



**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Internet Governance Meeting  
25 - 29 November 2019  
Berlin, Germany**

**Post-Meeting Report for Funded Participants**

**Please submit the report no later than 15 December 2019 to Ms. Lima Madomi from the IGF Secretariat at: [lima.madomi@un.org](mailto:lima.madomi@un.org)**

**First and Last Name:** NYADAK LAM AKOL

**Email address:** [nyadak@southsudanigf.net](mailto:nyadak@southsudanigf.net) / [mayaajawin@gmail.com](mailto:mayaajawin@gmail.com)

- 1. How would you describe your participation at the IGF meeting? (max. 150 words)**

**This was my very first IGF meeting and I am proud that it was very successful. I was able to attend a good variety of sessions which were entirely beneficial to our IGF. I was able to listen from experts from different entities and also network with people who were also very helpful and gave great advice for us as we begin our IGF journey.**

**The NRIs and RIs meeting was also very key because we were able to come down to the NRIs themselves and that meeting gave me great insight in terms of operations as well as allowing me to link with other NRIs and RIs and the Secretariat.**

- 2. What is the most important benefit you have gained at the meeting? (max. 300 words)**

**I would like to mention two main benefits and these are: 1) Really understanding what the IGF is and 2) Learning how to bring the discussion from the global arena to the national stage.**

As a new NRI, it was really important for me to be able to clearly understand how the IGF works and through the sessions as well as our meeting with Anja, I was able to get a clearer picture than I had before and that gives me a peace of mind because you realise that It is really all about the people. Bringing together people who say that “These are our issues and we would like to talk about them” so then we come on this platform and really cater to effectively finding solutions to that collectively while simultaneously keeping the innovation alive.

Its quite easy to get lost in all discussions because the world is moving a little too fast and there are new innovations and entry points by the second, spaces like the annual IGF allow to think on a broad level and share that will hundreds of people who bring in a different perspective thus allowing you to find a way to bring it back to your national needs and strategy. That’s is how we can effective RIs and NRIs.

**3. What inputs do you plan to bring to your community from the meeting? (max. 300 words)**

Some of the main sessions that are top priority of the SS-IGF (This year and into the next) is Cyber-Security, Data Protection, Hate Speech and its Effects as well as Peace and Conflict offline and online, among others,

These sessions were really helpful because they are beneficial to the situation on the ground. In our initial conference this year, we highlighted the lack of a Data Protection Bill in the country as a high risk to privacy, security and safety so it was recommended that we need to begin the process of having a National Data Protection Bill. Consultations have begun and we actually had one of our pilot workshops last week to kick-start the process.

Other discussions that I attended that may not be a hot topic right now can still be implemented in different ways including collaboration with partner organisations in the country. South Sudan is still trying to find its feet as we have just come from a long conflict that devastated the country but we are glad for opportunities because we get to keep the ball rolling and stay on top to bring these issues to our fellow community members but more importantly, our leaders as we shape the national agenda of our country.

**4. Briefly outline your participation at the IGF meeting, including attended sessions, gained knowledge, networking, recommendations for improvements. (max. 500 words)**

My participation at iGF2019 was extraordinary. It was so amazing to be in rooms with people who not only have such vast experience in different fields but were also ready to learn and discuss on several issues. We were all on the same page and I was glad to not feel so left out as this was my first IGF. Many people were so friendly and ready to listen even those that we just saying Hi in the corridor.

*The Meetings:* The Meetings were so impactful and I love the way they were set up because there was equal time for sharing but also listening and asking questions. It was definitely a jam-packed week which we wish was a bit longer just because there were other meetings

that I was not able to attend as they were happening concurrently but regardless of that, I do believe that the ones I attended gave me great insight that I am grateful for.

The NRIs meeting was one of my favourites because we were able to share experiences with different NRIs from the region but also from other regions and were also able to discuss with other new NRIs that were also attending for the first time and figure out ways of support and collaboration.

A second favourite was the Youth Coalition of internet Governance (YCIG) that was super amazing because it gave a particular theme and that was youth across different continents coming to share their experiences and really having the opportunity to have a discussion on matters that affect the youth in each continent/zone. This was on my list not only because I am a youth myself but also because my country's (South Sudan) largest population group are the youth at 73% so this will be very beneficial to them and I was able to network with members of the current steering committee to figure out the way forward in setting up our national Youth IGF. A big win.

I gained a lot of knowledge which we will be disseminating throughout the year with our different stakeholders in the road to bridging gaps plus bringing forward solutions that will be beneficial to the society and the region as well.

Networking is always key for me and its very rare that you get such a forum to do that so best believe, I took great advantage of this and automatically secured some good relations, through coffee breaks, in-sessions, hallways, lunch breaks and booth discussion, it was value added knowledge.

**Improvements:** One of my major suggestions is including/incorporating more African driven discussions into the forum. I saw that there was minimal participation on African driven themes in the meetings. This is really important because it not only brings us to the global stage but it also brings lessons back home.

In one way or another, Europe has a greater advantage when it comes to communication, collaboration, initiatives and so forth so it will be really key to mix up the experience so that we can have a louder voice and experience that bridge of a gap for some time.

**Overall, it was a great experience and we look forward to IGF 2020!**

Date of submission:

15-12-2019

Signature:

