



Concept Note

Taking the African Internet to the
Next Level
Through Policy, Collaboration and Education.

@afrinic #afrinic29



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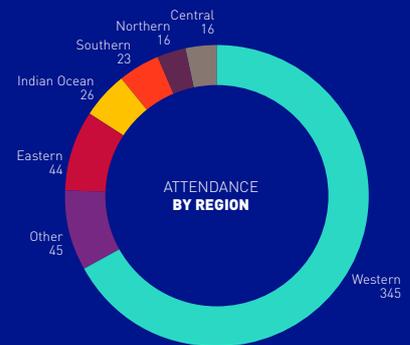
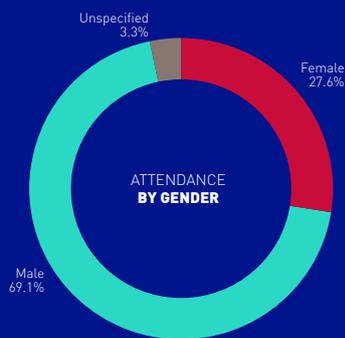
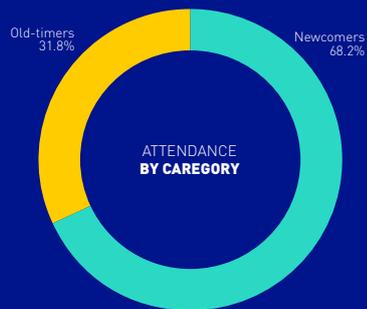
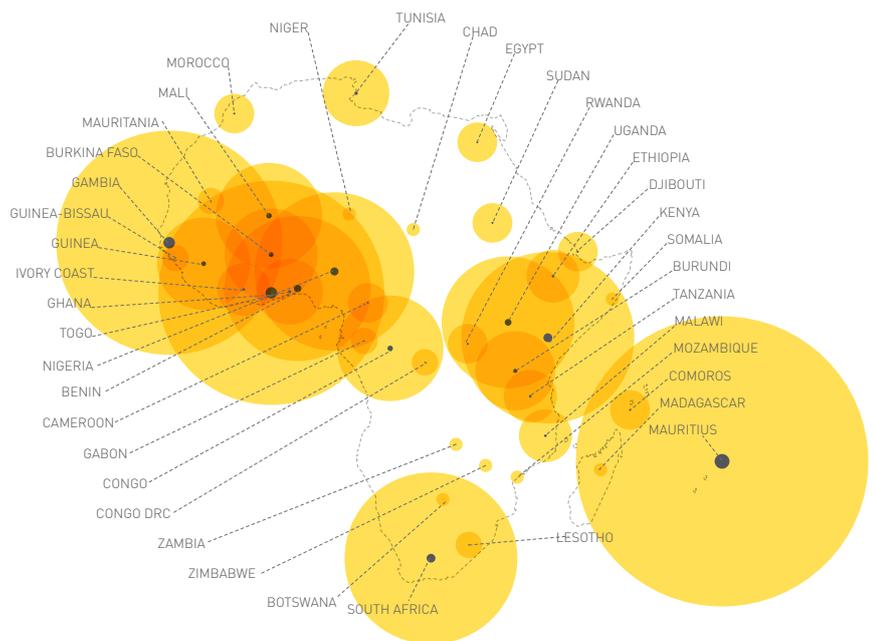
Background

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.

Previous meeting Statistics - AIS 2018



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.

AFRINIC is working towards the goals of African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and has been an active participant of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT. Through this forum we support actions geared towards comprehensive cyber security programs especially through our African

Government Working Group, which will also be meeting at the sidelines of this conference. AFRINIC has also implemented the proposal to use the DotAfrica Top Level Domain as recommended by the committee in order to champion our unique African digital identity. AFRINIC will also continue with the push to keep Africa's Internet traffic local by supporting the African Internet Exchange Systems (AXIS) Project through the robust relationships we have with the Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).

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.

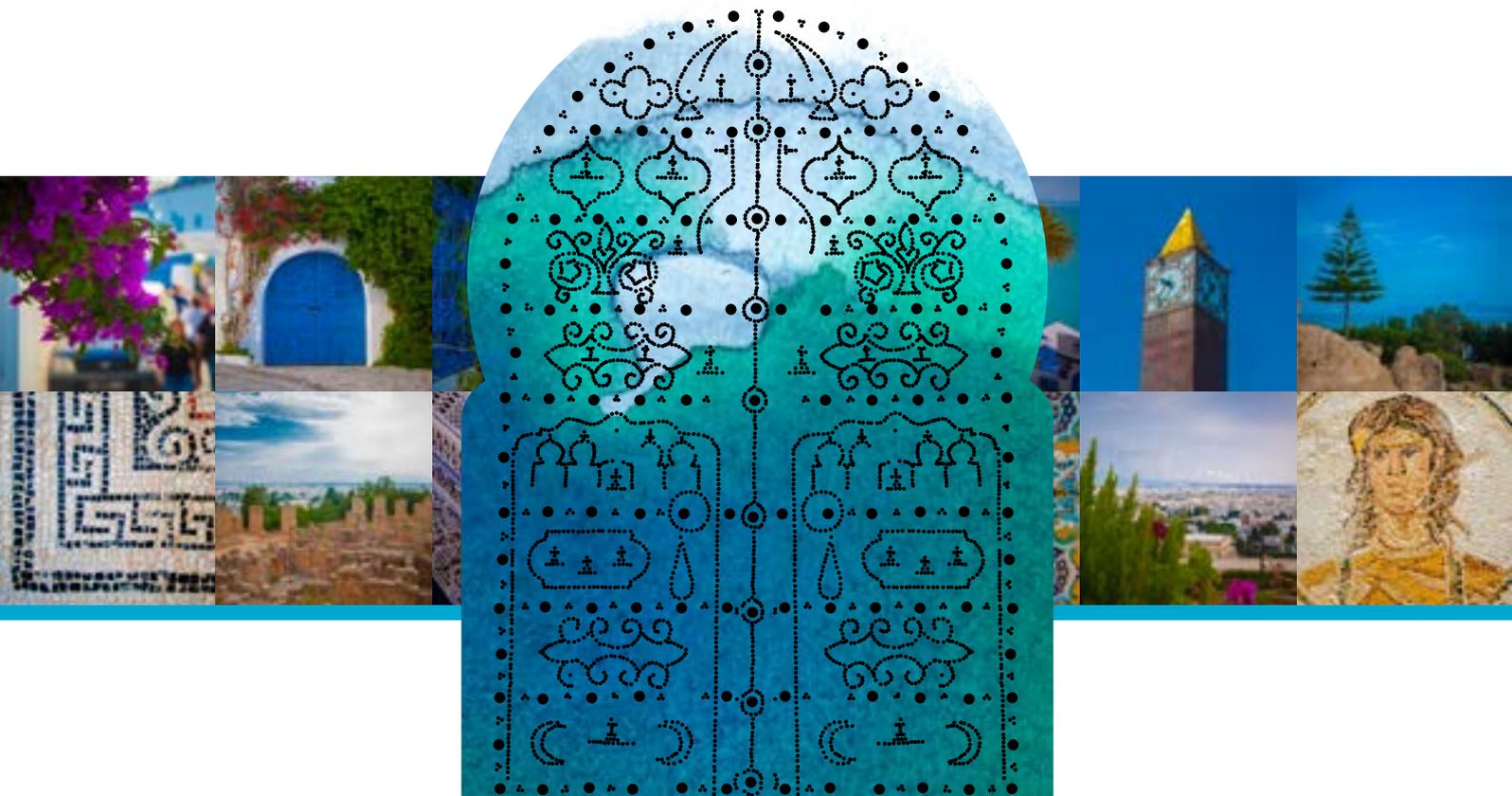
Another transition that Africa is not implementing fast enough is that to the new Internet addressing protocol, IPv6. IPv6 is necessary for long term Internet expansion, especially as the Internet of Things (IoT) becomes a reality. Data from AFRINIC shows that Zimbabwe is the only country in Africa that has recorded significant deployment of IPv6 at 7%.

However AFRINIC's efforts are clearly bearing fruits through capacity building and outreach activities across the continent to champion IPv6 deployment and preparedness. Over 3500 engineers have benefited from AFRINIC training since 2010.





The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector is a priority sector in Tunisia, both as a dynamic sector of innovation and as a vehicle for the development of other economic sectors. Tunisia's ICT sector is open to international interests through export, foreign investment, partnership, and outsourcing with both developed and developing countries, particularly with other African countries.



According to the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), the ICT sector makes up 7.2% of Tunisia's GDP, and employs approximately 80,000 people (2016). Tunisia now has three ICT-oriented technoparks, as well as 18 cyberparks entirely dedicated to training and scientific and technological research. This is part of Tunisia's ambitious "Tunisie Digitale 2020" plan, which aims to make the country an international player in the digital world by developing a network of competitive and innovative companies.

According to the Ministry of Communication Technologies and Digital Economy, the Tunisian telecommunication network is among the most modern in the Mediterranean area, composed of seven nodes nationwide, equipped with multiservice broadband switches, integrating telephone traffic, internet, and multimedia traffic.

According to statistics from the International Telecommunication Union, with over 5 million Internet users in 2017, Tunisia is ranked as one of the top performing countries in Africa's internet growth. This growth has been largely driven by the uptake of mobile subscriptions with available statistics showing more than 13 million.

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.

The Government of Tunisia has, among other initiatives:

- Developed an electronic dinar platform (e-Dinar);
- Developed electronic procurement;
- Contributed to the diffusion of ICT through trade facilitation policies and programs (Tunisia TradeNet); and
- Supported PubliNets.





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 and it is against this backdrop that AFRINIC will be organizing. 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 29th series of these meetings. Dubbed AFRINIC-29, the meeting will take place from 26th November 2018 to 30th November 2018 in Tunisia.

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 to gather to discuss, collaborate, learn and disseminate information about these key areas of Africa's Internet development.

AFRINIC-29 is a follow-up to the African Internet Summit (AIS) 2018 that was held in Dakar, Senegal from 29 April to 11 May 2018. It was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications, Posts and Digital Economy of Senegal and the Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications et des Postes, under the leadership of the Minister of Communication, Telecommunications, Posts and the Digital Ecosystem Hon. Abdoulaye Bibi Baldé. The Prime Minister of Senegal his Excellency Mr Mahammed Dionne inaugurated AIS'18. Over 500 participants 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 net neutrality, digital rights and privacy, internet measurement in Africa, DNS and related services and 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-27 that was held in Lagos, Nigeria in November 2017 in collaboration with the Nigeria. Over 240 delegates from 34 countries across the globe discussed among other items cyber security and how to keep Africa's network safe.



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.

Key Questions

AFRINIC-29 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 do we ensure affordable, always-on Internet access for all so that all African citizens can reach their potential?
 - How can we keep our networks safe from cyberattacks, DDoSs and shutdowns?
 - How can we improve and expand Internet infrastructure to ensure low cost, resilient and secure Internet access and keep our content and traffic local?
 - 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 harness the power of the Internet to help end poverty and ensure prosperity for all?
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Structure and Sessions

AFRINIC-29 is a five-day event with plenty of opportunities for discussion, debate and networking. The overarching theme of AFRINIC-29 is 'Taking the African Internet to the Next Level Through Policy, Collaboration and Education'. 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

Participation

We have invited the top leadership from Tunisia to grace the event. 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-29 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.