

# Mauritius Internet Governance Forum 2018

16 - 17 August 2018

**MAURITIUS**



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## Mauritius Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2018

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**The Mauritius Internet Governance Forum (IGF)** is a multi- stakeholder Forum that encourages dialogue between State and Non- state actors on the importance of Internet Governance. Mauritius IGF 2018 was hosted by Halley Movement in partnership with other organizations.

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## Host Organization: Halley Movement

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Halley Movement is the host organization for Mauritius IGF and was founded in 1990. The NGO aims at ensuring that the rights of children are respected and they have a brighter future. It has been a pioneer in child- oriented actions including research in Mauritius. Children are always vulnerable and there is a constant need to protect and take care of their physical, social and emotional wellbeing. Halley Movement undertakes research on novel issues affecting children, conduct awareness campaigns and lobby the government and other regional and international bodies for a better child protection mechanism. Halley Movement works in partnership with the private sector, governmental institutions and other international and national organizations. The NGO is in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and sits on board of various International organizations in an attempt to devise policies in the interest of children.

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## Mauritius Internet Governance Forum 2018

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The main theme of the forum was *Child Protection and Internet Governance in Africa*.

The aim of the 2018 forum had been focused on Internet Governance with a view to promote child protection online.

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## Objectives of the Forum

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The Mauritius IGF event was in line with the Internet Governance Forum objectives, which are as follows:

1. To advance Internet Governance issues in Mauritius through a multi-stakeholder framework as well as facilitating partnerships and coalitions that deliver coordinated domestic responses, initiatives and synergies;

2. To increase awareness and build capacity development on Internet Governance issues in Mauritius so as to ensure informed dialogue on policy and related matters between all stakeholders;
3. To establish a coordinated and coherent framework for dealing with Internet Governance issues in Mauritius;
4. To facilitate the participation of a broad range of stakeholders in Internet Governance issue; and
5. To ensure that Mauritius views are represented in the region and at Global IGF.

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## Participants at the Event

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This event witnessed more than 100 participants along with more than 5 plenaries. The annual Forum had participation of stakeholders in the field of Information, communication and technology and child protection to advance the dialogue surrounding Internet Governance in Mauritius and Indian Ocean region.

Furthermore, the 2018 edition saw the participation of youth through the **Mauritius Youth IGF**.

International experts from *UNICEF, Facebook, ECPAT International, Good Deeds Day, China Coalition of NGOs and AFRINIC* were speakers at the event.

Below mentioned were the local stakeholders at the conference.

1. Civil Society
2. State
3. IT Industry
4. Private Sector
5. Academic Institutions, and
6. Media

**The Mauritius Internet Governance Forum 2018** was two phased:

- Mauritius YOUTH IGF- Municipal Conference Hall, Port Louis, Mauritius.
- Mauritius IGF - Voila Hotel, Bagatelle Mall of Mauritius, Mauritius.

## DAY 1 (August 16, 2018)



The Youth Forum saw the participation of young people and the theme was ***“Youth Engagement and the Future of Internet in Mauritius”***. The event was officially opened by the Vice- Minister and Minister of Local Government and outer Islands, Mauritius.

### **Session 1:** Addressing Cybercrime and Online Exploitation of Children in Africa

- Digital heritage and Africa.
- Sexual Abuse and exploitation of children through the internet in Mauritius.
- The work of UNICEF on online child sexual exploitation in eastern and southern Africa.

### **Session 2:** Roles and Responsibilities of Civil Societies in Online Child Protection

- The role of NGOs in child protection in Mauritius
- The internet and its preventive measures
- Impact of internet on youngsters

### **Session 3: The Impact of Social Media and Disruptive Technologies on Personality Traits**

- Africa and the digital future
- Challenges faced by youngsters on internet



### **DAY 2 (August 17, 2018)**

The theme of *the Mauritius Internet Governance Forum 2018* was *Child Protection and Internet Governance in Africa*. The main IGF Forum was launched by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities.

**The 2018 edition included the following sub- themes:**

- The role of Civil Society in the protection of children online
- Fake news, Internet Governance and Cyber- ethic in Africa
- Network neutrality and Cyber Security
- Africa and the Digital Future
- Sexual exploitation of children in Travel and Tourism

## Session 1: Fake News and Exploitation of Children

- Ms. Emilar Gandhi  
Public Policy Manager, Facebook
- Ms. Ester Beatrice Kavesu Gacengo  
Program specialist, OCSE- ECPAT International



## Session 2: Africa and Digital Future

- Africa and digital future
- Impact of social media on children
- Alone on a digital highway: Highlighting the needs for digital parenting in a technologically aware Mauritian society

### **Session 3: Network Neutrality and Cyber Security**

- Cyber security
- Africa and the digital future
- The internet and its preventive measures



### **Session 4: Role of Civil Society in the Protection of Children Online**

- Sharing of Chinese experience of children online
- Internet use and social media: impact on mental health and psychological wellbeing of youth

### **Session 5: Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism**

- Services of the child Development Unit, Ministry of Gender.
- Brigade des Mineurs, Police Branch-Mauritius
- Child protection in Africa



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## Main Session Input at the Forum

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### **Addressing Cybercrime and Online Exploitation of Children in Africa**

#### 1. Digital Heritage and Africa

African Digital Heritage works to promote the use of technology in showcasing, preserving and documenting African history through aspects such as digitization of assets, digital engagement and digital storytelling through three main technical interventions: Increasing access to cultural content, enhancing engagement with digitized content and facilitating cultural preservation through digital documentation and digital archiving.

## 2. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of children through the Internet in Mauritius

Existing risk factors leading to the sexual exploitation of children (SEC) are poverty, the high number of children living on the streets, low birth registration, a high rate of substance use and abuse,<sup>13</sup> family breakdowns,<sup>14</sup> a lack of information regarding SEC, societal norms, perceptions and stigma.<sup>0</sup> Out of all local communities, the Creole community is the most affected by poverty.

## 3. The work of UNICEF on Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Eastern and Southern Africa

The problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) has increasingly become a major global concern. UNICEF estimates that millions of children in the region are sexually exploited. The worldwide pervasiveness of the problem culminated in the first World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1996 to put the problem on the international political agenda.

## **Roles and Responsibilities of Civil Societies in Online Child Protection**

### 1. The role of NGOs in child protection in Mauritius

The call for protection of children online necessitates realistic programs, policies and implementation measures at the national level. As words must be matched by deeds, much depends upon how all stakeholders deal with the safety problems arising from Internet. Therefore, NGOs play a very important role in the society for online child protection as they conduct campaign to make parents aware of the dangers of the digital world.

### 2. The Internet and its preventive measures

As good as the internet may seem to be, it has a lot of negative side and dangers. The vast amount of information that flows through the Internet each

moment often contains important personal, business, or financial information. This has allowed a new category of criminal activity to develop: Internet Crime. Thus, to prevent internet crimes from happening, it is very important that everyone in the society is aware of the dangers of the internet and what must be done to protect themselves.



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## Mauritius IGF 2018

### Side Events

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- August 14: Cocktail Reception “*Vin D’Honneur*” at **Ixina German Kitchens Showroom** at Emerald Park, Trianon.
- August 16: Lunch meeting with Lord Mayor of City of Port Louis at **Municipal Conference Hall**.
- August 18: Networking Reception at **Voila Hotel**,
- August 20: Lunch meeting at **Coral Azur Hotel**, Mon Choisy.



## Halley Movement Coalition

Halley Movement is a coalition of charitable organisations working for the welfare of Children and family in Mauritius and in the Southern African region. The Non-Governmental Organisation is in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and was founded in 1990.

## Objectives of Halley Movement

Mauritius IGF seeks to promote dialogue and raise awareness on Child Protection and Internet Governance in Africa.

This annual forum will see the participation of stakeholders in the fields of Information, Communication and Technology and Child protection to advance the dialogue surrounding Internet Governance in Mauritius and in the Indian Ocean region.

Mauritius IGF also seeks to gather youngsters from different institutions and offer them a platform to express their views, assess the prevailing situation in our region and address issues relating to Internet Governance.

## Mauritius IGF 2017

Mauritius IGF 2017 was organised in November 2017 and was held at Henessy Park Hotel, Ebene, Mauritius. The forum was focused on Enhancing Digital Trust to Encompass Online Child Safety.



P: +230-677-0451, +230-214-2451  
W: hallemovement.org E: office@hallemovement.org  
FB: helplinemauritius T: @hallemovement

## PRESS RELEASE

### Mauritius Internet Governance Forum 2018 (Mauritius IGF 2018)

ON  
"Child Protection and Internet Governance in Africa"

16th and 17th of August, 2018  
Voilà Hotel, Bagatelle Mall of Mauritius, Mauritius

## Mauritius IGF 2018

Mauritius IGF 2018 will be a 2 day event in August 2018:

**MAURITIUS YOUTH IGF ON 16TH OF AUGUST**

Theme: Youth Engagement and Future of Internet in Mauritius  
Venue: Municipal Conference Room, Municipality of the city of Port-Louis

**MAURITIUS IGF ON 17TH OF AUGUST**

Theme: Child Protection and Internet Governance in Africa  
Venue: - Voilà Hotel, Bagatelle Mall of Mauritius, Mauritius

### The 2018 edition will include the following sub-themes:

- The role of Civil Society in the protection of children online
- Fake news, Internet Governance and cyber-ethic in Africa
- Network Neutrality and Cyber security
- Africa and the Digital Future
- Sexual exploitation of children in travel & tourism

## Participants of Mauritius IGF 2018 INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF:

Facebook, UNICEF, ECPAT International, China Coalition of NGOs, GOOD DEEDS DAY and AFRINIC

## SPEAKERS AT MAURITIUS IGF 2018 WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF:

IT Industry in Mauritius, Civil Society, Academia, Business Sector, IT Experts, Youth Advocates, State Agencies, Parliamentarians, Media

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## Useful Links

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1. <http://hallemovement.org/mauritius-igf-national-stakeholders-summit/>
2. <https://mauritius.intgovforum.org/>
3. <https://twitter.com/MauritiusIGF>
4. <https://www.facebook.com/helplinemauritius/>
5. Youtube: Halley Movement