From Forum to NET-Nations

- Area: ROADMAP FOR THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM
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Abstract

FROM FORUM TO WORLD INTERNET GOVERNANCE ORGANISATION (WIGO)The issues of big data, security, surveillance and sovereignty have raised concerns among nations on how and what internet governance should be. For the future of the Internet to be secured, all actors in their respective roles must have a common properly structured platform, WORLD INTERNET GOVERNANCE ORGANISATION (WIGO), a global organization with equal participation of the Government, Private sector, Civil Society, Technical Community in a multi-stakeholder consensus building NET-NATIONS. focusing on developing rules and regulations for Cypersecurity and Cybercrime agenda.

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FROM FORUM TO WORLD INTERNET GOVERNANCE ORGANISATION

The contention concerning who governs the internet or how it should be governed has been the major focus of the top ICT organizations. The Internet Corporation for Assigned

Names and Numbers (ICANN) is one of these bodies alongside ITU, US Department of Commerce, Internet Society (ISOC) etc. where technically, the US Government has been in charge of the Internet, which is no longer acceptable by some countries of the world; the internet has grown past the control of one country.

The issues of big data, security, surveillance and sovereignty have raised concerns among nations on how and what internet governance should be.

The Internet now has become the “storehouse”, “access route” for numerous entities including government, civil society, technical bodies that are keen about the affordability, accessibility, openness and privacy; and above all, security of the online citizens. This means that all entities duly categorized by countries have now become citizens of this NET-NATION.

Therefore, in order for the Internet to escape sole control by a single government, all other countries must be equally involved in such control. First of all, addressing the issue of Cybercrime and security of the Internet, is one thing that interests everybody and every nation. I believe when nations commit to finding lasting solutions for this singular challenge of cybercrime and cyber security, the other challenges of the Internet Governance like the technical, legal and regulatory, policy making and the rest can easily be resolved with equal multistakeholder privilege.

For the future of the Internet to be secured, all actors in their respective roles must have a common properly structured platform, **WORLD INTERNET GOVERNANCE ORGANISATION (WIGO),** a global organization with equal participation of the Government, Private sector, Civil Society, Technical Community in a multi-stakeholder consensus building NET-NATIONS.

Governments (globally) have to play a role in the decision-making in governing the Internet. Government should equally see the “NET” as an avenue with great advantage since a lot of benefits can be favorable to all if collectively agreed upon. Nations would be members of WIGO, replicating same at the country level.

It is necessary to emphasis here that the Internet ecosystem should maintain the

multistakeholder approach, which has so far worked, in the ‘Future of Internet Governance’. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has so far provided a stage for multi-stakeholderism approach for governing the internet, save for the legal instrument establishing it. The future Internet Governance should therefore adopt same approach in the new organization.

I propose that ICANN be changed to WIGO with all its functions, this will reduce the learning curve period of the new organisation, and nations would have equal say in the Future Internet Governance.

Since internet governance is a new phenomenon, education of the Net Citizens on its real meaning is a task that must be accomplished by WIGO.