Nigeria is also working on a project called **Blue Collar Day**, creating awareness around the importance of digital skills and technology and other nations can follow suit.

### 3. Third Panel Session (Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime)

- Government and relevant stakeholders need to get it right regarding data and privacy, security, Internet access and governance policy making for a digital era and skills capability and infrastructural.
- Service providers should closely work with law enforcement agencies to arrest and prosecute cybercriminals such that it serves as deterrent to others conceiving such acts.
- Organization should ensure they invest more in security and encryption systems to secure their customers' data and build a robust verification and logging systems.
- Government and Civil Society should create more awareness among the users of the Internet and digital services on how to stay safe coupled with training and retraining of every workforce, with that, people are more equipped to overcome any tactics of the hackers.

### 4. Forth Panel Session: 5G and Industrialization: Implications for Business and Technology

- The government in Africa have to adopt a more focused-change approach when adopting new technologies in order to fully optimize the use of the technology and get the full return on investment rather than constantly trying to meet up with a technological trend that is subject to change in quick successions.
- To fully maximize the benefits of the 5G technology in Africa, each country has to draft its own National policy on spectrum allocation that would encourage long-term investment in its viability and also make it flexible enough for prioritization that isn't monopolized or co-opted by big tech alone.
- The adoption of 5G has to be done on a country-specific basis in Africa with a vertically integrated approach that would suit SMEs in the countries and a platform for engagement where all SMEs in Africa can be connected to get opportunities of the 5G would be very beneficial in the long term.
- The use of Dynamic Spectrum has to be employed in the deployment of 5G in Africa to avoid wastage of unused but the challenge is for SMEs to find niches to provide services to the underserved areas in order to capitalize on the Dynamic spectrum model.
- Africa has to meticulously lay the foundations for one network that is synchronized with the African free trade agreement in order to accelerate digitization in the continent and inherently accomplish the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa.
- African countries to begin to adopt the framework set by the A4AI for Internet connectivity for all by 2030
- African countries need to critically examine the findings from the A4AI “Connecting Africa Through Broadband: A strategy for doubling connectivity by 2021 and reaching universal access by 2030” and work towards the framework on meaningful connectivity to unlock the full power of the Internet.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration especially between the private and public sectors is key to actualizing and maximizing the benefit of 5G adoption in Africa.

## 5. Fifth Panel Session (Regional Digital Development: ICTs Central to the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030)

- The common practice of recycling data protection regulation from foreign entities has to be vehemently dissuaded. African regulators have to imbibe the practice of enacting policies and regulations that are fully contextual to the region being regulated.
- African countries have to be wary of the upcoming project of ID for Development which aims at creating digital identities for Africa to foster development. Foreign entities are leveraging this platform to begin to define data governance parameters and instruments for African Nations.
- The private sector in Africa has to constantly engage and follow up with its policymakers to ensure that they do not consent to cyber protection laws and data governance instruments that are unfavourable to the countries and can further make us disconnected.

## 6. Sixth Panel Session (ICANN BC Outreach)

- Bilateral organizations such as AfICTA are encouraged to commission a study on the "health of the Internet in Africa" to generate data and statistics that highlights the unique needs of African Internet users and share such findings with the governance community.

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