

# COMMUNIQUE

*The one-day Nigeria DigitalSENSE Forum Series, 10<sup>th</sup> edition on Internet Governance for Development (IG4D) was held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 with the theme, “Connecting Nigerians for Enhanced Internet Governance” and Nigeria IPv6 Roundtable, in Commemoration of the World IPv6 Day with the theme IPv6, An Ingrident For Enhance Internet at Welcome Centre Hotels Muritala Muhammed International Airport Road, Lagos-Nigeria; attracted participants across Stakeholders in ICT industry in the country, Students, Youth and women.*

The following were their submissions:

## RECALL

1. That the forum has been created and nurtured for the past 10 years as a think-tank platform where Nigeria internet stakeholders converge annually to raise and address germane issues concerning ICT sector with particular reference to computing, internet governance-related issues like access, security, openness, privacy and diversity; towards helping to further progress Nigeria in the ever-rapidly advancing phenomenon of global ICT.
2. The aim of Nigeria IPv6 Roundtable is to create a forum that will encourage public discourse and create awareness on technological and business benefits of Internet Protocol version Six (IPv6) addresses and to motivate organisations across the industry - internet service providers, hardware makers, operating system vendors and web companies to prepare their services for IPv6, and also join the rest of the world to celebrate the World IPv6 Day as well as offer a platform for networking.

3. Countries are fast migrating to IPv6 and Nigeria must follow suit to remain relevant and compliant with advancing technologies.

## **OBSERVATION**

1. Internet is one of the primary influences on globalization and it is increasingly playing an important role in the ability of nations to participate meaningfully in global economic activities.
2. All businesses today depend on the internet to reach customers, manage suppliers and conduct most internal and external business operations; digital evolution.
3. Nigeria has a huge potential for digital dividends considering her high population density.
4. Cybercrime occurs everywhere and is by no means only a Nigerian problem; it has caused serious reputational damage to the country.
5. Currently, Broadband penetration in Nigeria is put at 30.9%.
6. Government is not resting until all Nigerians can have access to a safe and secured internet space. This can be seen in the establishment of ICT hubs across the six geopolitical zones to bridge the gap between the digital haves and the digital have-nots and three IT Innovation Hubs across in North-West, South-West and North-East.
7. NITDA is promoting digital inclusion through its subsidiary, Office for ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIIE), with very close collaboration and partnership with stakeholders including, but not limited, to the National Social

Investment Office (NSIO), other government agencies, ICT Hubs, multinationals, Angel investors, venture capital firms etc.

8. The Nigerian government has introduced certain measures such as the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention) Act, 2015. The law provides for the prohibition, prevention, detection, response, investigation and prosecution of cyber crimes and for other related matters.
9. The current management at NITDA is working assiduously to ensure connectivity to the unconnected Nigerians as well as ensure safe cyberspace for all.

### **CHALLENGES**

1. The introduction of GDPR poses great risks for countries doing business with EU nations.
2. Poor infrastructure that supports ICT development should be improved upon

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Nigeria has rich cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge; students, youth and women are encouraged to make positive use of the internet for their self development.
2. Nigeria should endeavor to migrate to IPv6 to participate actively in the global ICT trend.
3. Nigeria should embrace the great potential in her human and natural resources and leverage on it to create services and products with IPv6 compliance to address our local challenges.
4. There is no formal certification to operate in the cyberspace for positive gainful sources of income generation.

## THE WAY FORWARD

1. There is need for everyone to get connected to the internet
2. The Federal Government should make Telecoms Infrastructure a critical national resource to help in protecting online jobs and businesses
3. While we desire for a quick migration to IPv6, there is also the need to prepare for the challenges that come with it, as such the Federal Government is advised to be more proactive in providing the enabling environment for a smooth migration of the nation to IPv6.
4. There should be IPv6 awareness and capacity building by organizing seminars and trainings, possibly incorporating IPv6 into university curriculum.
5. Government is enjoined to play its part in the growth and development of ICT in Nigeria by ensuring enabling environment, while on the other hand students, youth and women and indeed all good users of the internet are encouraged to make judicious use of the internet bearing in mind the GDPR existing in the EU nations.
6. Revision of the National ICT Policy to establish “A National Digital Strategy”
7. There should be an **Executive Order** for all Digital Networks in Nigeria to migrate from IPv4 to IPv6 within 18 months.
8. Provide some profit incentives to Internet Industry to encourage them to adopt IPv6 based Infrastructure. These incentives could include reduction in regulatory fee and tax rebates.
9. Upstream Internet connectivity providers should be encouraged to enable IPv6 in their networks.
10. Government should ensure that all new IT equipment supplied to them are IPv6 compliant and Government should set a target date for MDAs to have IPv6 compliant networks.

11. Government should make haste to sign into law the Digital rights and freedom bill which seeks for equal freedom of expression online
12. We should have more events like this and educate more masses about what is trending. More Schools and teachers should be involved at events of this nature.
13. Federal Government should focus more on the use of IT to create more jobs, create more wealth and also focus on building IT capacity of our youths.
14. The advantage of the ICT adoption in governance and ultimately Nigeria will stimulate transparency, productivity, efficiency and timely operations.
15. To further create opportunities for Nigerians, there is an urgent need to address the challenges of the industry and leverage on the opportunities. One of which is to continue to build communications infrastructures (satellite, terrestrial networks and Telecommunications) to aid transition and lower the barriers to entry, which will further increase participation and eventually drive ICT
16. There is need to encourage young IT entrepreneurs to learn through regular capacity building workshops and symposia to indirectly build IT soft skills and employment generation.
17. The need arises to look inwards to get youngsters that will develop and maintain Apps for cost efficiency and effectiveness.
18. There is need for network and content operators to make their networks and websites available over IPv6 for the foreseeable future to encourage quick migration to IPv6 addresses and appliances.
19. Stronger cyber laws should be enacted and implemented to prevent and curtail cyber crimes.

20. There is a great need to develop apps as well as capacity that help ensure cyber safety.
21. Government at all levels should encourage e-governance as this will help in tracking government activities through the social media; it will also give people access to participate in governance thereby encouraging transparency and efficiency.
22. The private sector needs to support Government's efforts at ensuring that all Nigerians are connected to a safe cyberspace.
23. Youth and Students are encouraged to make maximum gainful use of the cyberspace
24. Women as a means of achieving self sustainability are encouraged to have Domain Names and websites to leverage their businesses for better gains.

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