



The African Internet Governance Forum - AfIGF 2014

BID to host the 3rd African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF2014)

1. Introduction

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been playing a key role in enhancing Africa's participation in the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) consultations since 2006 to ensure that Africa's voice is heard on these very important issues.. The Internet Governance space in Africa was very active in the lead up to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) in 2006 and became even more active after the Summit. Presently, there are sub-regional Internet Governance Forum (IGF) initiatives in all the sub-regions of Africa. Although active in their operation, these regional initiatives do not yet cover all the countries in their respective regions. To this end, there was a strong need for the establishment of an African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) to support and promote the consolidation of the on-going regional initiatives.

Accordingly, AfIGF was convened by the sub-regional IGFs in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC) and ECA at the 6th IGF in Nairobi, Kenya. The AfIGF was launched on 30 September 2011. ECA host the secretariat with the African Union Commission as a member..

Following a bid floated by the Secretariat, the various AfIGF sessions were successfully held by:

- Egypt, from 2 - 4 October 2012; and
- Kenya, from 23 - 26 October 2013.

The 3rd AfIGF is expected to be held in July 2014, in a member State other than Egypt and Kenya.

Since the conclusion of the 2nd AfIGF, a number of countries have shown interest in hosting the 3rd AfIGF. The Secretariat would like to invite competitive bids to enable it to select the host country. The Guidelines are designed to facilitate the selection process. The Secretariat invites member States to submit their expression of interest to the AfIGF Secretariat according to the guidelines given below.

2. Background

The African Internet Governance Forum was formally launched in Nairobi, during the global Internet Governance Forum in 2011. The Forum has been approved by the AU Council of Ministers of ICT, in their deliberation in Khartoum, September 2 – 4, 2012. Its Terms of Reference have been discussed and adopted by the AFIGF participants in Cairo on October 3, 2012.

The Secretariat of the AFIGF is hosted by ECA Headquarter, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (New Technologies and Innovation Section). The Forum's website is also launched at <http://afigf.uneca.org>. It currently runs social media outlets on Twitter and Facebook. The focal point contact is mseck@uneca.org

2.1 Main Objectives of AFIGF

AFIGF aims to be a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular. Specific objectives include:

- to increase awareness and build capacity on Internet Governance for African users to ensure that all stakeholders are well prepared for contribution and interaction.
- to ensure that the concerns of Africa are taken into account in the IGF process.
- to put in place a coordinated African process for dealing with Internet governance issues on the continent.
- to strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue model for Internet Governance in Africa through regional and national forums.
- to ensure a multi-stakeholder representation of all parts of the continent
- to ensure that all the countries are part of the regional processes and launch/strengthen their national processes.
- to facilitate national and regional exchanges and interactions between countries and regions in continent.
- to facilitate the participation of African stakeholders in AFIGF and other appropriate regional and national Internet Governance Forums.
- to promote use of African languages in the cyberspace.

2.2 The AFIGF Bureau

The AFIGF bureau is composed of the 5 current conveners of the regional IGFs or their designates. It is chaired by the host country of the last AFIGF.

3. BID to Host the 3rd African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF)

3.1 Eligibility and criteria for submission of expression of interest

- Must be a country in Africa,
- The focal point must be a government ministry in charge of ICTs or other related government agency.
- Have a National IGF Process in place, where all stakeholders take part.
- Have demonstrated active participation in IGF processes
- Host Country must offer accommodation in at least a recognized 4 stars hotel for a minimum of fifty (50) international participants.
- Host Country must offer water, 2 coffee breaks par day and lunch for participants during the conference.
- Host Country must facilitate visa entry for all participants; provide protocol services and local transportation from and to the airport and from the hotels to the venue of the conference.
- Host Country must offer conference facilities, including meeting rooms, interpretation from French to English and English to French.
- Host Country must provide Internet access at the conference venue and at the hotel which is chosen to accommodate the 50 international participants.
- Host Country must promote the event through traditional and modern media.
- Host country must provide local transportation for the Secretariat
- Host Country must ensure that access to the conference is free of charge and open to all stakeholders.

3.2 Submission of bid (expression of interest)

Please send your proposal not later than 31 March 2014 to the following e-mail addresses: knwuke@uneca.org with a copy to: mseck@uneca.org. Any proposal(s) sent after this date will not be considered.

Once a country is pre-selected, an agreement will be signed between the ministry in charge of organizing the event and the UN-Economic Commission for Africa.

3.3 Announcement of bid results

The result of the selection of the host country will be announced by mid April 2014.

3.4 Dates for the 3rd AfIGF event

The third AfIGF will take place for duration of four days, including pre-conference events in July 2014. Exact dates will be determined jointly between the AfIGF secretariat and the host Government and notified in due course to the stakeholders.

For further information and for all your inquiries, please contact AfIGF secretariat at the email addresses indicated above.