Report

of

The 9th AfICTA (Virtual) Summit

On

December 8 - 9, 2021

by

AfICTA Secretariat

December 18, 2021

Summit Sponsored By

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CHAPTER 1

1.0 About AfICTA

Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance - AfICTA is a concerned private sector led alliance of ICT Associations, Multi-national Corporations, Companies, Organisations and individuals in the ICT sector in Africa.

Vision
Our vision is to fulfil the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa.

Mission
Our mission is to encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue fostering accelerated and ICT enabled development in Africa and the use of cutting-edge innovative technologies including mobile, computing and satellite technologies to achieve an Information society in Africa.

Objectives
Our goals are to:

1. Organise non-government ICT stakeholders in Africa for effective local and continental advocacy
2. Be the focal point for Africa ICT advocacy in the global digital economy.
3. Promote constant improvement in African digital literacy in collaboration with stakeholders.
4. Create partnerships with the African Union and all the regional economic commissions towards realizing global sustainable development targets for Africa
5. Support effective dialogue between members and policymakers.
6. Mobilise the core leadership of African ICT professionals and experts in the business community, academic and technical community and civil society to be fully engaged in the global Internet Governance multi-stakeholder dialogues.
7. Promote business partnerships between members and their associations' members.
8. Contribute to capacities development by promoting best practices, encouraging regional projects, sharingdata (skills, expertise, events, business announcements, exhibitions, seminars),
9. Organize an annual regional summit for knowledge sharing and cross-African advocacy.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 About Summit 2021

The 9th AfICTA Summit was held virtually from Wednesday 8 to Thursday 9 December 2021 with the theme "**Accelerated Digitalization for Economic Revolution in Africa: Prospects and Challenges**". It held concurrently as the global IGF that took place in Katowice, Poland.

2.1 Overview

With over USD2.4 trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded by the fourth quarter in 2020 (according to the International Monetary Fund) (IMF), Africa though growing exponentially, its stakeholders would need a more decisive and deliberate effort in their plans to digitalize their economies. This is necessary to stay afloat in the midst of several uncertainties and challenges the economies are facing such as the effect of COVID 19 pandemic and climate issues.

Considering the theme "Accelerated Digitalization for Economic Revolution in Africa: Prospects and Challenges", the 9th Summit of AfICTA would further emphasize the need for swift adoption of digitalization by consumers, enterprises, and governments, the proven step to accelerate economic growth and facilitate job creation. In the current environment of a sluggish global economy, digitalization can play an important role in assisting policymakers to spur economic growth and employment. Moreover, the gathering would give a glimpse of how businesses and governments can better benefit from the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the need for its digitization towards achieving a 52 percent boost of intra-African trade by 2022.

2.2 Summit Webpage

https://aficta.africa/summits/summit-2021

2.3 Programme Outline

https://aficta.africa/summits/summit-2021#agenda

CHAPTER 3
3.0 The Summit Report

3.1.0 Introduction

The 9th AfICTA Summit Day-1 commenced promptly with the words of appreciation from the Chair of AfICTA, Mr. Thabo Mashegoane while delivering his opening speech welcoming everyone and all the dignitaries in attendance. He pointed out how the COVID-19 which is the toughest of all the pandemics in the century came and challenged the human race most especially the Africans to innovate and digitalize our activities and processes with the innovations cut across Education, Health, Agriculture, Finances, Commerce and the way businesses and meetings are conducted with huge opportunities to the people rather than the challenges. He enlisted some of the challenges of the innovations as access to the Internet which is the major driver of the digitalization and how AfICTA has it as the core of its objectives to advocate in partnership with other relevant stakeholders to ensure the dividends of the digitalization is enjoyed by everyone in Africa and economically galvanize the continent.

He concluded by appreciating all the keynote speakers who have also sponsored the summit, **Mr. Mason S. Cole**, the Internet Governance Advisor, Appdetex and **ICANN-BC** Chair, **Engr. A. K. Nwaulune PhD**., FNSE the Director, Digital Economy, **Nigeria Communications Commission - NCC**, **Engr Salisu Kaka**, Ag Director Digital Economy Development, **National Information Technology Development Agency - NITDA** and **Mr. Muhammed Rudman**, the President, **Nigeria Internet Registration Association - NiRA**.

3.1.1 Summit Sub Themes
➢ Digital Inclusivity in DLDCs: User Connectivity Vs Content
➢ Digital Literacy: The Bedrock for Bridging Digital Divide in Africa
➢ Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime
➢ 5G and Industrialization: Implications for Business and Technology
➢ ICTs Central to the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030
➢ Addressing Data Protection and Online Safety

3.2.0 Day 1

3.2.1 Keynote Session
The summit dived into the keynote session as Mason Cole the Chair of ICANN-BC delivered a

keynote presentation titled "**Businesses and Internet Governance: An Overview for 2022**" with focus on the following: 1. The need for businesses to remain engaged in governance activity, 2. Review of 2021 governance trends, 3. A look forward to 2022 activities, 4. Where the ICANN BC is active, 5. A look at Domain Name System Abuse, and lastly 6. How you can contribute.

He mentioned the important role ICANN plays regarding ensuring DNS abuses are mitigated, Cybercrime reduced and Infringement managed. He said, "*the number of malware reports*

collected from threat feeds trended upward from approx. 72,000 in January 2021 to 480,000 in June 2021". This statistic shows how crucial the discussion and actions around ensuring safety online are to business as the major stakeholder of the Internet. Read more

The next keynote was delivered by **Engr Salisu Kaka**, Ag Director Digital Economy Development, **NITDA**, He represented the **Director-General of NITDA, Mallam Kashifu Inuwa CCIE** who was unavoidably absent. In his speech he mentioned how digitalization is contributing immensely to the growth of nations in Africa, helping with diversifying and boosting economies by creating new jobs for the teaming youths and raising the living standard of the citizens with positive effect on the gross domestic product. He added that participating actively in the digitalization has also helped Africa and its nations with becoming producers of digital products which has also generated huge foreign exchange and earned nations foreign direct investments. He finally gave statics of some African nations like Nigeria, the major ICT Market in Africa, and Rwanda how they've both shifted from being oil-reliant to diversifying their economies. Engr. Kaka also enumerated some of the major strides of the Agency. Read more

Engr. A. K. Nwaulune PhD., FNSE the Director, Digital Economy - NCC, delivered the next keynote speech on behalf of the Executive Vice-Chairman of the **Nigeria Communications Commission - NCC, Prof. Umar Garba Dambata.** The speech examined how the digitalization of economies is helpful with resolving major bottlenecks in commerce, reducing poverty rate, managing inequalities, creating jobs & enhancing health care services. He said "*digitalization is the driving force for Innovative, inclusive, and sustainable development growth*". Engr. Nwaulune mentioned some of the major indicators of the digitization as follows: Smartphone adoption, Internet Penetration, Internet Speed, eGovernance, eAgriculture & Digital Financial Inclusion, hence gave some statistics around their adoption in Africa. "Internet Penetration by January 2021 shows that by region aggregate, Southern Africa had 62% penetration while Northern Africa had 56%, Western Africa 42%, Eastern Africa 24% and finally Central Africa had 26%. Read more.

Questions from the participants were answered and the session ended. Please see the session's video link @

3.2.2 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. Please find the report here and video here.

3.2.3 Second Panel Session (Digital Literacy: The Bedrock for Bridging Digital Divide in Africa)

Digital Literacy: The Bedrock for Bridging Digital Divide in Africa	Moderated by **Ms. Ulandi Exner,** AfICTA's Vice Chair, Southern Africa. Speakers:
➢ Advocacy and Policy Formulation for Improved Digital Education	**Dr. Wunmi Hassan,** President/CEO, High Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youths
➢ The Jobs of the Future: Re-shaping Curriculum and Institutions	**Melissa Sassi,** Global Head, IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator
➢ Bridging Digital Skills Gaps	**Dr. Ghada Behig,** Research/ Technology Engineering Director
➢ Roles of Industries and Innovators	**Sonja Coetzer,** Managing Director, Salt Essential IT (Pty) Ltd (Namibia)

Prior to the commencement of the second session, we received the goodwill message of **Mr. Rudman Muhammed**, the President of the **Nigeria Internet Registration Association - NIRA**, he appreciated AfICTA for championing discussion and advocacy on IT related matters for Africa for the first nine (9) years consecutively and for the excellent panel session that was earlier organized with speakers not only from Africa but also beyond the continent. He mentioned that NIRA is quite open to collaboration with AfICTA to push the vision forward.

The first session commenced and was moderated by **Ms. Ulandi Exner, AfICTA Vice-Chair**, Southern Africa with brief introduction of the session and panelists. She expressed how fortunate the people of this dispensation are with all the innovations and technology which have touched virtually every aspect of life with examples of virtual library, telemedicine and development of Apps for every aspect of learning which are not bound by time and space unlike their conventional contemporaries . She agreed that although the knowledge is readily available in the ethos,, there are several millions of people who are experiencing information poverty, hence the need to create awareness and extend access to them.
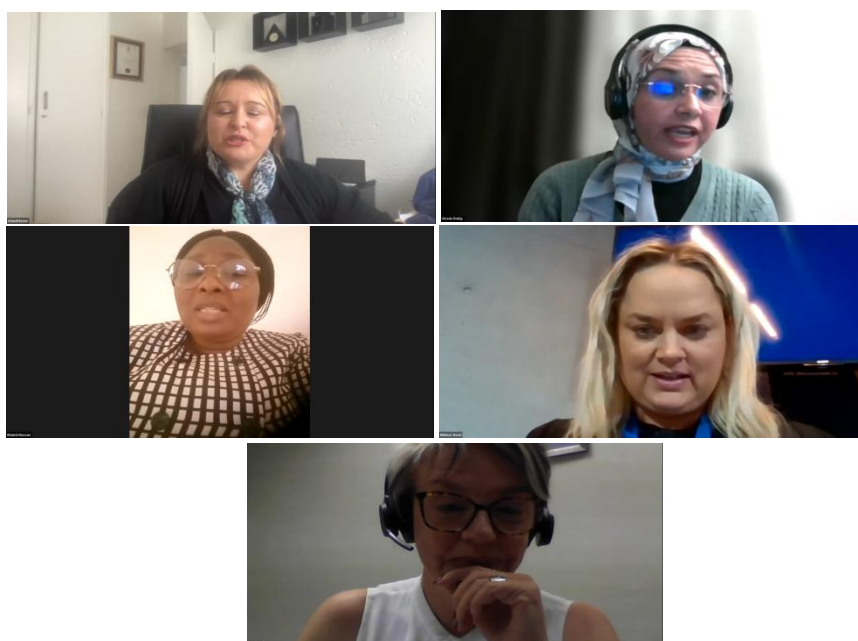
Dr. Melissa Sassi presented on "TRIFECTA OF SKILLS". She, as an Entrepreneur & Intrapreneur, Digital Skill Advocate, Youth Engagement Executive, Writer and Speaker, Academic and Volunteer emphasized the need for both youths and young adults to embrace the acquisition of digital skill-set with focus on both connectivity and content especially now as jobs constantly require a more digitally inclined workforce. and would be a pre-requisite for the foreseeable future. She further enumerated the three things to do to ensure one is ready for the future jobs namely; 1. Acquisition of Digital Skills & Readiness 2. Professional Development Skills and 3. Entrepreneurial Thinking. Dr. Melissa Sassi is more concerned about how people could be aided in moving from being, not just consumers of technology to producers as welland she does that with provision of mentorship and funding support to thousands of young individuals with incredible ideas. Read more

Ms. Sonja Coetzer defined Digital Literacy as having the required skills to leave, learn, and work in an information society. Her strong standpoint was basic education for the young people. She said "a person is known to be multi-dimensionally poor if he/she has poor access to good health facility, education and living standard". She also said until the governments understand the need for real investment in the education, digital infrastructure and digital literacy, we would continue

to be steps away from bridging the digital divide. She presented some statistics from Namibia indicating "43% of Namibians are affected by multi-dimensional poverty as at 2021, report from Namibia Statistic Agency" and it is as a result of Namibia being ranked among the most expensive countries to live in as the huge percentage of the population live between $1.90 and $5 per day. She stated that there is also a huge gap with teacher to student ratio (which is 0.03 teacher per student) and most students do not have access to basic materials and facilities let alone Internet. She enjoined the government to work with all relevant stakeholders in finding lasting solution to the digital skills gap.

Dr. Wunmi Hassan totally agreed with the previous speakers' perspectives about digital literacy and some of their interventions on bridging the gap and she added that though Nigeria is quite active with strategies adoption on digital literacy, the population which is quite huge makes it seem no effort is channeled. She said education is the major aspect of digital literacy and that made the Ministry of Education in Nigeria to come up with **ICT for Education Policy** with focus on equipping children, youths and young adults in every setting of learning (both the town and the gown) with the digital skills they require to remain relevant. Dr. Wunmi Hassan highlighted some of her interventions with the support of some NGOs and the United Nations regarding digital skills enhancement in Nigeria and called out for collaboration with other nations in Africa for exchange of knowledge to develop critical technologies and hardware rather than being consumers.

Dr. Ghada Behig brought in her perspective of digital literacy and the difference between the former and conventional literacy. She defined digital literacy as the ability to use and/or create digital technology. She spoke of digital literacy as an empowering tool to work, collaborate and operate virtually, shifting what we used to do physically (person-to-person) online. She gave her opinion about the infrastructural deficit as one of the major difficulties faced by the educational sector, slowing down the effects of the efforts put into training citizens to be digitally inclined.

3.2.4 Third Panel Session (Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime)

Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime	Moderated by **Yusuph Kileo,** Cyber Security Expert **Speakers:**
➢ Impact of Data Localization on Digital Security;	**Mr. Muhammed Rudman,** President, Nigeria Internet Registration Association - NiRA
➢ Importance of Blockchain Technology on Economies	**Oluwaseun Oluboyo,** Chief Technology Architect, iPNX
➢ Data Breaches, the top Cyberthreat;	
➢ Cybersecurity Skill Gap and Remedy;	
➢ DNS Abuses, Impact on the Economies and its Mitigation	**Toba Obaniyi,** CEO, WHOGOHOST Ltd
➢ Forensic Analysis in Digital Crime Investigation and Prosecution	**'Deepak Kumar (D3),** Sr. Digital Forensics & Cyber Intelligence Expert, India

Introduction

The session was moderated by Yusuph Kileo, a Board member AfICTA and the focal point of the discussion was on creating awareness about how to mitigate/stay safe online from harmful activities such as Domain Name System - DNS Abuse, Malware, Botnets, Cyber-bulling and Financial Attack. A brief introduction of all the speakers on the panel preceded an intense discussion.

Mr. Muhammed Rudman the NiRA President stated some of the efforts put in place by the Nigeria Internet Registration Association, the custodian/registry of the **.NG** Country Code Top Level Domain - ccTLD in ensuring the DNS abuses are totally reduced within the ccTLD. One of this great efforts he mentioned is the creation of an email address "abuse@nira.org.ng" where abuses and cybercrimes are reported and that with intelligent partnerships of special forces in Nigeria called NICAG - Nigeria Internet Crime Advisory Group involving the Nigeria Police Force, CBN - Central Bank of Nigeria, EFCC - Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and other important stakeholders, they are able to combat Cyber criminals tactically.

Toba Obaniyi is the CEO of WhoGoHost Ltd, a cloud solutions company based in Nigeria, helping businesses to have digital identity. In the course of offering their services he mentioned some of the experiences of their customers regarding the abuses on the Internet and how they resolve them. His focus of discussion was on **Data Localization and How It Impacts on Data Security.**

Charles Oluwaseun Oluboyo, the Chief Technology Architect, ipNX one of the leading Connectivity Service Providers in Nigeria also weighed in with few incidences of criminal activities reported by their customers such as private network hackers and how they have mitigated those within their capacity and escalated others to the appropriate authorities,

Question:
1. When there are uprising or security challenges online, governments tend to either partially or fully shutdown access to Internet to forestall the impact on National security at the expense of businesses. What is your advice to the government?

Muhammed Rudman's opinion is that though the action of partial or full Internet shutdown may be justified by government, they should be more transparent with disseminating information to the citizens in order not to give room for speculations that eventually escalate. He mentioned cases of Nations that had such an experience and how issues of such could be resolved with engaging people who are concerned. Allowing Internet shutdown to linger makes citizens to become more aggressive and in some cases, citizens go against rule of law and orderliness. He also mentioned the case of EndSARS hashtag in Nigeria and several controversial reports about what went down. He encouraged that justice should be served either the government is culpable or the people such that peace could reign.

Question:
2. Nations are investing heavily on securing their digital infrastructures such as pipelines, financial systems etc. from attacks and as well ensuring they are fortified not only defensively but also offensively. What should be done to reduce attacks on critical digital infrastructures and how soon would the attacks subside?

Toba Obaniyi agreed on the notion that "*should there be 3rd World War, it might be a cyber war*". He mentioned that seeing powerful nations investing heavily to secure themselves and also on the offensive side, it may be difficult to predict if/when the attacks would end. He said though our level of development in Africa in terms of digitizing our infrastructures (such that they are accessible online) is very low, it could currently be a blessing in disguise. Toba said now that we have the opportunity, we should start building capability & creating awareness to the people so as to empower them to stay secured.

'**Deepak Kumar (D3)** gave a brief presentation on "**Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime**". In his presentation, he mentioned that DNS abuse is defined as being composed of five broad categories of harmful activities such as malware, botnets, phishing, pharming, and spam. There are other broader security threats that can impact the functionality of the DNS and Infrastructures, he said such include DoS - Denial of Service, DDoS Distributed Denial of Service, DNS Cache Poisoning, Protocol-Level attacks and many others with explanation of how to identify them.

Finally, he categorized online harms into 3 distinct parts 1. Content Harms such as Intellectual Property Infringements; 2. Technical Harms such as distribution of malware and DNS poisoning attacks and; 3. Hybrid Harms whereby phishing and pharming will often have both deceptive content and domain names.

One of the major measures to take against attackers was education of Internet users tagged "Internet Security Awareness". He said awareness is considered to be a great tool to ensuring a more safe and secured access because when there is high level of digital knowledge, it would become difficult to deceive people. There must

also be stringent policies to combat the criminals, prosecution of criminals and collaboration with relevant agencies to fight the acts would also serve as deterrent to others. [Read more](#)

The broader discussion held among the panelist and participants could be recapped here.

3.3.0 Day 2 (AfICTA Summit)

3.3.1 Forth Panel Session: 5G and Industrialization: Implications for Business and Technology

5G and Industrialization…	Moderated by **Paul Rowney**, AfICTA Deputy Chair Speakers:
➢ Meaningful Connectivity	**Marwan El Messiry,** Marketing Manager, **IKEN**
➢ Intensifying African Business Awareness, Efforts and Involvement in the Internet Governance	**Waddah Fadul,** AfICTA Board & CEO Institute of Tomorrow **Dr. Jimson Olufuye,** CEO, Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd & Founder/fmr Chair, AfICTA

Introduction

It is no secret that the continent missed the mark on most of the previous generations of technological revolutions and the importance of striving to piggyback on subsequent revolutions to leap-frog in the development process especially economically cannot be overemphasized. The 5th Industrial revolution presents another massive opportunity for Africans and Africa as a whole to leverage new and emerging technologies to catalyze our economic and developmental growth in the continent. The panelists disused the challenges and prospects of 5G and Industrialization as a tool to achieve economic revolution.

Mr Marwan spoke on the impact 4G had on business which was a decrease in the latency period for service delivery. The 4IR brought about a substantial change within the value chain and supply chain as the 4G devices and technologies introduced new facets of information and variables that improved the quality of services and revolutionize the competitiveness landscape.

Dr Jimson presented on the deployment of 5G in Nigeria and the role that the Private sector should play. The NCC which is the arm of the Federal Government leading the charge on the 5G deployment strategy will provide an enabling environment for 5G deployment, but the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) (the Private Sector) will determine their own deployment strategies subject to alignment to the approved policies and other regulatory instruments. The role of the

private sector has been critical in the successful roll-outs in the preceding telecommunication generations and in that vein, the private sector is urged to: Invest in 5G spectrum auction; Invest in infrastructure; Invest in Radio antennae and the associated equipment and; Invest in the business process for deployment, management and the sustainability of the network. Read More.

Mr Waddah spoke on key challenges to the adoption of 5G technologies in Africa. The first, the Infrastructure and Operational challenges deal with the problems which both the carriers and adopters of the technology encounter with the adoption. Only about 30% of companies have began embarking on the testing and implementation phase of the 5G technologies and the challenge of limited number of manufacturers hampers the ability to maximize the potential of the 5G. He also highlighted that with the adoption of the 5G networks, the question of new regulation to address the anticipated exponential spike in cyber threats due to the level of interconnectivity would have to be addressed swiftly.

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

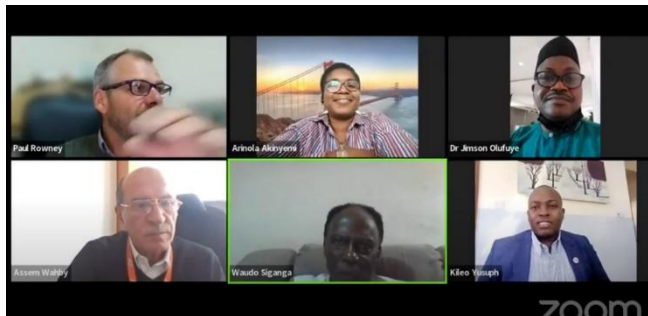| (Regional Digital Development… ➤ ICTs Central to the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 ➤ Concerted Efforts made towards Improving Living Standards and digitalization.	Moderated by **Paul Rowney**, AfICTA Deputy Chair Speakers: **Engr. Assem Wahby,** AfICTA Vice-Chair, North Africa (Egypt) **Tola Sogbesan,** AfICTA Vice-Chair, West Africa (Nigeria) **Ms. Ulandi Exner,** AfICTA Vice-Chair, Southern Africa (SA) **Dr. Waudo Siganga,** AfICTA Vice-Chair, East Africa (Kenya) **Eric Sindeu,** AfICTA Vice-Chair, Central Africa (Cameroon)

Sustainable Development Goals SDGs are very crucial to accomplishing AfICTA's vision and ICTs is a cross-cutting tool that is essential to achieving these goals particularly in the age of digital transformation. AfICTA elected Vice Chairmen in the different regions in Africa to monitor how ICT has been implemented to engender the realization of the SDGs in the region thereby fostering the practice of cross border knowledge sharing and synergy in Africa.

Some of the notable examples of ICT enabled projects geared towards the realization of SDG Goals in Africa include:

1. The Decent Life project is an initiative targeted at 50 million citizens in the rural areas in Egypt. The purpose of this project is not only to implement basic infrastructure to increase Internet penetration but also to build digital literacy and capacity across the board all demographics increasing the amount of digitally skilled labour in the workforce.
2. The SMART cities projects have been established in different places in Egypt.
3. AI technology in the Agricultural sector. The "Hudhud" & QSIT's Crop Mapping and Field Boundary Detection solution projects which are both at their pilot phases serve as a smart assistant project for farmers.

3.3.3 Sixth Panel Session (ICANN BC Outreach)

ICANN BC Outreach	Moderated by **Dr. Waudo Siganga,** AfICTA Vice Chair East Africa & President CSK Kenya
➢ Addressing Data Protection and Online Safety	Speakers: **Yusuph Kileo, AfICTA Board &** Cybersecurity Expert
➢ Outreach to African Business Owners	**Tola Sogbesan,** AfICTA Vice Chair, West Africa
	Arinola Akinyemi, CEO, DigiSphere Ltd

Mitigating DNS Abuse is one of the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers - Business Constituency's (ICANN-BC) mid to long term priorities because it is one of the main problems that affects the stability and resilience of the Internet. ICANN-BC, the representative for business over the Internet within the ICANN ecosystem is particularly interested in this issue and as such, is heavily involved with the policy engagement on mitigating DNS abuse at the global stage. The issue of DNS Abuse is perfectly poised for the theme of the AfICTA Summit which was "**Accelerated Digitalization for Economic Revolution in Africa: Prospects and Challenges**". DNS Abuse and cybercrime are some of the major challenges that affects customer trust in businesses online and the BC is working rigorously on the advocacy front to address these problems.

The popular misconception that the matters of cyberthreats and cybercrime is of lesser importance to Africa due to relatively lower Internet penetration in the continent needs to be completely disregarded because the Internet is a borderless terrane and cybercrime is a persisting issue that affects everyone who uses the Internet.

The Africa DNS Market Study commissioned by ICANN in 2017 clearly highlights the lack of involvement of African businesses and role players in matters of Internet governance which was articulated in the challenges encountered during the study. The challenge of the unavailability of sufficient suitable role players to be potential respondents to the surveys for the study is a problem that needs to be addressed through more awareness and engagement by the major African IT players from all stakeholder groups. Another challenge highlighted in the study was "the misplaced emphasis on the confidentiality of data on the part of some Registries who were unaware that their peers publish statistics that they consider 'secret'". This indicates the need for more engagement in matters of Internet governance on responsibility of transparency within the DNS ecosystem in Africa as it is key to enhancing the policy development processes that takes into account, the African perspective.

Members of AfICTA involved in the DNS abuse working group urged the participants which included business owners in the DNS ecosystem that the common practice of withholding information on DNS Abuse incidences within their organization further perpetuates the unhealthy

trends of skewed statistics hence making it difficult to have a clear picture of DNS Abuse in Africa which is critical to mitigating the problems.

ICANN as a multi-stakeholder community also encourages engagement with other constituencies such as the Government Advisory Council - GAC and At-Large Advisory Council – ALAC so summit participants from other stakeholder groups were enjoined to get involved within the Internet governance space in order to have the voices and concerns of Africa represented. The work done by Dr Jimson Olufuye during his tenure at the BC was highly commended most notably in advocating for the 70% discount on annual membership fees for organizations in developing countries. This serves as an incentive to drive membership for Business owners in Africa. The Members of AfICTA within the BC also enjoined attendees to participate in the BC by ensuring their businesses has a valid web presence as this is prerequisite for joining the BC then connecting with themselves or other BC Members to be active within the BC.

3.4.0 Summit & Nominating Committee

S/N	Names	AfICTA Designation
1	Thabo Mashegoane	Chairman
2	Paul Rowney	Deputy Chairman
4	Dr. Jimson Olufuye	Founder and Immediate Past Chairman
5	Ms. Ulandi Exner	Vice Chair, Southern Africa
6	Engr. Assem Wahby	Vice Chair, North Africa
7	Tola Sogbesan	Vice Chair, West Africa
8	Dr. Waudo Siganga	Vice Chair, East Africa
9	Eric Sindeu	Vice Chair, Central Africa
10	Dada Samuel	Programme Officer
11	Oyeyemi Kayode	Senior Programme Officer

3.5.0 Africa ICT Award Winners

The 2021 Nomination Committee reached a consensus to bestow the Africa ICT Champion Award on all the Advisory Council members, the active board members and a posthumous award on Ms. Marilyn Cade. Meanwhile, the outcome of the election conducted to determine the winners of AfICTA registered awards for the year 2021 among the nominees turned out to favour the additional people below:

S/N	Award Category	Award Winner (2021)
1	Africa ICT Champion Award	1. Dr. Jimson Olufuye, Founder & 1st Chair of AfICTA 2. Engr Atef Helmy, Patron and former Egyptian Minister of ICT 3. Engr Hossam Elgamal, former AfICTA Chairman 4. Mr. Adrian Schofield, fmr AfICTA Vice-Chair 5. Prof Adenike Osofisan, Founding Board Member 6. Engr Lanre Ajayi, Founding Board Member 7. Marilyn Cade, Posthumous Award 8. Mr Thabo Mashegoane, the current Chair of the Board 9. Mr Paul Rowney, the Deputy Chair 10. Dr Waudo Siganga, Vice-Chair, East Africa 11. Eng Assem Wahby, Vice-Chair, North Africa

		12. Ms Ulandi Exner, Vice-Chair, Southern Africa
		13. Yusuph Kileo, Tanzania
		14. Laicana Coulibaly, Ivory Coast
		15. Timilehin Ambali, Nigeria
		16. Waddah Fadul, Sudan
		17. Opeyemi Onifade, Nigeria
		18. Mr. Ebenezer Dare, Co-founder, and CEO, Hostlag Limited
2	Africa ICT Personality Award	19. Dr. Hazem El Tahawy of Egypt
3	Africa CIO Award	20. Dr. Stanley Mpof, Ghana
4	Africa ICT Innovation Award	21. Segun Olugbile, Nigeria
5	Africa Community Development Award	22. Mr. Stanley Dankyira, South Africa

CHAPTER 4

4.1 Recommendations

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 fairs 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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