



**Kenya ICT Action Network**



"A Catalyst for reform in  
the ICT Sector"

# National & Regional Internet Governance Forums The East African Internet Governance Forum Experience

13<sup>th</sup> March 2009,

Saly, Senegal

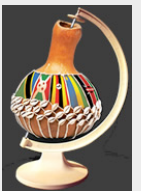
Brian Munyao Longwe

Chairman, KICTANET



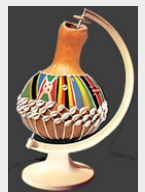
# Low African Participation in Global Policy Processes

- A study by the Panos Institute entitled “Louder Voices” argues that “in spite of considerable effort, there is still a “missing link” between ICT and development at the international policy level” inadequate presence or influence in the many voluntary, private, and not-for-profit decision-making fora that have been set up in recent years to standardise and manage the Internet and other new ICTs.



# Low African Participation in Global Policy Processes

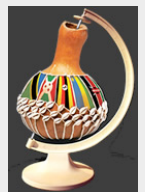
- Most of the African countries lack awareness of the importance of global ICT policy issues in achieving development goals
- Their internal markets are sometimes too small and inefficient for some of the new policy regimes
- Mostly they lack technical and policy capacity and other resources to participate in these new processes
- In many cases they are also not invited.



# Africa @ IGF



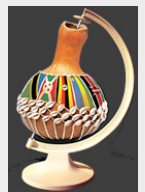
- There has been very limited participation by African stakeholders in not only the Internet Governance Forum but also in other global ICT policy processes.
- Kenya ICT Action Network decided to initiate and coordinate national and sub-regional IGFs by national Multi-stakeholder Partnerships - MSPs
  - Kenya: KICTANET
  - Uganda: WOUG
  - Tanzania: Swopnet, Ethinktank
  - Rwanda: RITA
- Main theme of the East African IGF was to open the Internet Governance debate in East Africa - expose policy-makers and the community at large to the key issues and highlight East African priorities in Internet



# EAIGF Objectives



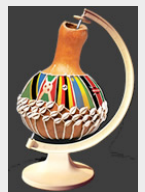
- Create awareness and build policy and technical capacity in order to enable meaningful participation in global internet governance and ICT Policy processes
- Institute a consensus building process and develop a common understanding among East African internet stakeholders on the nature and character of Internet Governance
- Provide a forum that engages industry, government, parliament, media, academia and civil society in debate on Internet Governance issues.



# IGFs in East Africa

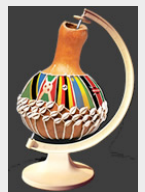


- National Level IGF held in East African Countries
  - Kenya
  - Tanzania
  - Rwanda
  - Uganda
- Initiated and coordinated by national Multi-stakeholder Partnerships - MSPs
  - Kenya: KICTANET
  - Uganda: WOUG
  - Tanzania: Swopnet, Ethinktank
  - Rwanda: RITA



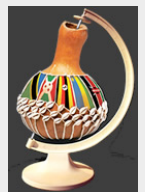
# National Level IGF

- *Online mailing list discussions to identify national priorities*
- 1 week - 2 week long
- Moderated discussion
- Discussions surrounded the following thematic areas:
  - Access - Supply, Demand and Development
  - Content – Development, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Localisation
  - Management of Critical Internet Resources
  - Cybersecurity, Privacy and Trust
  - Governance – Participation in Internet Governance
- Mailing List discussions served as building blocks for face to face meetings in each country
- 1-day Face to face meetings brought together national actors and provided them with opportunity to crystallize national Internet Governance priorities out of the inputs from the mailing list discussions



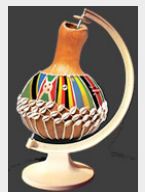
# Organisation/Preparation for the EAIGF

- Collaborative partnership
  - government institutions
  - Various regulatory authorities of the East African countries
  - Private sector entities
  - civil society
  - Media
  - International partners including the ITU, ISOC and others.



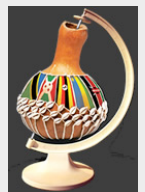
# Organisation/Preparation for the EAIGF

- The following organisations co-sponsored the EAIGF:
  1. The Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet)
  2. The Kenya ICT Board (KICTB)
  3. The Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC)
  4. The Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)
  5. The Association of Progressive Communications (APC)
  6. The International Development and Research Centre (IDRC)
  7. The East Africa ICT for Development Network
  8. Strathmore University
  9. The Telecommunications Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK)



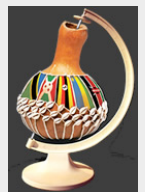
# Publicity

- The event was highly publicised in all relevant mailing lists including, inter alia:
  - The Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) mailing list
  - The Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC) mailing list
  - The Skunkworks mailing list
  - The Telecommunications Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK) mailing list
  - The Kenya Internet Exchange Point (KIXP) mailing list and
  - The Kenya Internet Users mailing list
  - The Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) mailing list



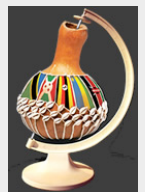
# East African IGF

- Attended by about 180 participants from the East African countries
- Broad representation:
  - Business
  - Civil society
  - Media
  - Academia
  - Government
  - Individual internet
  - others.



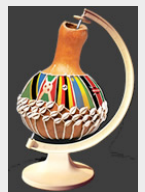
# East African Internet Governance Priorities

- Universal affordable Access
  - Access to infrastructure
  - Affordable access to relevant local Content
  - Multi lingualism
  - National and regional Internet exchange points (IXPs)s
- Capacity and skills development
  - Strengthening knowledge base/understanding of IG issues at both policy and technical
  - Enhance level and quality of local contributions to international IG policy processes
  - Develop local community expertise



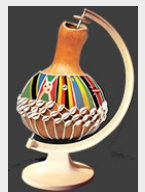
# East African Internet Governance Priorities

- Legislative frameworks that will create an enabling environment for creation and innovation
  - Provision of legal and regulatory frameworks for use of ICTs for development in the region
  - Harmonisation of legal and regulatory frameworks within the East African region
- Critical internet resources
  - IPv6 adoption (Transition from IPv4 to IPv6)
  - New gTLDs and IDNs
  - Collaboration and sharing of best practices and procedures ccTLDs and re-delegation of dot UG and RW



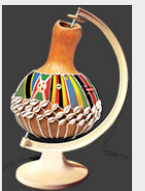
# East African Internet Governance Priorities

- Cyber crime, security and privacy (creating a national and regional framework)
  - Protecting national/regional Internet infrastructure
  - Protecting personal information
  - Spam
  - E-crime and security legislation
  - National and Regional Computer Emergency Readiness Team (CERT) and Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)



# East African Internet Governance Priorities

- The outputs from the EAIGF were collated into a report which was delivered at the global IGF meeting in Hyderabad, India in December 2008
- EAIGF 2009 will be held in Tanzania

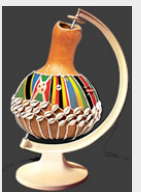


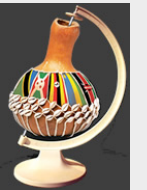
## Key Message from EAIGF

- One of the key messages that emerged from the EAIGF was:

“this was the first ever IGF to build a grass-root, bottom up process, which began in four countries of the East African region-Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda, then culminated into the regional meeting in Nairobi, a clear support for the multi-stakeholder process”

Markus Kummer, Global IGF





**Thanks!**

**Discussion!**

