

## **Submission from Ghana on behalf of the African Group**

### **Report by Sub-committee B of the African Group on Parts 4-6 of the Document "Food for Thought"**

**With respect to part 4: identifying public policy issues relevant to Internet governance, Sub-committee B of the African group recommends the following:**

**Concerning issues relating to infrastructure and management of critical internet resources:**

Regarding administration of the root zone files and root servers system:

- There should be agreements governing root server operators.
- Setting up more instances of root servers in Africa (either a root or many mirrors).
- Internationalization of the oversight function as related to the control of the root zone file.

Regarding IP addressing:

- Supporting AfriNIC in order to guarantee independence of the African region in terms of Internet resources.
- Ensure equitable distribution of resource for all.
- More legitimacy is needed to the RIR model for example through a governmental advisory function.
- Adopt a multi stakeholder approach in the functioning of the RIR model.

Regarding allocation of domain names (gTLDs and ccTLDs):

- Sub-committee 2 supports the WGIG recommendation regarding domain names, which states the "need for further development of policies and procedures for generic top level domain names gTLDs. The need for further development of policies for the management and further development of the domain name space, though also due to the inherent complexity of the matter has a significant impact on key issues such as the equitable distribution of resources, access for all and multilingualism." Equally, the policy authority for country code top-level-domain names (ccTLDs) should be the sovereign right of countries.

Regarding possible governance/ oversight function:

- The expansion and reinforcement of the existing institutions for Internet Governance to enable all stakeholders to participate and ensure Internet Governance is efficient, accountable, and democratic, and that Internet services and resources are distributed in an equitable manner among all actors and all continents.
- The reinforcement of GAC role in elaboration of all of public policy issues within ICANN.

- More focus on issues related to the development of the African continent like infrastructure development, multilingualism, international interconnection costs and human capacity building.

**Concerning issues related to the use of the Internet, Sub-committee 2 of the African group recommends the following:**

Regarding Internet stability, security and cybercrime and SPAM:

- We call upon the establishment of committee for technical and legal issues (continental equivalence for the council of Europe – e.g. council of Africa or use the AU mechanisms).
- Manpower development and technical tools are not available in Africa to develop this issue.
- National and international collaboration across a range of legal and technical areas.
- Develop national strategies and international coordination for cyber security. - Draw on existing structures and processes such as the council of Europe convention on cyber crime, UNGA resolutions 55/63 and 56/121 and 57/239.
- Call upon establishment under the auspices of AU to harmonize our legislations in a regional context with specific focus on our concerns, to assist the region in coordinating with other regions.

Regarding freedom of expression, data protection and privacy right, consumer rights and IPRs:

- Refer to the WSIS declaration of principles and plan of action.
- Respect for National Law.
- It is the responsibility of countries to implement a national law for misuse of information, consumers' rights laws ...etc.
- Regarding IPR, Africa suffers under IPR just like it suffers under interconnection costs. Solutions need to be found for IPR like for example adding value to copied items.

**With respect to part 5: measures to promote development, Sub-committee B of the African group recommends the following:**

Fostering and providing guidance on certain developmental issues in the broader Internet agenda to ensure equitable access for all, and to include among other issues international interconnection costs, multilingualism, capacity-building and technology / know-how transfer, as well as encouraging open source application development.

**Concerning interconnection cost:**

- Setting up of a regional high speed Internet backbone allowing the creation of national, sub regional and regional Internet exchange points.
- Encourage donor programs and other developmental financing mechanisms to take note of the need to provide funding for initiatives that advance connectivity, Internet exchange points (IXPs) and local content for developing countries.

- Encourage ITU to continue the study of the question of the International Internet Connectivity (IIC) as an urgent matter to develop appropriate recommendations, as well as by encouraging the WTO to address the question through the GATS.


**Concerning multilingualism:**

- Implementation of programmes that guarantee the presence of African languages on the Internet and use of free and open source software in order to fight against the linguistic digital divide and ensure the participation of all in the emerging new society.
- Refer to WGIG recommendations for multilingualism. (par.85)


**Concerning enabling environment:**

- Establishment in Africa of a reference framework for building a multi-stakeholder partnership at the national, regional and continental level, based on the basic principles of digital solidarity and in conformity with the spirit and provisions of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
- The creation, in each African Member State, of a national structure responsible for the promotion and development of the Information Society, of knowledge sharing and the coordination of these structures at continental level.

**Concerning Capacity-building and meaningful participation in global policy development:**

- The creation of Centres of Excellence around Africa for capacity development.
- Contribution of African countries to the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) and sation of the Fund for building capacity, in particular for women and young people, and financing Internet-related projects in Africa.[CA2]

**With respect to part 6: Forum, Sub-committee B of the African group recommends the following:**

The establishment of a global consultation framework to review in depth the general policies on Internet Governance. Such a framework should authorise al participation for all stakeholders (Government, the private sector, civil society, and international organisations).