

**Report**  
*of*  
**The 8th AfICTA (Virtual) Summit**

*On*  
**November 24 - 25, 2020**

*by*  
**AfICTA Secretariat**

**December 3, 2020**

**Summit Sponsored By**



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# 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 2020

The 8th AfICTA Summit was planned to hold both physically and virtually since many economies already opened-up for business with precautions on how to maintain the flattened curve of COVID-19 as scientists researched its vaccine. Unfortunately, the number of cases started rising again and nations seem to be entering second wave of the pandemic with the possibility of either a partial or total lockdown again. Due to this situation, the Summit Organizers adopted a fully virtual AfICTA summit for the year 2020. The Summit which was themed “**Addressing ICT Business Challenges in the COVID-19 and Post Pandemic World**” was held from **24-25 November, 2020** on AfICTA Zoom Webinar Platform.

### 2.1 Overview

As we transit into the post COVID era, it behoves us to discuss the different ways to deal with the aftermath of the pandemic. "According to a report provided by the African Development Bank in a comprehensive socio-economic assessment of the pandemic's impact, the Bank said growth was now projected to rebound to 3% in 2021 from -3.4% in the worst-case scenario for 2020. The growth outlook for 2021 and beyond would depend largely on African governments' effectiveness in flattening the curve of the outbreak and policies to reopen economies".

The COVID-19 pandemic not only highlighted the holes in the digital infrastructures in Africa, it also drastically affected businesses in the African ICT economy. In order to properly address these issues that plague the economy, we would have to look at the most prominent flaws such as the digital divide amongst the masses in Africa due to accessibility and affordability challenges, the dip in connectivity due to workload on poor infrastructures, the spike in cyberthreats across the globe and many others. These challenges in the digital infrastructure of the economy need to be properly managed.

Africa ICT Alliance - AfICTA has organized its 8th Annual Summit precisely to discuss some of these issues as well as proffer solutions (which would be provided by the diverse speakers and professionals from different stakeholder groups in the ICT field). Themes to be discussed would range from Access to Infrastructure Improvement, Funding, DNS Abuse, Cybersecurity, Capacity Development.

### 2.2 Summit Webpage

<https://aficta.africa/summits/summit-2020>

### 2.3 Programme Outline

Theme: <i>Addressing ICT Business Challenges in the COVID-19 and Post Pandemic World</i>		
Programme (UTC+0)		
Day 1: Tuesday, November 24, 2020		
08:00 - 09:15	Opening Remarks (Host)	
	Welcome address	Host Chairman
09:15 - 09:45	Sponsored Keynote	<b>Engr. Hany Mahmoud</b> Adviser to the Egyptian Prime Minister on Digital Transformation

9:45 - 10:15	<b>Sponsored Keynote</b>	<b>Claudia Selli</b> Chairman, ICANN-Business Constituency & Executive Director, Legislative & Political Affairs-Head AT&T
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Sponsored Keynote</b>	<b>Melissssa Sassi</b> Global Head IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator
10:45 - 11:15	<b>Sponsored Keynote</b>	<b>Prof. Muhammad Bello Abubakar</b> Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer Galaxy Backbone Plc
11:15 - 12:15	<b>Session 1: Panel Discussion</b>  <b>Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime</b>  Data Breaches, the top Cyberthreat Cybersecurity Skill Gap  DNS Abuses and Impact on the Economies Cyberthreat Mitigation in Post COVID Era. What changed?	<b>Moderator:</b>  <b>Yusuph Kileo</b> Cybersecurity Expert, Tanzania  <b>Speakers:</b> <b>Mactar Seck</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Eastern Africa Subregional Office  <b>Mr. Mason Cole</b> Internet Governance Advisor Perkins Coie LLP Incoming ICANN-BC Chair  <b>Toba Obaniyi</b> CEO, WhoGoHost Ltd  <b>Laicana Coulibaly</b> CEO Diamond Security Consulting
12:15 - 12:45	<b>Q&amp;A / Poster Gallery - Virtual Exhibition (Sponsors)</b>	
12:45 - 14:00	<b>Session 2: Panel Discussion</b>  <b>IT Capacity Development:</b>  Building Career, Enhancing Capacity and Addressing Skills Gap in Africa  Identification of ICT Jobs of the Future and Requirements	Moderator: <b>Marwan El Messiry</b> Marketing Manager IKEN  Speakers: <b>Hassan Wunmi PhD</b> President & CEO, High Tech Centre for Women & Youths  <b>Engr. Hany Mahmoud</b> Advisor to the Egyptian Prime Minister on Digital Transformation  <b>Melissssa Sassi</b> Global Head, IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator  <b>Koffi Fabrice DJOSSOU</b> Board Member, ICET FUTMinna
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Q&amp;A / Poster Gallery - Virtual Exhibition (Sponsors)</b>	

14:30 - 15:45	<p><b>Session 3: Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>IT Infrastructure Deficit: Challenges and Solutions</b></p> <p>Where are we? Internet Accessibility, Availability, Affordability and Trust</p> <p>Efforts Geared toward Infrastructure Sharing and Easy of Accessing &amp; Installing IT Equipment</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p><b>Thabo Mashegoane</b> President IITPSA South Africa</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Inye Kemabonta</b> CEO, Techlaw Development Services</p> <p><b>Wale Osborne</b> CEO, Letago Solutions PTY Ltd</p> <p><b>Pierre Dandjinou</b> ICANN's Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Africa Region</p> <p><b>Waddah Fadul</b> Founder and President, Institute of Tomorrow</p>
Day 2: Wednesday, November 25, 2020		
8:15 - 9:30	<p><b>Session 4: ICANN BC Outreach</b></p> <p>Intensifying African Business Awareness, Efforts and Involvement in the Internet Governance</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p><b>Tola Sogbesan</b> CEO, Axiom Consulting Ltd</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Lawrence Olawale Roberts</b> CEO Microboss Ltd</p> <p><b>Dr Jimson Olufuye</b> CEO, Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd and Founder/fmr Chairman AfICTA</p> <p><b>Arinola Akinyemi</b> CEO, Digisphere</p> <p><b>Dr. Waudo Siganga</b> President of Computer Society Kenya</p>
9:30 - 10:00	Q&A / Poster Gallery - Virtual Exhibition (Sponsors)	
10:00 - 11:00	<p><b>Session 5 Panel Discussion:</b></p> <p>ICTs Central to the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Concerted Efforts made towards Improving Living Standards, Grounds to Cover.</p>	<p>Moderator</p> <p><b>Paul Rowney</b> President, ICT Professional Association of Namibia</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Bob Ochieng</b> Manager, Stakeholder Engagement ICANN Africa</p> <p><b>Engr Hossam El-Gamal</b> CEO, IKEN &amp; Chairman AfICTA</p> <p><b>Dr. Waudo Siganga</b> President of Computer Society Kenya</p> <p><b>Eric Stephane Sindeu</b> Founder and CEO, KEMITEL SA</p> <p><b>Dr Jimson Olufuye</b> CEO, Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd and Founder/fmr Chairman AfICTA</p>
11:00 - 11:20	Closing Remarks (Host)	
Short Break		
12:00 - 3:00	AfICTA AGM/BoD Meeting	
	Event Closure	

## CHAPTER 3

### 3.0 The Summit Report

#### 3.1.0 Introduction

The 8<sup>th</sup> AfICTA Summit commenced promptly with words of appreciation from the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Thabo Mashegoane who was also the Summit Chairman. He thanked AfICTA Chairman, Engr. Hossam Elgamal, other board members, sponsors, keynote speakers, speakers and participants for making it to the summit. While opening the summit, Mr. Thabo Mashegoane highlighted that the 2020 edition of AfICTA summit was conceived with the mindset of building an Africa that is more equipped and innovative to address business challenges that surfaced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, he described the summit as a feasible forum to discuss and address ICT skill gap, IT Infrastructure deficit, DNS Abuse and Cybersecurity issues, considering the caliber of speakers invited to the Summit. The Summit Chairman challenged everyone to share their experience and ask questions that would engender solutions and collaboration. A moment of silence was observed in honour of the departed heroine, Ms. Marilyn Cade.

Engr. Hossam Elgamal in his opening speech re-echoed that the COVID-19 comes with its opportunities and challenges, the more we tackle the challenges, the better our society becomes. Although most sectors were totally rendered inactive during the lockdown, some could steadily transit into the virtual operations due to the proactive measures they had prior the lockdown period. He recommended that participants from all fields and stakeholder groups should peruse the recently published Network Readiness Index (NRI) report and concluded by appreciating the keynote speakers Engr. Hany Mahmoud Adviser to the Egyptian Prime Minister on Digital Transformation; Claudia Selli, The Outgoing Chairman of ICANN-BC; Melissa Sassi, The Global Head of IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator; Prof. Muhammad Bello Abubakar, MD/CEO Galaxy Backbone Plc for their support and sponsorship at the Summit.

#### 3.1.1 Summit Sub Theme

- Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime
- IT Capacity Development
- IT Infrastructure Deficit: Challenges and Solutions
- Intensifying African Business Awareness, Efforts and Involvement in the Internet Governance

#### 3.2.0 Day 1

##### 3.2.1 Keynote Session



Without any delay, the summit commenced with the keynote session as the summit chairman welcomed the first keynote speaker, Engr. Hany Mahmoud who appreciated the invitation to speak at the summit and spoke expressly on how digital transformation has become a prominent

issue being discussed everywhere around the world due to the reality brought on us by the COVID-19 pandemic which unintentionally fast-tracked the realization of the digital economy than had ever been in the past. He classified the challenges encountered by Africa into 3 groups which are 1. Low Investment in Technology 2. Low Capacity Building Programmes (Human Resources) 3. Insufficient Afrocentric Software Applications (Tailored Application for African use) such as MPESA (Online Payment Platform) from Kenya. Please download his presentation [here](#)

The next keynote speaker at the Summit was **Claudia Selli**, Outgoing Chairman, ICANN-Business Constituency & Executive Director, Legislative & Political Affairs-Head AT&T. She started with words of appreciation to the summit organizers for the invitation to speak and recognized the presence of Dr. Jimson Olufuye, Mr. Lawrence Olawale-Robert and other notable ICANN-BC members. She noted that ICANN-BC and AfICTA have been collaborating since 2012 and ICANN-BC recognizes the policy engagement efforts of AfICTA toward safe, secure and resilient Internet that serves businesses. She added that one of the lessons the pandemic taught us is that digital technologies are key in our lives and our future. She highlighted that there was a spike in the broadband traffic in United States up to about 20% during the lockdown compared to pre-COVID era which showed that more people and devices came online, hence the need to ensure safety of the Internet users.

In her statement Claudia Selli said *“only on our network (AT&T) basically, the data have grown to over 580,000% since 2007 when the first iPhone was launched and between 2015 and 2019 AT&T invested more than \$135billion in our wireless and wire-line network including capital investment...”* She therefore encouraged all stakeholders to get ready for the high-demand of the broadband that is eminent in the nearest future by encouraging huge investment into IT infrastructures, ensure practical solutions are in place to counter Cyberthreat and DNS abuses, formulate policies that encourage investment and ensure the safety of online users and businesses. She finalized by commending the efforts of AfICTA in engaging the ICANN-BC in its processes and trusted that AfICTA would keep-up the good works.

**Melissa Sassi**, Global Head of IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator is passionate about youth’s digital skill acquisition and mentorship of start-ups. In her keynote speech that was prerecorded, she highlighted her 3 major topics as 1. Discussion around her mentorship programme for start-ups which over 34% are from Africa and with inclusiveness in terms of gender. The initiative as she mentioned is less than 5 years and it’s about building and scaling the next generation of fin-tech, health-tech, and insur-tech startups. 2. Digital skill building, this comes with opportunities for youths to benefit from “IBM Seed for Code Funding” which its concept is to encourage and incentivize more young people into coding. 3. National day of code which is a call to action for every nation across the continent to have a day set aside to encourage coding, build the digital skill gap in Africa and demystify technology. She encouraged start-ups to hook-up with her.

The last keynote was delivered by Mr. Dauda Oyeleye, Head of Corporate Strategy, Galaxy Backbone Plc. who represented **Prof. Muhammad Bello Abubakar**, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Galaxy Backbone Plc who was unavoidably absent due to an emergency. Dauda Oyeleye appreciated AfICTA for the honour accorded to Galaxy Backbone to be one of the keynote speakers of the summit. In his speech delivered by Mr. Dauda, Prof. Muhammad B.



Abubakar highlighted how COVID-19 surfaced while no business can boldly claim it has fully prepared. He said how effective a business could mitigate the aftermath is measured by their prior digitalization strategy. He however summarized ICT Business Challenges occasioned by COVID-19 as 1. How to keep ICT in alignment with changing business priorities 2. How to increase investments in ICT to support Digital Workforce and approaches 3. How to meet up with the need for increased resources by business in a cost-effective manner. 4. How to optimize processes and Business Continuity Plan to address the pandemic emergencies 5. How to manage the supply chain to sustain operations and to ensure values are delivered... Please download the full speech [here](#).

Mr. Pierre Dandjinou - ICANN's Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Africa Region delivered his goodwill message and was happy to be part of the discussions from the beginning. He also appreciated the opportunity to speak and meet with ICANN-BC Colleagues on the call. Mr. Pierre Dandjinou spelt out the major focus of the ICANN as Capacity Building, highlighting that as major stakeholders in the digital space, Africa is expected to also participate in shaping the future of IT and Internet. He sighted IP Addresses, Domain Names System such as ccTLDs etc and encouraged stakeholders to ensure they secure their digital properties.

Dr. Jimson Olufuye, the Founder and Former Chairman of AfICTA delivered a vote of thanks to all speakers and also appreciated Engr. Hossam Elgamal, CEO IKEN Technologies and AfICTA Chairman, for his leadership and achievements in the past two years at the helm of affairs. He also thanked all the keynote speakers for their intelligent speeches starting from Engr. Hany Mahmoud for his insightful presentation, Claudia Selli for her great speech and for the collaboration and supports that AfICTA has received from BC-ICANN since 2012 when AfICTA became first African business to join, Melissa Sassi for her message and the urge to transform Africa with building capacity and encouraging youths into coding and in the same spirit he appreciated Prof. Muhammad A. Bello, MD/CEO Galaxy Backbone who was ably represented by Mr. Dauda Oyeleye for making it to the summit despite the emergency. He sent his condolence to Prof. Mohammad A. Bello. Dr. Jimson Olufuye further appreciated Galaxy Backbone for streamlining work of government and ensuring resources are well utilized. Lastly Dr. Jimson Olufuye appreciated Mr. Pierre Dandjinou the Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Africa Region for availing himself and for the longstanding relationship with AfICTA and Africa. All the sponsors, board members, other dignitaries and AfICTA Secretariat well recognized.

Video Link for the key note session @ <https://youtu.be/aNCPSKzpeal>

### 3.2.2 First Panel Session (Cybersecurity)

<b>Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>Data Breaches, the top Cyberthreat</i></li><li>➤ <i>Cybersecurity Skill Gap</i></li><li>➤ <i>DNS Abuses and Impact on the Economies</i></li><li>➤ <i>Cyberthreat Mitigation in Post COVID Era. What changed?</i></li></ul>	<b>Moderated by Yusuph Kileo</b> Cybersecurity Expert, Tanzania  <b>Speakers:</b> <b>Mactar Seck</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Eastern Africa Sub-regional Office  <b>Mr. Mason Cole</b> Internet Governance Advisor Perkins Coie LLP Incoming ICANN-BC Chair  <b>Toba Obaniyi</b> CEO, WhoGoHost Ltd  <b>Laicana Coulibaly</b> CEO Diamond Security Consulting
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The moderator for the session, **Yusuph Kileo**, Tanzanian Cybersecurity Expert discussed how urgent the matter of online insecurity is, with giant tech industries like Google, Twitter, Microsoft etc. attacked and the impact remains devastating and so heavy on them. He was keen about the awareness of the Internet users on the destructive and relentless mindset of the cybercriminals and how it could be prevented.

With no further delay, Kileo introduced all the speakers on the panel session and posed the first question to Laicana on what he thinks constitute DNS Abuse and who is responsible to address the abuses. Laicana responded by naming the constituents of DNS Abuse as 5 categories of harmful activities such as Malware, Botnet, Phishing, Pharming and Spam. He further explained what they all mean and how the registries and registrars who are responsible to mitigate the abuse, lack appropriate tools to efficiently do so. Laicana also delivered a presentation on “Cyberthreat Mitigation in Post COVID Era” and summarily proposed 1. Implementing secure VPN and firewall Management initiatives 2. Meeting audit and compliance requirement during Rapid Digital Transformation 3. Securing cloud environments and managing Cloud-native Security Controls 4. Outlining Cyber-Risk Management Strategies to counteract COVID-19 and other Cyberthreat. Please download his full presentation [here](#).

Mason Cole the Incoming Chairman of the ICANN-BC appreciated the invitation to speak and explained how serious the issue of DNS abuse is and how it’s one of the major topics being discussed within the Cybersecurity communities, ICANN and ICANN-BC specifically. Mason Cole further mentioned COVID-19, Natural Disasters, Civil Unrest and other events as few reasons the abuse persists as cybercriminals seize such events to propagate their illicit acts. He drew the attendees’ attention to the report of a study by Interisle Consulting Group (October 2020) “During the study period (May 1 - July 31, 2020), phishing reports impacted over 99,000 unique

domain names in 439 TLDs at 414 registrars” of this total, Intersle identified 60,935 maliciously registered domain names. He added that the over-reduction in the access to WHOIS database due to the EU GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation causes the under-detection of the problem. Please download his full presentation [here](#).

While weighing-in on how to mitigate DNS Abuse, Mr. Mactar Seck the Economic Affairs Officer, Eastern Africa Sub-regional Office mentioned how important to form digital corporation among African nations just as the African Union has created a unit to counter cybercrimes. Mr. Mactar Seck listed unavailability of policy framework and legal backup or lack of implementation and enforcement of such policies in some African nations as one of the reasons the abuses persist. In addition he encouraged African nations to wake-up to digital skill building because lack of essential skills is responsible for the incessant cyberattacks. Download his full presentation [here](#).

According to the question posed by the moderator on what could be done such that organizations with data breaches and cyberattack would be transparent enough to inform their customers, Mr. Toba Obaniyi, the CEO of Whogohost Ltd maintained that organizations will naturally want to keep such information, but with the advent of the GDPR, entities have the responsibility under the law to keep their customers aware. He opined that the major reasons why entities in developing nations keep such important information possibly has a lot to do with trust/reputation, fear of loosing revenue and customers to their foreign counterparts but once GDPR is fully enforced, entities would have no choice than to be sincere and transparent. Mr. Toba Obaniyi delivered a presentation on “CyberCrime Prevention: A Call to Service Providers” there he provided “Proactive Response Systems” and “Reactive Response Systems”. Please download the presentation [here](#).

With all the questions from the participants answered and closing remarks from the speakers received the panel session ended.

Video Link to the first panel session @ <https://youtu.be/nQc0e51yEq8>

### 3.2.3 Second Panel Session (IT Capacity Development)

IT Capacity Development:	Moderated by <b>Marwan El Messiry</b> , Marketing Manager IKEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Building Career, Enhancing Capacity and Addressing Skills Gap in Africa</li> <li>➤ Identification of ICT Jobs of the Future and Requirements</li> </ul>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p><b>Dr. Mrs Hassan Wunmi PhD</b> President &amp; CEO, High Tech Centre for Women &amp; Youths</p> <p><b>Engr. Hany Mahmoud</b> Advisor to the Egyptian Prime Minister on Digital Transformation</p> <p><b>Melissssa Sassi</b> Global Head, IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator</p> <p><b>Koffi Fabrice DJOSSOU</b> Board Member, ICET FUTMinna</p>



The Summit Chairman, Mr. Thabo Mashegoane introduced the session panel and handed over leadership gear to the moderator, Marwan El Messiry. The

moderator introduced and welcomed all the speakers as rightly included in the table above. The first question was posed to **Engr. Hany Mahmoud** to shed light on the importance of capacity building. Engr. Mahmoud said “Capacity specially for African countries is the top priority now to facilitate digital transformation and moving to digital era” He divided capacity building into 3 pillars 1. (Public) Awareness of Digital Transformation of the Public 2. (Users) Helping Users Maximize Technology 3. (Experts) Building IT Capacity to function in various aspects like cybersecurity, Software development, Financial tech etc.

**Dr. Mrs. Wunmi Hassan** looked at Information Technology Capacity building from the aspect of getting market for our indigenous solutions. She iterated how Africans have become consumers and not producers of the technology. Adding that most times when we talk about providing solutions in Africa we often look at the software aspect rather than hardware. Dr. Wunmi is currently adopting reverse engineering, by engaging both professionals from formal and informal sector to engender solutions that we literally thought we couldn’t venture into. She added that COVID-19 lockdown period has made some nations to look inward in many aspects. Marwan added in support of Dr. Wunmi’s notions that having Unified Technology Vision for African nation is also away forward.

**Melissa Sassi**, Global Head, IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator took the discussions forward by sharing an experience of how she ran her accelerator last year and second day had a lot of video calls from entrepreneurs with excitement but meeting her team they asked how the event went and her response “it was awful” shocked them. To Melissa Sassi, the event was awful considering there was no single entrepreneur from Africa and just few female entrepreneurs. She was glad to announce that she now has up to 34% entrepreneurs as Africans and 53% of her start-ups with at least one female co-Founder.

Melissa also made a presentation with discussion around 3 topics, 1. Empowering Tech Startups to Build and Scale i.e (IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator) which is absolutely about engendering the development of local solutions to which an online application for 55 Start-ups would be opening by April 2021 details on <https://ibm.biz/hpa-blog> 2. Inspiring Students to begin their tech Journeys (IBMZ-4-Good Ideathon and lastly <https://digitalnationafrica.com> 3. Enabling Tech Students to Prepare for the Future of works (National Day of Code).

**Koffi Fabrice DJOSSOU**, Board Member, ICET FUTMinna spoke about how capacity building is the keystone to digital transformation and it has to be properly planned, acquired and maintained. He highlighted how it is essential to design and tailor capacity building strategically through multi-stakeholders approach from the policy formulation stage so as to achieve a desired digital transformation in Africa that provides unique solutions to each nation’s needs. He advised that stakeholders in Africa should be better prepared to face any inevitable pandemic.

Engr. Hany Mahmoud while addressing the key **challenges to capacity building** enlisted 4 major points 1. Lack of Adequate Digital Infrastructure, he opined that Africa is still far behind the rest of the world 2. Accessibility to Internet, he mentioned that larger percentage of the African population still lack access to Internet where most resourceful materials are. 3. Capacity building not just for the youths, but also the old. Other challenges mentioned by Dr. Wunmi are 4. Re-training of teachers. She asked that when will the government deploy adequate infrastructure into the academic institution where they are really being needed “*We have knowledge but lack skills*”.

Melissa added two other challenges 5. Access to funding for every local entrepreneur. 6. More youths at the center (Youths in leadership position) and openly invited everyone to consider designating a day for coding “National day of code”. The panel session ended with final remarks from the speakers.

It was another 30 minutes of marketing period and all our sponsors (IBM, ICANN-BC and Galaxy Backbone) were well promoted through their advertorials.

### 3.2.4 Third Panel Session (IT Infrastructure Deficit: Challenges and Solutions)

IT Infrastructure Deficit: Challenges and Solutions	Moderated by <b>Mr. Thabo Mashegoane</b> , President IITPSA South Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Where are we? Internet Accessibility, Availability, Affordability and Trust</li> <li>➤ Efforts Geared toward Infrastructure Sharing and Easy of Accessing &amp; Installing IT Equipments</li> </ul>	Speakers: <b>Inye Kemabonta</b> CEO, Techlaw Development Services  <b>Wale Osborne</b> CEO, Letago Solutions PTY Ltd  <b>Pierre Dandjinou</b> ICANN's Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Africa Region  <b>Waddah Fadul</b> Founder and President, Institute of Tomorrow

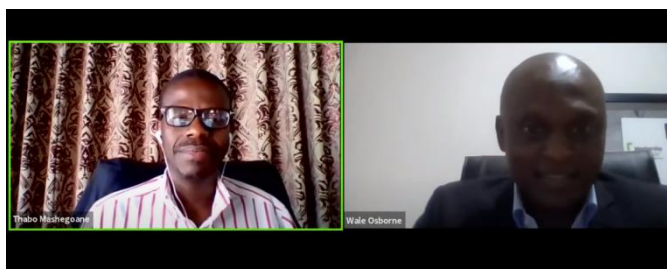
#### Introduction

It’s very important to carry out a benchmark analysis of the infrastructure requisite for standard service delivery in internet accessibility, availability and affordability. The COVID-19 pandemic undoubtedly revealed the lapses and cracks in the service supply chain of the digital economy for most countries in Africa. The panelists carried out a detailed analysis of the current state of the infrastructure deficit in Africa examining the ecosystems from the micro-view of their respective countries before proffering solutions that could be implemented on a national and regional level.

#### Challenges of IT Infrastructure Deficit: Improving Readiness Index for Future Occurrence

The infrastructural challenge in Africa in general is a bicipital problem and should be treated as such. The 2 root problems is the infrastructure deficit and the inadequate policy regulations that favour better connectivity. Any endeavors to favour a solution to just one problem rather than addressing both root problems would prove inefficient. Only 18% of Africans are connected online. Although the focus of improving connectivity is mostly on infrastructure and how to

channel investments towards building the supply capacity, the important issues of meaningful connectivity is often neglected. The meaningful connectivity in question refers to the basic Internet connectivity standard (objectives) recognized and accepted generally by regulators, service providers and the





government and can be deemed useful enough for productivity. *“ICT Regulators in Africa have a critical role to play and that is not only limited to licensing & competition policies”*. [Read More](#)

### Challenges of IT Infrastructure Deficit: Opportunities, Bridging the digital divide

Currently, the internet penetration in Africa is at about 33% whereas the world average is at about 58%. The growing digital divide shows the need for awareness and strategies to communicate properly to all stakeholders, the urgency for improved connectivity across the continent.

The Public Sector needs to be brought to the table to discuss how network connectivity can be improved most especially in the rural areas. Internet Service Providers ( ISPs) need to be more inclined to providing affordable Internet Connectivity void of biases and hierarchy. Increasing the internet penetration in Africa would largely depend on the provision for affordable Internet connections in the rural areas that is more populated. [Read More](#)

### Challenges of IT Infrastructure Deficit: Increasing Demand through Stimulated Regulation

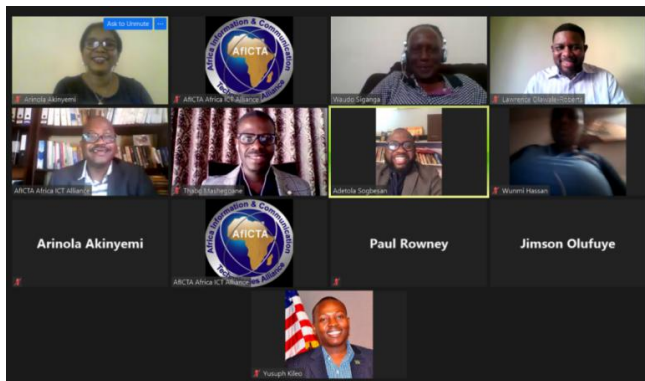
The challenges of infrastructure deficit, particularly in Nigeria has been addressed repeatedly from a supply-chain perspective. The solutions and the recommendations put forward would irrefutably lead to an improvement in the supply capacity and hence lead to better connectivity across the board, provided all stakeholders play their roles flawlessly in the implementation process. Perhaps there is an argument though for a different perspective to attaining the end goal in question through stimulating demand for better connectivity.

The best way to drive the demand for internet consumption is through stimulating regulations by the government that make digitalization a necessity for its citizen as opposed to options for more concrete options. [Read more](#)

## 3.3.0 Day 2 (AfICTA Summit)

### 3.3.1 Panel Session 4: ICANN-BC Outreach Session

ICANN BC Outreach	Moderated by <b>Tola Sogbesan</b> , CEO, Axiom Consulting Ltd
➤ Intensifying African Business Awareness, Efforts and Involvement in the Internet Governance	Speakers: <b>Lawrence Olawale Roberts</b> CEO Microboss Ltd <b>Dr Jimson Olufuye</b> CEO, Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd and Founder/fmr Chairman AfICTA <b>Arinola Akinyemi</b> CEO, Digisphere <b>Dr. Waudo Siganga</b> President of Computer Society Kenya



The COVID-19 pandemic has been key to the rampant adoption of the digitalization of business operations across the globe. This digitalization process hinges solely on the stability of the Internet which is the cornerstone for digital transformation of any society. The Business Constituency of Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and

Numbers’ (ICANN-BC) becomes a very important organization for entities that wish to transform their business online.

The diversified nature of the ICANN-BC which consists of companies around the world, makes it more inclined to the needs of the business sector in the Internet space. It behooves businesses on the Internet to get involved with the ICANN-BC to ensure they participate in the formulations of policies that seek to make the Internet safe, stable and operable to foster business growth.

The ICANN-BC is active in making these policies that ensures it’s stability and security for businesses and this should not be taken for granted. The ICANN-BC also relentlessly works in the interest of businesses in the Internet space. Some of these efforts include: creating opportunities for businesses to get domains in a competitive way, directing policies that make the Internet more transparent, stable and resilient.

### 3.3.2 Fifth Panel Session (ICT Central to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030)

<p>ICTs Central to the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030</p> <p>➤ Concerted Efforts made towards Improving Living Standards, Grounds to Cover</p>	<p>Moderated by <b>Paul Rowney</b>, President of ICT Professional Association of Namibia</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p><b>Bob Ochieng</b> Manager, Stakeholder Engagement ICANN Africa</p> <p><b>Engr Hossam El-Gamal</b> CEO, IKEN &amp; Chairman AfICTA</p> <p><b>Dr. Waudo Siganga</b> President of Computer Society Kenya</p> <p><b>Eric Stephane Sindou</b> Founder and CEO, KEMITEL SA</p> <p><b>Dr Jimson Olufuye</b> CEO, Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd and Founder/fmr Chairman AfICTA</p>
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The United Nations - UN set 17 goals & 130 targets which they deemed substantial to make the world a better place, if successfully achieved by countries in the World. Africa has been making strides but still have massive steps to take to attain these goals and targets.

The role of ICTs in the realization of the SDGs is quite often pigeon-holed to the main sectors/industries of ICT including the Infrastructure sector but ICT has a wide spectrum of industries including the DNS business sector which would be very crucial to achieving the ICT mandates of the SDGs. Major players in

the ICT sector in the world are also closely involved in the DNS business sector of ICT, question is, Do African countries also comprehend how essential the DNS sector is to achieve the goals?

The Developing world defaults majorly on Goal 16 of the SDGs because of the level of corruption and lack of transparency in the electoral processes for positions of governance in the countries. To improve the level of transparency in the electoral process, a blockchain technology system could be employed to ensure accountability and transparency across the board.

ICT is synonymous with the Internet. The Internet should be viewed not only as a technical infrastructure but also as a wealth-generating tool. African countries failed to meet any of the MDGs 2015 agenda, which indicates the need for more focus and resiliency to achieve SDGs by 2030. In many ways, in a panoptic view, the first SDG is a blanket goal that caters to the objectives of the rest. Poverty is a function of purchasing power and the employment of the countries so the best way to achieve this is to increase employment.

To measure the achievement pattern for countries in Africa, there needs to be a stable government with emphasizing the gravity associated with proper management of the DNS ecosystem. The major a majority that accepts the governance structure, there also needs to be an in-country SDGs structure that is active and engaging, there also needs to be National economic plans that are directly connected to the achievement of the SDGs and there need to be periodic progress reviews to measure benchmark achievement and draft plans.

### 3.4.0 Summit Committee

S/N	Names	AfICTA Designation
1	Engr. Hossam Elgamal	Chairman
2	Thabo Mashegoane	Vice Chairman
3	Dr. Waudu Siganga	Board Member
4	Dr. Jimson Olufuye	Founder and Immediate Past Chairman
5	Paul Rowney	Board Member
6	Laicana Coulibaly	Board Member
7	Tola Sogbesan	Board Member
8	Dada Samuel	Programme Officer
9	Oyeyemi Kayode	Senior Programme Officer

### 3.5.0 Africa ICT Award Winners

The outcome of the election conducted to determine the winners of AfICTA registered awards for the year 2020 among the [nominees](#) turned out to favour the following candidates:

S/N	Award Category	Award Winner (2020)
1	Africa ICT Champion Award	Mr. Hassanein Tawfiq Chairman and Managing Director, ACT
2	Africa ICT Personality Award	Mr. Kola Okunola SA/ICT Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Nigeria
3	Chairman Award	Prof. Muhammad Bello Abubakar Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer , Galaxy Backbone Plc
4	Chairman Award	Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, Nigeria Communication Commission



## **CHAPTER 4**

### **Recommendation**

#### **4.1 Recommendations**

The following below were the resolutions of the meeting on ensuring deep integration of technology into all sectors and how DNS abuse can be prevented and mitigated:

➤ **Cybersecurity Awareness:**

- Service providers should closely work with law enforcement agencies to arrest and prosecute cybercriminals such that it serves as deterrent to others conceiving such acts.
- Organization should ensure they invest more in security and encryption systems to secure their customers' data and build a robust verification and logging systems.
- Continuous education of the customers as entities or organizations are as strong as their weakest link
- There must also be a clear road-map for digital Africa with data policy framework.

➤ **Bridge Digital Literacy Gap and Manage Brain Drain:**

- School curriculum should accommodate digital literacy training and students at all levels should be taught on how they can stay safe while surfing the Internet.
- Enhancing digital skills through free online training
- We must build a continent that is more strategic and deliberate about being producers of technology and this is realistic only if we introduce digital skill training into school curriculum for children and deploy youths centric capacity building.
- Access to Digital Financial Services and 1-digit Interest Loan and government should complement it with policies that help businesses thrive across Africa with TAX Holiday.
- National Day of Code: Stakeholders in Africa should ensure a day is dedicated to coding in their respective nations and Africa at large to encourage children and youths to code, such that our local problems can have a better solution rather than importing solutions. This will also help with demystifying technologies and position Africa as producer of technology.
- Government to create enabling environment where innovations and entrepreneurship can thrive. i.e Creation of IT hubs where young innovators with great ideas can be nurtured and mentored.

➤ **Improve on the Digital Infrastructure and Access to Meaningful Connectivity:**

- The digital world we are in is pushing everything online and the more we have more contents domiciled on the web, the more the infrastructures that manage them get over stretched i.e the need for more investment in IT infrastructure.
- This is the benchmark recommendation of meaningful connectivity: 1. Ability to go online daily 2. With an appropriate device such as Smart Phone 3. With enough data which is unlimited highspeed Internet in home, school or workplace and 4. A fast connection which its benchmark is 4G Broadband

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