The African Internet Governance Forum - AfIGF

BID to host the 6th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF-2017)

1. Background

1.1   The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a platform for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on prevailing and emerging issues on Internet governance ecosystem. The IGF mandate was extended for ten years by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2015. IGF aims at fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and the development of the Internet, thus facilitating content development and access to information and knowledge. Africa's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process has led to the formation of the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) in September 2011.

1.2   The African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF)

Presently, there are regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives in all the five regions of Africa. In order to bring together the national IGF initiatives together with the regional ones and to promote IG related issues on the continent, there was a strong need for the establishment of an African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF). Accordingly, AfIGF was convened by the sub-regional IGFs in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at the 6th IGF in Nairobi, Kenya. The AfIGF was formally launched on 30 September 2011.

1.3   Previous African IGFs (AfIGFs) Events

Following bidding process administered by the AfIGF secretariat, the various AfIGF sessions were successfully held in:
- Egypt, from 2 - 4 October 2012;
- Kenya, from 24 - 26 September 2013;
- Nigeria, from 10-12 July 2014;
- Ethiopia, from 6-8 September 2015; and
- South Africa, from 16 – 18 October 2016.

The 6th AfIGF is expected to be held roughly between late July and the middle of November 2017, in a member State. It is worth noting that AfIGF is usually held at least one month prior to the global IGF. Therefore, the exact date of the sixth AfIGF will be determined taking into consideration the exact date of the global IGF, which will be held in Geneva in December 2017.

In this regard, the secretariat would like to facilitate the selection of the host country for the sixth AfIGF and invites countries to submit expressions of interest to the AfIGF Secretariat according to the guidelines given below.

2.   The African IGF (AfIGF)

The Secretariat of the AfIGF is hosted by the AUC in its Addis Ababa Headquarters, in Ethiopia. The Forum's website is on http://afigf.org/. The 6th AfIGF conference will be jointly organized by AUC and ECA.

2.1   Main Objectives of the African IGF (AfIGF)

AfIGF aims to be a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular. Specific objectives include:

- To increase awareness and build capacity on Internet Governance for African users to ensure that all stakeholders are well prepared for contribution and interaction;
- To promote access to information and knowledge;.
- To promote the digital transformation of Africa;
- To promote content development and use of African languages in the cyberspace;
- To promote the use of ICTs and the Internet in the socio-economic development of the continent;
- To ensure that the concerns of Africa are taken into account in the IGF process;
- To put in place a coordinated African process for dealing with Internet governance issues on the continent;
- To strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue model for Internet Governance in Africa through regional and national forums;
- To ensure a multi-stakeholder representation of all parts of the continent;
- To ensure that all the countries are part of the regional processes and launch/strengthen their national processes;
- To facilitate national and regional exchanges and interactions between countries and regions in continent;

- To facilitate the participation of African stakeholders in AfIGF and other appropriate regional and national Internet Governance Forums.

2.2   The AfIGF Bureau

The AfIGF bureau is composed of the five (5) current conveners of the regional IGF or their designates.

3.   BID to Host the 6th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF-2017)

3.1   Eligibility and criteria for submission of expression of interest

- Must be a country within Africa;
- The focal point must be a government ministry in charge of Communications and ICTs;
- Have a National IGF Process in place, where all stakeholders take part;
- Host Country must offer accommodation in at least a recognized 3 stars hotel (bed and breakfast) for a minimum of seventy five (75) international participants;
- Host Country must offer water, 2 coffee breaks par day and lunch for all participants during the days of pre-events and conference;
- Host Country must facilitate visa entry for all participants; including visa on arrival for participants who could not secure visas before departure; provide free protocol services and free local transportation from and to the airport and from the hotels to the venue of the conference;
- Host Country must provide, free of charge, conference facilities for pre-events and main conference, including meeting rooms;
- Host Country must provide, free of charge, interpretation facilities and interpreters from French to English and English to French during the main conference sessions. Host country may provide interpretation to any other language if they wish to do so;
- Host Country must provide, at its own cost high speed Internet access at the conference venue and at the hotel which is chosen to accommodate the international participants;
- Host country must provide remote participation to facilitate participation of stakeholders who could not travel to the conference site;
- Host Country must promote, at its own cost the event through traditional and modern media;
- Host Country must ensure that access to the conference is free of charge and open to all stakeholders.

3.2   Submission of bid (expression of interest)

Submission of bids should be addressed to the Head of Information Division of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moctar Yedaly and send through the following e-mail address: YedalyM@africa-union.org. Once a country is pre-selected, an agreement will be signed between the ministry in charge of organizing the event and the African Union Commission.

3.3   Establishing the Dates for the 6th AfIGF-2017 Event

The sixth AfIGF will take place between tentatively late July and the middle of November 2017, for duration of three (3) days, including pre-conference events. Exact dates will be determined jointly between the AfIGF secretariat and the host Government and the stakeholders will be notified accordingly in due course.

3.4   Deadline for submission of the bid

Submission of proposals should be received by the AfIGF secretariat not later than the 3rd of April 2017. Any proposal(s) sent after this date will not be considered.

For further information and for all your inquiries, please contact AfIGF secretariat at the e-mail address indicated above.

3.5   Announcement of bid results

The result of the selection of the host country will be announced by end of May 2017.