

NIGF 2023 Panel Session 1

Sub-theme: “Building a Trusted Internet: A focus on Cybersecurity and Child Online Safety”

As Nigeria continues to transform its digital sphere with initiatives such as the digitised National Identity program with NIMC and investments in broadband and data infrastructure, it is critical that stakeholders prioritise building trust in digital services. Despite these efforts, cybersecurity threats are increasing, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The country's internet development is still plagued with a high rate of cyberattacks, with SMEs and even Government servers facing more threats. Trust is crucial for digital transformation, but frameworks have not kept pace with emerging technologies and their adoption, introducing new risks that demand new responses.

To advance digital transformation and achieve a sustainable, secure internet in Nigeria, it is essential to explore the role of trust in digital services, with a focus on user-level cyber awareness, SME cyber awareness, Government cyber awareness, child online safety, and the resilience of the Nigerian digital economy to cyber threats.

This discussion will examine the challenges and opportunities for building trust in Nigerian digital services, particularly in the context of cybersecurity and child online safety. The responsibilities of internet stakeholders in supporting a secure and sustainable internet in Nigeria, as well as the role of regulatory and legal frameworks in building trust will also be considered.

Policy Questions:

1. What steps can the Nigerian government and other stakeholders take to address the increasing cybersecurity threats faced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and government servers?
2. What are the key factors that contribute to the resilience of the Nigerian digital economy to cyber threats, and how can these factors be strengthened to build a sustainable and secure internet in Nigeria?
3. Cyber Awareness in Nigeria: Relationship with Digital Literacy and capacity building. What measures can be taken to increase cyber awareness among users, SMEs, and government agencies in Nigeria, and how can this awareness be sustained over time?
4. What is the state of existing Child Online Protection Policies in Nigeria, and how effective have they been in promoting a safe and secure online space for Nigerian children?
5. What recommendations can be made to the Nigerian government and other internet stakeholders for supporting and promoting a safe internet space for Nigerian children, and how can digital literacy be used as a tool to combat cybercrime and cyberbullying?

Please note that this Synopsis is merely an introductory guide for this discussion.

Format of Session: Total Duration (90 mins)

Section 1 (40 Mins): Round Table Panel: This Session will be a roundtable discussion where the Moderator sets the tone for the session and proceeds to ask for opinions through constructive questions that will produce answers that can serve as recommendations to the policy questions above and related issues.

- An introductory session by the moderator will precede the discussions between the panellists.

Section 2 (30 Mins): Open Forum: will be a session where participants can contribute opinions, thoughts and perspectives to discussions in Section 1.

- This session will be anchored by the moderator and Panellists may react to opinions

Section 3 (10 Mins): Q & A Session: Question and Answers Session for additional questions from participants.

- This session will be anchored by the moderator

Section 4 (10:Mins): Summing Up by Moderator.

End of Session.