



UGANDA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2018

Creating an Internet of Trust in Uganda

31st October, 2018 | Protea Hotel by Marriott Kampala, Uganda

The Internet has enabled information flows critical for communication, commerce, research, governance, among others. The Internet's original design treated every bit, despite origin and destination, equally thus making it such a trusted entity. The ability to trust strangers through crowdsourcing information, social networking, among others, through Over-the-Top (OTT) services, emboldened ideals on distributed trust.¹ However, OTT services' intermediation of the Internet came with extraordinary power. Suddenly, services such as Google and Facebook built incredibly powerful and profitable data-driven business models at a worldwide scale.

In recent times, different interest groups such as governments and corporates have since picked considerable interest and now wrest for control of the Internet especially in the wake of the weaponisation of news, algorithms, politics, and people. This weaponisation has significantly checked, if not destroyed the foundation of trust the Internet was premised.

Internet usage in Uganda continues to grow with recent figures from the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) pointing to 18.8 million internet subscriptions representing a 48% penetration rate as at December 2017. Of which, 77% of the access was via mobile whose penetration rate stands at 65 connections per 100 inhabitants. Despite considerable gains in Internet use and access in Uganda, several issues related to its control and regulation emerge. For example, cybersecurity had previously been seen as an issue of national security through regulations such as Interception of Communications Act, Computer Misuse Act, among others, yet personal data protection and privacy is equally cardinal. While efforts to connect the unconnected such as citizens and government services have been unprecedented, there still are distinct digital divides in rural areas and the inclusion of youth, women, the disabled and other vulnerable and minority groups.² The further growth of Internet giants and their OTT offerings might have denied the government of the much-needed tax revenue since taxing these giants would require new taxation regimes readily not available in emerging markets. Instead, the government has shifted the tax burden to the citizens through social media (OTT) and mobile money taxes.³ Meanwhile, emerging technologies such as blockchain and Digital Ledger Technologies (DLT) promise to foster trust and privacy through decentralisation of services. The Internet of Things (IoT) only shows that the Internet's potential is yet to be fully tapped into through the interconnection of everything.

The Uganda Internet Governance Forum (UIGF) is a multi-stakeholder event that involves representatives from government, civil society, academia, technical community, private sector, entities and individuals interested in Internet Governance (IG) issues. Inaugurated in 2006, the objectives of the UIGF are to: Establish IG issues relevant to Uganda; Build consensus on national and regional positions around relevant IG issues and create awareness about various IG issues including online safety in Uganda especially among vulnerable users.

¹ Shirky, Clay. *Here Comes Everybody: the Power of Organizing without Organizations*. New York: Penguin Books, 2009.

² Available at <https://www.nita.go.ug/publication/national-it-survey-2018-final-report>

³ A4AI, "Uganda: New social media tax will push basic connectivity further out of reach for millions," CIPESA, June 7, 2018, available at <https://cipesa.org/2018/06/uganda-new-social-media-tax-will-push-basic-connectivity-further-out-of-reach-for-millions/>

Agenda

8.30-9.00 **Arrival and registration of participants**

9.00-9.30 **Opening Remarks:** Lillian Nalwoga

9.30-10.15 **An overview of the previous IGF**

“Been there, done that: Lessons from past experiences and suggestions”

- Mary Helda Akongo (Zimba Women), Mwotta Bazil (Queen’s Young Leader), Daniel Bill Opio (Cyber Law Initiative)

10.15-11.15 **Content Regulation vs Misinformation ("Fake News")**

The internet has revolutionised the information landscape across the world in such profound ways. However, the same revolutionary technology has also been used to facilitate the spread of fake news and catalyse misinformation. While technical and policy interventions may attempt to solve the issues arising, they might have even far-reaching implications on freedom of expression online. This session thus seeks to explore the impact of misinformation (fake news) on the public sphere but also to chart ways to create inclusive solutions, through technical and policy interventions, without compromising fundamental freedoms online.

Panelists:

- John B. Babirukamu, MTN Uganda
 - Dr. Patricia Litho, Chair, Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA)
 - Rosebell Kagumire, Communications Specialist
- Moderator:** Raymond Mujuni, Investigative Journalist, NBS Television

11.15-11.45 **Health break**

11.45 - 12:45 **Accessibility & Digital Inclusion**

Policy makers have been called to incentivize technologists and designers to build tools and platforms with a focus on accessibility and digital inclusion. However, accessibility and digital inclusion engender core aspects such as affordability, usability, and safety of digital services to vulnerable and minority groups such as the disabled, illiterate, low-income groups, among others.

Panelists:

- Dr. Abdul Busuluwa, Executive Director, CBR Africa Network
 - Badru Ntege, CEO, NFT Consult
 - Christine Nalubowa, NITA-U
 - Evelyn Namara, Vouch Digital
 - Tony Okwonga, Partnerships and Development Manager (PDM) BOSCO UGANDA
- Moderator:** Douglas Onyango, Director, Deron Limited

12.45-14.00 **Lunch break**

14.00-15.00 **Cybersecurity & Blockchain [Emerging Technologies]**

Cybersecurity has gained more prominence in the recent past due to the increased level of incidences not only at institutional but also individual levels. Suddenly, the interconnection of devices and people has become the Trojan Horse of the 21st century. Emerging technologies such as blockchain promise not only to enforce security of data but also to facilitate 'trust' entrenched within transactions where parties would typically not trust each other. The stateless and permissionless nature of the blockchain will enhance things like digital payments, property rights, and almost anything that can be connected to the Internet.

Panelists:

- Arnold Mangeni, NITA-U
- Alice Namuli Blazevic, KATS
- Jimmy Haguma, Uganda Police Force
- Noah Baalessanvu, Blockchain Technologies Africa

Moderator: Silver Kayondo, Ortus LLP

15.00-16.00 **Internet Governance Around the World and How to Participate**

Who controls/governs the Internet? This is the decade-old question whose obvious answer is "nobody". The Internet is governed by varied and diverse stakeholders such as governments, corporates, academia, technical community, and civil society who, in their capacities, play critical roles. Multistakeholderism in the Internet Governance space seeks to foster better and inclusive ways of building consensus amongst the stakeholders as they address issues concerning the Internet.

Panelists:

- Gloria Katuuku, MoICT
- Joan Katambi, ICANN fellow

Moderator: Juliet Nanfuka, CIPESA

16.00-16.30 **Closing remarks**

16.30 - 17.00 **Networking and Departure**



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