13th Quarterly Regional eConference of AfICTA

AfICTA Africa ICT Alliance 13th Quarterly Webinar

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Fighting DISINFORMATION as a Prominent Cybersecurity Challenge

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IITPSA — Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa

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T he phenomenon of disinformation (False Information / Fake News) is an intentional act of misleading, or providing people with wrong information, especially propaganda by or against a government, organization or individual. Its intention is usually to manipulate public opinion or influence political, social, or other outcomes which could take various forms, such as fabricated news articles, manipulated images or videos, deceptive social media campaigns, or even conspiracy theories.

Disinformation though has been in existence for centuries, became more prominent in the early 21st Century (digital age) due to the advent of the Internet and social media platforms that spread information rapidly and widely and such platforms have become a major contender/threat to the mainstream/traditional media outlets that is known for its authentic, organized and well scrutinized information. Its existence has far-reaching consequences, including the potential to undermine democracy, incite social unrest, erode trust in institutions, and harm individuals and communities... Read more

222 Registrants

142 Absentees

80 Attendees

69 Highest Concurrent View

71mins Average Retention

41% Attendance Rate

7 Questions Asked

10 YouTube Viewers

6 Panelists

1hr 35mins Duration

General Statistics

Table 1: Attendance Statistics

S/N	Description	Details
1.	Total Viewer	89
2	Max. Concurrent Viewer	69
3	Total Duration	95mins.
4	Average Retention	71mins

Table 2: Represented Countries

S/N	Countries	Registered	Attended	Absent
1	Benin		1	0
2	Burundi		0	2
3	Cameroon		4	2
4	Chad		0	2
5	Congo		3	1
6	Egypt		4	6
7	Ethiopia		2	1
8	Ghana		5	9
9	Greenland		0	1
10	Kenya		4	4
11	Korea		0	1
12	Nigeria		43	91
13	Philippine		1	0
14	Senegal		0	1
15	Sierra Leone		0	1
16	South Africa		10	8
17	Togo		0	1
18	Uganda		2	6
19	United Kingdom		1	1
20	Unknown		0	4
		222	80	142

Table 3: Gender Statistics

Gender	Register	Attended	Absent
Male	169	56	113
Female	53	24	29

Chart 1: Attendees by Countries
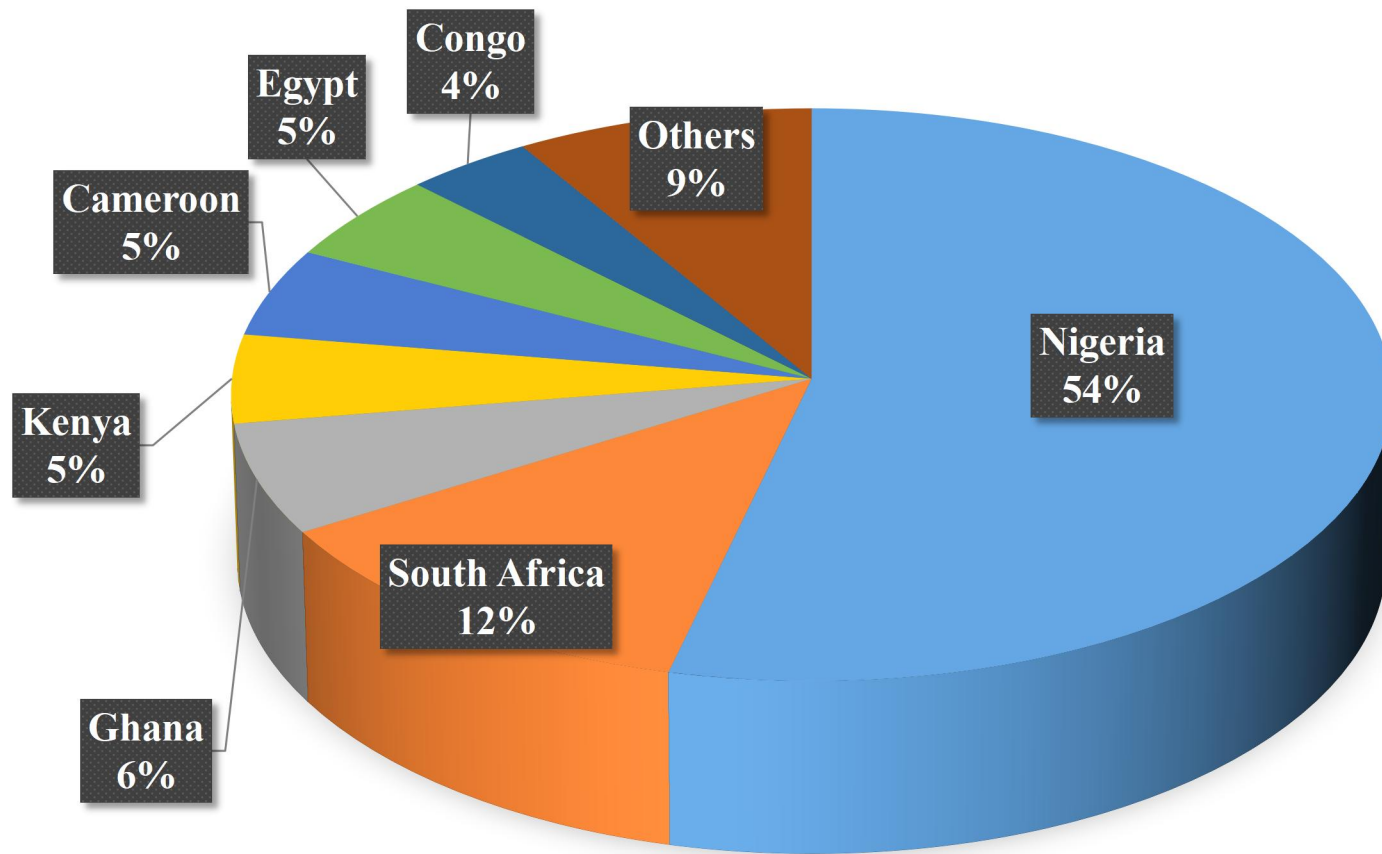
Country	Attendees
Nigeria	43
South Africa	10
Ghana	5
Kenya	4
Cameroon	4
Egypt	4
Congo	3
Others	7

Chart 2: Attendees / Absentees According to Countries

	Nigeria	South Africa	Ghana	Kenya	Cameroon	Egypt	Congo	Others
Absent	91	8	9	4	2	6	1	21
Attendees	43	10	5	4	4	4	3	7

Attendees ■ Absent
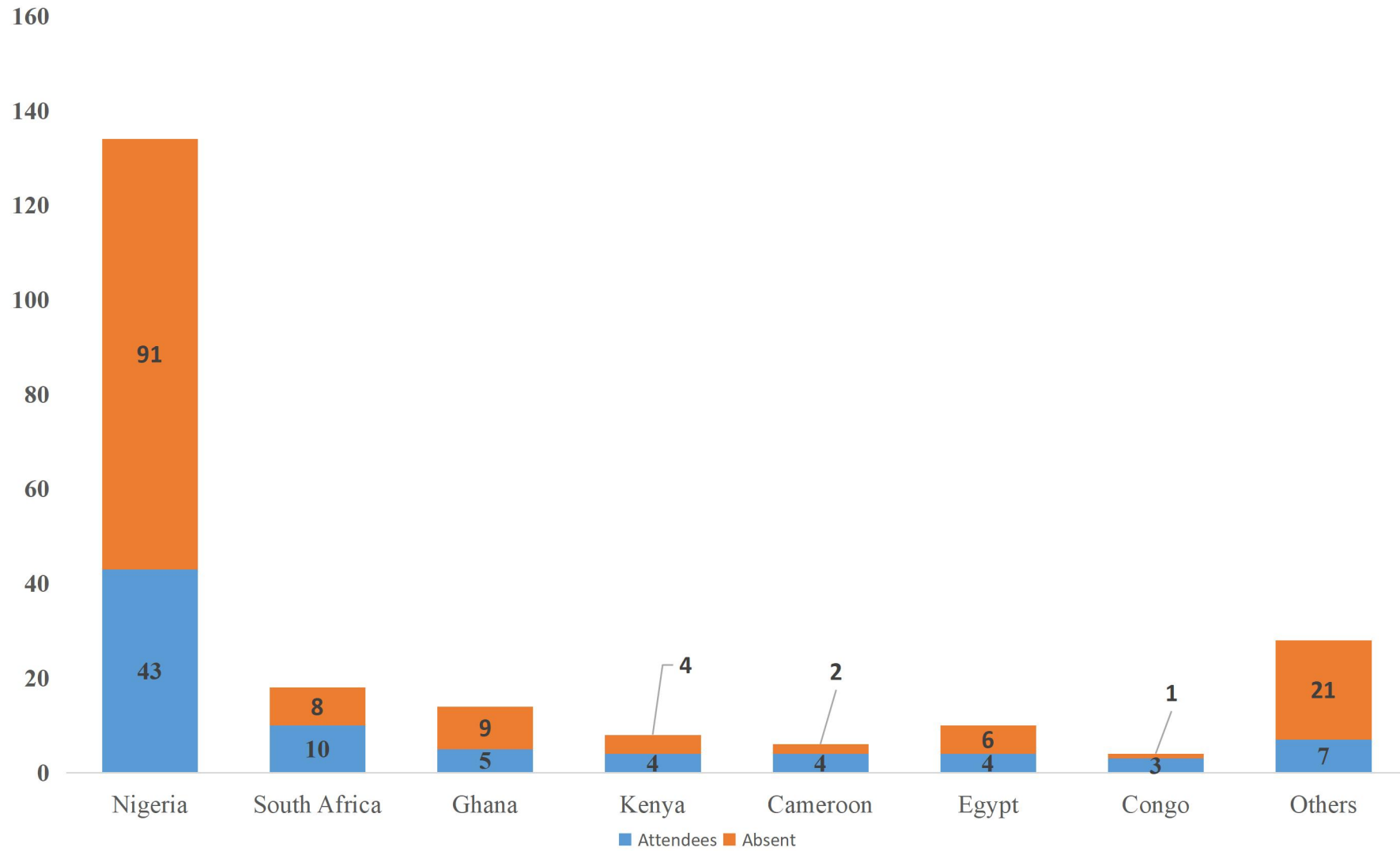
Chart 3: Average Retention
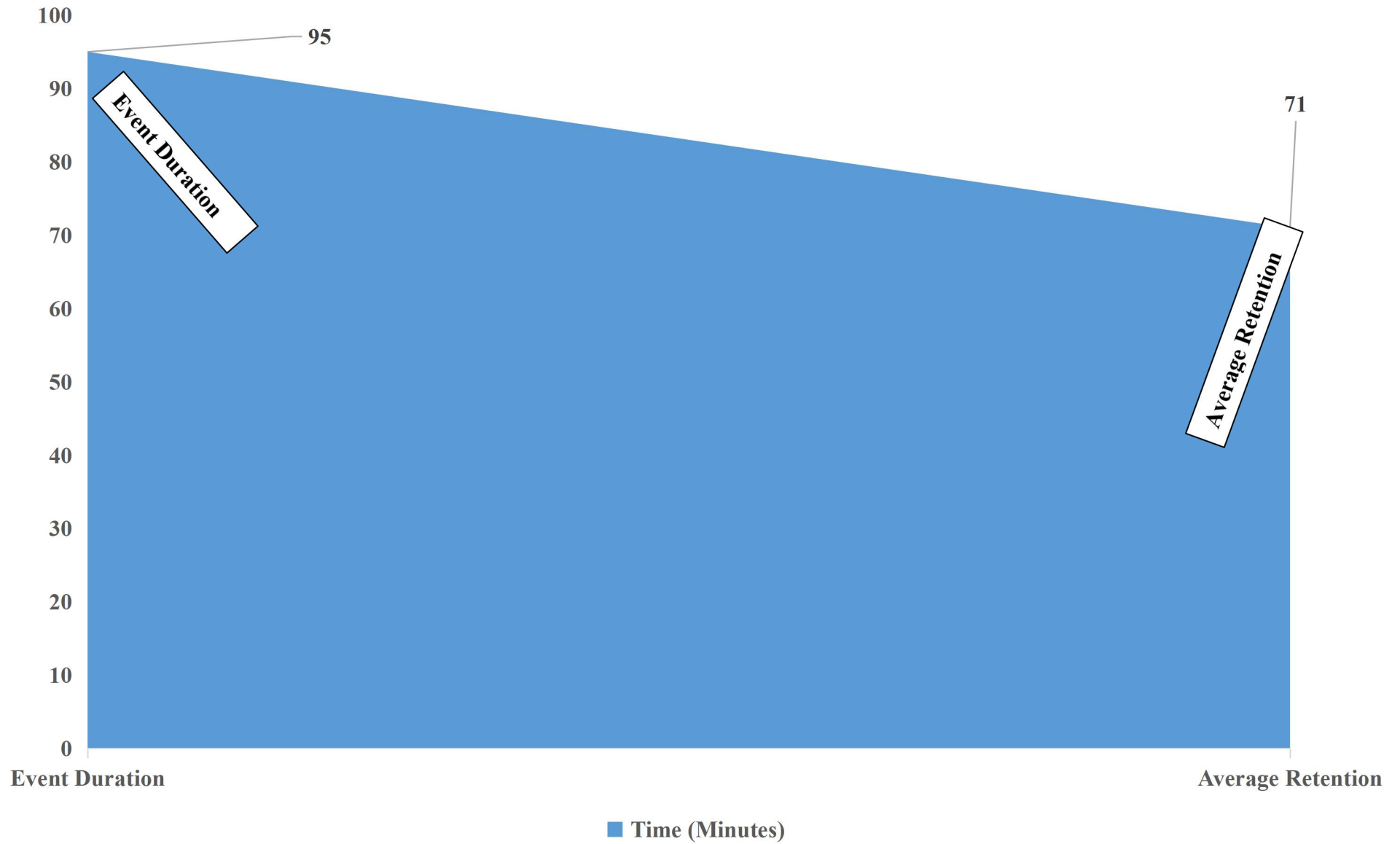
Chart 4: Gender Representation
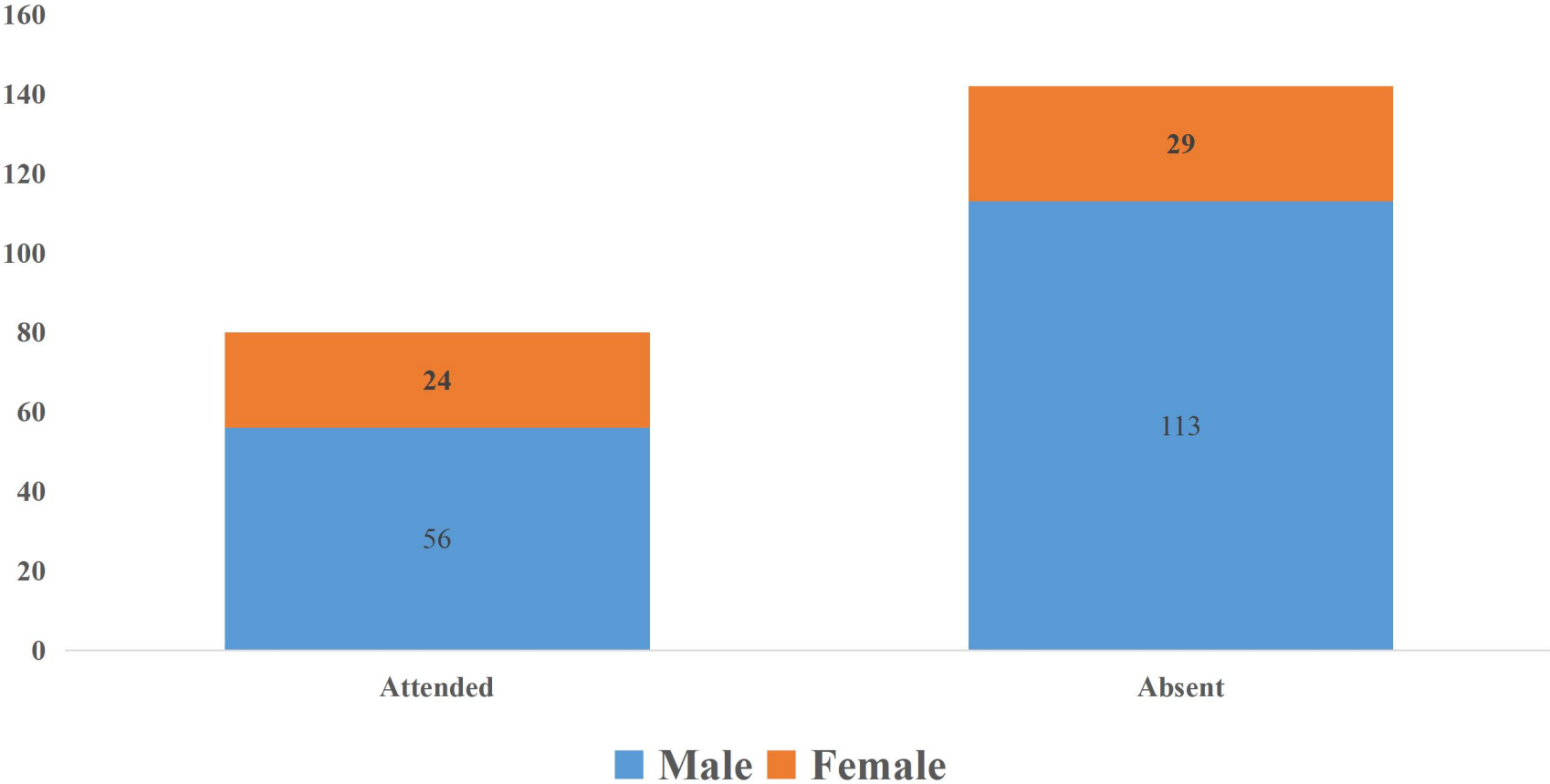
Notable Organizations

S/N	Organizations
1	Access Bank
2	African Intellectual Property Rights Organization
3	AM Group
4	Arabatech
5	Bua Cement PLC
6	Covenant University
7	Data Analytics Privacy Technology Ltd (DAPT)
8	Digital Footprints Nig Ltd
9	Digivation fam
10	Dispatch Egypt
11	Dotengee
12	EiTESAL NGO, Egypt
13	Eskom
14	Federal Inland Revenue Service
15	Federal Medical Center, Jalingo
16	Federal Medical Centre Nguru Yobe State
17	Federal Ministry of Transportation
18	Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria
19	High Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youth
20	Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana
21	Institute of IT Professionals South Africa (IITPSA)
22	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
23	Internet Society Uganda Chapter
24	Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd
25	MTN Ghana
26	National Information Technology Development Agency - NITDA
27	National Open University of Nigeria
28	National Youth Service Corps
29	Nigeria Customs Service
30	Nigeria customs service
31	Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA)
32	Nigerian Television Authority
33	Rivers State University
34	Tech Law Development Services
35	Technology Pro Egypt
36	Total energies
37	University of Ghana
38	University of Limpopo
39	Vodacom DR Congo

Panelist Group Picture
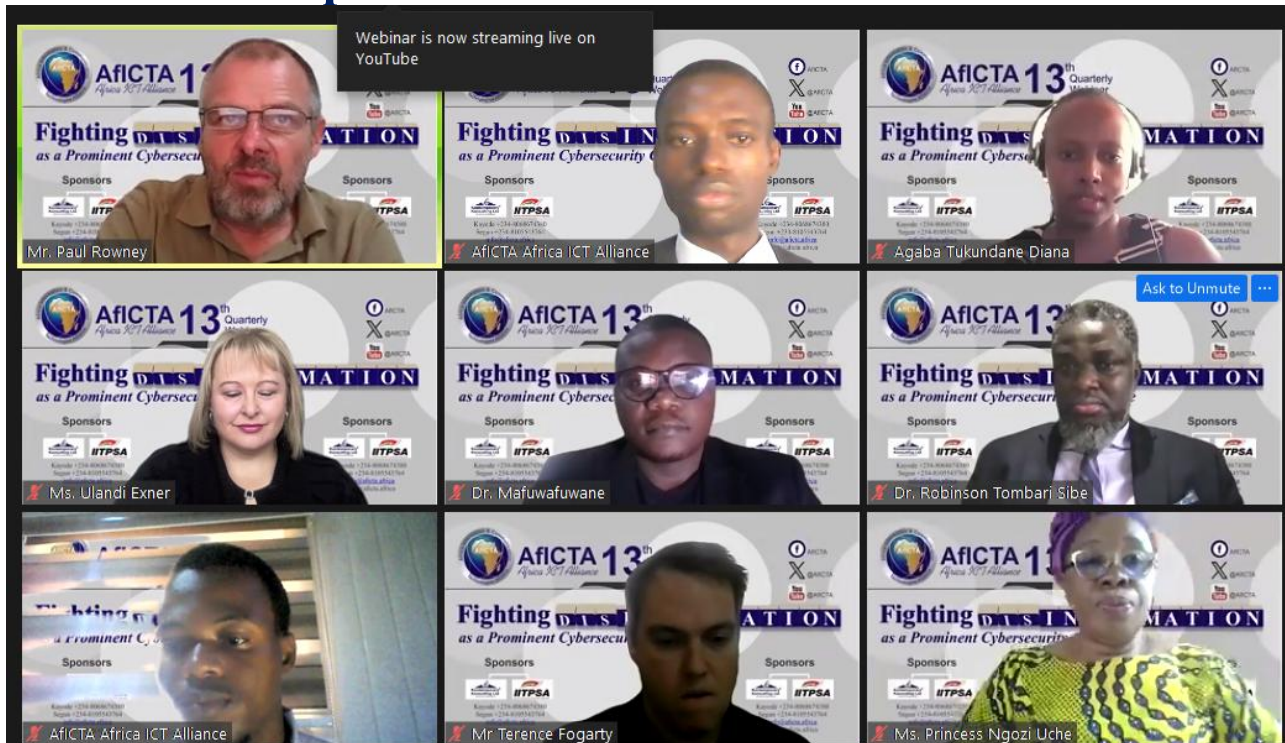
Recommendations

There are new difficulties in the digital age in determining whether information is accurate and trustworthy, hence the following recommendations was provided as a means of curtailing Disinformation.

1. Individuals can safeguard against false news by diversifying their sources and perspectives.

2. Schools should incorporate media and information literacy education into the curriculum to combat disinformation among students.

3.Community Leaders need thorough training in media literacy to empower communities to critically assess information from various media sources.

4. Workforce environments can combat disinformation by keeping staff informed about new developments in information technology and training them to handle propaganda, misinformation, and fake news effectively.

As it was noted that Misinformation ranked among the world's top global risks, according to WEF Global Risks Report 2018. Also, 87% of Executives say spread of disinformation is one of the greatest risks for business today. Hence these recommendations were proffer

5. Educating team organization about the risks of Mis-, Dis-, and Malinformation (MDM).

6 Re-evaluating organization's cybersecurity posture to address MDM threats effectively.

7. Developing and maintaining a crisis response plan tailored to combat MDM incidents.

8. Securing the information pipeline to prevent unauthorized access and manipulation of data.

9. By adopting a multidisciplinary approach involving various expertise to tackle MDM challenges comprehensively.

10. Utilizing social media monitoring tools to identify and counter MDM activities online.

11. By encouraging the promotion of good information hygiene practices within the organization to minimize the spread of misinformation.

12. Implementing best practices in Information Governance to ensure the accuracy and reliability of information.

13. By enhancing Cybersecurity and Forensic Readiness to investigate and mitigate MDM incidents effectively.

14. Strengthening regulations related to MDM to create a legal framework for addressing misinformation threats.

14. Encouraging greater international collaboration to combat cross-border MDM activities and enhance global cybersecurity efforts

Disinformation can be brought to minimal by Notifying individuals who share false information to discourage its spread.

16. Implementing cybersecurity controls to restrict and promote cybersecurity awareness.

17. Regulating the publication of information to minimize disinformation.

18. By understanding and establishing effective fact-checking methods.

19. Providing additional context on false information, for instance, on platforms like Facebook.

20. By Utilizing technology to identify copies of false information and combat its dissemination.

21. Promoting education among yourself and users to recognize and counter disinformation effectively.

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