

Shaping Africa's Digital Future

Concept
Note



ORGANISERS



African Network Operators Group



Background

It is a watershed moment in the Internet world: half of the world's population is currently online. Unfortunately, the other half has irregular or no access to the Internet. Existing digital divides among and within countries and regions, including gender digital divides, need to be addressed for everyone to fully enjoy the benefits of current technological developments. Luckily, according to the Economic Outlook 2022, sub-Saharan African economies have been resilient and gaining traction. Real output growth is estimated to have increased by 3.7 per cent in 2021 and is projected to rise to 3.8 per cent in 2022.

According to the **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063** Framework, a number of factors present a great opportunity for the consolidation and rapid progress of African countries. These include increased stability, positive economic and social reforms, technological advances, prospects for a growing middle class coupled with the youth bulge which can act as a catalyst for further growth particularly in the consumer and services sectors



An AFRINIC Public Policy Meeting is a regional, multi-stakeholder ICT event where the peers from the Internet industry can interact with the global and Internet community in Africa.

This includes public and private sectors, technical organisations, governmental institutions and civil society, interact on Internet issues and Internet development in general. Our audience benefits from various panels of international experts who deliver insightful knowledge on ICT technologies.

AIS'22 will take place from 30 May to 3 June 2022. **The meeting will take the “Hybrid” format that combines the experience from physical and online conference formats.** AIS'22 brings the ICT business and technical community in Africa together under one roof to discuss ICT issues and challenges. They provide a platform for all stakeholders to discuss and benchmark issues regarding Internet policy, Internet governance, Information Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D), Internet access and technical capacity building to gather to discuss, collaborate, learn and disseminate information about these key areas of Africa's Internet development.

AFRINIC Meetings are held twice a year rotating in countries across the continent.

AIS'22 is a follow-up to the African Internet Summit (AIS) 2021 that was held online. It was held in collaboration with ISPA-DRC, the Internet Service Providers Association in the Democratic Republic of Congo.. Over 370 participants attended the summit that consisted of in-depth policy development discussions, training courses, workshops, tutorials, plenary sessions and panel discussions. Some key highlights of the event included discussions on efforts to strengthen key internet infrastructure to keep content and traffic local as well as the adoption of IPv6.

Read more the AFRINIC Code of Conduct [here](#).



Key Questions

AIIS'22 will provide a platform for delegates to deliberate and address the following key questions:

- What strategies can be used to drive IPv6
- How do we provide affordable, always-on Internet access to all Africans to ensure they reach their full potential?
- How can we keep our networks safe from cyber attacks, DDoSs and shutdowns?
- Deployment throughout Africa?
- What are the policies guiding Internet number resource distribution in Africa?
- How can we harness the power of the Internet to help end poverty and ensure prosperity for all?
- How can we improve and expand Internet infrastructure to ensure low cost, resilient and secure Internet access and keep our content and traffic local?
- How do we ensure that all stakeholders participate in the policy development process (PDP)?

Africa is progressing towards greater connectivity and the future depends on how AFRINIC, together with key stakeholders such as governments, regulators, network operators, academia and business leaders, can harness available opportunities.

Expected Outcomes

AIS'22 is expected to achieve the following results:

- A deeper awareness across the continent of the urgent need to deploy IPv6, how to roll out IPv6 and why the future of Africa's Internet depends on its deployment.
- Increased participation in the AFRINIC Policy Development Process (PDP) and greater awareness of why Internet numbering policy in Africa and beyond remains a top priority for Internet development.
- Mutual support for strengthening infrastructure throughout the region and the necessity of keeping Africa's traffic and content local to drive down access costs.
- Improved multi-stakeholder dialogue between governments, regulators, network operators and Internet users in order to harness the power of the Internet to improve Africa's education, business and social development.
- Enhanced cross-community dialogue on Internet security, data protection and privacy to ensure the safety, sustainability and continuity of Africa's Internet.
- Development of strategies to overcome current barriers to access and connect the unconnected.

Rationale for the Event

Africa can and should now take advantage of the universality of the 2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)) to create partnerships across the 17 goals and ensure effective implementation. The SDGs recognise that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness have great potential to accelerate human progress.

The Agenda calls upon the international community to increase access to information and communications technologies and provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in developing countries. Many agree that Africa's prospects for the future largely depend on investment in technology.

According to the AU Agenda 2063 Framework, the information technology revolution has provided unprecedented opportunities for Africa, with the right policies to make significant advances and lift huge sections of populations out of poverty, improve incomes and catalyse economic and social transformations.

AFRINIC is working towards the goals of African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and has been an active participant of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT. Through this forum, AFRINIC supports actions geared towards comprehensive cyber security programmes especially through our African Government Working Group, which will also be meeting on the sidelines of this conference. AFRINIC has also implemented the proposal to use the DotAfrica Top Level Domain as recommended by the committee in order to champion the unique African digital identity.

AFRINIC will also continue with the push to keep Africa's Internet traffic local by supporting the African Internet Exchange Systems (AXIS) Project through robust relationships it has with the Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).

Another challenge facing Africa is the slow transition to the new Internet addressing protocol, IPv6. IPv6 is necessary for long term Internet expansion, especially as the Internet of Things (IoT) becomes a reality.

AFRINIC's efforts are clearly bearing fruit through capacity building and outreach activities across the continent. We champion IPv6 deployment and preparedness. Over 6,000 engineers have benefited from AFRINIC trainings and capacity building initiatives in IPv6 since inception.

Structure and Sessions

AIS'22 will have numerous opportunities for knowledge, idea and skills sharing, discussions, debates and networking. The overarching theme of AIS'22 is 'Shaping Africa's Digital Future'. The event will be held in both English and French and will have the following sessions and activities:



Opening ceremony



Industry and technology briefings and discussions



Plenary sessions, panel and policy discussions



Keynote presentations



Consultation meetings, focus groups, and roundtables



Gala Dinner

AIS'22
will include the following sessions:



Policy
Discussions on
Internet number
resource
management



AFRINIC
Services
Updates



Keynote
Speech



Technical
presentations



Policy
Discussions



Newcomers
session

Participation

*“The event is open to **over 1,900 AFRINIC members** from the African region as well as our global stakeholders and partners.”*

The event will bring together top executives from Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Internet Society, African Network Operators Group (AfNOG), among others. Renowned speakers and experts will attend to offer perspectives, presentations and participate in panel discussions on latest developments and case studies in e-infrastructures, applications, research, entrepreneurship and more. Africa's top leadership has been invited to grace and participate in the event.



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