



Concept Note

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Background

Despite earlier periods of limited growth, African economies have grown substantially over the past decade with the annual economic outlook reports reporting a steady growth trajectory within this period. According to the African Economic Outlook 2017, the continent's economic growth is projected to rise to 3.4% in 2017 and up to 4.3% in 2018.

According to the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 Framework, a confluence of factors presents a great opportunity for consolidation and rapid progress of the continent. These include: increased stability, positive macroeconomic reforms, technological advances, prospects for a rising middle class, coupled with the youth bulge, which can act as catalyst for further growth, particularly in the consumer sectors and services.

Further, the Common African Position (CAP) system also proved very successful in the preparatory process for Rio+20 and development of the 2015 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where the continent adopted a "Consensus Statement" that helped champion a holistic view of sustainable development. Africa can now take advantage of this universality of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) to create partnerships across the 17 goals and ensure effective implementation.

Rationale for the Event

Despite a decade of progress, 54% of the population in 46 African countries are still living in poverty. One of the reasons mentioned in the African economic Outlook 2017 is low human development, social inclusion and low uptake of technology. The SDGs recognize that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress.

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

The Internet Society argues that even though internet penetration levels are about 20% and rising these aggregate indicators mask glaring disparities. At the high end of the spectrum, countries such as Morocco enjoy penetration rates above 50%, but at the other end are countries with penetration rates below 2%, and the majority of countries have internet penetration of less than 10%, well below the 20% threshold that has been found to be critical for countries to reap the economic benefits of broadband investment.

Another transition that Africa is not implementing fast enough is that 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. Data from AFRINIC shows that Zimbabwe is the only country in Africa that has recorded significant deployment of IPv6 at 7%.

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Nigeria

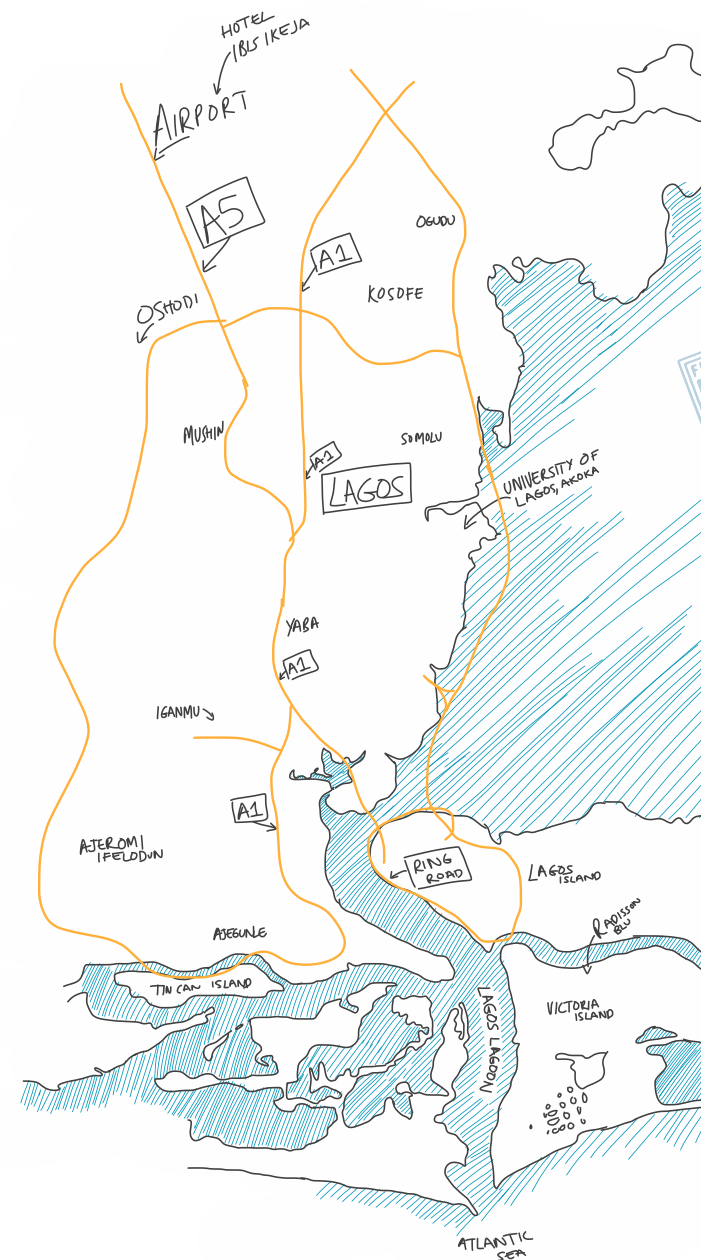
With over 90 million internet users according to data from the Nigerian Communications Commission, Nigeria is ranked as one of the top performing countries in Africa's internet growth. This growth has been largely driven by mobile phones with available statistics showing that the uptake of smartphones has increased by over 340% since 2014 due to affordability.

This rate however comes against a backdrop of challenges that consistently threaten the stability and reliability of these statistics. These include high poverty levels, security concerns, high costs of internet, low ICT literacy and low speeds among other challenges.

The Internet has changed our world for the better. Nowhere has connectivity had a more pronounced

effect than in Africa, where it has been harnessed by Africa's urban and rural communities to improve lives and address the unique issues we face on the continent. With access to the Internet come improvements to education, health, society, industry, policy and human rights.

Increasing Internet access also means that more investment in critical infrastructure is needed. Related policies also need to be discussed, updated and put in place and cross-continent agreements need to be made. Crucially, Africa needs to ensure that every device now - and in the future - can be assigned its own unique IP address so it can connect and communicate to the global network and that Africa's unconnected do not get left behind.



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AFRINIC-27 is a follow-up to the African Internet Summit (AIS) 2017 that was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 20th May to 2nd June 2017.





AFRINIC-27

African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC) is the regional internet numbers registry for Africa tasked with the responsibility of equitably distributing internet number resources in the continent.

AFRINIC exists to grow internet for the sustainable development of Africa. One of the prominent ways in which AFRINIC implements this vision is through major events held around the continent to champion this debate. It is for this reason that AFRINIC will be holding the 27th series of these meetings. Dubbed AFRINIC-27, the meeting will take place from 27th November 2017 to 2nd December 2017 in Lagos, Nigeria.

AFRINIC Meetings are held twice a year rotating in countries across the continent. They provide a platform for all African governments and global stakeholders to discuss and benchmark issues regarding Internet policy, Internet governance, ICT4D, Internet access and technical capacity building.

AFRINIC-27 is a follow-up to the African Internet Summit (AIS) 2017 that was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 20th May to 2nd June 2017. It was held

collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology under the leadership of Cabinet Secretary Hon. Joe Mucheru. Over 600 participants from 68 countries 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 the global control of the internet and the recent transfer of the stewardship of the IANA functions; efforts to strengthen key internet infrastructure to keep content and traffic local as well as the adoption of IPv6.

The meeting is also a follow-up to AFRINIC-25 that was held in Mauritius in November 2016 in collaboration with the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation. Over 200 delegates from 38 countries across the globe discussed among other items cyber security and how to keep Africa's network safe.

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Key Questions

AFRINIC 27 will provide a platform for delegates to deliberate and address the following key questions;

- What strategies can we use to drive IPv6 Deployment throughout the continent?
- 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 affordable, always-on Internet access for all so that all African citizens can reach their potential?
- What are the policies guiding Internet number resource distribution in Africa and how do we ensure that all stakeholders participate in the Policy Development Process (PDP)?
- How can we keep our networks safe from cyberattacks, DDoSs and shutdowns?
- How can we harness the power of the Internet to help end poverty and ensure prosperity for all?

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

Structure and Sessions

AFRINIC-27 is a five-day event with plenty of opportunities for discussion, debate and networking. The event will be held in both English and French and will be structured into the following sessions and activities;

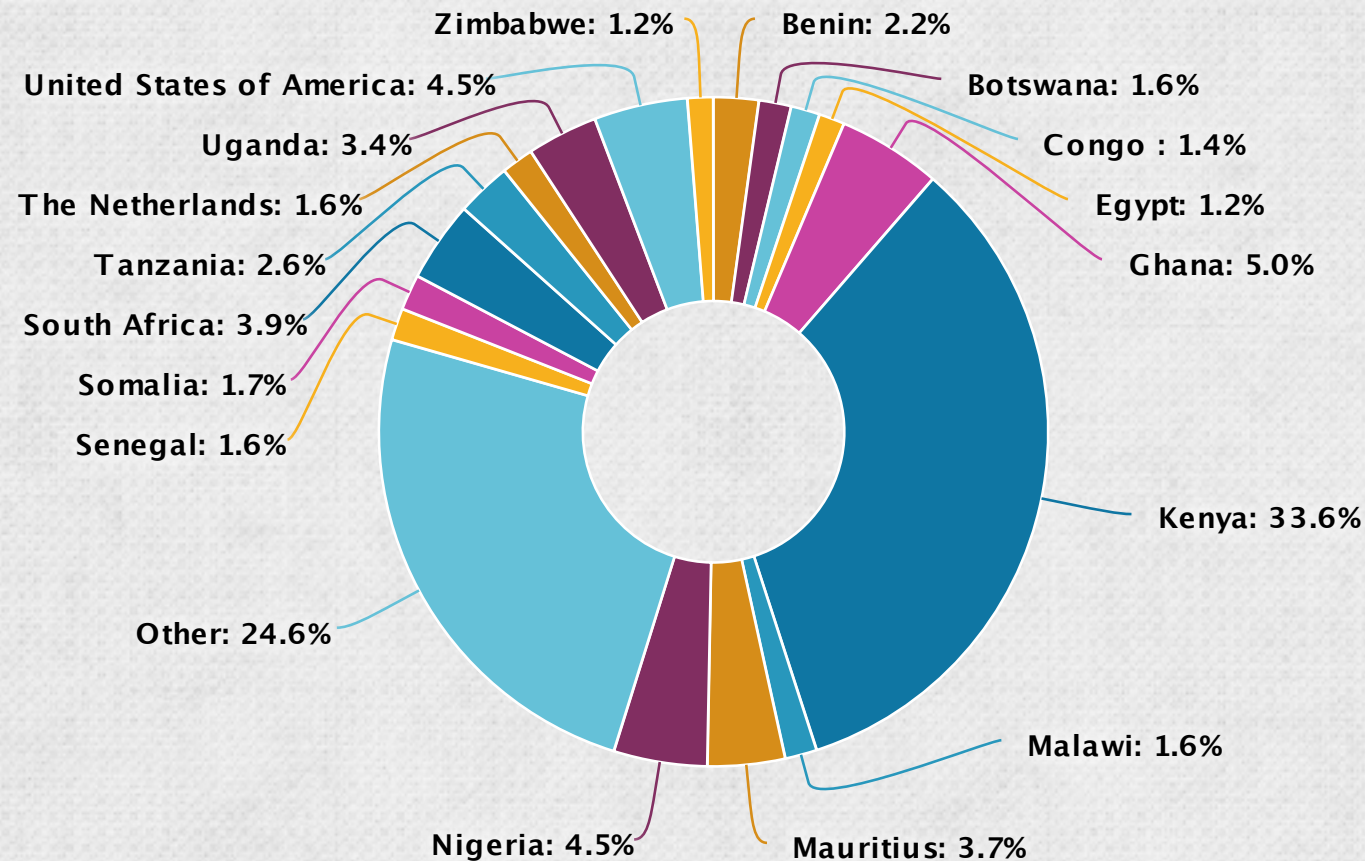
- Welcome reception
- Opening ceremony
- Keynotes speeches
- Panel discussions and plenary sessions
- Trainings
- Hackathons, research and academic paper presentations
- Industry and technology briefings and discussions
- Consultation meetings, focus groups, and roundtables
- Exhibitions
- Gala Dinner
- Closing ceremony

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AIS 17 Attendance by Country



Over 600 participants from 68 countries attended the summit that consisted of in-depth policy development discussions, training courses, workshops, tutorials, plenary sessions and panel discussions.



Participation

We have invited His Excellency Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to grace the event. The event will also bring on board Nigeria's Ministry of Communications Technology led by the Minister Adebayo Shittu. The event is also open to over 1,500 AFRINIC members from the 54 countries of Africa as well as our global stakeholders and partners.

The event will also 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 also be at hand to give perspectives, presentations and participate in panel discussions on latest developments and case studies in e-Infrastructures, applications, research, entrepreneurship and more.

Expected Outcomes

AFRINIC-27 is expected to yield 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Enhanced cross-community dialogue on Internet security, data protection and privacy to ensure the safety, sustainability and continuity of Africa's Internet.
- Mutual support for strengthening infrastructure throughout the region and the necessity of keeping Africa's traffic and content local to drive down access costs.
- Development of strategies to overcome current barriers to access and to connect the unconnected.

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