Rwanda Internet Governance Forum 2024

Lemigo Hotel- Kigali, Rwanda | 05 September 2024

"Building our Multi-stakeholder Digital Future"

In collaboration with

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1. Executive Summary

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RW-IGF) 2024 was held from 05 September 2024 at the Lemigo Hotel in Kigali. This Forum convened over 205 participants, including representatives from government, academia, civil society, the private sector, and international partners, all committed to advancing Rwanda's Internet Governance ecosystem. The forum addressed critical themes under the overarching theme **"Building our Multi-stakeholder Digital Future"** for Rwanda.

Key trucks included:

- **AI Ethics and Governance:** Exploring the ethical implications of artificial intelligence, with discussions emphasizing the need for addressing the moral and societal implications of AI development and deployment and the ethical and governance dimensions of AI and its impact on society.
- **Data Governance and Privacy:** Addressing the growing importance of personal data privacy and localization within Rwanda's regulatory framework, with an emphasis on shaping how data is collected, managed, and utilized in ways that balance innovation with privacy, security, and societal values.
- **Cybersecurity and Digital Trust:** Highlighting the essential role of cybersecurity in Rwanda's digital transformation, particularly regarding national security, public awareness, and fostering a culture of trust among citizens.

The outcomes and recommendations from RWIGF 2024 underscore Rwanda's commitment to responsible digital innovation, citizen data privacy, and a secure online environment for all Rwandans.

Alongside three trucks, there was also a presentation that elaborated the role of high education institutions in contributing to initiatives that raise awareness, educate the public, and develop the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

2. Introduction

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RW-IGF) 2024, marking its 12th edition, was held on September 5, 2024, and emerged as a pivotal multi-stakeholder event. The forum, themed "Building our Multi-stakeholder Digital Future," provided a significant platform for a broad spectrum of stakeholders to collaborate on advancing an inclusive and sustainable digital future.

The forum was graced by the Minister of the Ministry of ICT & Innovation, Hon. Paula Ingabire as the Guest of honor, Keynote speaker, Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo the UN Resident Coordinator to Rwanda, senior officials and other distinguished representatives from local and international entities who shared their experiences and expertise on discussed matters through speeches, panels and presentations.

Serving into the global philosophy of Internet governance, the forum mainstreamed thought process on the three (3) main discussion topics; (a) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Governance, (b) Data Governance in Rwanda, (c) Cybersecurity and Trust, and a presentation showing the role of high education institutions in contributing to initiatives that raise awareness, educate the public, and develop the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.
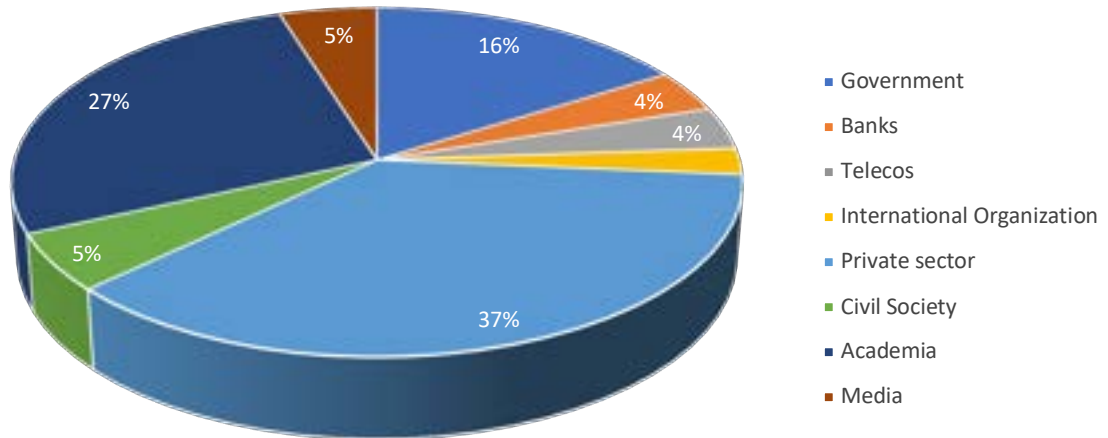
3. RWIGF2024 Objectives

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RIGF) 2024 was organized to bring together diverse stakeholders to address current Internet Governance challenges and opportunities that are critical to Rwanda's digital transformation agenda. By fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration, the Forum aimed to produce actionable recommendations that would inform Rwanda's digital policies and strengthen its Internet Governance ecosystem. The specific objectives of RWIGF 2024 were as follows:

- To Provide a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation at the national level on Internet governance issues. The Forum served as an inclusive platform for open discussions on emerging Internet Governance issues, including Artificial Intelligence ethics, data privacy, and cybersecurity. By involving voices from government, private sector, civil society, and academia, RWIGF 2024 ensured a comprehensive perspective on challenges and potential solutions.

- To raise awareness and understanding of Internet governance issues among stakeholders. The Forum encouraged collaboration among different stakeholders to co-create solutions for Rwanda's Internet Governance challenges. By fostering partnerships across government, civil society, private sector, and international organizations, RWIGF 2024 aimed to build a collective approach that supports Rwanda's digital transformation goals.

- To facilitate the participation of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and sectors, including civil society, governments, academia, technical community, and private sector, in Internet governance discussions and decision-making.

- To feed into the global Internet governance discussions and decision-making processes, particularly through the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

- To create opportunities to share best practices and experiences, identify emerging issues, and bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public.

4. Participation
Rwanda IGF2024 was attended by 205 participants from including government, civil society, the private sector, the technical community, academia, and international organizations.

RWIGF 2024 Participation

Among the organizations represented the public sector, we noticed the presence of:
- The Ministry of ICT and Innovation, MINICT;
- The Rwanda National Police, RNP
- Rwanda Utility Regulatory Authority, RURA
- National Cyber Security Authority, NCSA
- Rwanda Information Society Authority, RISA
- Rwanda Investigation Bureau, RIB
- Rwanda Public Prosecution Authority-RPPA
- The Ministry of Defense

From the private sector, we noticed the presence of:
- The Private Sector Federation;
- Internet Service Providers;
- Internet Resellers
- Banks

From the Civil Society, we noticed the presence of:
- Internet Society, ISOC Rwanda chapter
- UN Rwanda
- Media

From the Academia, we noticed the presence of:
1. Carnegie Mellon University, CMU Africa
2. University of Tourism, Technology and Business Studies, UTB
3. Africa Leadership University-ALU
4. University of Rwanda
5. University of Kigali

And more from technical community.

5. Opening Remarks

Mrs. Grace Ingabire, CEO RICTA

The conference was inaugurated by CEO Mrs. Grace Ingabire, who underscored the forum's alignment with the Global IGF theme and its strategic focus on shaping Internet governance both regionally and globally. Her address highlighted the crucial role of ICT in economic development and stressed the need for collective action to tackle emerging digital challenges such as Data Governance, AI ethics, and cybersecurity.

She recognized the presence of the Guest of Honor, Hon. Paula INGABIRE, Minister of the Ministry of ICT and Innovation; and all other distinguished speakers of the day. Mrs. Grace expressed the indebtedness of appreciation to members, partners and sponsors of Rwanda IGF2024 edition that made it happen successfully. Speaking from organizers' perspective;

- The Internet Governance Forum is very important platform that brings government, private sector, civil society, media, the technical and academic community together for policy dialogue on Internet governance.

- In the efforts to building our Multi-stakeholder Digital Future, the Internet governance cannot be ignored and hoping to leverage on the forum to discuss and share experiences and the best practices.

- We do encourage the Internet users, Internet promoters and different organizations to foster on RW-IGF discussions.

As she concluded her remarks, she recognized all the efforts from different stakeholders for supporting the launch of the Rwanda School on Internet Governance (RWSIG), designed to empower participants for impactful ICT policy engagement and committed its continuity.

6. Keynote Address

While addressing the RW-IGF2024 Participants, Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo, the UN Resident Coordinator in Rwanda started his keynote speech by thanking the Hon. Minister Paula INGABIRE for her invitation to the important Annual Forum. Navigating this digital ocean requires teamwork. Government counterparts, the private sector, development partners, civil society organizations, and academia all need to collaborate to create policies, regulations, and best practices that promote inclusivity, sustainability, and the ethical use of the Internet.

The convening of the Internet Governance Forum 2024 in Kigali exemplifies the kinds of cooperation required to realize the principles and aims of the global digital compact. We salute all the institutions and partners that have come together to make this conversation happen.

Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo speaking to the Forum, he expressed the importance of the internet in people's daily lives, I quote; "Imagine, a world where the sun never rises—where we are constantly shrouded in darkness. In such a world, our ability to see, navigate, and connect with one another would be severely limited. The internet, in many ways, has become our modern-day sunlight, illuminating the path forward, connecting us across vast distances, and enabling us to explore new horizons. Just as the sun is indispensable to life on Earth, so too has the internet become indispensable to our lives, our economies, and our future".

When we were pinned down by the COVID-19 lockdowns, what connected us? The internet. When we were not able to shake hands, we found ourselves smiling and saying, "Nice to e-meet you" on various video conferencing platforms.

When we could not queue at the banks to withdraw money for our daily subsistence, Push and Pull and other cashless innovations had our backs. Each and every one of you has a story to tell—a moving story of how the internet, directly or indirectly, kept your lives moving.

Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo, the UN Resident Coordinator

In his statement while applauding Rwanda's efforts to transforming her people towards digital future, Dr. Ozonnia stated that "In Rwanda, we greatly appreciate how, under visionary leadership, the country has made significant strides in harnessing this digital sunlight. From e-health initiatives to digital agriculture, we've seen how technology can enhance lives and drive economic growth. The transformation from simple cyber cafes to the comprehensive Irembo platform illustrates how the internet can unlock opportunities. But like any powerful force, we must wield it carefully, ensuring that it remains a common good for all".

Speaking to the Forum trucks, he noted that one of the most pressing issues we face today is the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI). AI, much like the sun, has the power to sustain life but can also burn if misused. We must ensure that AI is developed and utilized in ways that benefit everyone, not just a privileged few.

Rwanda has been proactive in embracing AI, with a National AI Policy that aims to leverage AI to significantly enhance the country's development, economy, and Sustainable Development Goals— this is highly commendable. We must continue to steer this powerful technology with care, ensuring it serves the interests of all Rwandans. Initiatives like the Government of Rwanda's Connect Rwanda and the macye macye phone distribution scheme aim to democratize access to the internet, allowing every citizen to benefit from the opportunities AI and other digital innovations offer.

On Cybersecurity, he mentioned that it is another critical challenge in our digital age. In the vast expanse of the internet, our data is our most valuable resource—a treasure chest filled with information that can be used for good or ill. We must protect this treasure from cyber pirates who seek to steal and misuse it.

Building trust in digital systems is essential, as it underpins our ability to fully leverage the benefits of digital transformation. As we expand our digital footprint, the need for robust cybersecurity measures grows. It is not just about protecting data; it's about safeguarding the trust that people place in the systems we are building.

From the perspective of the United Nations, where we advocate for the rule of law and the principle of **"*do no harm*,"** data governance is a cornerstone of a secure digital future. Just as we have laws to protect our physical property, we need robust safeguards to protect our digital assets. Rwanda has made commendable progress in this area with its data privacy and protection law[1], ensuring the privacy of personal data and promoting the localization of data storage and processing. These efforts are crucial in ensuring that our digital advancements are not only innovative but also safe and secure for all.

Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo also shared the UN's vision for a digital future, as outlined in the policy briefs of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres for a global digital compact. The Global Digital Compact seeks to close digital divides, promote data governance, and ensure that emerging technologies like AI are used responsibly and ethically. The purpose of the Global Digital Compact (GDC)[2] is to establish an inclusive global framework, essential for multi-stakeholder action required to overcome digital, data and innovation divides. The compact outlines principles, objectives and actions for

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[1]

https://cyber.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=229&token=742569646abebc43d1ad81e3d3bee2f4f11f9639

[2] https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf

advancing an open, free, secure and human-centered digital future for all, one that is anchored in universal human rights and that enables the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

From the UN's perspective;

On 11 June 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General issued a Roadmap for Digital Cooperation which addresses how the international community can better harness the opportunities presented by digital technologies while addressing their challenges. The roadmap builds on recommendations made by the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, and input from Member States, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and other stakeholder groups and calls on us all to:

- Achieving universal, affordable, connectivity by 2030: Everyone should have access to the internet.
- Promoting digital public goods to create a more equitable world: The internet's open source, public origins should be embraced and supported.
- Ensuring digital inclusion for all, including the most vulnerable: Under-served groups need equal access to digital tools to accelerate developmental progress.
- Strengthening digital capacity building: Skill development and training are needed around the world.
- Ensuring the protection of human rights in the digital era: Human rights apply both online and offline.
- Supporting global cooperation on Artificial Intelligence that is trustworthy, human rights based, safe and sustainable and promotes peace.
- Promoting digital trust and security: Calling for a global dialogue to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Building a more effective architecture for digital cooperation: Make digital governance a priority and focus the organization's approach

As he concluded his keynote speech, Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo said that the United Nations in Rwanda remains committed to unwavering cooperation with the Government of Rwanda and partners in our shared quest to build a digital future that benefits all, Leaving no One Behind.

7. Remarks from the Guest of Honor

While addressing participants of the Rwanda's IGF 2024 edition, Hon. Minister Paula Ingabire of the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT) started by thanking and applauding the organizing committee and the partners for making the forum happen. The Minister stated that as people gather under the theme "Building our Multi-stakeholder Digital Future," she reminded of the pivotal role that this forum plays in shaping the policies and practices that govern our digital world. The Internet has undoubtedly become the backbone of modern society, driving innovation, enhancing communication, and fostering economic growth. Yet, as we navigate this digital era, we must also address the complexities it brings.

This forum is not just a platform for dialogue; it is a space where we can collectively shape the future of the Internet in Rwanda. It is here that we can ensure that the digital tools and technologies we develop serve the greater good, empowering every Rwandan and fostering sustainable development.

The Ministry of ICT and Innovation remains committed to driving Rwanda's digital transformation. Our National AI Policy[3] and Personal Data Protection and Privacy Law plus Cyber Crimes Law[4] are cornerstone of this effort, designed to maximize the benefits of AI while addressing its risks through ethical governance. We are also advancing our cybersecurity and data governance frameworks to build a secure and trustworthy digital ecosystem.

But policies and laws alone are not enough. We must work together—government, private sector, civil society, and academia—to turn these policies into action. The future we envision is one where the Internet is a tool for empowerment, inclusivity, and progress for all, said the Minister.

Hon. Paula INGABIRE, the Minister of Ministry of ICT & Innovation

The issues of Artificial Intelligence (AI) ethics, cybersecurity, and data privacy are more pressing than ever, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that these challenges are met with thoughtful and inclusive solutions. She concluded her remarks by calling everyone to embark on forum's discussions

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https://cyber.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=70&token=8a1cd43626bfcc2b99fba277aca01e6f2aaa1788

and bring diverse perspectives to the table. Everyone's contributions are vital to ensuring that the Internet we build is one that reflects our shared values and aspirations. Together, we can create a digital future that is safe, inclusive, and beneficial for everyone.

8. Forum Structure and Key Topics

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RWIGF) 2024 was structured to maximize multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative discussion. Held at Lemigo Hotel on 05 September 2024, the event included a mix of expert panel discussions, presentation and interactive Q&A segments to foster in-depth exploration of Internet Governance issues. The diverse group of attendees included government officials, industry leaders, academics, civil society representatives, youth, and international partners, all of whom contributed unique perspectives on Rwanda's Internet Governance landscape.

8.1 Format

The Forum featured:

- Panel Discussions: Three thematic panel discussions focused on critical areas impacting Rwanda's Internet Governance, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Governance, Data Governance in Rwanda, and Cybersecurity and Trust. Each panel included expert speakers and was moderated by experienced professionals.
- Presentation: A presentation showing the role of high education institutions in contributing to initiatives that raise awareness, educate the public, and develop the next generation of cybersecurity professionals was presented by CMU Africa.
- Q&A Sessions: Each panel included an interactive Q&A segment, allowing participants to engage directly with speakers, ask questions, and offer insights.
- Networking Opportunities: The event included networking break and lunch to encourage relationship-building among participants from various sectors.

8.2 Key Topics and Presentation

Rwanda IGF 2024 centered on three main topics and one presentation that are highly relevant to Rwanda's digital future. Each session provided a deep dive into these themes, exploring current challenges, potential solutions, and actionable recommendations for policy and practice.

8.2.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Governance

The first panel discussed the ethical implications and governance needs surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Rwanda. Given the increasing integration of AI in various sectors—from healthcare and education to finance and public services—there is a pressing need for frameworks that promote fair, transparent, and accountable AI use.

The first Panel discussing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Governance

The Panel was composed of experts with a diverse knowledge from different backgrounds including Mr. Alain Ndayishimiye, Project Lead Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning- C4iR Rwanda, Dr. George Okeyo- Associate Teaching Professor and Director of Academics- CMU Africa, Mr. Clemens Häusler- Deputy Head of Development Cooperation, German Embassy. The panel was moderated by the industry expert, Mr. Alex Ntale-CEO ICT Chamber.

- The panel highlighted the risks of biases in AI systems and the need for inclusive AI that considers the diverse demographics of Rwandan society.

- Discussions emphasized the importance of clear guidelines and accountability measures for AI applications in Rwanda.

- The Forum advocated for public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on AI applications and their rights concerning AI-related matters.

8.2.2 Data Governance in Rwanda with a focus on Personal Data Privacy, Protection and Data Localization

The second panel focused on the importance of robust data governance in a digital economy, with a special emphasis on data privacy, protection, and localization. As Rwanda continues to develop its data infrastructure, ensuring the security and privacy of personal data is critical for building public trust and aligning with global standards.

The second Panel discussing Data Governance in Rwanda with a focus on Personal Data Privacy, Protection and Data localization.

From different backgrounds with different expertise, the panel was composed of Mr. Charles Gahungu, General Manager of ICT Regulation-RURA, Mr. Eraste Rurangwa- Head of Data Protection and Privacy Office- NCSA, Mrs. Grace Ingabire- CEO, RICTA and Mr. Emmanuel Mfitumukiza-Chairperson, Internet Society-Rwanda Chapter. It was moderated by the industry expert, Mr. Robert N. Ford-Chairman Rwanda IGF Committee.

The forum reached on key deliberations under this topic;

- Outlined the current challenges in data governance and advocated for enhanced legal protections for personal data.

- The need for Public Education on Data Privacy is key: It was proposed to initiate awareness campaigns on data privacy rights, focusing on safe digital practices.

- Encouraging organizations to integrate data protection measures from the outset of product development to enhance security and trust.

- The Forum encouraged collaboration with local stakeholders, including government, academia, and private sectors, to design a data localization framework that balances security, accessibility, and cost considerations. It is also recommended to invest in local data infrastructure to support the expected increase in demand for data storage and management services.

- The Forum recommended to strengthen and expand the use of local Internet Exchange Point (RINEX) that may lead to improve internet performance, reduce costs, and promote data sovereignty.

8.2.3 Building Bridges of Trust in a Digital Rwanda: The Role of Cybersecurity

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Africa delivered a presentation on the crucial role Universities play in fostering cybersecurity awareness and building a skilled cybersecurity workforce in Rwanda.

Dr. Emmanuel Ndashimye, Assistant Teaching Professor-CMU Africa presenting the role of the Universities in Cybersecurity landscape.

The presentation highlighted three main contributions:

- Awareness and Education: CMU Africa emphasized the role of Universities in educating the public about cybersecurity risks, including the role of digital literacy in creating a security-aware society. By integrating cybersecurity topics into general curricula and offering targeted programs, Universities can improve understanding of safe digital practices.

- Developing Cybersecurity Professionals: The Universities have the responsibility of training the next generation of cybersecurity experts. Through specialized programs, such as degrees in cybersecurity and computer science, CMU Africa is equipping students with the technical skills and knowledge to address modern cyber threats effectively.

- Supporting Cybersecurity Initiatives: CMU Africa also collaborates with stakeholders to support national and regional initiatives aimed at strengthening cybersecurity frameworks. The university's research contributions and partnerships provide valuable insights and innovations that enhance Rwanda's cybersecurity resilience. More Universities can join such kinds of initiatives at both local and regional levels.

8.2.4 Cybersecurity and Trust

This session addressed Rwanda's cybersecurity challenges, examining the need for enhanced digital trust in both public and private sectors. Given the increasing volume of cyber threats, there is an urgent need to strengthen Rwanda's cybersecurity measures to protect citizens, institutions, and national infrastructure.

The Third Panel discussing Cybersecurity and Trust

The panel was composed of different experts from diverse backgrounds. It included Dr. Emmanuel Ndashimye, Assistant Teaching Professor-CMU Africa, Mr. NIZEYIMANA Pierre Celestin, Business Analyst- MIGEPROF, Mr. Innocent RUZINDANA Chief Technical Officer-BSC and Mrs. Fidia KAMIKAZI, Ag. Senior Manager, Information Security- MTN. The panel was moderated by the Digital Payments expert, Mr. Olivier Manzi and the following were the discussion outcomes;

- The discussion emphasized the importance of equipping the next generation with essential skills and highlighted the need for educational institutions to incorporate cybersecurity awareness programs to promote a culture of digital responsibility and security awareness.

- The panel discussed best practices in network security, data protection, and the importance of regularly updating and testing security protocols within organizations to counteract emerging threats.

- The forum emphasized the need for collaboration between telecom companies and regulatory bodies in establishing a resilient cybersecurity framework. The shared experience and intelligence on threats, continuous staff training, and investment in advanced security tools are essential for the telecom sector, given its role as a backbone of digital connectivity.

- The forum agreed on the importance of transparent data handling and privacy policies to build trust among users. There was consensus on the need for organizations to be clear about their data usage policies and to comply with data protection law to reassure consumers that their personal information is secure.

- The forum called for the government's role in setting and enforcing cybersecurity standards to protect both public and private sector digital assets. The forum emphasized that government policies should aim to balance security with accessibility, particularly in sectors like e-governance and public services where data security is crucial.

- There is a growing need for programs focused on educating children, parents, and educators about online risks and safe internet practices. The forum highlighted the role of government initiatives and policies in promoting digital literacy in schools, enabling children to navigate online spaces responsibly and securely.

- The forum discussed the importance of integrating parental control tools and child-safe environments within digital services. It was highlighted that telecom companies and internet service providers can play a crucial role by offering these tools to parents and guardians,

helping them monitor and control their children's online activities and reducing exposure to inappropriate content.

▪ With the increasing issue of cyberbullying, which can severely impact children's mental health, the forum underlined the need for schools and community organizations to advocate for raising awareness about recognizing and dealing with cyberbullying.

9. Launch for Rwanda School on Internet Governance (RWSIG)

Handing over certificates to RWSIG 2024 participants, Mr. Robert Ford, Chair RWIGF Committee expressed his joy for having launched Rwanda's first edition of the Rwanda School on Internet Governance (RW-SIG). The workshop was more of a capacity building initiative with main objective of empowering a critical mass of people to meaningfully engage, contribute and participate in ICT policy making discourse in Rwanda, regionally and globally. It was a pivotal event that brought together 50 participants from diverse backgrounds and as RWIGF Committee, we commit to continue hosting the school.

Chairman of the Rwanda IGF Committee, Mr. Ford. N Robert launching the School

10. Key Forum Recommendations

Reflecting on the building our Multi-stakeholder digital future, the Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RWIGF) 2024 discussions provided critical insights and practical recommendations that will help shape Rwanda's digital policies and Internet Governance strategies. The following are the key forum recommendations;

a) Public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives are recommended to help citizens understand AI technologies and recognize their ethical implications.

b) To publish clear ethical guidelines for AI applications, particularly in sectors impacting the public, like healthcare, education, and governance.

c) Organizations in Rwanda should incorporate data privacy and protection at all stages of their product or service design. The Data Privacy and Protection Office should ensure that all organizations put in place measures that caters personal data privacy and protection.

d) Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on data privacy rights and safe digital practices should be prioritized to promote a culture of responsible data usage.

e) A nationwide cybersecurity awareness campaigns should be carried to help reduce digital vulnerability and promote safe online practices among citizens.

f) Encourage Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration to effectively address Internet Governance challenges through partnership across government, academia, civil society, and private sector actors.

g) Capacity Building for Internet Governance Stakeholders. The forum made a call to invest in training and development programs that strengthen Internet Governance expertise across sectors, particularly for young professionals and future leaders.

h) Establish mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of policies in place and adapt them to evolving digital trends and challenges.

11.   Conclusion

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RWIGF) 2024 successfully brought together diverse stakeholders to address pressing Internet Governance issues shaping Rwanda's digital landscape. With active participation from government officials, industry experts, academics, and civil society, the Forum provided a platform to discuss the ethical, legal, and social implications of emerging technologies, the importance of data privacy and protection, and the need for robust cybersecurity measures.

The outcomes of RWIGF 2024 set a strategic direction for Rwanda's Internet Governance efforts in the years to come. As the country continues to integrate advanced digital technologies into its economy, there is a clear call for balanced, inclusive policies that prioritize citizen rights, data protection, and secure online environments. By maintaining an open dialogue among all stakeholders, Rwanda can lead the way in Africa's digital transformation, promoting an Internet Governance model that is innovative, ethical, and people-centered.

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum extends its gratitude to all participants, speakers, and partners who contributed to this year's success. The insights and actionable recommendations from RWIGF 2024 will play a critical role in shaping Rwanda's future digital policies, fostering a secure and inclusive digital society for all.

12.   Acknowledgments

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RWIGF) 2024 was made possible through the invaluable support and contributions of many individuals and organizations. The Forum organizers extend their heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, RICTA, GIZ Rwanda Office, ISOC Foundation, AOS, TeamCymru, TransAfrica communication, and all strategic partners who provided both financial and logistical support, making this year's forum a success.

Special thanks go to the panelists, moderators, and distinguished speakers who shared their expertise and insights, enriching the discussions and setting actionable priorities for Rwanda's Internet Governance landscape. The Forum also recognizes the dedication of the organizing committee and administrative teams, whose efforts ensured a smooth and impactful event.

Finally, our appreciation goes to all participants whose engagement and feedback have made the Rwanda Internet Governance Forum a meaningful platform for open dialogue, collaboration, and growth in Rwanda's digital governance.