



— AFRICA —
INTERNET
— SUMMIT'21 —
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ORGANISERS



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African Network Operators Group

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**INTERNET SERVICE
PROVIDER ASSOCIATION**
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Shaping **Africa's** Digital Future

Background

It's a watershed moment in the Internet world: half of the world's population is currently online. Unfortunately, the other half has irregular or no access to the Internet. Existing digital divides among and within countries and regions, including gender digital divides, need to be addressed for everyone to fully enjoy the benefits of current technological developments. Luckily, according to the Economic Outlook 2020, African economies have been resilient and gaining traction. Real output growth is estimated to have increased by 3.9 per cent in 2020 and is projected to rise to 4.1 per cent in 2021.

According to the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 Framework, a number of factors present a great opportunity for the consolidation and rapid progress of African countries. These include increased stability, positive economic and social reforms, technological advances, prospects for a growing middle class coupled with the youth bulge which can act as a catalyst for further growth, particularly in the consumer and services sectors.

Africa Internet Summit

The Africa Internet Summit (AIS) is an annual, regional, multi-stakeholder ICT conference. It is the pinnacle educational and business ICT event in Africa where key players in the Internet industry can interact with the global Internet community. Launched in The Gambia in 2012, the Summit involves seminars, workshops, tutorials, conference sessions, birds-of-a-feather (BOFs), and other forums for sharing ICT knowledge within the African region.

The Summit brings the ICT business and technical community in Africa together under one roof to discuss ICT issues and challenges. They provide a platform for all African governments and global stakeholders to discuss and benchmark issues regarding Internet policy, Internet governance, Information Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D), Internet access and technical capacity building to gather to discuss, collaborate, learn and disseminate information about these key areas of Africa's Internet development.

The African Internet community, drawn from academia, public and private sectors, technical organisations, governmental institutions and civil society, interact on Internet issues and Internet development in general. Our audience benefits from various panels of international experts who deliver insightful knowledge on ICT technologies.

AIS Meetings are held once a year in different countries across the continent.

AIS'20 is a follow-up to the African Internet Summit (AIS) 2020 held online, from 14 - 18 September 2020. Over 500 participants attended the summit online that consisted of in-depth policy development discussions and plenary sessions and panel discussions. Some key highlights of the event included policy discussions on the management of the internet number resources and efforts to strengthen key internet infrastructure to keep content and traffic local as well as the adoption of IPv6.

Expected Outcomes

AIS'21 is expected to achieve the following results:

- A deeper awareness across the continent of the urgent need to deploy IPv6, how to roll out IPv6 and why the future of Africa's Internet depends on its deployment.
- Increased participation in the AFRINIC Policy Development Process (PDP) and greater awareness of why Internet numbering policy in Africa and beyond remains a top priority for Internet development.



Rationale for the Event

Africa can and should now take advantage of the universality of the 2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)) to create partnerships across the 17 goals and ensure effective implementation. The SDGs recognise the fact that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness have the potential to accelerate human and social development.

The Agenda calls upon the international community to increase access to information and communications technologies and provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in developing countries. Many agree that Africa's prospects for the future greatly depend on investment in technology.

According to the AU Agenda 2063 Framework, the information technology revolution has provided unprecedented opportunities for Africa, with the right policies to make significant advances and lift huge sections of populations out of poverty, improve incomes and catalyse economic and social transformations. AFRINIC is working towards the goals of African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and has been an active participant of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT. Through this forum, AFRINIC supports actions geared towards comprehensive cybersecurity programmes especially through our African Government Working Group, which will also be meeting on the sidelines of this conference. AFRINIC has also

implemented the proposal to use the DotAfrica Top Level Domain as recommended by the committee in order to champion the unique African digital identity. AFRINIC will also continue with the push to keep Africa's Internet traffic local by supporting the African Internet Exchange Systems (AXIS) Project through robust relationships it has with the Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).

Another challenge facing Africa is the slow transition to the new Internet addressing protocol, IPv6. IPv6 is necessary for long term Internet expansion, especially as the Internet of Things (IoT) becomes a reality. Ericsson estimates that there will be 50 billion smart devices by 2020. From traffic congestion systems to (sustainable) energy supply, broadband network, safety devices, automatic translation apps or even environment friendliness, each and every area of daily life will be transformed.

AFRINIC's efforts are clearly bearing fruits through capacity building and outreach activities across the continent to champion IPv6 deployment and preparedness. Over 6,000 engineers have benefited from AFRINIC trainings and capacity building initiatives since inception.



**AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS
FOR INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

AF* are organisations that constitute the African Internet ecosystem. The idea to set up the AF* regrouping organisations supporting Internet development in Africa dates back to December 1998. A meeting held in Cotonou, Benin was organised where African Internet pioneers discussed the theme of Internet Governance in Africa. This was the first global meeting on Internet governance to discuss Internet governance issues in the African region.

At this meeting, Internet pioneers in Africa noted the need to establish technical institutions to support Internet growth and to unite the African Technical community.

These organisations today make up the ecosystem of the African Internet. They cover the following areas: Numbers (AFRINIC), Security (AfGWG, AfricaCERT), Community and Policy (AIG, AfGWG), Capacity building (all AF*), Research and Education (AfREN), Infrastructure (AfPIF), and Names (AfTLD). Other organisations in Africa are emerging within the ecosystem.

AfNOG (African Network Operators Group) is a forum for cooperation and the exchange of technical information between operators of Internet-connected networks in Africa. The goal is for coordination and cooperation among network service providers to ensure the stability of service to end users

AfREN (The African Research and Education Networking), a unit of the Association of African Universities (AAU), was set up to promote national and regional research and education network in Africa.

ICANN Africa (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Africa) coordinates the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions which are key technical services critical to the continued operations of the Internet's underlying address book, the Domain Name System (DNS).

AFRINIC (African Network Information Centre) is the African Internet Registry responsible for managing Internet number resources in Africa.

AfPIF (The African Peering and Interconnection Forum) is an ISOC initiative addressing key interconnection, peering, and traffic exchange opportunities and challenges providing participants with global and regional insights for the maximisation of opportunities necessary for the growth of Internet infrastructure and services in Africa.

AfricaCERT (The AFRICA Computer Emergency Response Team) consists of trusted computer incident response teams devoted to working together to handle computer security incidents and promote incident prevention programmes.

AfTLD (The African Top Level Domain Organisation) is a non profit organisation for coordinating, formulating, developing and presenting a unified approach to issues related to the Domain Name System.

AfIGF (The African Internet Governance Forum) was formally launched in Nairobi, Kenya, during the global Internet Governance Forum in 2011. The First AfIGF was held in 2012 in Cairo, Egypt. The AfIGF takes on board representatives from governments, businesses and non-governmental organisations and addresses Internet Governance issues in the continent to provide substantive input to the global IGF process.

ISOC Africa (The Internet Society) is present in Africa through its African chapters. ISOC was officially formed in January 1992 and engages in a wide array of activities including policy, governance, technology and development. ISOC has consistently supported AF* organisations in capacity building initiatives since the early 1990s. From 1993 to 2001, a number of professionals were trained in the design, operation, maintenance and management of Internetworks during the annual Internet Society (ISOC) Network Training Workshop.

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