



South African Internet Governance Forum

History of Internet Governance



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Index

The Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)	Page 3
Internet Governance Definition	Page 3
Internet Governance Forum (IGF)	Page 3
The South African Internet Governance Forum (ZAIGF)	Page 4
The ZAIGF Objectives	Page 4
African Internet Governance Forum (AFIGF)	Page 5
African Internet Governance Forum in South Africa (2016)	Page 5
The African Internet Governance Ecosystem	Page 6
The NETmundial Meeting	Page 6
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)	Page 7
The IANA Transition and ICANN accountability	Page 7 - 8
The Institutional Ecosystem of Internet Governance	Page 8
African Top-Level Domain Association (AfTLD)	Page 8
The African Network Information Center (AfriNIC)	Page 8
Internet Society (ISOC)	Page 8
The Internet Engineering Task force (IETF)	Page 9
The International Telecommunication union (ITU)	Page 9



South African Internet Governance Forum

The Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)

The Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) was set up by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with the mandate given to him by the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva, on 10 – 12 December 2003.

The WGIG comprised 40 members from governments, private sector and civil society who all participated on an equal footing and in their personal capacity, with the mandate below:

- Develop a working definition of Internet governance.
- Identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance.
- Develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries

Internet Governance Definition:

Internet governance (IG) - Is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The IGF was created after the second leg of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in November 2005 in Tunis. The Working Group on Internet Governance, proposed for the creation of the IGF as a platform where Internet related public policy issues can be addressed by all stakeholders on an equal footing. The IGF was designed as a multistakeholder platform and not established as a policy-development or decision-making body. Its steering committee, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) is composed of representatives of all stakeholder groups. But its decision-making capacity is limited to issues related to the organization of the annual IGF.

The IGF is a multistakeholder process without any decision-making power. In December 2015, the IGF was further renewed for another 10 years, at the intergovernmental review process, also known as the WSIS+10, under the United Nations General Assembly.



South African Internet Governance Forum

The South African Internet Governance Forum (ZAIGF)

The South African Internet Governance Forum (ZAIGF) is a multi stakeholder public policy forum that promote and strengthen the discussions that shape the future of the Internet ecosystem in South Africa.

The ZAIGF was officially launched in Johannesburg, September 2016. The ZAIGF is multi-stakeholder an initial led by the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) together with, ZA Domain Name Authority, Internet Service Provider Association (ISPA), ISOC- Gauteng (ISOC-GP) and the South African Communication Forum (SACF).

The ZAIGF Objectives:

ZAIGF is the platform that promote discussions between Government, Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia and Technical community on internet governance issues and encourage participation of individuals from marginalised communities in internet governance discussions, in particular:

- To create an inclusive Information Society
- To create a multi-stakeholder information sharing platform.
- To inform stakeholders on key policy issues that may affect the future of internet users.
- To identify South African requirements and principles of Internet Governance.
- To formulate a common South African position with regard to the African and the global Internet Governance Forum.
- To work together as Government, Civil Society, Business and Academia to bridge the gaps that exists to bring all South Africans into the Information and Knowledge Economy.



South African Internet Governance Forum

African Internet Governance Forum (AFIGF)

The African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF), launched at the global IGF in 2011, which was held in Kenya, held its inaugural meeting in Cairo, Egypt in September 2012. The AfIGF's secretariat is hosted by the African Union Commission, with the support of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

African Internet Governance Forum in South Africa (2016)

The 5th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) took place in Durban, South Africa from the 16 - 18 October 2016 and over 200 participants drawn from government, private sector, academia, research institutions, technical community, civil society organizations, media, and other stakeholders from over 30 countries attended physically.

The meeting was officially opened by the Premier of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mr. Willies Mchunu and they keynote address was delivered by Dr. Siyabonga Cwele - Minister of Department of Telecommunications and Postal Service (DTPS).

The AfIGF 2016, was organized by the African Union, The Economic Commission for Africa, The Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) and The New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad). The meeting was financially supported by the ZA Domain Name Authority (ZADNA), ZA Central Registry (ZACR), AfriNIC and Internet Society (ISOC).

There were major discussions that were discussed at the AfIGF, with the objective of addressing the issues that shape the future of the Internet in the continent and bring about socio-economic development through the use of ICT's. Below are some of the issues that were addressed:

- Bridging the gender divide in the digital transformation of Africa
- Africa's Digital Economy: Africa and Human Rights on the Internet
- Connecting the next billion, which role for Africa
- Security and Privacy issues in the Internet
- Inclusive development & Digital Transformation in Africa Youth
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Accelerating the Digital Transformation of Africa.



South African Internet Governance Forum

The African Internet Governance Ecosystem:

- The East African IGF (EAIGF), launched in 2008
- The West African IGF (WAIGF), launched in 2008
- The Southern Africa IGF (SAIGF), launched in 2012
- The Central African IGF (CAIGF), launched in 2012
- The North African IGF (NAIGF), launched in 2012. NAIGF was replaced in 2013 by the wider Arab IGF that covers all the Arabic speaking countries in North Africa and the Middle East

The NETmundial Meeting

The Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, also known as NETmundial, took place in Sao Paulo, 2014. The meeting was convened to discuss two important issues relevant for the future evolution of the Internet, in an open and multistakeholder fashion and with key objectives of the meeting focusing on:

- Internet Governance Principles, and
- Roadmap for the future evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem.
- The outcome of Netmundial were adopted by the global internet community and are referred to the Netmundial principles, which are:
 - Human rights and shared values;
 - Protection of intermediaries;
 - Culture and linguistic diversity;
 - Unified and unfragmented space;
 - Security, stability and resilience of the Internet;
 - Open and distributed architecture;
 - Enabling environment for sustainable innovation and creativity;
 - Internet governance process principles;
 - Open standards



South African Internet Governance Forum

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

ICANN - is a non-governmental organization established in 1998. ICANN is responsible for the management and administration of the DNS and coordinating registries for the Internet's unique identifiers: IP addresses (and related resources), protocol-parameters, and top-level domains. ICANN organizes public policy meetings three times each year.

The meetings are held on a rotational basis in different regions of the world. Each encounter features a bottom-up approach, favouring multistakeholderism and consensus-based process, dealing with policies and processes related to the Internet's naming and numbers system.

The IANA Transition and ICANN accountability

The year 2016, will be marked as the year global Internet community achieved two key milestone, the first being the renewal of the IGF, but of further importance the second milestone achieved in critical success of the IANA transition. IANA - Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, manages the technical underpinnings of the domain name systems (DNS) and its functions include the coordination of the assignment of technical Internet protocol parameters and the allocation of Internet numbering resources and management of the DNS.

The organizations responsibilities include administering several IANA registries, such as a Root Zone WHOIS database that includes current and verified contact information for all Top-Level Domain operators (e.g., ZA, .COM, .ZW, .NET) and ICANN is the entity that performs these functions, as well as applies the policies developed by the customers of the IANA functions.

In March 2014, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced its intention to transition its stewardship role of IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community and also setting the key underlining principles that will guide the development of the transition plan, developed by the ICANN community. The principles are set as below:

- Support and enhance the multistakeholder model.
- Maintain the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet DNS.
- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services.
- Maintain the openness of the Internet.



South African Internet Governance Forum

Multistakeholder Process to Develop a Transition Proposal ICANN convened a process through which the multistakeholder community attempted to come to consensus on a transition proposal. The process was divided into two separate but related parallel processes:

- (1) IANA Stewardship Transition and
- (2) Enhancing ICANN Accountability.

NTIA has stated that it views these two processes as “directly linked” and that “both issues must be addressed before any transition takes place.” To accomplish

The Institutional Ecosystem of Internet Governance

There's an increasing number of Internet organizations that are striving to make the Internet governance a reality at a regional and international level. They are presented below with their respective roles.

African Top-Level Domain Association (AfTLD)

The AfTLD was established in 2002. Its purpose is to bring together managers of country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs) in order to coordinate and collaborate on issues pertaining to Africa's Domain Name System (DNS) and ccTLD management. The secretariat of AfTLD is in Nairobi.

The African Network Information Center (AfriNIC)

Established in 2005, as a non-government, non-profit membership-based organization with headquarters in Mauritius, AfriNIC is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR) responsible for distributing and managing Internet number resources, such as IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers for Africa. The network provides stakeholders the opportunity to discuss Internet policies that affect the region twice yearly.

Internet Society (ISOC)

The Internet Society is dedicated to the promotion of openness and transparency in the development, evolution and use of the Internet. The network of more than 70,000 members in 100 chapters spread across 80 countries and it has 2 presence of 2 Chapters in South Africa: Internet Society Gauteng Chapter (ISOC-Gauteng) and Internet Society South Africa (ISOC-ZA).



South African Internet Governance Forum

The Internet Engineering Task force (IETF)

Is in charge of producing standards and technical documents that are used for the design, use and management of the Internet since 1986. The IETF is an open organization, fueled by volunteers around the world, who work in their individual capacity.

The International Telecommunication union (ITU)

Founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph union, became a specialized body of the United Nations in 1947. Members of the ITU are primarily governments. There are 193 member states in ITU. It also accommodates members from the private sector and academia and associate members from non-governmental and civil society organizations.

The ITU is in charge of allocating global radio spectrum and satellite orbital slots. Developing the technical standards that ensure networks and telecommunication technologies seamlessly interconnect, and improving access to telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) for underserved communities worldwide also fall under its responsibilities.