

NIGF 2023 Panel Session 2

Sub-theme: “Strengthening Digital Infrastructure for Inclusive Services in Nigeria”

Digital infrastructure is the backbone of any modern economy, and Nigeria is no exception. To achieve inclusive and sustainable development, it is crucial to have a strong and reliable digital infrastructure that can support innovation, improve access to digital services, and promote digital inclusiveness. However, Nigeria is facing several challenges in this regard, including inadequate investment in internet infrastructure, insecurity in the country, and neglect of existing infrastructure.

This session will explore the key policy questions related to strengthening digital infrastructure for inclusive services in Nigeria. We will discuss the importance of managing critical internet resources and digital infrastructure to support innovation and penetration in Nigeria, including the impact of current infrastructure on public services. We will also emphasise the need for digital accessibility and inclusiveness to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities or socio-economic status, can benefit from these services.

The session will delve into the challenges and opportunities that Nigeria faces in achieving this goal, including the impact of inadequate investment in internet infrastructure and the security challenges that Nigeria faces, and explore recommendations for addressing these issues.

Overall, this session will provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, best practices, and recommendations for improving digital infrastructure in Nigeria and promoting inclusive digital services. We will explore ways to leverage public-private partnerships, international cooperation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to improve internet infrastructure and promote digital inclusiveness in Nigeria.

Policy Questions:

1. What strategies can the Nigerian government and internet stakeholders adopt to ensure that the country's digital infrastructure is inclusive, accessible, and secure?
2. How can Nigeria attract and sustain investment in its digital infrastructure to support innovation, reduce cost of accessibility and expand access to digital services for all citizens?
3. What are the challenges facing the development of digital infrastructure in Nigeria, and how can these be overcome to improve connectivity and increase access to digital services?
4. How can Nigeria address the issue of insecurity and its negative impact on the country's digital infrastructure, and what measures can be put in place to protect critical internet resources?
5. In what ways can the Nigerian government and internet stakeholders ensure that existing digital infrastructure is not neglected and is upgraded to meet current and future needs?

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.

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