

**REPORT OF**  
**THE**  
**VIRTUAL NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM**  
**(vNIGF 2020) EVENTS**



**NIGERIA INTERNET**  
**GOVERNANCE FORUM**  

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**HELD**

**ON**

**SEPTEMBER 23 – 24 2020**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) is an annual gathering which helps domestic stakeholders to express common national interests in preparation for the annual global Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The 2020 edition of NIGF was held virtually in adherence to the ban on large gatherings by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus was tagged Virtual Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (vNIGF) 2020. The vNIGF 2020 was organized by the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) and supported by the following organizations:

- i) Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMCDE)
- ii) Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA)
- iii) Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN)
- iv) Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)
- v) National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- vi) DigitalSENSE Africa Media (DSA)
- vii) Internet Society (ISOC) Nigeria
- viii) Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD)
- ix) MainOne
- x) SUBURBAN Fibre Company

## **2.0 PRE-EVENTS (SEPTEMBER 23, 2020)**

The virtual Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (vNIGF) 2020 was preceded by two pre-events which held concurrently on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020: the Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) and Nigeria Women Internet Governance Forum (NWIGF).

### **2.1 NIGERIA YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (YNIGF)**

The 2020 NYIGF event with the theme “*Shaping a resilient Internet for societal sustainability*” began with a pre-event webinar on September 16, 2020. The main event took place on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. It included a high-level panel discussion that focused on the 2020 NYIGF theme, followed by four concurrent breakout sessions with the under listed themes. Finally, there was a wrap-up session.

#### **2.1.1 PRE-EVENT WEBINAR**

The 2020 NYIGF pre-event webinar held on September 16 2020. The webinar helped to introduce the youth to the concept of internet governance and explain their roles in the Nigerian internet ecosystem. The organizing team realized that many of the participants for the main event may need this introduction to explain seemingly complex Internet Governance terms to them and to help them visualize and map their expectation for the main event the following week. The speakers at the pre-event were Bolutife

Adisa, President, Internet Society Youth Special Interest Group, and Chinonso Ama Ota, Founder, Depen Global, who covered the topics: (i) Introduction to Internet Governance Principle and (ii) Youth participation in Internet Governance.

### **2.1.2 WELCOME ADDRESS AND GOODWILL MESSAGES**

The welcome remarks were made by NYIGF Coordinator, Ms. Uffa Modey. This was followed by goodwill messages from the following internet governance stakeholders:

- a. Dr. Haru Alhassan – NIGF Chair
- b. Ms. Anja Gengo – IGF Secretariat’s Focal Point for the NRIs Engagement
- c. Brice Abba – AFRINIC Community Engagement
- d. Mrs. Mary Uduma – Coordinator WAIGF

### **2.1.3 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Moderated by:** Morisola Alaba – Legal Officer, Media Rights Agenda.

**Panelists:**

- i)* Seun Ojedeji – Member, Board of Directors, AFRINIC.
- ii)* Chenai Chair – The Web Foundation.
- iii)* Ridwan Oloyede – Partner, TechHive Advisory.

**Rapporteurs:** Gabreal Odunsi

**Summary of the session:**

This session focused on the theme of the forum - Shaping a resilient Internet for societal sustainability, under four categories of questions.

- What would be the strategy in dealing with digital divide?
- What is the role of the technical community in building capacity for a resilient internet?
- What should be the strategy of stakeholders in ensuring that we have a sustainable secured internet?
- What are the key factors in creating a favourable environment that will include more youth in internet related conversations and debates.

**Key Points Raised:**

1. The technical community has a huge role to play in building capacity.
2. Nigeria needs a judicial system that works effectively.
3. Users need to have a sense of responsibility in the use of the Internet, while the technical organizations need to create an efficient technical measurement for a safe and secure internet environment.

4. There is a need to create spaces for youth participation in Internet related conversations. It is important for policy and decision makers to listen to young people in order to understand what they want.
5. The more we engage the youth in creating useful contents that reflect our culture and essence, the more we have the right engagement.

**Recommendations:**

1. Relevant government agencies should focus on closing the digital divide and include young people in policy development.
2. Nigeria has one of the lowest numbers of community networks in Africa. There is a need to approach capacity building in various ways such as community networks, events and using other capacity building opportunities.
3. The government should do its bit by creating an adequate law that respects human rights not just focusing on punishing the crime.
4. We need to build communities (online and offline) where people can connect to learn

**2.1.4 BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Session 1: Building capacity of the Nigerian Youth in Web Literacy and ICT Skills in the era of COVID-19**

**Moderated by:** Morisola Alaba – Legal Officer, Media Rights Agenda.

**Panelists:**

- i)* Joshua Josh – Operations Manager, Bandwidth Consortium.
- ii)* Adenrele Adedayo – Program Coordinator, The STEM Belle.
- iii)* Funminiyi Oladapo – Program Assistant, Data Science Nigeria.

**Rapporteurs:** Gabreal Odunsi

**Summary of the session:**

The moderator opened the session with a background on how COVID-19 continues to shape the world's reality, how it has affected the educational system, and how it is exposing the digital inequalities in the country. Hence, this calls for implementing comprehensive capacity-building strategies to ensure that the Nigerian Youth have the ICT skills needed to be more productive and employable. The session also addressed the roles different stakeholders play in building the capacity of the Nigerian youth.

**Key Points Raised:**

1. Nigerian youth face many challenges in terms of capacity building in the areas of Web Literacy and ICT Skills. The challenges include: high cost of data and Internet services, lack of access to Internet-enabled devices, poor attitude of youth towards learning, and lack of collaboration between stakeholders.
2. There should be strong collaboration between public and private sectors.
3. There is need to provide alternative means of learning, using offline content strategy

**Recommendations:**

4. More learning platforms should be created with easy user experience
5. Government should do more to build the capacity of public school teachers, this will help them to relate with the students better on ICT.

**Session 2: Role of the Nigerian Youth in the Global Internet Economy**

**Moderated by:** Bolutife Adisa, President, Internet Society, Youth Special Interest Group

**Panelists:**

- i)* Moriam Sulaimon, Next Gen Fellow, ICANN
- ii)* Oluwaseun Ajani, Founder and Team Lead, Opportunities Community

**Rapporteurs:** Hussain Hamza

**Key Points Raised:**

1. Youth are at the forefront of using the Internet as a tool for development, justice, and social change in our communities.
2. Nigerian youth should get more involved in policy development processes that shape the internet through Internet Governance because they are the future of Nigeria in the Global Internet Economy.
3. Capacity and human capital development of Nigerian Youth in emerging technologies such as IoT, AI and blockchain technologies will accelerate the pace of technological change.

**Recommendations:**

1. Government should improve school curriculums to incorporate technology trends, and proper use of the internet and social media.
2. Government should empower the youth in order to engage them in more meaningful and constructive online/social media activities, and limit their exposure to the negative aspects of the Internet.
3. Parents should as a matter of urgency, monitor the activities of their wards on the internet.

4. Schools should set up cyber monitoring teams to checkmate the effects of illegal activities on the internet.
5. Government should ensure that Nigeria has an adequate and effective online child protection law
6. The Nigerian Youth should get more involved in Internet economy discussion
7. Government should do more to build the capacity of public school teachers, this will help them to relate with the students better on ICT.

### **Session 3: Impact of Connectivity on e-businesses and e-commerce in Nigeria.**

**Moderated by:** Taiwo Peter Akinremi – Head of IT/Operations Data Analytics Privacy Technology Ltd.

**Panelists:**

- i)* Mr. Joseph Agunbiade – Founder, Univelcity
- ii)* Ms. Adenike Ajuwon – Legal Associate, ZCL Solicitors.

**Rapporteurs:** Taiwo Peter Akinremi

**Summary of the session:**

It was recognized by the moderator that connectivity is now core of the business society and service offering. The Internet has made it possible for new business opportunities, ease of doing business, and improved productivity and efficiency. However, connectivity has also led to increase in cybercrime activities and some illicit behavior that is hindering opportunities for businesses. Also, the concern that; is connectivity in Nigeria sufficient for e-business and commerce growth and its translation to more business offerings?

Adenike Ajuwon, a lawyer with experience in intellectual property, technology law, internet policy and governance stated that e-business is already striving and growing very fast especially with the advent of COVID-19. She posed that there is increased connectivity in Nigeria and growth in internet users. Adenike identified the challenges of e-business to be digital divide, which can be categorized as materials (availability of resources), and usability (skills) challenges, lack of ICTs infrastructure, bandwidth constraint, cost of setup, unemployment leading to cybercrime activities, lack of trust, regulatory impact such as unfavorable policies and regulations, border closure and ban on importation, payment issue in the e-business value chain.

In responding to translating connectivity to business, Adenike referred to how people make use of Instagram for service delivery. She also suggested ways of improving the issues of trust in the online business environment such as: being decent in conducting online business, implementing business processes and ensuring effective communication.

Joseph Agunbiade, the founder of Univelcity and co-founder of BudgIT stated that Nigeria has come a long way in terms of connectivity and adopting the internet, especially with payment gateway. He dwelled more on sharing practical scenarios on how people are making use of connectivity. Joseph found the laying of fiber optics cable in Lagos very interesting in addition to what has been done by companies such as MainOne, IXPN, and would like to see other states doing the same. He as well encouraged the Lagos State government to do more as 3000km is just a beginning. He further stressed the importance of low-bandwidth technology to improving e-business and e-commerce in Nigeria which is clearly seen in the banking sector through the adoption of USSD for payment. Innovation around audio technology to conduct and improve businesses such as teaching. Using existing technology for service and products offering.

Joseph noted that adopting 5G technology early will make Nigeria experience business opportunities such as in the area of equipment manufacturing. He gave a scenario where 5G could help a local restaurant livestream services for customers preference, and concluded by advising on spending more on access rather than fighting cybercrime. Joseph as well advised that anyone from any part of Nigeria can enjoy the benefit of connectivity by selling stuff and weave stories.

#### **Key Points Raised:**

1. Digital divide in the areas of material and usability issues
2. Lack of infrastructure hinders e-business development
3. Literacy issues among the youth and business community were raised
4. E-business and e-commerce in Nigeria are faced with cost and trust problems
5. Logistics issues for e-business operations
6. Policy and regulatory issues. Especially changes in policy that affect platform operations
7. Increase in cybercrime activities
8. Youth are spending too much time on politics in the online environment, rather than doing business.
9. Access such as 5G will result in equipment manufacturing and creating more business opportunities in Nigeria.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. State governments should engage more in investment in connectivity. For example Lagos State Government should do more in the aspect of fiber optics cable laying as 3000km is good but not enough.
2. More resources should be channeled towards the provision of access. This should be given the same priority as fighting of cybercrime.



3. Stakeholders should adopt innovative approach in doing business in the Nigeria environment
4. There is a need for investment in low bandwidth technology in Nigeria by the government, private and civil society actors.
5. There is need for youth to leverage on the existing platform for business promotion

#### **Session 4: Cyber Security & Cyber Crime – Enabling a secure and sustainable internet for all.**

**Moderated by:** Pius Effiom – Cloud and Network Support, Eko-Konnect.

**Panelists:**

- i) Abiade Dosunmu – AFRINIC.
- ii) Raymond Onuoha –Tech Policy Fellow, Lagos Business School (LBS).

**Rapporteurs:** Uffa Modey

**Summary of the session:**

Due to the global disruptions caused by the novel coronavirus outbreak, the nationwide stay-at-home order increased the need for Nigerians to adopt telecommunication and ICT enabled platforms for communication and basic amenities for day to day living. Everyone needed to be online therefore increasing their potential exposure to Cyber Security & Cyber Crime attacks.

This session assessed the current state of cybersecurity for Internet users with focus on their interfacing with cybercrime.

**Key Points Raised:**

1. Nigeria has a large tech savvy young population. Their potential to engage in cybercrime may be influenced by socio-economic factors including lack of quality education and job opportunities.
2. Common avenues for cybercrime or cybersecurity breaches online stem from password leaks and sharing of sensitive personal information. 66% of cybersecurity breaches are caused by weak passwords.
3. Oversharing on social media may lead to leak of personal information such as location, date of birth, mother’s maiden names.
4. In the past, questionable organizations/individuals have developed a business out of compromising the networks or systems using phishing emails.
5. Biometric identity creates a higher level of security compared to passwords. Regulations such as the 2019 Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) will provide guidelines to support the use of biometric identity for security in Nigeria.
6. Things posted on social media should remain private and very generic. Cherish your social media share

7. Tips for creating a good password: Use alphanumeric passwords, make use of sentences, use uppercase and lowercase characters, and change passwords often.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Nigerian youth need more role models for expected behaviour in cyberspace. They should be made aware of the dos and don'ts of the internet.
2. Internet users should make a conscious effort to establish a strong defense to accessing their personal devices.
3. Internet users should engage themselves in capacity building workshops to develop their basic cybersecurity awareness.
4. When possible make use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and encrypted software and networks.
5. Internet stakeholders should create strong regulations and laws that support the use of biometric identity in Nigeria.
6. The Nigerian government should empower the youth to increase their standard of living. This will potentially reduce budding dependency for crime within the country.
7. Young Nigerians should identify how they can contribute to building the digital economy through digital skills development.

### **2.1.5 Wrap up**

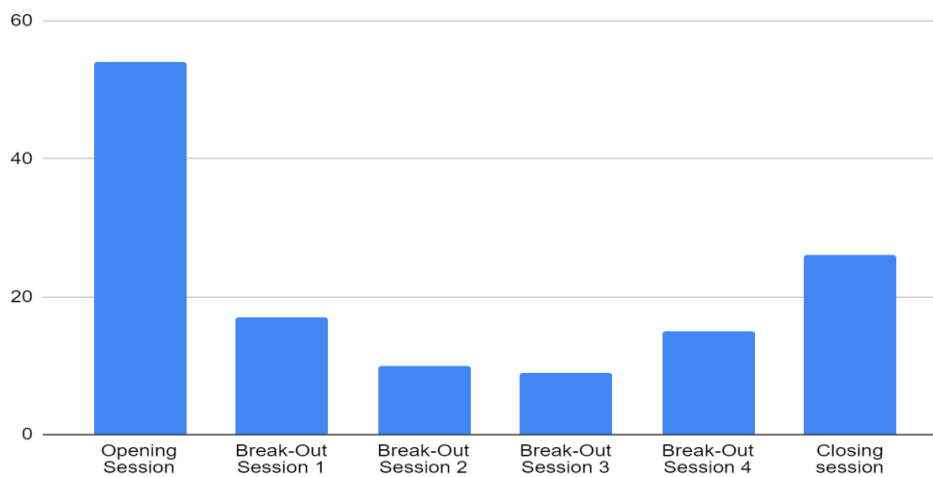
The wrap up session was moderated by Gabreal Odunsi. He also talked about the next steps after the NYIGF which includes:

- capacity building session through webinar to discuss Internet Governance topics,
- registration for the global IGF, and
- further engagements will be done via the mailing list and social media platforms.

The closing remark was delivered by the Uffa Modey, the Coordinator, NYIGF. She appreciated all the stakeholders who contributed to the success of the event. She also encouraged participants to keep the conversation going, by participating and lending their voices to Internet Governance related topics.

### **2.1.6 Zoom Participation Statistics**

In total, there were 139 registrants in this year's event, out of which 46 participants and 54 participants attended the pre-event and opening ceremony, respectively. The chart below shows details regarding to opening, break-out and closing sessions:



## 2.2 WOMEN NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (WNIGF)

The theme of the WNIGF 2020 event was “*Women, COVID-19 and the Internet.*” The event featured an opening session, two main sessions, a question & answer session, and a closing session.

### 2.2.1 Opening Session

The opening session started with a little background of the forum by the moderator of the webinar, Nissi Mase, who welcomed speakers and participants to the virtual event.

Y.Z. Ya’u, the Executive Director of Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) gave the welcome remarks. He highlighted the significance of the forum, noting that the forum is created for women to specifically discuss issues that affect them, whether they are problems, challenges, how technology affect domestic violence, or how technology affects women education, as well as deliberate and proffer solutions to the problems and challenges.

The keynote address was given by Prof Nike Osofisan, retired Professor of Computer Science, University of Ibadan and former President, Nigeria Computer Society and former Chair, Computer Professional Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN).

In her keynote address titled “Digital Inclusion of the Girl-Child”, the Professor spoke about the need for innovative thinking ‘outside the box’ to proffer solutions that promote digital inclusion of the girl-child. She spoke about the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and assured that the digital inclusion of the girl-child will certainly help in achieving the 17 goals of the SGD.

In her address, she described the girl-child as a young female who helps with house chores, works in factories, makes friends, cares for elders and younger family members, and prepares herself for becoming an adult. These places the girl-child in a position to play multiple roles in the house, society, and economy, thereby making her education critical.

She further explained that the digital divide, as it regards the girl child, especially in less developed countries, must be bridged.

Lastly, she reiterated the role of everyone to help in the bringing up of the girl-child by improving her way of life, providing more capacity for her to become a digital literate, providing an enabling environment where women and girls do not have fear of discrimination both offline and online.

## **2.2.2 Main Sessions**

### **Session 1**

**Moderated by:** Mary Uduma – Coordinator, West Africa IGF.

**Panelists:**

- i)* Mrs Edith Udeagu – Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA)
- ii)* Maryam Ado Haruna.
- iii)* Mrs. Ene Ede – Gender and Conflict Specialist, Search for Common Grounds, Abuja.

### **Session 2**

**Moderated by:** Mrs. Ene Obi – Country Director, Action Aid International, Nigeria.

**Panelists:**

- i)* Mrs. Martha Alade – Coordinator, WITIN (Women in Tech in Nigeria), Lagos.
- ii)* Ms. Saadah Aliyu – Founder, Shamrock Innovation Hub, Kano.
- iii)* Ms. Chizoba Onuoha – Sheleads Organisation.

### **Summary of the Main Session:**

The following topics were discussed in the main session:

- i)* Women and the internet policy space in Nigeria
- ii)* Women, domestic violence and the Lockdown due to COVID 19
- iii)* Women digital marginality and the imperative of remote working
- iv)* Education, employment and access to internet for women
- v)* Promoting greater access to internet for women
- vi)* Women and digital entrepreneurship

Resource persons noted that women face many challenges related to ICT and Internet Governance such as: low proportion of women in decision making positions, family commitments, low literacy level, high unemployment and poverty rate, persistent harassment and discrimination, perceived lack of relevant

online contents, insufficient consideration for matters affecting women in policy making, socio-cultural and economic problems.

### **Key Points Raised:**

1. The pandemic period was a period where high domestic violence was recorded and lack of connectivity and government policy heightened the matter.
2. Women need educational and economic empowerment
3. Women do not have equal access to the internet as the men
4. Women can do all sort of things in the society and can contribute immensely to the society and economy but they are not recognized as their male counterparts, that trend ought to change
5. For various reasons, the Internet is not available in the same proportion for everyone in the world. It is even worse for women, who make up a good number of the world population. The situation gets worse when one considers women in developing countries, those living with disabilities and in the rural areas
6. Statistics has it that worldwide, only about 16% of women are online
7. Statistics from NCC states 42.02% Nigerians have broadband subscription as of July 2020
8. Women make up about half of the population of Nigeria.
9. Women play key roles such as mothers, teachers, CEOs, managers, community promoters / organizers, doctors, etc.
10. Women contribute immensely to the social and economic development of the Nigerian society, as business owners, entrepreneurs, and leaders.
11. Women are hardworking, breadwinners.
12. Women earn less than their male counterpart on the same job role.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Develop and Implement smart policies that are women centered that will be beneficial to women.
2. Government should make deliberate effort to close the gender gap for Internet Access.
3. Provision of infrastructural facilities (stable electricity and internet access, affordable devices, etc.).
4. More women should be involved in mentoring women
5. More publicity for women to engage in ICT.
6. Government should check cyber bullying activities, especially those targeted at women.
7. Content developers should provide contents that are relevant to the diversity of women (culture, language, religion, age, educational level, etc.).
8. Consider and boost the internet skill level of women.
9. Education on the safety of the Internet, thus the girl-child should be given equal educational opportunities as her brother.

10. Government should make the internet more affordable for women.

### **2.2.3 Closing Session**

In conclusion, the ideal Internet is one where women can innovate, exchange ideas, run businesses and participate in society on equal terms with their male counterpart. The Internet can end gender inequality; it can serve as a catalyst for social change and empowerment. While the digital gap remains large, the good news is that majority of the obstacles to overcoming this gap can be addressed through smart policy; policy that considers the unique barriers to connectivity faced by women and lays out concrete steps for improving internet access and use.

The right policy environment is critical to the success of any long-term effort to bridge the gender gap in internet access and use, ultimately leading to achieving universal and affordable internet access.

Expanding Internet Access for Women would benefit the Nigerian Community. Informed Nigerian women, who are connected and educated will be able to contribute more towards economic and social development of the country.

### **3.0 MAIN EVENT (SEPTEMBER 24, 2020)**

The organizers of the vNIGF 2020 were mindful of webinar fatigue and planned that the event would be concluded in 4½ hours. This was to ensure that the interest of participants was sustained for the duration of the vNIGF 2020.

The compere for vNIGF 2020 was Mrs. Grace Ojougboh of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). The vNIGF 2020 commenced at 11:15 am with the participants reciting the first stanza of the Nigerian National Anthem. Thereafter, there were welcome remarks and goodwill messages, followed by the keynote address, and vote of thanks. Next, the Chairman of the Event Mr. Istifanus Musa Mik Fuktur made his opening remarks as part of the plenary session which featured high-level panel discussions on the vNIGF 2020 theme, and the 2020 – 2030 Digital Economy Strategy.

At the conclusion of the plenary session, 4 (four) different parallel sub-sessions held on the four sub-themes of vNIGF 2020 namely: Data Sovereignty and Monetization; Cyber Security and Trust; Digital Empowerment; and Emerging Issues and Technologies. Finally, in the Closing Ceremony, the key observations and recommendations of vNIGF 2020 were highlighted, and ways forward were proffered.

### **3.1 OPENING CEREMONY**

#### **3.1.1 WELCOME REMARKS**

The welcome remarks were made by Professor Umar Garba Danbatta, the Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). Prof. Danbatta said the NIGF provides opportunity for stakeholders to actively participate and make contributions on the development and governance of the Internet in Nigeria.

He reminded everyone that the Internet remains one of the most important and critical resources in the 21st century and it has become an essential in our activities especially during the covid-19 pandemic. He further stated that the NIGF was established as a multi stakeholder forum made up of representatives from the government, private sector, civil society and academia, to develop and consolidate Nigeria's position in the global Internet governance process and to debate from a local perspective.

He said that the vNIGF 2020 will focus on engaging the multi stakeholders to provide best policies towards facilitating the National Digital Economy Policy currently put together by the Nigerian government under the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMCDE). The Forum's outcomes are expected to build consensus among the stakeholders on actionable recommendations for both state and non-state actors in the Internet ecosystem.

Lastly, Prof Danbatta stated that the NIGF has the power to encourage opinions and shape discussions that will influence Nigeria's Internet policies and decisions of those that have the power to drive the required policies.

#### **3.1.2 GOODWILL MESSAGES**

Dr. Vincent Olatunji delivered the goodwill message on behalf of the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) who was unavoidably absent at the time. He highlighted the importance of realizing that the Internet is the current reality of things, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic era. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, every day to day activity has become virtual, businesses have gone virtual, government activities have gone virtual and working from home has become the new normal around the world. He stressed that the Internet has become a mechanism for service delivery, which is why the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation is currently working to sign a policy to formally recognize and approve virtual meetings, conferences, trainings, and workshops for government officials. Furthermore, Dr. Olatunji emphasized the need for appropriate Internet Governance policy, in other to leverage the benefits the Internet provides as was shown clearly during the Pandemic; i.e. the sector was making a lot of money whereas all other sectors were losing

money. He thanked the NIGF for its efforts in organizing the event and wished for a fruitful and successful deliberation.

The Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) was represented by its 1st Vice President Engr. Ikechukwu Nnamani, who in his goodwill message, mentioned that the organization is fully aware of the digital age and its challenges. ATCON has already drawn a 5-year plan, but the pandemic has mandated it to implement within the shortest period of time. He promised that ATCON will partner with NIGF to achieve the theme of this year's forum.

Anriette Esterhuyen, Chairman Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IGF-MAG) in her recorded speech, said that despite the challenges of the pandemic, the association will like to share and collaborate with NIGF to address the challenging issues which include security, trust, digital empowerment and other technological issues. She hoped that the outcomes of the vNIGF 2020 will contribute to the deliberations at the global IGF in November 2020.

### **3.1.3 KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

The Hon Minister of Communications and Digital Economy – Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami) FNCS, FBCS, FIIM graced the vNIGF 2020 ceremony by delivering the Keynote speech at the Auditorium, Communication and Digital Economy Complex, Mboru, Abuja. He noted his excitement to be part of the event and emphasized the relevance of the title of the event owing to the fact that the Coronavirus pandemic has disrupted most activities. He however urged that the program should focus more on the use of the Internet in the Covid-19 era rather than post Covid-19, as people are unaware of how long the era would last.

Furthermore, he noted that Covid-19 has transformed the way we live. Stating that, although the Covid-19 era brought so many bad news, there are some benefits also associated with the era, particularly with regards to the adoption and use of technology. According to the Honourable Minister, the era showed the importance of ICT in the world today and helped to fast track the implementation of the Digital Economy.

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic, there are lessons learnt, thus the Government has expanded the agencies and some policies are being put in place to address the challenges posed by Covid-19. The Minister noted that before the pandemic, President Muhammadu Buhari had launched and unveiled the Digital Nigeria Policy 2020-2030 and that the next stage was implementation. He further said that the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy has restructured the various parastatals and mandated them to establish a department of Digital Economy in their respective organizations that will drive its implementation.



He also noted that the National Broadband Plan 2020-2025 was developed with the aim of ensuring broadband penetration. The Communications sector is doing very well and this has reflected on the nation's GDP. Stating that 42.2% broadband penetration has been achieved in Nigeria at the end of July 2020, and 10% of this penetration was achieved within the last year. He argued that all sectors revenues are driven by digital economy and if computed properly, results to more revenue to the Communication sector.

Also, he noted that the contribution of ICT alone in the last year to Nigeria Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is over 17%. However, he noted that he has requested that the contribution of digital economy to GDP should be computed separately from ICT. According to him, over 6.5 million jobs have been created by digital economy in the USA. Thus, he noted that he was hopeful that same will be replicated in Nigeria.

He noted that the steps taken so far by ICT stakeholders have been very impressive but there is room for more to be done. Stating that the implementation of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) is a collaborative effort between those in the public and private sector therefore terming it 'everyone's responsibility'. Digital economy has created a lot of jobs in developed countries and Nigeria is following suit, to get to speed, there is proposed National Policy on Digital Innovation and Digital Entrepreneurship

In conclusion, he commended all stakeholders for the progress recorded so far and encouraged them to keep up the good work. Also, he urged stakeholders at the event to come up with several recommendations for the government to implement.

#### **3.1.4 VOTE OF THANKS**

The President, Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA), Mr. Muhammed Rudman gave the vote of thanks at the end of the opening ceremony, and wished all participants fruitful deliberations.

#### **3.1.5 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMCDE), Mr. Istifanus Musa Mik Fuktur was the chairperson of the occasion, and highlighted the fact that the Ministry has been working to encourage public-private-partnerships and synergy amongst stakeholders to achieve the digital economy. The Ministry has created an enabling environment by launching three documents – the Nigerian Broadband Plan, the Digital Economy Policy and Strategy, and the Roadmap for Implementation of the Digital Economy Policy and Strategy. He also stated that Human Rights Commission should consider access to the Internet as part of citizen's fundamental rights, as a lot of citizens missed out on the last six months simply because they are not online - the village man ought to be educated by having access to information on the Internet. 120 million Nigerians are excluded because

statistics show that there is only 40% penetration. The number of excluded Nigerians exceeds the combined populations of Ghana and South Africa. The Permanent Secretary also encouraged all stakeholders to play their parts in order to collectively achieve the digital economy for the country.

### **3.2 PLENARY SESSION:**

***Moderated by:*** Bar. Emmanuel Edet – Head of Legal Services and Board Matters (NITDA).

***Panelists:***

- i)* Funke Opeke – Chief Executive Officer MainOne Company Ltd.
- ii)* Tolu Ogunlesi – Presidency Office of Digital Engagement (PODE)

***Rapporteurs:*** All Rapporteurs

#### **Key Points Raised:**

1. The Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMCDE) fully supports digital inclusion, notably with the launching of three vital documents: Nigerian National Broadband Plan (2020-2025), the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS), and the Roadmap for implementation of the Digital Economy Policy and Strategy
2. Nigeria has a 43.3% broadband penetration rate by the end of August 2020, implying that about 120 million Nigerians are digitally excluded.
3. The contribution of ICT to Nigeria’s GDP has been increasing over the last few years.
4. The recent reduction/waiving of right of way charges by state governments will reduce the cost of Internet connectivity.
5. The challenge is that the network providers still need a lot of additional infrastructure.
6. Social media platforms such as WhatsApp have been revolutionary to the growth of small businesses.
7. Research has shown a direct relationship between Internet access rate and GDP.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Relevant stakeholders such as the Human Rights Commission should push for Internet access to become a human right.
2. There should be collaboration between government and all other stakeholders to develop needed infrastructure to help provide affordable Internet to all Nigerians.
3. Basic digital literacy should be provided for citizens.

### **3.3 BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

The following are the highlights of the breakout sessions. Ninety (90) minutes were allotted for the breakout sessions;

## **Session 1: Data Sovereignty and Monetization**

*Moderated by:* Mrs. Eyitayo Iyortim – Chief Operating Officer (NiRA).

*Panelists:*

- i) Michael Olugbemi - (Data Protection Officer) Abuja Electricity Distribution Plc.
- ii) Chuks Okoriekwe - Information Technology, Digital Tax, Energy and Business Lawyer
- iii) Bernard Ewah - Deputy Director, e-Government Development and Regulations of NITDA & Coordinator, National Technical Working Group on Mobile Big Data
- iv) Titi Akinsanmi - Policy and Government Relations Lead, Google

*Rapporteurs:*

- i) Samira A. Danburam
- ii) Martha Ighomena
- iii) Abimbola Aderibigbe
- iv) Faith Akinyemi

### **Summary of the session:**

Michael Olugbemi spoke on “Covid-19: Data Privacy and the Digital Economy”. The presentation centered on data subject rights over their data and the fact that data should be viewed as a fundamental human right. National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) did a good job developing the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) which is aimed at governing how Nigerians’ personal data should be used.

In analyzing the discoveries and progress recorded as a result of the NDPR, it was discovered that Truecaller was selling personal data of Nigerians and that upon detailed investigation by NITDA, Truecaller was issued a guide on how to carry on business. This led to the operational terms, with the option of Nigerians opting out of Truecaller.

There are key provisions of the National Data Protection Regulation (NDPR), particularly the Data Protection Policy that all data controller and processors are expected to have. It was highlighted that although many organizations have such policies now, these policies are so illegible to data subjects and most data subjects do not read them.

Citing an example with StarTimes data policy, it was highlighted that core provisions of their policy violates Nigerian’s Privacy. It was noted that by signing on to StarTimes, users give the StarTimes the right to collect and access their address book, browsing history, videos, passwords, etc.

Furthermore, it was noted that since 2018, Techno introduced their own operating systems and their hardware does not give users the right or method to disable unsolicited advert. Such unsolicited advert,

although economically beneficial to Techno, is a violation of Techno users' right. Ideally, once a user pays for a Techno device, the user should have the right to decide what such device should be used for.

In conclusion, data subjects were urged to be conscious of their data privacy rights and begin to scrutinize the way they use social media, apps, technological devices and the internet.

Chuks Okoriekwe discussed "Data Governance and Protection amid Covid-19 Pandemic in a Digital Economy." He stated that the pandemic had huge effect on technological usage such as phishing and strain on digital infrastructure. Internet usage has witnessed a surge of more than 70% increase because people moved online and this led to increase in cyber security threats, public health concerns, etc. For instance, with the introduction of the contact tracing apps, Tech giants receive people's data. Are these data given amid Covid-19 protected? Are there exceptions where government can expose personal data of a patient's health issue?

According to the speaker, Privacy is a fundamental right protected under the Nigerian constitution, NDPR, Health Act, etc. Also, these laws provide situations when such protection of privacy can be waived i.e., national security and public health.

In response to a question on when data usage is legitimate, he noted that legitimate use of data occurs when data is used in line with the law and with the consent of a data subject.

In conclusion, he noted that so much data is mined from download of certain apps, therefore, there is need for a Commission to be established and charged with the implementation of the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) and sanctions applied where necessary.

Mr. Bernard Ewah focused on "Harnessing Big Data Analytics for National Development". He noted that there have been several discussions on how data can be harnessed as well as the security issues that surround data. According to him, there are various forms of datasets that Nigeria should be looking to derive value from. These include transactional data, social media data, mobile data, satellite data, etc.

In Nigeria, work has been done on Mobile data in collaboration with agencies like National Bureau of Statistics. He also noted that work is ongoing on data sharing with organizations and collaboration of stakeholders.

He noted that in order to effectively and properly harness the benefits of available data:

1. The type of dataset needs to be taken into consideration;
2. The capacity of the Data to be reused needs to be considered;
3. Multiple data collection centres needs to be merged;

4. Regulations that enable and support the effective use of data within the country need to be created.

Ms. Titi Akinsanmi dwelled on “The Business of Data.” She stated that by 2023 it is projected that there will be about 30 billion connected devices. Discussions would focus on the economic and commercial value of data and the fact that data is a limitless resource which can be harnessed for business.

She noted that although Nigeria is on a good path as regards data, there is still a lot Nigeria can do. She commended the steps being taken on the NDPR but noted the need to make the bill holistic and ensure it reflects international best practices on data, especially as regards converting data into business.

Furthermore, she noted that in her study of the business of data, she discovered that data possesses value, which can be harnessed economically, socially, and emotionally. Thus, she urged that significant efforts should be put in place to transform digital technology into tangible and measurable impact.

In addition, she noted that although huge data is currently being generated in Nigeria, most of these data sits in private hands and businesses struggle to harness these data in an impactful manner. Thus, rather than simply focus on security and protection of data, she urged government to make and present these data in a form that they can be easily used by individuals or business.

In conclusion, she noted that in order to harness the business of data, digital transformation, need for tangible and measurable impact, stakeholders empowerment as well as collaborations between government, private sector and social organizations, is critical.

#### **Key Points Raised:**

1. More than half of the Nigerian population is currently digitally excluded. Therefore, access to Internet should be categorized as a fundamental human right.
2. Infrastructure is a critical pillar needed to achieve digital economy and inclusiveness of all Nigerians.
3. Illegitimate use of citizens data without their consent through some social media handles, apps, etc.
4. New emerging opportunities to monetize data in Nigeria; In new revenue streams, products and services for a broader range of stakeholders, enable by data insights and analytics
5. Several state governments have reduced or waived the right of way charges.
6. There is a divide in the level of inclusion in urban and rural environments.
7. Nigerians are largely technology consumers and not producers, and thus have no data sovereignty.
8. Regulation on fiber optic cables usage and protection is already being developed.
9. There is need to regulate the cost to data to aide inclusion and broadband penetration.

10. There is need to ensure that measures put in place to control access are not excessive so as not to prevent optimal usage of the Internet.
11. The Digital Economy Era should be harnessed to build the financial capacity of Nigerian youth.
12. Although digital literacy is the second pillar of our Digital Economy Strategy, it has not been effectively implemented.
13. Mobile data can be used for security planning, mobility plan and traffic planning for national development.
14. There should be collaboration among government, private sector organizations and stakeholders to harness data for National Development.
15. There is need for Nigeria as a country to move into an era of National self-sufficiency. The government should work towards making citizens self-sufficient technologically.
16. There is need to vigorously build capacity in the area of digital literacy.
17. The need to harness the African Continental free trade area to create a single African market.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Relevant Government agencies should work with relevant human rights stakeholders to ensure that access to the Internet is a fundamental human right of the citizen, on the same level with the right to life and health care.
2. Nigerians should take responsibility for the protection of their personal data by reading through terms and conditions of products and applications and strive to join in building regulation policies.
3. The federal government, state governments and private sector should increase their collaboration to ensure that Nigeria achieves the goal of increased Internet access.
4. Government should forgo short term benefits of ICT investment, such as taxes and fees, and focus more on long term investment in infrastructure and capacity building.

### **Session 2: Cyber Security & Trust**

*Moderated by:* Rev. Sunday Folayan - Managing Director at GDES (SKANNET)

*Panelists:*

- i) Engr. Salisu Kaka - Deputy Director / E-Government Development and Regulation (NITDA);
- ii) Dr. Nnenna Ifeanyi Ajufo - Senior Lecturer of Law and Technology at Hilary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University, UK;

- iii) Ms. Folake Olagunju - Program Officer Internet and Cybersecurity, ECOWAS Commission;  
and
- iv) Mr. Adote Rock - Solutions Engineer / Process Analyst at MI-C3 International Ltd.

***Rapporteurs:***

- i) Mrs. Jamila Abdullahi Umar;
- ii) Engr. Salihu Abubakar Gambo;
- iii) Ms. Omoikhefe Ahimie; and
- iv) Meduye Deborah

**Summary of the session:**

The moderator began by explaining how Cyber security and trust is becoming a challenge to Nigeria in its quest to become a major player in the comity of Nations through innovative use of the internet. Thereafter, the moderator introduced the panelists.

Engr. Salisu Kaka spoke about “Building a National Trust Ecosystem”. In his presentation, he highlighted the mechanisms of building trust over the Internet in order to provide safety for internet users. He further explained identities that form the basis of trust which include simple trust (direct trust) and third-party trust. Furthermore, it was explained how legitimacy, effectiveness and transparency act as the norms that ensures trust is established. Moreover, the speaker noted the importance of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) technology which constitutes data governance (how data is processed) in ensuring the establishment of trust in a third-party arrangement. Some challenges that are currently being faced within the trust ecosystem in Nigeria were also highlighted to include:

- Poor Data Governance;
- Poor Internet connectivity;
- Corruption;
- Lack of functional digital anchor; etc.

Dr. Nnenna Ifeanyi made a presentation about “International Mistrust and Profiling”. She stated reasons why Nigeria is facing international mistrust by the media and other countries when it comes to cybercrime and how it has brought a negative image on the country. This unfortunate generalization especially in the media and the international community has become a prism with which Nigeria and Nigerians are viewed. According to the presenter, most of the statistics in relation to cybercrime against Nigeria and Nigerians is not accurate because the statistics come from the West without a thorough consideration about the peculiar circumstances of Nigeria. Furthermore, in Nigeria, the term cybercrime is generally limited to only cyber fraud rather than exploring other crimes such as hacking, cyber

defamation, cyber bullying, cyber terrorism, child pornography, identity theft, phishing etc., which also happen in Nigeria. However, Nigeria has no record of other forms of cybercrimes such as cyber stalking, cyber espionage, etc. which are found predominantly in other countries due to lack of proper system to monitor these incidences. In the course of the presentation, the panelist described some of the causes of cybercrime in Nigeria to include urbanization due to migration from rural to urban areas, unemployment, lack of awareness, weak implementation of cybercrime laws and lack of well-equipped and sophisticated hardware to track cyber criminalities. Moreover, the presenter said instituting deterrence and legal mechanism may help tackle the profiling issues of Nigerians in relation to cybercrime. Finally, the presenter said there is need for the state to give its citizens alternative to criminal activities, stressing the need to create job opportunities by the government for our ever-growing youth population.

Ms. Folake Olagunju, made a presentation about “Cyber Security & Trust in the New Normal” especially as it concerns the West African Sub Region. The presenter began with a question on how included the citizens are in terms of digital transformation and in terms of access, affordability and trust. The panelist highlighted lack of policies and Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) in the region to help in building the transformation need, and the efforts by the ECOWAS Commission, a regional body for West Africa, to achieve digital transformation within the region. She added that the ECOWAS Commission intends to ensure its fifteen (15) member states operate on a level playing field. In addition, the Commission realized at the start of the year, that only six (6) of its member countries have a National Cyber Strategy in place, and only six (6) countries have a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) and Digital Forensic Laboratories. In terms of critical infrastructure, the presenter said the Commission is engaged in the following:

- Enhancing Cyber Security awareness within the region by encouraging and building robust infrastructure;
- Capacity Building for all stakeholders on the train-the-trainer (few to many and many to all) basis; and
- Facilitating the South-South Corporation amongst their member states to promote coordinated and self-resilience approach.

In the end, the presenter said Cyber Security is a shared responsibility. However, for trust to be gained there has to be the right balance between privacy and security.

Mr. Adote Rock made a presentation on “Enabling effective Cyber Security practices in the Nigeria Public Service”. The presenter highlighted the number of Nigerian citizens’ data that are being captured by service providers, such as BVN by the Banks. However, the major concern is what happens to the data and who manages the data. The presenter also explained how Facebook’s automate ads approval



can easily be tricked, making it possible to buy ads to spread misinformation and fake news. Furthermore, the panelist explained some trends in Cyber Security such as Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR), which NITDA is working hard to ensure is being complied with and implemented. The presenter demonstrated how some applications installed in mobile phones can act as malicious spywares.

### **Key Points Raised:**

1. The need to develop a National Strategy for the operation and financing of a data ecosystem;
2. The need to strengthen capacity in order to build resilience;
3. The need to identify the demand for actionable, policy relevant insights and public good applications: convene countries, companies, academics, civil society, and international actors to match the data available with technological capabilities for generating insights in real time at any scale;
4. There is need to have political will, commitment and influence. It is important that every country in the West African Region records success stories and impacts that can be shared with one another country;
5. The need to establish sustainable trust ecosystem that leverages private sector participation;
6. The need to Leverage on Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR): Design new ways to give individuals more control over their data, protecting privacy and implementing privacy by design;
7. The need to strengthen infrastructure and inefficiency including the energy sectors;
8. The need to address the existing gaps in Legal and Regulatory frameworks. It is important that the African Union (AU) also known as the Malabo convention and the Budapest convention are ratified from the AU perspective;
9. The need to increase community immunity;
10. The need to localize Cybersecurity awareness campaigns;
11. The need for a robust Cybersecurity incidence reporting center; and
12. The effect of celebrating materialism.
13. Rise in cyber criminalities due to high usage of the Internet in Nigeria.
14. Lack of effective policies and Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) in the West African Region.
15. Lack of collaborations between countries in the same region.
16. Lack of enforcement of legal and regulatory frameworks.
17. Lack of well-equipped and sophisticated hardware to track cyber criminals in Nigeria.
18. Citizen orientation and reorientation is paramount.

19. There is need to strengthen the international and mutual cooperation in combating cybercrime to reduce the level of dependence on the developed world;
20. There is need to broaden the scope of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) as initiated by Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

### **Recommendations:**

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria should ratify the Malabo Convention in order to unify implementations of cybersecurity and data protection regulations across Africa;
2. The government should setup a dedicated agency focused on dealing with cyber related crimes. Alternatively, there should be cyber policing within the police force;
3. Government should invest more in getting state of the art and technology-driven systems as well as building capacity for use of such to enable cybercrime management and resolution;
4. All stakeholders including government should ensure compliance with national and international standard security standards and certificates;
5. The government should provide the full support required to enable full functionality of NCC CERT.

### **Session 3: Digital Empowerment**

*Moderated by:* Mr Oluwatoba Obaniyi, Vice President NiRA & Chief Executive Officer, WhoGoHost Limited

#### *Panelists:*

- i) Oluseun Onigbinde - Co-founder and CEO of budgIT;
- ii) Uffa Modey - Co-Founder, Digital Grassroot;
- iii) Esimaje Michael Onosome - Digital Employability Consultant; and
- iv) Dr. Omowunmi Hassan - President, High Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youths.

#### *Rapporteurs:*

- i) Mrs. Augustina Adem
- ii) Ms. Rabiātu Bakari
- iii) Peter Akinremi
- iv) Jason Swomen

#### **Summary of the session:**

The Digital Empowerment session discussed how we can leverage the Internet to empower Nigerians, reduce unemployment and make more income despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Obviously, the emergence of COVID 19 has greatly increased the adoption of ICT in all sectors

of the economy yet, digital literacy is still identified as a major challenge. Acquisition of digital skills and technology will bring innovation, boost businesses and invariably impact on the market space. There should be a framework to ensure that an ordinary Nigerian can embrace technology and access the Internet.

Lack of employment is a menace to the country, therefore acquisition of technological and digital skills will help to sanitize the country and boost the national GDP. Individuals should not only be consumers of the Internet but should be producers, thus there is need for more Nigerians to be involved in software development.

Furthermore, there should be collaboration involving the government, public and private sector, the academia, as well as informal technical workforce. The government should create an enabling environment, provide infrastructure for all stakeholders to play their role to achieve digital economy.

Finally, the pioneer members of some private sector and NGOs like HighTech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youths, WhoGoHost Limited, BudgIT, Smartgate Consult and Eko-konnect were the panelists at this session and their organizations are doing a lot to argument government's effort. They are advocating for government's support and the academia's involvement to achieve more digital empowerment.

**Key Points Raised:**

1. Lack of education and employment leads to crime
2. The amount of infrastructure in the country hampers digital development
3. There is challenge in Settlement of Payment
4. There is a big divide between the developed and developing regions in their digital life.
5. A strong digital economy results in an increase in GDP
6. Livelihood can be sustained through the internet
7. The private sector creates ICT digital economy tools and services, the experts have the technical know-how that build infrastructure and services.
8. Core digital skills help to spur innovation to help the society
9. Businesses faced a setback, but e-commerce was an innovative solution to the pandemic for businesses.
10. National security is part of digital life because of cybersecurity and citizens data protection.
11. Collaboration is key across all strata of the society
12. There is need to improve public education and prioritize technical and technology skills.

13. Teachers' training, retraining of graduate, inclusion of the skilled informal sector should be paramount
14. There should be mentorship programmes to boost digital empowerment
15. There is need to maximize benefits of digital life

**Recommendations:**

1. It is important to foster new digital mindset and culture, by encouraging the youth to engage more in application and software development for national innovation and growth
2. In the new digital economy, skills are critical, so recruitment should be based on skills and expertise, rather than solely on certificates.
3. Citizens should be encouraged to use the internet to generate wealth, rather than mainly for leisure
4. A Digital skills policy should be formulated outlining a clear approach to develop a culture for ICT.
5. Production of hardware and other tools should be privatized by stakeholders

**Session 4: Emerging Issues & Technologies**

*Moderated by:* Mrs. Mary Uduma - Coordinator, West Africa IGF

*Panelists:*

- i) Adedokun Adewale - Event Coordinator Nigeria Network Operators Group (ngNOG)
- ii) Oyeniran Oluwole - Enterprise Technology & Performance Leader, West Africa Deloitte & Touche
- iii) Uchenna Onwuaegbu-Ugwu - CEO, Technik STEM Hub; and
- iv) Ime Asangansi - MD, Digital Health, Health Data Analytics.

*Rapporteurs:*

- i) Mr. Abubakar Bobboi
- ii) Mr. Peter Miaphen
- iii) Mrs. Uchechi Kalu
- iv) Mr. Gabreal Odunsi

**Summary of the session:**

Mr. Adedokun elaborated on quantum computing, AI and 5G as they are basics of current and future technology trends. He gave a projection by National Planning that in the year 2020, 30% of Agric tech will be driven by AI.

Mr Oyeniran Oluwale the Associate Director of Deloitte, spoke on the aligning Exponential Tech Trends, and how processing loans have been made easy through FinTech. He explained Digital Trust and how it has brought about the Distributed Ledger Tech, Bitcoin, crypto currency and cryptography

Mrs Uchenna Onwuaegbu-Ugwu talked of the huge gap in the Digital world. She explained that in preparation for the future, schools need to visit their curriculum and include courses like coding, web design and robotics. She also spoke on the need to introduce students to tech trends at a young age.

Ime Asangansi made it clear that Tech trends have virtually influenced every field/discipline as the world is going Digital. He further explained how healthcare can be accessed from a distance and how Tech trend has changed the Health sector. The following are some of the trends and effects he pointed out; AI for predictive analysis, Drones for Blood and Drugs supply, Augmented and virtual Reality for 3D view amongst others.

#### **Key Points Raised:**

1. Lack of support for Fintech as they create innovative solutions that help ordinary Nigerians to grow their businesses
2. Tech Trends have influenced the traditional financial players as using FinTech ideas gives them better experience, it drives adoption and grows business.
3. Policies like Digital innovation and Digital Entrepreneurship should not only be prepared and kept on the table, but be implemented accordingly
4. We must go digital by not only teaching children to code, but also how to solve problems using coding.
5. Applications have been developed to enhance Telemedicine and Telehealth
6. 3D printing was used during the pandemic to rapidly develop ventilators and Test kit
7. Using 5G, a robust data app has been developed and was used by NCDC during the pandemic
8. As fitness trackers have been made available, this has increased the effect of IOT in the country
9. It is important to move away from being consumers to being investors of technology
10. Rural areas are in dire need of prioritization
11. There is need for infrastructure in both government and private sectors
12. There is urgent need for health capital development
13. Lack of Synergy between government, private sector and other stakeholders
14. Data security should be made a priority

15. Researchers should be industrial and well-funded

### **Recommendations:**

1. The organized private sector should be actively involved in what happens in the academia so that they can have some inputs in the curriculum
2. The educational sector needs massive reform. Emerging trends should be incorporated in the curriculum
3. Relevant government agencies and stakeholders should ensure that laws, regulations and guidelines on data protection are enforced, without stifling growth and development of emerging technologies
4. Regulators need to adapt emerging technologies to regulate the Internet and increase Digital Trust

### **3.4 Wrap up Session**

The wrap up session was moderated by Mrs. Edith Udeagu, the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA). Various speakers as shown below highlighted the key points and recommendations from the different breakout sessions:

- Uffa Modey (Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum)
- Ms. Maryam Ado Haruna (Nigeria Women Internet Governance Forum)
- Bar. Emmanuel Edet (Plenary Session)
- Dr. Hamza Salami (Breakout Sessions 1 and 2)
- Mrs. Elizabeth Yisa (Breakout Sessions 3 and 4)

### **3.5 Closing Remarks**

The Chairperson of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group Dr. Haru Alhassan noted the increased importance of the Internet during the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked all the guests, speakers, moderators, rapporteurs, participants as well as organizations that supported the vNIGF 2020 and promised that the communique will be developed. The vNIGF 2020 closed at 3:48 pm with the recitation of the first stanza of the Nigerian National Anthem.

### **3.6 Zoom Participation and Registration Statistics:**

| <b>Session</b>  | <b>Number of Actual Participants</b> | <b>Number of Registrants</b> | <b>Percentage of Registrants that Attended</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Opening Ceremony                                      | 171                                  | 873                          | 19.59%   |
| Breakout Session 1: Data Sovereignty and Monetization | 52                                   | 235                          | 22.13%   |
| Breakout Session 2: Cyber Security & Trust            | 51                                   | 123                          | 41.46%   |

|  |    |     |        |
|--|----|-----|--------|
| Breakout Session 3:<br>Digital Empowerment               | 30 | 338 | 8.88%  |
| Breakout Session 4:<br>Emerging Issues &<br>Technologies | 37 | 237 | 15.61% |
| Closing Ceremony   | 64 | 873 | 7.33%  |

#### 4.0 Rapporteurs

Dr. Hamza Salami – Lead rapporteur  
Mrs. Elizabeth Yisa – Lead rapporteur  
Ms. Samira A. Danburam – Breakout Session 1  
Ms. Martha Ighomena – Breakout Session 1  
Ms. Abimbola Aderibigbe – Breakout Session 1  
Ms. Faith Akinyemi – Breakout Session 1  
Mrs. Jamila Abdullahi Umar – Breakout Session 2  
Engr. Salihu Abubakar Gambo – Breakout Session 2  
Ms. Omoikhefe Ahimie – Breakout Session 2  
Ms. Deborah Meduye – Breakout Session 2  
Mrs. Augustina Adem – Breakout Session 3  
Ms. Rabiatu Bakari – Breakout Session 3  
Mr. Peter Akinremi – Breakout Session 3  
Mr. Jason Swomen – Breakout Session 3  
Mr. Abubakar Bobboi – Breakout Session 4  
Mr. Peter Miaphen – Breakout Session 4  
Mrs. Uchechi Kalu – Breakout Session 4  
Mr. Gabreal Odunsi – Breakout Session 4

For further information, please contact Program Manager, NIGF Secretariat via [pm@nigf.org.ng](mailto:pm@nigf.org.ng).