



# Rwanda Internet Governance Forum 2022

Marriott Hotel- Kigali, Rwanda | 03 November 2022



“Resilient Internet for a shared sustainable and common future”

In collaboration with





## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Participation</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Opening Remarks</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Keynotes Address</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Panel Discussions, Presentations and Key Deliberations</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5.1 Connecting People and Access to information; Rwanda’s journey of connecting people and enabling access to information;</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5.2 Mitigating Internet Fragmentation;</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5.3 AI and Data Governance (addressing the challenges of the rise of Big, Open and Linked Data and Big Data Algorithmic Systems);</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5.4 Digital Transformation; Looking into Promises and Pitfalls;</b> .....	<b>7</b>



## 1. Introduction

The 2022 edition of Rwanda Internet Governance Forum (RWIGF) was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 at Marriott Hotel, Kigali-Rwanda and the main objective of this year's forum was to optimize the opportunity for open and inclusive dialogue on Internet Governance and related matters; creating opportunities for shared best practices and experiences; identifying emerging issues and bringing to attention relevant bodies and the general public on pertinent and legitimate governance matters while contributing to capacity building in the Internet ecosystem.

The Forum brought together the government, private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community, media, and the public for policy dialogue on Internet governance. This type of collaborative engagement, commonly referred to as the multistakeholder model, outlined the key features of the Internet's success. The model was paramount in ensuring a sustainable Internet ecosystem for economic and social development.

This year's forum was graced by the Minister of the Ministry of ICT & Innovation, Hon. Paula Ingabire as the Guest of honor, senior officials and other distinguished representatives from local and international stakeholder entities who shared their experiences and expertise on discussed matters through speeches, panels and presentations.

Rwanda IGF is aligned to the global IGF narrative in shaping the local context of a resilient Internet for the future of all Rwandans. Serving into the global philosophy of Internet governance, the forum mainstreamed thought-process on the four (4) main specific topics;

1. Connecting People and access to information - Rwanda's journey of connecting people and enabling access to information,
2. Data Governance (addressing the challenges of the rise of Big, Open and Linked Data and Big Data Algorithmic Systems),
3. Mitigating Internet Fragmentation and,
4. Digital Transformation: Promise and Pitfalls.

## 2. Participation

Rwanda IGF2022 was attended by 189 participants, 171 in person and 18 on zoom. The Youtube had 334 Views and among the organizations represented the public sector, we noticed the presence of:

1. The Ministry of ICT and Innovation, MINICT;
2. The Rwanda National Police, RNP
3. Rwanda Utility Regulatory Authority, RURA
4. National Council for Science and Technology, NCST
5. National Cyber Security Authority, NCSA
6. Rwanda Information Society Authority, RISA

From the private sector, we noticed the presence of:

1. The Private Sector Federation;
2. Internet Service Providers;
3. Internet Resellers

From the Civil Society, we noticed the presence of:

1. Internet Society, ISOC Rwanda chapter
2. UNICEF
3. Media



From the Academia, we noticed the presence of:

1. University of Tourism, Technology and Business Studies, UTB
2. Africa Institute of Mathematics and Science, AIMS
3. Africa Leadership University-ALU

### 3. Opening Remarks



**Mrs. INGABIRE MWIKARAGO, CEO-RICTA giving her Opening Remarks.**

In her opening remarks, RICTA CEO welcomed all participants in the room and those following online. She gave a brief introduction of Rwanda IGF as a platform that brings together public and private sector stakeholders along with Academia and civil society actors to discuss pertinent issues, opportunities and frameworks needed for Internet Governance.

She recognized the presence of the Guest of Honor, Hon. Paula INGABIRE, Minister of the Ministry of ICT and Innovation; and all other eminent speakers of the day. She expressed the gratitude of appreciation to members, partners and sponsors of Rwanda IGF2022 edition that made it happen successfully.

She highlighted that the Forum will be focusing on 4 main thematic tracks; (1) Sharing Rwanda's journey of connecting people and enabling access to information; (2) Discussing Data Governance (addressing the challenges of the rise of Big, Open and Linked Data and Big Data Algorithmic Systems); (3) Mitigating Internet Fragmentation and, (4) Looking into Promises and Pitfalls of Digital Transformation. She closed her remarks pledging RICTA's commitment and Stakeholders engagement to develop a Rwanda's IGF program that builds on the previous years' success and bring the Internet community closer to realization of a resilient Internet for a shared sustainable and common future.

## 4. Keynotes Address



**Mrs. Lindsey Julianna, UNICEF's country representative to Rwanda; Delivering her Keynote Speech.**

Lindsey Julianna, started her keynote speech by thanking the Hon. Minister for her invitation to Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, the UN Resident Coordinator in Rwanda of which she was representing. She applauded the importance and strength of hosting Annual Rwanda IGF as it is a good platform of connecting different key players from public, private, civil society, academia, Researchers and development partners to collectively work together to find solutions of having all people connected to Internet.

Lindsey mentioned that UNICEF together with ITU has launched a game changing project called "GIGA" that will leave every single school in Rwanda connected to Internet. She also called out for every parent's responsibility on protecting children and teenagers from not only online dangers but also peer pressures on the Internet. She highlighted that COVID-19 pandemic showed how Internet is increasingly becoming necessary in the daily life of human operations hence requires collective efforts to make everyone connected.

Lindsey also expressed her gratitude for the good progress made since the previous IGF discussion on the child online protection policy that was as a result of deliberations on the Rwanda IGF2021 discussions. She underlined the UN collective efforts to continue working with Rwanda Government and partners to ensure the fundamental principles of connect, respect and protect are always at the heart of giving everyone access to Internet.



**Hon. Paula Ingabire, the Minister, Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT);**

Hon. Paula started her Keynote Speech by thanking and applauding the organizing committee and the partners for making the Rwanda IGF 2022 edition happen. She highlighted that the theme “Resilient Internet for a shared sustainable and common future” speaks to the need and collective requirements of all participants in the room to find lasting solutions to turn some of the ideas into actions.

She mentioned that when Internet Governance Forum was established in 2006, the main objective was to give a voice to everyone in the industry to optimize the opportunity for open and inclusive dialogue on Internet Governance related matters and seeing the diversity in the room, we have achieved that. She commended to bring more different people on the table to discuss the pressing issues in the community.

She noted that having a resilient Internet as an infrastructure helped the community to withhold and withstand some of the pressures that came with dealing with pandemic. She said that everyone deserves to have access to the opportunities that come with the digital world, and it's our duty to ensure that connectivity becomes universal, affordable, and accessible". She shed more light on the available gaps in connection accessibility and affordability and challenged every stakeholder to boost its effort towards this agenda.

The Minister mentioned that connectivity alone is not enough but must make sure it brings meaningful impact to our people by empowering our people with the right skills, right tools, right knowledge and right content means we truly achieving meaningful access. She said that recently the country revised the national broadband policy to ensure meaningful access to Internet is achieved.

She highlighted that Data sharing is important for innovation and improving information accuracy, data protection is crucial but also provides the right balance between building trust for our people but also encouraging cooperation. The Internet Governance Forum provides for an open platform and equal



conversation and she encouraged everyone to take advantage of this unique platform where we can share ideas and best practices of how can preserve a secure, accessible and sustainable digital space for all.

She took the opportunity to thank the partners in the room for working determinedly with the ministry to make the community connected. She mentioned that having this forum is an opportunity to celebrate what have been done in the journey of Internet and digitization efforts by different partners and stakeholders who have been at the Centre to successes that have been registered.

## **5. Panel Discussions, Presentations and Key Deliberations**

The Forum had two (2) main panels with experts to discuss on the two (2) main thematic tracks namely; (1) Connecting People and access to information - Rwanda's journey of connecting people and enabling access to information, (2) Mitigating Internet Fragmentation; and also had two (2) main presentations delivered by experts in the industry, namely; (1) Discussing Data Governance (addressing the challenges of the rise of Big, Open and Linked Data and Big Data Algorithmic Systems); and (2) Digital Transformation; Looking into Promises and Pitfalls.

Below are the key deliberations that were recorded after each and every discussion;

### **5.1 Connecting People and Access to information; Rwanda's journey of connecting people and enabling access to information;**

The two (2) main recommendations after discussion on connecting people and access to information were taken;

1. With the efforts made by the Government to connect people, the forum recommended that the Government and its partners should put in place a device financing system that will ensure the community can afford devices in order to access Internet.
2. The government and its agencies should speed up and make a follow up on the implementation of the New National Broadband Policy.

### **5.2 Mitigating Internet Fragmentation;**

The three (3) main recommendations derived from discussion on Mitigating Internet Fragmentation were;

1. The forum recommended that Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA) should ensure local content from key sectors like Agriculture, Education, Health, Tourism and Transport is digitized (Putting local content online).
2. Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) should ensure Monitoring and Reporting of National-wide Quality of Network Services is improved.
3. The Government should position Rwanda on the inbound payments from global market places like Amazon, PayPal, eBay and others.

### **5.3 AI and Data Governance (addressing the challenges of the rise of Big, Open and Linked Data and Big Data Algorithmic Systems);**

The five (5) core recommendations derived from discussion on AI and Data Governance were;

1. The Rwanda Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) should review Education Structure through developing the Curriculum that encompasses the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Governance courses.
2. As a short term solution, the Forum recommends the government through its implementing agencies to raise awareness and sensitization on AI and Data Governance.



3. Rwanda IGF Committee to meet Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Rwanda Office to discuss and streamline AI matters, data management assessment and progression.
4. The Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA), ICT Chamber and Rwanda IGF Committee should work on Position Paper on Unlocking Opportunities in Data Governance.
5. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4iR) Rwanda Office should determine the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy catering the competitiveness of Rwandans to a global scene.

#### 5.4 Digital Transformation; Looking into Promises and Pitfalls;



#### **Norman Schräpel; Head of Cluster Digital Transformation & Digital Economy, GIZ Rwanda: Discussing the promises and pitfalls of Digital transformation in Rwanda.**

The five (5) key recommendations from Digital Transformation discussion were;

1. The forum recommended to Integrate users when designing and implementing new projects, solutions and products.
2. The forum recommends to build on existing infrastructure. No fragmentation of systems when developing new solutions.
3. The forum also recommends to build clear ownership and governance for solutions: That is clear roles and responsibilities for operational models need to be in place when building digital transformation solutions.
4. There is no quick technical fix when implementing digital technologies. It is complex, needs time and resources. The forum recommends the government and its development partners to invest in digital technologies as they have huge potential.
5. The forum calls for multi-stakeholderism in order to make digital transformation relevant.

For more details on Rwanda Internet Governance Forum 2022 Edition, visit the following link:  
[RW-IGF2022 Discussion.](#)

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