
ICANN84 | AGM – Smart Africa Internet governance Blueprint Presentation and CAIGA documents final review (1 of 2)

Sunday, October 26, 2025 – 9:00 to 10:00 IST

MAEVA DEVOTO

This session will now begin. Please start the recording. Hello, and welcome to Smart Africa Internet governance Blueprint Presentation and CAIGA documents final review. My name is Maeva Devoto, and I am a participation manager for this session.

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Please state your name for the record, the language that you will speak if speaking in French, and speak clearly at a moderate pace. I will now hand the floor over to Rodrigue Guiguemde.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Yes, thank you very much. Thank you very much, Maeva, for this introduction. I would like to thank you all to be here today for this important session regarding, of course, the blueprint on internet governance we start in Smart Africa side since six months ago. And this is another level of the process to validate this one, and we have also discussion. We already start in Accra on the CAIGA side, and we want us to continue this discussion today. And thank you so much to joining us. I think we have some other participants online, and thank you for them as well.

So, we will maybe start with the welcome remarks before to move forward for the next steps. So, I would like to invite the first intervention will come. Maybe Maeva, next slide, to the interventions. Next slide, please. Yes, next slide. I just want to show the agenda for today quickly before to go to the first intervention. Next slide, please.

Yes. So, today we have two parts in terms of agenda for this session. The first part we have intervention, welcome remarks from ICANN leadership. Today, we have Yaovi Atohoun joining us on behalf of Mr. Pierre Dandjinou. And for Smart Africa leadership side, we have

intervention from our director general. He will be online to give his speech, and thank you for him to be with us.

And after that, we have the presentation of the internet governance blueprint report. This report is very, very important and useful for all the community. And we have some exchange after, and we attend. We shall have a coffee break. And after that, we have some experience sharing we want to take from the private sector. Mr. Redouane is with us today. Next slide, please.

For the second part of the agenda, we have a presentation on CAIGA. I think most of you already aware on what is CAIGA. So, we talk about it again, because this is another step of consultation. We already start since two or three months ago. And of course, we will have a brief presentation on the other committee proposed reform roadmap on AFRINIC issue. And of course, after that, we have Internet Society with us to give us a commitment statement from Internet Society on WSIS+20.

This is something very important, and Smart Africa is going to follow up closely with Internet Society to see how we can have a good contribution on this process. This process is supposed to close at the end of this year. So, it's very important and urgent to align on this. And of course, we will have interaction exchange with stakeholders, and to try to find at the end a summary of agreement and way forward. And of course, the closing remarks. This is the agenda for today. And Maeva, please next slide.

Okay. I would like now to invite ICANN leadership here. We have Yaovi Atohoun on behalf of Mr. Pierre Dandjinou to give some remarks at the beginning of this session. Thank you very much. Yaovi, over to you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN

Thank you very much, Rodrigue. Thank you all for joining this session. And we want to also mention that we have a good participation online. So, Pierre Dandjinou is the vice president for stakeholder engagement in Africa. Unfortunately, he has some conflict on his agenda. So, it is a pleasure for me to represent our team here to welcome you all to this session.

So, we are working with our partner, Smart Africa, through the program. Most of you have heard about that or know about that. It is the Coalition for Digital Africa. And some discussion this morning will be about one activity on this project. So, we think the topic very important because it's about capacity development, which is one of the focus area of this program to help improve...

I hope it's better now. Yeah, thank you so much. So maybe I will start again. What I was saying that it is a real pleasure for me to represent our team here. Pierre Dandjinou, who is the vice president for stakeholder engagement, has an agenda conflict. And then he asked me to thank you all. Also, those who are online for your interest to this session.

Smart Africa is one of the key partner of ICANN in the program we call the Coalition for Digital Africa. It is about capacity development. We are collaborating for that. And then this session will help us to understand more and to know more about one of the initiative led by Smart Africa.

Before ending also, I want to mention that we are here as a team. And then also my colleague, Laurent Ferrali, those who were in the session yesterday, he was in that session and he's with us here, Laurent Ferrali. So, feel free to come to us during the whole week if you have more information or more questions we may not be in position to answer during this session.

So, with that, I want to invite all of us to really contribute to this session. We would like this to be very, very interactive. So, feel free to make your input, to ask any clarification you may have. With that, I want to thank Rodrigue. And then I want to hand over to you, Rodrigue. Thank you.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Thank you very much, Yaovi. Thank you for these remarks, very, very insightful and important for us. So, as I said earlier, now we are going to give the floor to our Director General, CEO, Mr. Lacina Koné. He's online. So, if Mr. Lacina can hear us, if you can just confirm, we'll give you the floor. Thank you.

LACINA KONÉ

Yes, I can hear you. Can you hear me?

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Yes, we can hear you, DG. Thank you.

LACINA KONÉ

Wonderful. Distinguished colleagues, leaders of ICANN here, members of the African KI, representative of our member states, partners, and friends, it's both an honor and a responsibility to welcome you to this defining moment for African digital future. Over the past decades, Africa has entered its digital age with a remarkable energy, as we all know. And today, over 600 million Africans are connected to the internet, nearly half of our continent populations. From education and health care, public administrations, and finances, more than 70 percent of our essential services now depends on the digital connectivity.

Yet, the structure that governed this digital ecosystem remains fragmented, as we all know. Under-resourced and often underrepresented in the global decision-making space such as ICANN and others I mentioned before in the previous conferences. The AFRINIC crisis, as you all know as well, was a wake-up call. But it was a wake-up call not just revealing weaknesses in our internet governance model, but also opening a historic opportunity to rethink how Africa governs, protects, and sustains its internet future.

In response and under the leadership, of course, of our heads of state within the Smart Africa alliance, we have a conscious choice

not to simply manage the crisis, but to build a continental architecture for internet governance that is coherent and resilient and sovereign. Two guiding objectives have driven actually this process. Number one, is to strengthen Africans' voice and leadership in global internet governance. And number two, is to establish a continental coordination framework, one that harmonize our efforts across the governments, regulators and technical communities.

The outcome of this collective journey, ladies and gentlemen, is before us today. The African Internet Governance Blueprint, a strategic reference consolidating our reform recommendations and roadmap, and also, the Continental Africa Internet Governance Authority, what I call CAIGA, or coordination mechanism, to secure Africa's digital sovereignty and ensure our effective participation in global internet governance, such as this important conference of ICANN.

A testament to collaborations, these achievements reflect actually more than two years collaborative work and shared vision for some of you who remember from ICANN81. Fifteen member states, two regional economic communities, and 14 international institutions have contributed actively to this process. [inaudible] strategy, our partner has provided analytical leadership and technical coordination. And throughout the ICANN and the GIZ, our partners in Germany, have been trusted, are our trusted partners offering continued support both financially and logistically.

This is the power of partnership. Africa is global allies working together not in parallel, but we're working for a purpose. Significance of this session, the colleague. Today's session is not just a meeting for us; it's a milestone to present. We are here to finalize and validate at the working group and the community level the African internet governance blueprint. This will pave the way for its formal submission to the Smart Africa Steering Committee and ultimately making it to the board of heads of state. Between now and then, an open community review process will be launched through Smart Africa and ICANN platforms allowing expert governance and regional actors to provide final contributions.

This transparent and participatory approach embodies our shared sovereignty to ensure that the blueprint truly carries Africa's collective voice to the world, deliverable to the next step. What is that? During this session, ladies and gentlemen, we will confirm the final CAIGA framework ready for ministerial endorsements at the Transform Africa Summit in 2025 coming in [inaudible] between November 12 and then November 14. And we will present the Africa reform, reform and integration roadmap, aligning institutional recovery with our continental internet governance architecture.

So, excellence of colleagues Africa can no longer be a consumer, as I've said it before of rules designed elsewhere. It must actually be a co-architect of those rules of the global digital norms. So, through the blueprints and the CAIGA, we are actually moving from crisis management to a strategic leadership from reform to architecture and from the reactions to visions. And this is how we ensure that

Africa's digital destiny is defined by African expertise with its partners, African priority, and African values.

So, let us seize this special moment to align, to commit, and to act together in building a resilient, sovereign, and inclusive digital Africa. One that doesn't just consume technology, but it actually defines the principle that govern it. Thank you very much.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Yes, thank you very much, DG. Thank you for these insightful remarks. It's really much appreciated. And now I think we can go to the next step of our discussion. I think maybe next slide, please, Maeva.

Yes. Thank you very much. I will give the floor to Erik from Sense Strategy for the presentation of the report on Internet Governance Blueprint Final Report. Thank you.

ERIK ALMQVIST

Thank you, Rodrigue. Thank you, Mr. Lacina Koné, DG of Smart Africa. Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed members of ICANN, it's a great pleasure to be here today with you and presenting the Internet Governance Blueprint for the continent of Africa and the Smart Africa member countries. I hope you can all hear me.

So, this is an initiative by Smart Africa, GIZ, and ICANN with the help and backing from the flagship country, Burkina Faso. And the blueprint has been put together by the team at Sense Strategy. I take this opportunity to thank all the participating organizations,

GIZ, ICANN, Smart Africa, Burkina Faso, and of course, my team at Sense Strategy that has made this blueprint a possibility.

And the objectives of the blueprint is, first of all, to map. Could we have the next slide, please? Next slide.

The objectives of the blueprint is, first of all, to map key challenges and the gaps in internet governance across the continent, defining stakeholder roles and responsibilities, developing a shared vision and a continental roadmap for internet governance aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Smart Africa Vision 2030. And doing this whilst promoting multistakeholder collaboration and evidence-based policymaking, thus strengthening Africa's voice and participation in global IG institutions, going from consumers to architects of the internet. Next slide, please.

There are six reports in total as part of this initiative. And if you want to have a copy, please reach out to the Smart Africa Secretariat. There's a Google link that will be provided to you so you can, for yourself, go through these reports. In order, the six reports are an inception report, which is the project design, a diagnostics report that talks about the state of internet in Africa, and a stakeholder mapping report going through the roles of the various stakeholders across the African continent. This is then followed by clustering guidelines where we outline the vision for all the important areas in which internet plays a part.

And the two culminating reports are in order, the internet governance blueprint itself, which outlines the framework, and six

action areas. The continental roadmap is the last piece of this framework and blueprint, which contains the roadmap and the action plan and the pillars and the collaborating organizations and their roles in doing an internet governance framework 2.0 or 3.0, whatever you want to call it, but not just a continuation of the past, but building on past successes, but also fixing what has not worked in the past and taking internet governance and the internet itself to the next level in Africa. Next slide, please. Next slide.

The diagnostics report assessed Africa's internet governance using PESTEL and SWOT analysis. There were numerous findings. Some of them were opportunities. A lot of them were gaps and challenges. And these included the realization that there's a significant both overlap and fragmentation in terms of Africa's current internet governance structure. This leads to double work, sometimes friction, inconsistencies in policies, and not yet an ability to speak on the internet matters, internet governance matters with a unified voice.

There's also, as any one of you living on the African continent I'm sure have noticed or felt the consequences of, lack of resilience with uneven network connections, sometimes outages, breakdowns, and also, security breaches that need to be fixed. And as said by the Director General of Smart Africa, a lack of a unified, coordinated African voice. The landscape analysis also highlighted the institutional and capacity gaps. But most of all, what was evident was a significant opportunity to build something better,

opportunity for leadership of some of the organizations that are represented here today.

And when something is working perfectly, it's difficult to sort of reach the next level because everybody is happy with it. When there is things that are not working, when there are cracks in the chain, that is in fact an opportunity to build something better to construct a new and better architecture for the future. The SWOT analysis, if we can swap to the next page. Next page, please.

The SWOT analysis showed multiple strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Strengths includes a growing political will, including the work of ICANN, ITU, national governments, Smart Africa, and various other initiatives across the continent. Multiple regional and continental initiatives, an active civil society, and an increasing number of technical committees. Also, it is well noted that Africa has the youngest population on the planet. Average age is close to 19 years, much younger than any other continent. And if we can supply the youth with the tools of digital technology, that's an enormous opportunity for the future of the continent.

There are, of course, weaknesses as well, lack of trust in institutions. AFRINIC was mentioned, various instances in Seattle, in Prague, at ICANN82 and 83, and now at ICANN84, and as rightly concluded, it's time to do something about it. There's also a lack of transparency, synchronization, a lack of width and depth in capacity building across the continent. There are also numerous

threats, geopolitical pressures, dependency on external actors and technologies, cyber threats, crimes, online harms, where the policing needs to move at least as fast as the culprits causing online crime, thefts, and harm.

There's also a growth of misinformation and disinformation, and a potentially growing digital divide between those that are enabled and connected and those that are not. This is also an enormous set of opportunities across the continent, growing demand for African participation, growing appreciation by the global organizations. As mentioned, a very young population, strength in regional cooperation and harmonization. Capacity building that is happening all across the continent, both through national efforts and by civil society organizations working together to build capacity across the continent and through the various bodies of Smart Africa including SADA. Harnessing new technologies and leveraging digital integration for economic growth. Next slide, please.

Next, we did a stakeholder mapping, basically mapping who are the lead players involved in internet governance in all its aspects throughout the value chain. And that was a very broad and large set of organizations that each played a role, and this is, of course, the very nature of the internet. As internet went from one organization [inaudible], the old ARPANET to an open multistakeholder model. The model for the internet is, for so many different organizations to

play the respective role, and that is what is creating the force and the strength and the resilience of the internet.

So, we mapped this across the African continent, looking at what are the leading organizations and other doing in terms of technical standards and interoperability? What is being done in terms of domain name systems and IP management, infrastructure development and access, digital public services, research innovation and capacity building, and governance of digital platforms and the data economy.

Now when you map something functionally, if that division is complete, then hopefully nothing is left between the chairs. But there's another set of dimension of the internet that has to do with upholding the principles. Now hopefully, that is being done on a functional basis, but not always. There's always a risk that when we divide things in a technical manner, we lose track of what is important. The principles of the internet are there to uphold the rights of the users of the internet and to balance the needs of different uses of the internet, so that not one force dominate all the others. And for that, we have principles of the internet.

So, we looked through the stakeholders also from a principal area. And those principles that need to be upheld always include governance and participation, access and inclusion, rights and freedoms, and security and resilience. Next page. Next page.

And those of you who were at ICANN83 in Prague in June this year, you may recognize this slide. This slide is the totality of the internet,

all the different steps. And it all starts with stakeholders, and why does it start with stakeholders? It starts with stakeholders because if there are no users of the internet, no one benefiting from it, no one taking part in it, there's no need for the internet full stop. So, that is why the chain starts with the stakeholders.

To balance the needs of various user groups, individuals, organizations, and so forth, we have the principles that I mentioned a few seconds ago concerning governance, participation, access and inclusion, rights and freedoms, security and resilience. If everyone understood those principles and what do they actually mean, then there would not be any need for the rest of this chain. But machines, in spite of the progresses of AI, needs protocols, not just principles to function, and therefore, we have the technical standards and the protocols.

And we also need laws because even though we all know good principles and we all try to do the best most of the time, but there's always the temptation in the human nature to do something else that is beneficial for the individual, but not necessarily for the many. And therefore, principles are not enough. We need a legal framework as well. And if everyone was law-abiding, the chain could stop them. But we need actually also enforcement of the laws. There needs to be consequences if the laws are not upheld. Next slide, please.

And we went from the stakeholder analysis to a formulation of visions because there needs to be several, there's not just one

vision, but there's actually several visions in different clustered areas for this to work. And the areas that we are talking about is legal and regulatory harmonization, infrastructure, technical resilience, supply and demand factors, digital rights, private sector engagement and the digital economy, capacity development, research and innovation, multistakeholder and inclusive governance mechanism, gender and youth and marginalized communities.

In all of these areas, we need a vision. We need to know where are we heading, not just where are we today, but what is the direction that we are travelling to. And that travelling to is a difference between a goal and a target. A target is something short-term, a goal is an end goal. You can think of the visions as an asymptotic end goal, rather than target for a specific year. It's an ideal that we are striving to for this to work. So, we formulate those visions that can be seen as asymptotic end goals, never fully achieve, but ever closer each time we improve matters. Next slide, please.

And you can see the visions for each and every of the clusters. I'm going to read out not all of them, but I will take a couple of examples in the interest of time here. And in legal and regulatory harmonization, we need a continent where secure, high quality and affordable infrastructure is available to all, underpinned by resilient broadband backbones, IXPs and local data centers. Connectivity is inclusive, supported by digital literacy and local

content, while sovereignty is reinforced through local hosting and reduced dependence on foreign providers.

On digital rights, a continent, the vision is a continent where digital rights are universally recognized, consistently enforced and embedded in law. Independent institutions, civil society and academia, safeguard privacy, freedom of expression and protection from online harm, while governments balance security and innovation transparently. Citizens trust digital assistance because due process, accountability and inclusivity are integral to governance. Next slide, please.

I'm going to take one more example here on the visions. There are six of them in total. And again, reach out to Smart Africa for the links, so you can download this material and read it at your chosen moment. Multistakeholder and inclusive governance mechanism. What is the vision? The vision is of an African internet governance environment where inclusive, transparent and permanent multistakeholder mechanism are embedded at all levels.

Governments, businesses, civil society, academic and technical experts and user communities engage meaningfully from the earlier stages of policy-making. Mechanisms ensure equitable participation, support for underrepresented groups and visible incorporation of stakeholder inputs. At the continental level, strengthen coordination between national platforms enables Africa to present unified, well-prepared positions in global debates. Next page, please.

And what are then the goals? Well, a coherent and harmonized continental internet governance architecture. A reform transparent and accountable AFRINIC. Africa acting as a unified influential voice in global internet governance. A fully operational Council of African Internet Governance Authorities or the CAIGA, coordinating continental priorities through inclusive lightweight mechanism. Secure sovereign and intercontinental digital infrastructure supported by regional IXPs, data localization and routing security standards. And a vibrant capacity building ecosystem with institutionalized programs such as SADA, academic networks and fellowships promoting continuous learning. Next page.

That brings us from the four opening diagnostics reports and visionary reports of this project to the blueprint itself. Next page.

And the blueprint has six action areas. The first one is urgent and long overdue, which is AFRINIC's reform and stabilization. This to build institutional trust, operational stability and transparency for Africa's IP registry system. Something that has not unfortunately not been the case in the recent past. The second area is a unified African voice on global IG matters with the coordinated representation and stronger influence in ICANN, ITU, IGF and WSIS fora.

The third area is making CAIGA 100 percent operational. Building a fully functional council guiding continental IG coordination and policy coherence. And there will be a separate session a little bit

later, which is part of a series of the conversations regarding CAIGA and how it's put into operation from the blueprints that are already in place.

The fourth area is capacity building and awareness. Where skilled regulators, policymakers, women and youth actively influence IG debates, shaping ID for the continent, going from being consumers to architects of the internet governance and the internet itself.

The fifth area is critical infrastructure and resilience. Critical infrastructure and resilience is something that you notice when it's not working, right? So, going from firefighting to a better system, if you like. We're going to talk a little bit about CIR principles and other matters in conjunction with critical infrastructure and resilience. But at the end of the day, it is about reliable connectivity and cybersecurity through rotating security norms and IXP driven interconnections. But at the same time, maintaining national sovereignty.

The sixth area is the continental alignment under Agenda 2063. We had integrated an inclusive digital governance advancing the single digital market. Next slide, please.

But first of all, AFRINIC's reform and stabilization. The vision here is to build a transparent, accountable and resilient AFRINIC that embodies Africa's technical sovereignty. A trusted regional internet registry that ensures equitable resource management, institutional integrity and global credibility. The key actions include governance reform, operational recovery, community

engagement and accountability mechanism. The expected outcomes, a stable and transparent AFRINIC that ensures equitable allocation of internet resources across all member states restoring global confidence in Africa's internet governance institutions and the strength and technical sovereignty and resilience within the continental digital ecosystem. Next slide, please.

And the second action area is a unified African voice in global IG bodies with a vision to position Africa as a coherent, coordinated and influential voice in global internet governance, ensuring that Africa's priorities, values and perspectives shape the future of the internet rather than adapt to it. Key actions includes continental positioning, a representation framework, advocacy and diplomacy and strategic alliances involving organizations such as AUDA-NEPAD, CAIGA, the RECs and the member states.

And the expected outcomes is a unified African position influencing global standards and policy debates. And increased leadership roles for African experts in technical and policy bodies, as well as recognition of Africa as a strategic actor, advancing inclusive, secure and sustainable internet governance. Next slide, please.

Some of the aspects of making CAIGA operational at a high-level are as follows. First of all, what is the vision? The vision is to build a transparent, accountable and resilient AFRINIC that embodies Africa's technical sovereignty. A trusted regional Internet registry that ensures equitable resource management, institutional integrity and global credibility. And the key actions include

institutional setup, working groups, governance models, transparency and accountability. And the expected outcomes includes a fully functional CAIGA Secretariat, coordinating Internet governance across Africa, streamlined policy alignment and a sustained mechanism for inclusive participation and evidence-based policy making. Next slide, please.

There are further aspects of this plan for the CAIGA. More information is available through the Smart Africa Secretariat. And this plan includes the purpose, the strategic fit of the CAIGA in other decision-making bodies. The rationale why CAIGA is needed now. Its position in the ecosystem of Smart Africa working with its member countries, its governance model, its principles, its initial work program, its roadmap and its working method. Next page.

The fourth action area is capacity building and awareness, where the vision is to cultivate the skilled, inclusive and forward-looking digital community, where African policymakers, regulators, entrepreneurs, women and youth actively shape the continent's internet future, turning digital potential into sustainable impact. Key actions include the Smart Africa Digital Academy, the SADA, gender and youth inclusion, community empowerment, knowledge exchange.

And expected outcomes include a diverse and capable community of African digital leaders, broader participation of women, youth and local innovators, and an enhanced institutional readiness for

emerging technology governance across all Smart Africa member states. Next page, please.

Capacity building and awareness has its own steps to put this into motion through the organizations that already exist. And for SADA, that includes the purpose on the approach, building on existing strength and existing training organizations, identifying and addressing gaps, delivery, architecture, learning, modularities, inclusion by design, partnerships and content sources, monitoring, evaluation and learning. Next page.

Critical infrastructure resilience. The vision here is to establish a secure, resilient and interconnected African digital infrastructure that protects connectivity, strengthens trust, and enables the continent's transition towards digital sovereignty and economic stability. Key actions include resilience frameworks, routing and interconnection, cyber resilience mechanisms, resilience scorecards to introduce a continental monitoring tool to measure resilience, uptime, and recovery capability across all the member states.

The expected outcome in this area is reduced dependency on external infrastructure providers, improved continental interconnectivity especially regionally enhanced resilience against cyber threats, outages, and natural disruptions, and a strengthened trust, continuity, and reliability of Africa's internet ecosystem. Next page.

And there are also six pillars of the sovereign interconnected resilience model that could and, as we think, should be a principle for how resilience is built. So, the idea is basically that laws and their enforcement is kept at the sovereign level including rules related to data protection and privacy, cybersecurity, and so forth, so that national sovereignty is respected. And at the same time, resilience should not only be built as a national project, it should be built as a regional project, because typical failures are in one country or possibly two countries simultaneously. Rarely is it 20, unless we are talking submarine cables. Rarely, it is 20 countries at the same time. And therefore, the regional dimension is very important to achieve resilience.

And the six pillars include open diversified international connectivity, IXP first in the connections, trustworthy routing as a baseline, outcome-based, supervision of critical operators, continuity of public digital services, cross-border playbooks, and mutual aid. Next page, please.

And the sixth action area is continental alignment on the Agenda 2063 with a vision to ensure that internet governance becomes a core enabler of Africa's Agenda 2063 and Smart Africa's Vision 2030 fostering digital integration, shared prosperity, and continental sovereignty through coordinated policies and shared institutions. With the key actions as follows, policy integration, harmonized monitoring, institutional coordination, cross-sector collaboration. And expected outcomes as follows, seamless integration of internet governance across all continental and regional

development agendas, institutionalized cooperation and coherence between leading organizations such as AUDA-NEPAD, the RECs and Smart Africa strengthen continental digital sovereignty, ensuring that Africa speaks and acts as one in the global digital ecosystem. Next page, please.

And lastly, we have the roadmap to put this into practice and daily action. And the principles guiding implementation is based on subsidiarity and coordination, inclusivity and representation, accountability and transparency, evidence-based adaptive management, efficiency through lightweight institutional design, sustainability and continuity, alignment with continental visions. And there are in total five implementation pillars. And then the sixth part is the alignment. The first five are reformation of AFRINIC. Next page, please.

A unified African voice in global IG bodies, making the CAIGA operational, capacity building and awareness, infrastructure resilience and sovereignty. Next page, please.

And this chart here shows some further details regarding the key actions. Reform of AFRINIC, which has the objective to stabilize AFRINIC and strengthen trust in Africa's internet number resources. Key actions include conclude AFRINIC's governance reform and host country agreement, implement transparent election and audit processes, strengthen accountability and stakeholder trust through community oversight, ensure operational continuity via regional partnerships and technical assistance.

The second area, a unified African voice in global internet bodies includes the objective, strengthen Africa's collective representation in global decision-making fora. Key actions include developing a unified African position paper, nominate and train continental spokespersons and negotiators, promote regional representative balance and language diversity, institutionalize Africa's presence in multilateral digital policy discussions.

And making the CAIGA operational has the following objectives, to establish CAIGA as a functional lightweight intergovernmental coordination mechanism for continental internet governance building on existing regional and continental organizations. Key actions, finalize CAIGA's constitution and standard operating procedures, launch to council via multistakeholder representation, establish working groups, maintain transparency through open reporting and rotation principles. Next page, please.

And capacity building and awareness has the following objectives, to build human and institutional capacity to sustain internet governance ecosystems across Africa. The key actions include expanding Smart Africa's digital academy, SADA programs and regional hubs, create fellowships and mentorship schemes for women and youth, build long-term national internet governance training institutions, develop multilingual and blended learning materials and support African-led academic research on IG and digital policy.

The activities in the realm of critical infrastructure resilience and sovereign interconnected models has its objectives, to reinforce Africa's technical sovereignty by ensuring resilient, secure and interconnected digital infrastructure. The key actions include developing continental infrastructure and resilience standards. IXPs, DNS, SEC, RPKI map and monitor Africa's technical posture via resilience scorecards, strengthen search cooperation and cross-border redundancy planning, encourage public-private investment into IXPs, cables and cloud infrastructure.

And finally, alignment with the Agenda 2063 and Smart Africa Vision 2030. The objective is to anchor internet governance reforms in Africa's long-term development agenda, the Agenda 2063 and the Smart Africa's vision 2030. The key actions includes integrating internet governance indicators into the African Union and Agenda 2063, monitoring systems, ensuring that the roadmap aligns with Smart Africa's vision 2030, mainstream digital inclusion rights into broader continental strategies, strengthen synergy between AUDA-NEPAD and regional frameworks and report progress through the state of internet governance in Africa report. Next page.

This is just a plan as of yet. However, to put this in motion, real work will be required not by one, but by multiple organizations. The most important of these are on this paper although this picture is not fully exhaustive, but it does show the principal actors. The principal actors are the African Union, where alignment of the roadmap with the AU frameworks is important. Smart Africa has

one of the key roles here, through the CAIGA Secretariat, through SADA, SATA in its efforts to build a digital single market.

The RECs have a very important role to play, adapting continental objectives to regional context and building resilience capacity across entire African regions. SADA has the responsibility to deliver training programs in line with this blueprint and strengthening the capacity of offices across all the important institutions and stakeholders that are involved in the governance of the internet.

AUDA-NEPAD has a role in integrating internet governance indicators into continental development monitoring. The CAIGA has a role to formulate and validate continental positions into thematic guidance notes, coordinate representation in global fora and ultimately unifying Africa's voice, so Africa can act forcefully in the design of the internet, not only as a consumer of the internet.

AFRINIC has the responsibility to build operational excellence, restore and rebuild trust and support infrastructure resilience. And national governments have the role to lead local implementation, integrate internet governance priorities and ensure interagency coordination report progress annually.

That is the last. Actually, you can swap to two pages further on. That was the last presentable slide. I think we are moving into a Q&A. Maybe we should open up the floor for any questions. If you want to speak, please raise your hand on the front row. You have mics here in the room. And when you speak, please state your

name, your organization and your preferred language, and we will have translators ready.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Okay, thank you very much, Erik, for this presentation. Really instructive and very complete and thank you so much for that. I think we will open the floor for any person who want to speak, to raise maybe recommendation, concerns, questions to allow us of course to have this quick discussion. We are still over the time we give for this presentation, but of course we can take 5 or 10 minutes before the break, and after the break, of course, we can continue the discussion because the objective of this process is really to get your feedback and be sure that we are aligning on everything. So, I will offer the floor to everyone who want to speak? Question, recommendation, concerns, please, the floor is yours. Yes, please.

VINCENT NGUNDI

Thank you. My name is Vincent Ngundi. I'm from Kenya. I work for the regulator, the ICT regulator. I'm the director for cyber security. First, I'd like to thank Smart Africa and the consultants for a job well done. I think this is a very well thought out blueprint in my view. I was looking forward to it, and I'm happy with what I've seen. It's very well thought out. It feels African actually because it really speaks to the needs and concerns that have been a challenge for us for a very long time. It's almost a dream come true. It also looks too good to be true, but I think if we work together and if we realize

even half of what we have seen here, I think Africa will be at another level.

I have two comments, or three for that matter. One, I know you alluded to a small secretariat for CAIGA. First and foremost, I think CAIGA is a very good idea. Of course, it being hosted, the Secretariat being hosted by Smart Africa makes sense especially because of the composition of the Smart Africa board, which comprises of African presidents. I think strategically hosting it there would be a good idea. But you mentioned in your presentation that it's a small or lean secretariat.

I'm looking at the deliverables in the blueprint and I'm not too sure what small means. So, I think you might want to advise. Is it going to be a small secretariat? Of course, you've talked about working groups. How are you going to complement that small Secretariat and what does small mean? I think there's a lot of work to be done here if you look at what has been presented.

Secondly, I noticed that we didn't indicate timelines for the various items in the roadmap. It would be good to know what needs to be done when and in terms of priority. Because I think to move swiftly, the Secretariat for me needs to be operationalized somehow so that it can lead the implementation of the roadmap, which requires also a high level of coordination.

I know we're ambitious in terms of having common positions as a continent. I don't think it's very easy on internet governance matters. It's doable, but I think it's a process. And how do we make

sure that we also align ourselves with some of the internet governance calendar of meetings? We have three ICANN meetings in the year. How do we coordinate to make sure that in every ICANN meeting, for instance, we have a common position? I see a logistical issue there, but I think there's just things we can think about. And the same goes to IGF, for example, and WSIS.

Finally, is funding. How are we looking at funding the implementation of this blueprint? I think it's not been mentioned, but I think it's been alluded to, resource mobilization. But I think the funding element needs to come out. How do we fund the realization of this roadmap? Once again, thank you very much for a very good presentation. Thank you.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Thank you so much, Mr. Vincent, for this comment. It's very, very appreciated. And I took note on some question. Of course, I will come back on some thoughts regarding CAIGA, of course, but I will give the floor to the consultant, Erik. But before, I want to propose just to take all the questions and comments and to allow Erik to come back on the responses.

So, I just saw a raised hand online first before you. I will give him the floor. It's Mr. Robert online. I will give him the floor and before to come to you. Thank you. Mr. Robert Ford, can you hear us?

ROBERT FORD NKUSI

Yes, please. I can hear you. And thank you very much. Can you hear me?

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Okay. You can open your camera as well if you want. You have the floor. Thank you.

ROBERT FORD

Thank you. My name is Robert Ford. I'm the chair of the Rwanda Internet Governance Forum and a former board member of AFRINIC. I work for TMG, their communications management group, the broadband consulting group. I have a quick question.

First of all, thank you very much for the initiative to set this panel at the ICANN84 because this is the appropriate place where these issues are supposed to be discussed. Two, I want to thank the initiative of AFRINIC, I mean of Transform Africa in making sure that they work around getting this blueprint. I think it's going to be a guiding light towards circumventing a lot of challenges that we've been having on the continent, and I can't say more than my previous speakers just said.

But a quick question now. In the last two slides, I saw the implementing organs of the initiatives that you've just mentioned. One of them was the role of African Union and integrating some of these initiatives in the African Union blueprint. But also, you mentioned the RECs, the Regional Economic Communities. And my simple question was drawing the line between the differences with

the RECs and the African Union. I thought that African Union as a single body is working for the interests of the regional economic blocks. And I was wondering if there is anything that is different within regional economic blocks that makes them individual issues for the RECs and not for the African Union.

Maybe we could incorporate the RECs approach within the common framework of African Union. Two, and I think you'll provide light on that. And the second and last one was the reform of AFRINIC. I am hoping that in reforming AFRINIC, because duration is going to be given and great attention is going to be paid at what could have created the issues that AFRINIC has today or the inefficiencies that could have come up for the organization to want or to call for reform.

I know a number of those which we cannot discuss here, but if those could be given specific attention, we could come up with a better framework that would make it more efficient, more effective, and deliver more for the African internet needs than it does currently.

And last but not least, again, thank you for setting up this. And I look forward to the operationalization of CAIGA as being—I wouldn't call it a watchdog, but playing the role, it has to play in maintaining the integrity of internet resilience on the continent. Thank you very much. I submit, Chair.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Yes, thank you very much, Robert, for this proposition. So, I'm going quickly to NCC. Thank you. I will give you the floor.

IBISO KINGSLEY-GEORGE

Okay. Good morning, everyone. My name is Dr. Kingsley-George from the Nigerian Communications Commission. From the previous comments I've heard, it appears to be that there's an assumption that this document is a given, and we're going to go ahead with it. However, we have some observations, and I think it will be right for us to raise them. One, lack of representation in the room as currently presented. We don't really have a lot of the Africans seated here. We have some GAC members attending GAC meetings, and it would have been nice that this meeting was slated for a time where most of our other African representatives would have been here to discuss this document.

I recall that the document was discussed at ICANN83 at Prague. However, we know that prior to ICANN83, there was the IGF and there was the AF IGF, and this document did not come up in any of those platforms. We're wondering, was there a reason for it or the document was not ready at that time? We noticed that most of the parts of this document except towards the end, did not really focus on the IGFs, but just majorly on ICANN and ITU.

And we're also wondering that if this is supposed to be a governance structure for the internet in Africa, then the regionals of regional IGFs should actually be involved in the development of this document. Another thing is, could this lead to the

balkanization of internet governance within the region? Are we going to have too many organizations looking at internet governance? We're not 100 percent sure that the IGF is not going to continue. We don't know that for sure. But as currently presented or as currently stands, we still have our IGFs, and we're not even carrying them along as individual bodies, as part of this document, to decide that this is what we want to do for Africa.

In talking about data protection in this document, no reference was made to the Malabo Convention, which I think is Africa's own document for cybersecurity and data protection. I think I've mostly spoken about the regional coordination. And it appears that the focus is on government. We should not be oblivious of the fact that the governance of the internet is a multistakeholder model. We appear to be moving away from the multistakeholder model. I work for a regulator. Ideally, I should be happy about that. But also, as a regulator, I like to be sure that every other stakeholder is happy with the decisions that I take as a regulator.

And my final point would be, on whose authority is CAIGA taking charge of internet governance in Africa? Is there an AU backing at the sub-regional organizations aligned to this? Is the AU Commission on Information aligned with this? These are just some of the clarifications that I have noted for now.

I would also like to mention that this document presented here, we had asked for the document yesterday to be shared. What was shared to my colleague was not as comprehensive as what was

presented today. And it will be nice that we have access to the actual document that we're referring to. We keep hearing, oh, you can download it here, you can download it there. But where is the actual document? Can this document be shared with us? Thank you.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Yes, thank you very much. I just want to react on the last part of your intervention. The document we share with you is not this one. This one is the blueprint. And what I shared with you is what you request, is the CAIGA one, the framework, the global one, the summarize. But of course, the second part of this meeting will be targeting this one. So, we will share it. So, we are over the time. I would like just to take the last, last comment and we will summarize, and after the break, we'll continue. We get 15-minute break. So, Regina, please, just 30 second.

REGINA FUCHSOVA

Thank you very much. Regina Fuchsova from EURid, the EU registry. Thank you very much for the presentation. In the interest of time, I will go straight to my technical comment or question. From the viewpoint of a ccTLD representative, I was actually missing an explicit mention of the role of the African ccTLDs in the process, including fTLD. They play often a very key role within the local communities and as a part of the internet infrastructure. Thank you.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Okay, thank you very much. I think we will take the break now because we have timeline very short here. So, we just take 15-minute or 20-minute marks and we will come back to continue. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]