



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE NUMÉRIQUE
ET DE LA COMMUNICATION
RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN



9TH WEST AFRICAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

THEME: "DIGITAL SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN WEST AFRICA"

**GOLDEN TULIP LE DIPLOMATE HOTEL
COTONOU, BENIN
27 – 28 JULY 2017**

COMMUNIQUE

[ORIGINAL VERSION: ENGLISH]

We, the 418 participants of the 9th West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), meeting in Cotonou, from 27th to 28th July 2017, representing the Internet governance initiatives of the following twelve (12) countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo;

With the participation and support of the following partners: ECOWAS Commission, WATRA, UPU, OIF, ABETIC, Agence du Numerique (ADN), FOSSFA, ICANN, AFRINIC, ISOC, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), IGF Secretariat, APC, ISOCEL, Bel BeSA, ACSIS, and IGFSa.

- Recalling the results of the previous editions of the West African Internet Governance Forum which were held respectively in Accra, Dakar, Lagos, Freetown, Abidjan, Abuja and Niamey;
- Considering the critical importance of the Internet to the economy of countries and the need for greater access to affordable Internet
- Recognising the need ensure user and market confidence to sustainably own the benefits of the Internet at the community level;
- Desirous, on one hand, to build an innovative, dynamic, prosperous, and united sub-regional Internet community and, on the other, a stable and secure Internet ecosystem.

1) Report that:

- a) The transfer of the WAIGF Secretariat from FOSSFA to the ECOWAS Commission has been concluded as directed by the 8th Forum
- b) The WAIGF structure consisting of an advisory committee, a WAIGF secretariat, a coordinator, a planning committee and a resource mobilisation committee, with the involvement of national IGFs is functional.
- c) The 10th Forum shall hold in Burkina Faso in 2018.
- d) The 11th Forum shall hold in The Gambia in 2019.

2) Recommend;

a) On Security Openness and Privacy

- i. Extensive education and sensitisation of users on privacy and security tips for a healthy and secure digital life
- ii. Reinforce the capacity and operation capacities of National CERTs

b) On Cyber-security and Trust

- i. Accelerate cyber-security strategies for each country
- ii. Establish robust child online protection strategies

c) On Internet Shutdown

- i. Endorse and apply the principles of the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms
- ii. Adopt a «permanent availability of the internet» policy for the community

d) On Electronic Commerce

- i. Harness the potentials of the existing community texts and developments and the free movement of goods persons to enhance electronic services in the region.

e) On Law enforcement

- i. Encourage the ratification of the Malabo and Budapest Conventions.
- ii. Increase collaboration among security officials in the countries of the region
- iii. Continue the trainings and capacity building initiatives in the region for all Law stakeholders

Express our gratitude to Golden Tulip Le Diplomate Hotel, the people and the Government of Benin for hosting this 9th edition.

Cotonou. July 28, 2017

WAIGF 2017
