

Report
of
The 10th AfICTA (Virtual) Summit

On
December 7 - 8, 2022

by
AfICTA Secretariat

December 18, 2022

Summit Sponsored By



Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1	3
1.0 About AfICTA	3
CHAPTER 2	4
2.0 About Summit 2022	4
2.1 Overview	4
2.2 Summit Webpage	4
2.3 Programme Outline	4
CHAPTER 3	5
3.0 The Summit Report	5
3.1.0 Introduction	5
3.1.1 Summit Sub Themes	5
3.2.0 Day 1	6
3.2.1 Keynote Session	6
3.2.2 First Panel Session (Manufacturing Industries in Africa: The Future Opportunities)	7
3.2.3 Second Panel Session (Innovative IT Regulations to Foster Intellectual Properties Localization)	9
3.2.4 Third Panel Session (Exploring Unified ePayment and Crowdfunding Models towards Africa's Digital Economic Prosperity)	11
3.2.5 Forth Panel Session (Africa's Digital Agenda: The Role of Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity)	12
3.2.6 Fifth Panel Session (<i>Mitigating DNS Abuse - Disclosure vs Privacy - The Responsibility of all Actors in the Community</i>)	14
3.2.7 Sixth Panel Session (Cybersecurity Strategies to Support Africa's Digital Economy)	16
3.2.8 7th Panel Session (Digital Literacy: Key Strategy to Realizing Africa's Digital Agenda 2030)	18
3.3.0 Summit & Nominating Committee	20
3.4.0 Africa ICT Award Winners	21
CHAPTER 4	21
4.1 Recommendations	21

CHAPTER 1

1.0 About AfICTA

Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance - AfICTA is a concerned private sector led alliance of ICT Associations, Multi-national Corporations, Companies, Organisations and individuals in the ICT sector in Africa.

Vision

Our vision is to fulfil the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa.

Mission

Our mission is to encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue fostering accelerated and ICT enabled development in Africa and the use of cutting-edge innovative technologies including mobile, computing and satellite technologies to achieve an Information society in Africa.

Objectives

Our goals are to:

1. Organise non-government ICT stakeholders in Africa for effective local and continental advocacy
2. Be the focal point for Africa ICT advocacy in the global digital economy.
3. Promote constant improvement in African digital literacy in collaboration with stakeholders.
4. Create partnerships with the African Union and all the regional economic commissions towards realizing global sustainable development targets for Africa
5. Support effective dialogue between members and policymakers.
6. Mobilise the core leadership of African ICT professionals and experts in the business community, academic and technical community and civil society to be fully engaged in the global Internet Governance multi-stakeholder dialogues.
7. Promote business partnerships between members and their associations' members.
8. Contribute to capacities development by promoting best practices, encouraging regional projects, sharing data (skills, expertise, events, business announcements, exhibitions, seminars),
9. Organize an annual regional summit for knowledge sharing and cross-African advocacy.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 About Summit 2022

The 10th AfICTA Summit was held virtually from Wednesday 7-8 December, 2022 and themed “**Africa Digital Future: Fostering a New Paradigm**”. It was held in the succeeding week of global IGF that took in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

2.1 Overview

One of the challenges of the 21st century is in building an equitable digital economy that not only competes globally but also empowers citizens with the necessary digital tools to do business in this new digital age. In the case of Africa, many countries have fallen behind in key areas such as digital infrastructure and digital skills with many lacking the necessary resources to effectively develop and implement the right digital policies and law reforms that are needed not only to protect our digital borders and core digital infrastructure, but to also protect government, business, and citizens from cyber abuse and data theft.

Whilst there is no one-fit solution, there is an ever-increasing need for cross-border collaboration and a collective as well as an indigenous approach to solving these digital challenges, whilst speeding up the process of digital enablement and fostering a new era of shared skills and knowledge.

AfICTA's 10th Summit seeks to understand this challenge and takes a look at the different approaches countries are taking in order to digitalize their economies. The idea of an indigenous digital revolution is explored; can Africa find its own solutions or will it remain dependent on the importation of foreign expertise and intellectual property? Can Africa unlock its true digital potential and grow its digital capacity through smart investment and cross-border collaboration, or will Africa remain locked in as a consumer of foreign digital solutions and services?

2.2 Summit Webpage

<https://aficta.africa/summits/summit-2022>

2.3 Programme Outline

<https://aficta.africa/summits-summit-2022#agenda>

CHAPTER 3

3.0 The Summit Report

3.1.0 Introduction

The 10th AfICTA Summit Day-1 started as scheduled with the Opening Speech and Welcome address from the Chair of AfICTA, **Mr. Thabo Mashegoane**. He mentioned how AfICTA was formed 10 years ago and all the developmental stages it has gone through in the last decade. He pointed out the importance of AfICTA's existence, which is to fulfill the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa and further expatiated on the theme of the Summit "**Africa Digital Future: Fostering a New Paradigm**" as a theme which is of great importance in view of the current situation Africa has found itself. The Chair mentioned how critical the next decade of AfICTA would be to Africa's prosperity.

In his speech he said "the next 10 years and Beyond, are going to be very critical in that they will be about fostering the new paradigm and localizing interventions closer to the core of not only fulfilling our mission, but also in addressing the imperative Sustainability Development Goals - SDGs of 2030 for all African nations. The next 10 years is the Decade of not only awakening this lion called Africa at making it to roar, it will be accomplished by creation of focused localized Afrocentric technology, content, and product. Development of our people on the digital front both skills and otherwise, whether people are young or old, whether they are women or men and also to create opportunities for productive and gainful employment.

He concluded by extending AfICTA's hand of partnership to all well-meaning and purposeful organization to come join AfICTA in its efforts toward ensuring everyone in Africa enjoys the dividends of the digital age.

To ensure everyone understands the purpose of the 10th Summit, the Chairman on behalf of the Summit Committee Chair, **Ms. Ulandi Exner**, read out the Summit Concept Note (please check Chapter 2 for the concept note). The Chair assured attendees of value for their time as the list of panelists on the schedule promises to bring in best perspectives and solution to difficult questions. He added "Our list of panelist are from all the stakeholder groups including (business, government, civil society, academia and technical community) and they would present their views and provide practical examples of how digital tools drive digitalization and economic prosperity.

Still at the opening ceremony, we welcomed the Sponsored Keynote Speeches from all our sponsors **IITPSA - Institute of IT Professionals South Africa** ably represented by the CEO, **Mr. Tony Parry**; **BC-ICANN - Business Constituency of The Internet Corporation For Assigned Names and Numbers** and **Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd**, represented by the CEO, **Dr. Jimson Olufuye**.

3.1.1 Summit Sub Themes

- Manufacturing Industries in Africa: The Future Opportunities
- Innovative IT Regulations to Foster Intellectual Properties Localization
- Exploring Unified ePayment and Crowdfunding Models towards Africa's Digital Economic Prosperity
- Africa's Digital Agenda: The Role of Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity
- Mitigating DNS Abuse - Disclosure vs Privacy - The Responsibility of all Actors in the Community

- Cybersecurity Strategies to Support Africa's Digital Economy
- Digital Literacy: Key Strategy to Realizing Africa's Digital Agenda 2030

3.2.0 Day 1

3.2.1 Keynote Session

[Watch the Recording here](#)

Mr. Tony Parry

The session commenced with keynote speech from the IITPSA CEO, Mr. Tony Parry. He congratulated AfICTA on its 10th Anniversary and brought greetings also from the IITPSA, one of the founding members of AfICTA. He further appreciated how AfICTA has increased from what it was to the bigger picture. In his speech, he stated how no one didn't foresee the disruption that was ahead of the world 3 years ago regarding the COVID Pandemic, the same situation that caused a lot of losses and hardship and that only organizations that were prepared for the future digitally, found it easier to navigate through.

He charged organizations to always align and adapt to changes in their environment to ensure their survival in the digital era. Mr. Tony Parry highlighted how the digital era evolved right from when the first computer chip made in 1950s, the first International Business Machine (IBM) Personal Computer in 1980s, the first web-browser, the first Microsoft window version, to the landing of the undersea cables on the continent. He said since 65 years ago IITPSA which was formally known as CSSA - Computer Society of South Africa has been there witnessing and also instrumental to all the beautiful developments that happened in the digital world. **Watch the clip...**

BC ICANN

The keynote was delivered as a pre-recorded video and advert materials

Dr. Jimson Olufuye



The CEO Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd, Dr. Jimson Olufuye's Congratulatory Message to AfICTA @ its 10th Anniversary was delivered in a video documentary which was pre-recorded followed by the display of Kontemporary Konsulting marketing video. He afterward welcomed all stakeholders at the Summit, recognized the Advisory Council Members, the Board of AfICTA, all members and friends. As

the founder of AfICTA, he mentioned how challenging times were when AfICTA was formed and showed his gratitude to all colleagues that worked with him, who brought AfICTA from 6 member nation to over 38 nations today.

Reflecting on the successes and achievements, Dr. Jimson Olufuye sent his appreciation to Dr. Waudo Siganga, **President Computer Society of Kenya**; Mr. Adrian Schofield **former President, IITPSA**; Mr. Tony Parry, **the CEO IITPSA**; Prof. Adenike Osofisan, **the First Woman Computer Professor in Africa**; Dr. Mohammad Shedeed, **CEO EiTESAL**, Mr. Tola

Sogbesan, Mr. Timilehin Ambali, Ms. Arinola Akinyemi, Engr. Lanre Ajayi and many others for the critical role they played. Dr. Jimson Olufuye highlighted that the works done by AfICTA in the past decade has really earned Africa space in international gatherings and made the voices of Africans heard in global events.

A brief review of the result of a research topic “**Cybersecurity for Development in the 4th Industrial Revolution**“ which he led as a consultant to the **United Nation Economic Commission for Africa - UNECA** was reviewed...

3.2.2 First Panel Session (Manufacturing Industries in Africa: The Future Opportunities)

<p>Manufacturing Industries in Africa: The Future Opportunities</p> <p>Watch the Recording here</p>	<p>Moderated by Dr. Hesham Haddara, Chairman, SI-WARE System</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Paul Rowney, AfICTA Deputy Chair Eng. Hicham Arafa, COO, Bright Skies Inc. Eng. Mostafa Elwakil, CEO, Biobusiness</p>
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Introduction:



Dr. Hesham Haddara, opened the session with a short presentation on “Global Dynamics: A Pandemic, A Trade War and A Real War”. He said the COVID has caused a huge disruption of the supply chains in many industries if not all industries most especially the semiconductor industry which is crucial for many industries, and has prompted us all over the world to think about how to face similar pandemics of other disastrous situations in the

future. He added that it has also prompted us to think about health care, medical supplies, efficiency as a matter of national security. He also did the introduction of the panelists.

Policy Question 1: Given the significant transformation of the auto industry, can African countries develop into real players in the new auto industry, if yes, where can we penetrate? and what would be the major challenges facing our countries?



The question was addressed to Engr. Hicham Arafa, the COO, Bright Skies Inc who spoke extensively using few bullet points 1. **The Automotive Value Chain** 2. **Opportunities in the Value Chain** 3. **Challenges of the Automotive Industry**. Engr. Hicham Arafa mentioned all the value chains responsible for the production of a car as the **OEMs**, **Software Developer**, **Outsourcing Companies** and

Tools Developers, He answered yes to the question above, highlighting that the easiest value chain through which African countries can penetrate is the Software Development aspect as it requires low initial investment and the cumulative required knowledge is available on the continent. He hence mentioned 1. Availability of Qualified Engineers, 2. Cost of Infrastructure, 3. Ease of Doing Business in terms of Logistics and Taxes/Duties as some of the challenges faced

by the Automotive Industry in Africa. He added that with no doubt, Africa has smart guys who are doing well in the software industry but they are not enough.

Policy Question 2: Is there an opportunity for African countries in terms of healthcare and medical equipment industries? How can we penetrate and what are the challenges?



The question was addressed to **Engr. Mostafa Elwakil**, CEO, Biobusiness who did a presentation on Medical Devices Industry and scarcity of the ICU - Intensive Care Unit devices during the Pandemic. He sighted an example of what the experience was during the COVID Pandemic, how African nations were striving to secure medical equipment from abroad most especially the ventilator, and some medical gears that were not readily produced in Africa. In his intervention, he added that the pandemic was really an eye-opener for the industry in

Africa as they started implementing strategic plans to ensure some necessary medical facilities are locally produced on the continent. He showed a diagram of the potentials of the Global Medical Devices Market as being \$456,200 Million in 2020 and that the figure is projected to reach \$745,000 Million by 2030.

Policy Question 3: In terms of Digital Infrastructure, what is the status of the ICT ecosystem for local value add to manufacturing industries, Agri 4.0 and other domains in Africa? What are the challenges experienced?



Mr. Paul Rowney, Deputy Chair of AfICTA addressed the question extensively from connectivity point of view, digital last mile perspective which has been his line of engagement for few years now. He talked on incubation of local digital equipment manufacturers and leveraging the global skills. He said there is huge gap in the connectivity infrastructure, leaving a lot unconnected and that to bridge the gap, we must

develop capacity to meetup with the deficit. He mentioned a project he embarked on which is engaging with local businesses on the Continent, to see how certain products and solutions manufacturing can be incubated such that they form components of of the digital Infrastructure.

Mr. Paul Rowney also highlighted supply chain as a very important conversation to have should Africa want to leverage opportunities proffer by the 4th Industrial Revolution. He dissected the fact that China has more phones produced than the USA to the fact that China over the years have built their manufacturing capacity and swifter supply chain. Phones produced in USA are relatively expensive and don't get to the masses because the supply chain is poor and expensive to afford. He also mentioned skills development as major constituent to consider for Africa to become manufacturers of digital equipment and tools such as phones, laptops, modems, switches, routers etc.

3.2.3 Second Panel Session (Innovative IT Regulations to Foster Intellectual Properties Localization)

Innovative IT Regulations to Foster Intellectual Properties Localization Watch the Recording here	Moderated by Mr. Inye Kemabonta , AfICTA Board & CEO Tech Law Dev. Services (TLDS) Speakers: Dr. Jimson Olufuye , The CEO Kontemporary Consulting Ltd Paul Rowney , AfICTA Deputy Chair Mr. Toyin Oloniteru , The President, Crypto Economy Institute of Africa (CEIAfrica)
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Introduction:



Mr. Inye Kemabonta's introduction was based on the importance of the session which is to ensure there is optimum retention of the Intellectual Properties - IPs in Africa. He said how successful and growing a continent is, can be measured through the quantity of its patents of IPs. From a research topic he carried out some years back, Mr. Inye Kemabonta mentioned how disturbing it was to note that a company like IBM, had more patent products and services in 1 year than the entire Nigeria had in 10 years. He touched on some of the regulations and law provisions that encourages and protect IPs such as Copyright laws and standards.

Mr. Inye Kemabonta further highlighted how most of the Nigeria tech startups' loose their IPs to venture capitalist that come hunting for brilliant tech start-ups in Nigeria because they have the funding to buy-over startups. Turning such start-ups to "Nigerian Company but, Foreign Capital"

Policy Question: How can we make the right kinds of laws and regulations that help more Africans develop or build a lot more intellectual properties and ensure irrespective of the foreign direct investments, such IPs remain African's?



Dr. Jimson Olufuye mentioned the critical need for education and enlightenment. He said that would build more of innovation and high-level of research that would birth huge number of start-ups and contribute to the number of IPs on the continent. He mentioned the fact that there are more ideas and innovations being incubated compared to the experience in the past decades and it's high time that we take seriously, the need to ensure those ideas are well protected. Analyzing what is bought-over when Investors put in huge funds to a company, Dr. Jimson Olufuye from the perspective of a business, said for investors to invest in a business, their focus is on the IPs, Technical know-how, Market access/share etc.

He recommended a more coordinated local investment mechanisms for tech start-ups and companies, and added the need for Africans to also enhance more business and collaboration among themselves so as to boost intra-african trade statistics which is at the lowest in the committee of continents. He further mentioned how it's interesting that innovations from Africa attract foreign investors, said it's a good sign that Africa is doing something right if not all at the moment.

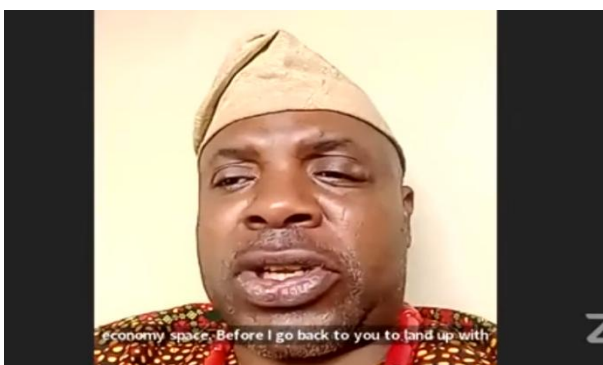


Mr. Paul Rowney in his intervention mentioned that the IP is key, it was also the major aspect of the previous session which he was a panelist. We need to strengthen capacity, policy, and also keep part of the business catches as reserve for local investors, we shouldn't always be looking for funding from external entities as there are some options available to us within the continent to avoid losing those IPs. He agreed with Dr. Jimson Olufuye on the need for

education but further opined that education becomes a waste when there are no structure or no support from structures. The structure here mentioned by Mr. Paul Rowney was further explained as, funding, marketing and business running. He said one can be an innovator but lacks the ability to provide the listed essentials of business and if we have structure in place, providing such services should be their sole responsibility.

Question by Ms. Omolara, a participant: *Will it be necessary to look at the collegiate policy of the central, Bank of Nigeria, in the area of foreign direct investment, the corporate affairs commission, the NITDA etc., to come together to look at this issue of the protection of Intellectual Property?*

Mr Inye Kemabonta supported the idea and believed that's the way to go. He said "There are many institutions in Nigeria, eg. Central Bank, known for running the economy and has deep pockets. Now it could actually be one source of a tech division funding to use that as an example that provides the Indigenous seed funding into startups and NITDA is the IT Agency responsible for governance of the tech ecosystem, if these institutions are working with the Corporate Affairs Commission where the startups are registered, there could be some kind of intervention, that ensures that at the early stage after incubation these businesses, these startups are not haunted as it were by Western Venture Capitalist or Evident Angel Investors.



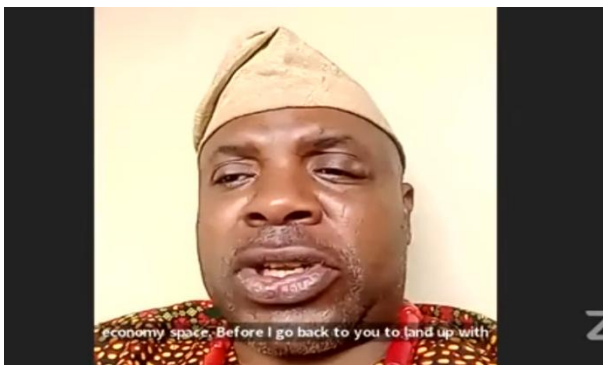
Mr. Toyin Oloniteru based his submission on crowd funding and crowd sourcing mechanism. He highlighted that the option isn't functional in Africa for the Tech Industry. He encouraged the stakeholders and institutions involved to come up with initiatives that encourage businesses and individuals to contribute funds into the national seed funding treasury and in turns allot some benefit to those contributors. He said with that, huge funds can be readily available to start-ups as

local seed funding rather than the start-ups sourcing solutions outside.

3.2.4 Third Panel Session (Exploring Unified ePayment and Crowdfunding Models towards Africa's Digital Economic Prosperity)

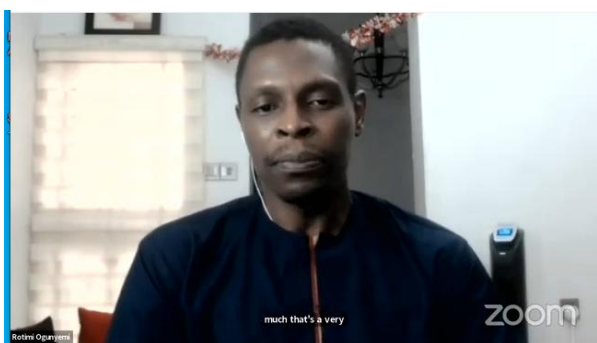
Exploring Unified ePayment and Crowdfunding Models towards Africa's Digital Economic Prosperity. Watch the Recording here	Moderated by Chief Toyin Oloniteru The President, Crypto Economy Institute of Africa (CEIAfrica) Speakers: Barr. Rotimi Ogunyemi Technology Attorney Digital Transformation & Governance Strategist Ms. Olanrewaju O Babalola Doctorate Researcher in Blockchain and Crypto Economics.
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The session was introduced by the Deputy Chair of AfICTA, Mr. Paul Rowney while Mr. Toyin Oloniteru introduced the purpose of the session and the format it would take. The speakers took turn to introduce themselves.



Chief Toyin Oloniteru by way of introducing the session said “All areas of our life has economic dimension whether living style, education, health, energy, security, equity and sustainability, financial management and ePayment etc. So everything now is being migrated to the digital space forming the digital economy. So how should Africa play in this new opportunity?” he mentioned the need to look at the key elements of this Session theme which is

first about Africa Digital Economic Prosperity, Unify ePayment and building Cryptocurrency Infrastructure.



Barr. Rotimi Ogunyemi strongly believed that the level of investment made by Africans toward Africa Digital Prosperity is a very important discussion. He highlighted some of the aspect to invest as 1. Regulation that fosters and create enabling environment for businesses to thrive and that our policies must be proactive and there should also be policies that encourage industry 4.0, having strategy document that guides services

that would spring off from AI, Blockchain, Big Data. He agreed we must invest in solid digital infrastructure and generally connectivity. Investment in skills, IT knowledge, other aspect that promised to bring in prosperity. If we invest in all critical element, prosperity would follow.



Ms. Olanrewaju Babalola explicitly spoke both from the women and general perspective, the importance of technology to the GDP. She believed that we haven't tapped expressly enough into the opportunities found in technology, all we've been doing is scratching its surface. She mentioned how technology has served as an enabler, cost saver, time manager, hurdles remover, financial enabler and generally

how technology has provided opportunities to many people mostly women even at the comfort of their homes. She opined that the significance of the ICT and the Internet penetration to the economy can not be overruled and hence lent her voice in support of other speakers that truly, government and other relevant stakeholders would need to further invest in digitalization and ICT infrastructure. In the aspect of financial transactions carried out remotely, she said such technologies should be human-centric and well regulated to ensure safety of users as the opportunity to derive is far bigger than its challenges.

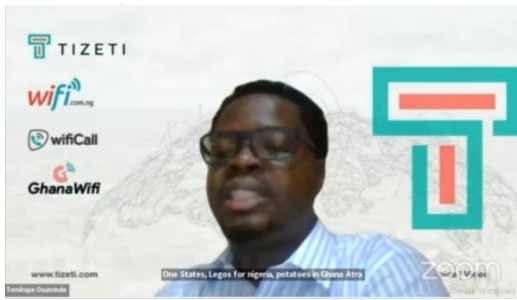
3.2.5 Forth Panel Session (Africa's Digital Agenda: The Role of Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity)

<p>Africa's Digital Agenda: The Role of Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity.</p> <p>Watch the Recording here</p>	<p>Moderated by Paul Rowney, AfICTA Deputy Chair</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Temitope Osunrinde, Vice President, Marketing, Tizeti Networks</p> <p>Dr. Jabhera Matogoro, Lecturer, The University of Dodoma</p> <p>Ms. Nashilongo Gervasius, <i>Founder & Managing Consultant, namTshuwe Digital</i></p> <p>Mrs. Mary Uduma, <i>Coordinator, West Africa Internet Governance Forum</i></p> <p>Ms. Arinola Akinyemi, CEO, DigiSphere Ltd</p> <p>Dr. Isa Ibrahim Jalo, The Chief Executive Officer, Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS)</p>
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Moderated by Mr. Paul Rowney, the Deputy Chair of AfICTA, the session was opened with a brief insight to the purpose of the panel discussion. He mentioned how digital infrastructure and connectivity remain part of the key items that require special attention because they form basic needs to ensuring the realization of Africa's Digital Agenda. He mentioned that the session would also address some of the challenges

brought about by the advent of technology and would examine how Africa could leverage on productivity aspect rather than being consumers. With brief introduction of the speakers, the session commenced.



According to **Temitope Osunrinde**, the digital economy that we leave in, is built on top of digital infrastructure. He mentioned few technological services like Flutterwave, Paystack, Uber, bolt etc, as services that are underpinned by digital infrastructure. Looking at broadband infrastructure, Temitope mentioned the layers involved as Last-mile, Middle-mile and First-mile. In terms of the first-mile, he said Africa is fairing

well as there is currently sufficient submarine cables in the region and in terms of middle mile, he was also satisfied with the huge work being done by some array of companies who are building capacity and infrastructure to meet the immediate need of the populace within that circle in the region, and lastly the last-mile to which he indicated his displeasure, saying despite all the submarine cables off shore, getting them to homes and offices remains a huge difficulty. He said there is need for more investment to ensure meaningful connectivity is taken to the underserved communities. He touched on cloud and data center landscape improvement. According to Temitope, there are about 50 data centers and 560 million Internet users in Africa, that would have to change as there is need for 450 data centers in Africa in the light of our current Internet users.

Ms. Nashilongo Gervasius is from Namibia and spoke from the domestic policy point of view, as it borders on digital, infrastructure and Connectivity. She sighted as an example of number of policies put in place including the broadband policy that was enacted in 2019, but largely the policy does not make particular provisions in terms of how infrastructure development should roll out especially from a public perspective. In her research carried out with the Alliance for Affordable Internet - A4AI, she also established that for instance, local policies especially on infrastructure sharing may not be complied with as private sector continuously fund infrastructure development with the lack of public funding. Government hence have little or no influence on prices even when they are not affordable for the citizens.

Ms. Gervasius also mentioned lack of adequate power supply as one of the challenges faced by middle-mile service providers. Aside huge investment made to put up connectivity infrastructures, such that there is available connectivity for the community, they still have to independently power those infrastructure by themselves at higher cost compered to what national grid offers.



Dr. Isa Ibrahim Jalo, the CEO and Director of the AGIS - Abuja Geographical Information System also graced the summit and spoke regarding the geospatial data information infrastructure which is managed by his agency. Dr. Isa Jalo agreed with all the statistical data shared by Temitope Osunrinde, he said Nigeria is not in exemption regarding heavy investment in the first and middle-miles infrastructure but what we may need to further work

on is the last-mile. The report from the UN - United Nations states that over 80 percent of the populace in Developed Countries have access whereas in the developing countries it's still less than 20 percent. This may be due to the heavy investment the developed countries have made to their last mile connectivity infrastructure.

Dr. Isa Jalo mentioned some of the challenges faced in setting up last mile infrastructure like the data centre provided by his agency as 1. Epileptic power supply 2. Lack of manpower and capacity 3. Lack of awareness and 4. Cost of connectivity. He 1. encouraged the government to come up with some incentives to soften the ground for the service providers so as to reduce the cost of connectivity and bridge the connectivity gap. Dr. Isa Jalo also suggested the removal or reduction of taxes to help ISPs make profit 3. Right of way is another challenge faced by the telcos and Nigeria has been able to reduce the cost 4. Insecurity both physical and online, physical regarding the theft and vandalism caused on connectivity infrastructure and online in-terms of lack of trust, as people feel insecure due to cyber-attacks.

Mrs. Mary Uduma, the West African IGF Coordinator was also one of the great personalities @ the Summit, she congratulated all stakeholders and Dr. Jimson Olufuye for AfICTA's 10th Anniversary. She spoke from a consumer perspective, sharing her experiences regarding policies around financial sector in Nigeria, how stringent and constraint the policies are becoming and the effect they could have on the economy. In her submission about policies, she agreed getting it right regarding policy formulation would do us good regarding infrastructural development and digital connectivity. She mentioned the need for exploration of alternative energy supply that are quite effective, reliable, and cheap to maintain as what ISPs should adopt to ensure cost of service they render to the public is relatively low and affordable for users. Mrs. Mary Uduma also encouraged the private sector to be more innovative and come up with ideas, products and services that would stimulate the economy as private sectors in developed world boost the economy without much expectations from the government. She talked about the 3As Availability, Accessibility and Affordability and also the 4Ps, Public, Private and People Partnership

Dr. Jabhera Matogoro, Lecturer, The University of Dodoma who is also the CEO and Founder of the Tanzania Community Network Alliance was also on the panel, According to the ITU Global statistics provided in the presentation delivered, about 5.3 billion people use Internet as at 2022 and about 29.3 billion devices will be connected to IP networks by 2023 (CISCO, 2020). He said Africa has a long way to go in terms of connectivity. The region has the lowest internet usage statistics, only 40% of the population and the question begging for an answer was "Does the African Region work toward meaningful Universal Connectivity as expected?" Finally Dr. Jabhera explored the opportunities and challenges of the TV White Space, he identified and highlighted people and policy as the major challenge to connectivity.

Dr. Jabhera briefly discussed the reason for the low uptake of AI in African Region and aside shortage of skills, poor inclusion of Gender and marginalized groups, he dwelt more of Shortage of State-of-the-Art equipment

Session 5: ICANN BC Outreach

3.2.6 Fifth Panel Session (*Mitigating DNS Abuse - Disclosure vs Privacy - The Responsibility of all Actors in the Community*)

<i>Mitigating DNS Abuse - Disclosure vs Privacy - The Responsibility of all Actors in the Community</i> Watch the Recording here	Arinola Akinyemi CEO, DigiSphere Ltd Speakers: Olawale-Roberts Lawrence O. Vice Chair, Finance & Operations - Business Constituency, ICANN
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	<p>Dr. Jimson Olufuye <i>CEO, Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd & Founder/fmr Chair, AfICTA</i></p> <p>Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola Chair of the African Union Cyber Security Expert Group (AUCSEG)</p>
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The issue of Mitigating DNS Abuse has been at the forefront of Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN-BC) ICANN-BC main concerns and this year particularly, there have been some major strides in the entire ICANN Community regarding the approach towards DNS Abuse. ICANN -BC represents businesses over the internet in the ICANN ecosystem and as such it's heavily involved with the policy engagement on mitigating DNS on the global stage.

Cyberthreats and DNS abuse security accounts for major losses of revenue globally with Interpol reporting 10% of the world GDP is lost to cybercrime which further emphasizes the need for business from all corner of the world to be involved with policy discussion at the organization currently responsible for oversight of the internet, ICANN.

The GDPR which was enacted in 2018 brought about some clear regulations and enforcement regarding privacy and protection of data over the Internet but perhaps a drawback to this was the issue of disclosure of WHOIS information in issues of mitigating and investigating malicious use and abuse of the Internet. The theme of the outreach session Disclosure Vs Privacy was perfectly posited to examine some of the pertinent frameworks being discussed in the ICANN Community on the role disclosure plays in mitigating DNS Abuse and how a compromise on disclosure is necessary for better governance on the internet.

DNS Abuse is predominantly perpetrated at the level of domain name registrars and registry which constitutes the contracted parties' house within ICANN and the BC has been working rigorously with other constituencies within ICANN to help reinforce more transparency and responsibility in terms of negotiations that help tackle the threats posed by bad actor whilst

upholding the values of privacy that is dear to the community at large. African businesses are also encouraged to participate in these talks as the problems of cyber threats are forecasted to increase within Africa in the nearest future.

To prevent malicious users of DNS from thriving within the industry then bureaucracies and privacy extremists' concerns about access have to be negotiated to find a middle ground that would help tackle the issue of DNS abuse and BC within ICANN helps galvanize the different actors within the community to ensure that this objective is implemented as this is crucial to trust in the resilience of the internet which is a mandate of ICANN.

Members of AfICTA involved within ICANN also urged the participants which included business owners from Africa to be more proactive in terms of reporting incidences of DNS abuse as this would help in generating data that buttresses the need for more compliance by the contracted parties to foster more accountability in the issue of DNS abuse, which is critical to mitigating the issue.

ICANN as a multi-stakeholder community also has other constituencies such as the **GAC - Governmental Advisory Committee** and **ALAC - At-Large Advisory Committee** which would be fitting for the AfICTA participants of the summit who were enjoined to get involved with Internet governance in order to have their voices and concerns represented. Business owners in large organizations and SMEs can easily join the place in the BC and members of AfICTA within the BC also enjoined the participants to join the BC by taking their business online because it is a prerequisite for joining the BC after which they could connect with them and other members in ICANN so they can be active within the BC.

3.2.7 Sixth Panel Session (Cybersecurity Strategies to Support Africa's Digital Economy)

<p>Cybersecurity Strategies to Support Africa's Digital Economy</p> <p>Watch the Recording here</p>	<p>Moderator: Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola Chair of the African Union Cyber Security Expert Group (AUCSEG)</p> <p>Speakers: Tatenda Walter Mkanyima Cyber Defense Manager at VODACOM CONGO</p> <p>Ms Thoko Miya Member Board Of Directors Internet South Africa</p> <p>Ms Sorene Assefa Coordinator, Cybersecurity and Connected African Girls, UNECA</p> <p>Prof. Sebo Tladi Associate Professor, Jurisprudence, Legal pluralism and Criminal law and Procedure, University of Limpopo (South Africa)</p> <p>Yusuph Kileo Cybersecurity Expert</p>
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“It is a truism as Mikko Hyppönen notes that: We are no longer securing Computers. We are Securing Society. We are protecting our families, neighbourhoods, religious groups, towns, villages, states, nations, continents and the world.”

Analysis by the International Finance Corporation projects that by 2025 Africa's Internet economy has the potential to reach \$180 billion, accounting for 5.2% of the continent's gross domestic product (GDP). It goes on to project that by 2050, the potential contribution could reach \$712 billion, 8.5% of the continent's GDP. Furthermore, Africa's population is projected to grow from 1.3 billion as of 2019 to 2.5 billion by 2050.

Complimenting this is the growth in ICT; mobile technologies already have generated 1.7 million jobs, and contribute \$144 bn to Africa's economy (8.5% GDP) with significant room for growth. African Cybersecurity Strategy adoption has seen only 22/54 countries (40%) according to the U.N. International Telecommunications Union (ITU). In a research report by Professor Nathaniel D.F Allen and I titled "African Lessons in Cyber Strategy. " Africa Center for Strategic Studies, March 8, 2022. Only Eswatini, Kenya and Mauritius met all the parameters of Key Elements of Strategy Design, namely: Threat Assessment; Plan of Action; Timeline; Responsibilities; Resources. Albeit some countries have 80% of the aforementioned parameters they still lack institutional mechanisms that drive this and makes it sustainable.

Cybersecurity Strategies - Protecting the Users

Mr Walter and Thoko Miya both agreed that although we as Africans must look at our cybersecurity strategy holistically, we must disenfranchise the major victims of cyber threats which is the users of these technologies. We must try to map out strategy from a people-centric view taking into consideration the prospects of making an economy of fighting cybercrime by fostering innovation in the space that are indigenous and localized while creating jobs by integrating cybersecurity education into the general curriculum in learning institutions.

Cybersecurity Strategies - Regional Policies

The issues of planning and implementation of digital strategies and policies have been largely neglected on the continent but we Africa can be commended for continuing to push the conversation and generate more traction on the different cybersecurity model laws and agendas such as the Malabo convention and the SADC Model Law on Computer Crime and Cybercrime. Albeit Agenda 2063 doesn't have a clear language to address cybercrime in Africa it is noteworthy to mention that is just a blueprint and masterplan that may not have considered Cybersecurity as a pillar of the Digital Economy in its conceptions. Africa must be commended thought for being proactive with subsequent continental policies although they have been largely

impeded due to the lack of an inclusive institutional framework that can aid the implementation of these strategies and ensure it thrives through constant reassessment. Africa must understand that Cybersecurity is very multidimensional and is not just limited to a legal or policy framework but is all-encompassing of issues such as culture and skills, knowledge and capacity, and technical and institutional capacity all at very high standard that creates a vibrant ecosystem which could be the digital single market that propels the issues of cybersecurity as a top priority at all discussions regarding mapping African Cybersecurity strategy.

Cybersecurity Strategies - Education and Awareness

Knowledge is one of the most important components essential for the growth of any nation and in the fast-growing digital age knowledge proliferation must be ingrained into all spheres of life in order to fully optimise the promise of the digital age. Africa has to make investments in cybersecurity education and awareness as it is inherent for a sustainable digital Economy. Education on cybersecurity hygiene should not only be limited to the academic scenes but also in all social strata as the internet penetration in Africa gravely highlights the need for users to be more conscious of their digital print and safety because securing society today practically entails securing their digital space.

3.2.8 7th Panel Session (Digital Literacy: Key Strategy to Realizing Africa's Digital Agenda 2030)

Digital Literacy: Key Strategy to Realizing Africa's Digital Agenda 2030	<p>Moderator: Marwan El Messiry, Marketing Manager, IKEN</p> <p>Speakers: Temitope Osunrinde, Vice President, Marketing, Tizeti Networks</p> <p>Dr. Melissa Sassi, Partner & Chief Evangelist, P3 Network</p> <p>Mrs Manal Amin, Founder and CEO Arabize</p> <p>Sonja Coetzer, Managing Director, Salt Essential IT (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Dr. Wunmi Hassan, President/CEO, High Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youths</p> <p>Amb. Segun Olugbile, The Chief Executive Officer, Araba Technologies Limited</p>
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[Watch the Recording here](#)



Re-evaluating the different key progression indices that marked the previous industrial revolutions is crucial to creating a very robust digital economy in the current industrial age and it's evident that countries across the globe are increasingly investing in R& D to guarantee their super status in the emerging industrial age.

The Digital Agenda of any particular digital economy simply entails the key plans, and measures put in place to shape the digital transformation in any particular country and it hinges on four pillars including competitiveness, sustainability, productivity, and Growth. The countries leading the forefront of the digital race such as the USA, Japan, Singapore, and Germany are working intensively on these key pillars by investing in R&D by focusing on superior institutions and policies that foster growth and improve the manufacturing of technology and global supply and Africa must emulate these strategies in order to reshape its global status as less consumption oriented but more production oriented.

"Digital Technologies when backed by a well-articulated Digital Agenda allows Africa to change the current narrative to disrupt its trajectory and aim to play a major role in the global digital economy unlocking new pathways for rapid growth, innovation, and in job creation amongst other GDP factors"

Cape Verde Digital Hub: A Case Study in Knowledge-Economy

The strategy deployed in Cape Verde provides a rare opportunity for Africa to learn from and replicate across the continent and the main peculiar to Cape Verde was the investment in transforming the digital ecosystem into a more knowledge-driven economy. The initiative focused on engaging the youth of the population by building skills not just limited to technical skills but also entrepreneurial skills that help ingrain and foster the production mindset as opposed to faltering to the default consumeristic approach. Cape Verde case study also provides insight into the specific methodology for creating a knowledge-driven economy which democratized for better accessibility and it begins with

1. Building digital skills not limited to just coding or becoming engineers but entrepreneurial thinking and professional development
2. Collaborating and enabling learners to work together to create solutions and launch locally.

There is also a need for redefining what it means to be digitally skilled and the Cape Verde strategy also implements a literacy assessment method based on the IEEE definition which is an 8-competency spectrum based on interest, skills, and careers trajectory. This 8-competency spectrum is also an assessment in terms of entrepreneurship and habits to produce well rounded digital workforce.

A common thread in developing countries trying to bridge the literacy gap is that they often neglect an equally important issue when it comes to bridging the literacy gap which is accessibility. Creating opportunities for more learning and hence a more suitable digital workforce is practically futile if the accessibility dilemma isn't addressed simultaneously and Africa must begin to focus on both issues in order to move forward with its digital agenda. African countries must begin to tackle accessibility to digital technologies for education by making them more localized in terms of language and specific country needs.

"To bridge the digital divide in our continents, we must make technology available in the local language and support research universities in natural language initiatives and activities. We must employ cultural intelligence to make technology and its impact more widespread among all citizens"

To prevent a situation where Africa gets stagnated in the development stage when it comes to manifesting its digital agendas then we must begin to make more proactive efforts to implement the current frameworks and policies on the ground by intersecting the Digital Agenda with the Political Agenda and bringing all crucial stakeholders and actors to the stage where we begin to take actions that make the Digital Strategies sustainable and produce tangible results.

Q & A

How do we incorporate digital literacy within the SDGs and AU Agenda being Reflective in the Curriculum of country states?

Countries must closely work with the ministries and agencies responsible for outlining and implementing their digital literacy framework to assess and redefine what it means to be digitally Skilled and ready. Just like the A4AI redefined meaningful connectivity that measures the standard of connectivity viable for productivity, we must redefine digital literacy in terms of competence reflective of the current digital climate.

3.3.0 Summit & Nominating Committee

S/N	Names	AfICTA Designation
1	Thabo Mashegoane	Chairman
2	Paul Rowney	Deputy Chairman
3	Ulandi Exner	Vice Chair, Southern Africa
4	Assem Wahby	Vice Chair, North Africa
5	Bernard Kioko	Member
6	Christel Youbi	Member
7	Brian Scarpelli	Member
8	Hoda Nofal	Member
9	Femi Babatunde	Member
10	Chief Toyin Oloniteru	Member
11	Ugochi Emmanuel	Member
12	Dada Samuel	Programme Officer

13	Oyeyemi Kayode	Senior Programme Officer
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3.4.0 Africa ICT Award Winners

The outcome of the nomination and election for the 2023 Africa ICT Awards as coordinated by the Nominating Committee of AfICTA is shown below:

S/N	Award Category	Award Winner (2022)
1	Africa ICT Champion Award	1. Gen. Muhamadu Buhari (rtd) , President, Federal Republic of Nigeria 2. Prof. Oluyemi Osinbajo , Vice-President Federal Republic of Nigeria
2	Africa ICT Personality Award	3. Mr. Darsanand Balgobin , Hon. Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius 4. Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami) , PhD, FCIIS, FBCS, FNCS, Minister of Information and Digital Economy, Nigeria
3	Africa CIO Award	5. Mr. Sina Aiyegbusi , Head, Group Information Technology & Digital Banking
4	Africa ICT Innovation Award	6. Mr. Eric Sindeu , Founder & CEO, KEMITEL Ltd
5	Africa Community Development Award	7. Mr. Ahmed Ismael , CEO, Siyafunda Community Technology Center

CHAPTER 4

4.1 Recommendations

Some of the Key Recommendations from the Summit

Session 1: Manufacturing Industries in Africa: The Future Opportunities:

1. For Africa to become industrialized and to compete at the global level, we need to improve on skills and build capacity, ease up the supply chain and also solve simple problems we can locally in preparation to bigger ideas in the nearest future.
2. Government's support for local manufacturers is a big deal, government should not only provide a level playing field, but also ensure there are incentives and clement condition for local manufacturing companies to thrive.
3. Government as a major actor should encourage the establishment of incubation and training centers with necessary funding.
4. To achieve improved manufacturing and production level on the continent and as well increase intra-african trade, stakeholders should collaborate, bringing in their unique expertise to complement another.

Session 2: Innovative IT Regulations to Foster Intellectual Properties Localization

5. Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders should begin to adjust our Curriculum to teach more of intellectual property, as education intervention will increase

awareness of our people to understand the value of Intellectual Property, as it ties to development.

6. There should be development of structures, infrastructure, especially policy & legal infrastructure that will enable retention of **Intellectual Properties** in Africa.

7. Look at the system where we can begin to implement existing policies that already support this kinds of intellectual property development.

Session 3: Exploring Unified ePayment and Crowdfunding Models towards Africa's Digital Economic Prosperity

8. African stakeholders should be innovative and have a private sector-driven Crowdsourcing, crowd-funding which is a very veritable source of money that start-ups can benefit from.

Session 4: Africa's Digital Agenda: The Role of Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity

9. Service providers should explore cost effective alternative energy to cover-up for the national grid downtime such that their customers are served at the most affordable cost.

10. All relevant stakeholders should ensure they further invest in last-mile digital infrastructure to guarantee meaningful connectivity is provided to the underserved communities and as well close the digital infrastructure deficit on the continent.

11. All stakeholders (Government, Private and Technical Community) should invest heavily into developing capacity such that there are sufficient qualified engineers/technologist who can enhance productivity.

12. Government should develop policies to ease how business is being conducted, with every necessary incentives to encourage business growth in terms of FX security, raw material accessibility, logistics and Taxes/Duties.

Session 6: Cybersecurity Strategies to Support Africa's Digital Economy

13. The lethargic response to the ratification of the Malabo convention proves the need for a more inclusive and multistakeholder approach in the process of drafting region-specific policies and Africa must invest more resources into getting members from all stakeholder groups in all countries in Africa involved at intercontinental forums where discussion are held regarding Africa's Cybersecurity strategy and digital policies.

14. African states must begin to consider an education at the most rudimentary level as a necessity which may require setting up educational trusts funds that would aid in administering mass education on cybersecurity to members of the society to help mitigate the growing effects and losses in GDP due to susceptibility to cyber threats.

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