OPERATIONALIZING THE SOUTHERN AFRICA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (SAIGF) : THE SAIGF MODEL

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1. Background: Start of the idea of establishing an IGF

- Paragraph 72 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda of 2005 reads:
  “We ask the UN Secretary-General, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the Second Quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new Forum for Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue - called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)”.

- Paragraphs 72 to 80 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda then set out the Mandate and Terms of Reference of the IGF.

- The Working Definition of Internet Governance from the WSIS Tunis Agenda of 2005 reads:
  “Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector, and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.”
Background (Continued)

- Conception of the idea to establish the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF) can be traced to the Training Workshop on Internet Governance Diplomacy that was organized by DiploFoundation in collaboration with the Botswana Information and Technology Society (BITS) and was held on 19 and 20 October 2010 in Gaborone, Botswana.
  - The Workshop resolved to initiate the process to establish the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF) to ensure the participation of people from Southern African in issues of Internet Governance, c.f. the Workshop Communiqué of 20 October 2010.
- On 16 June 2011, the SADC Ministers responsible for ICTs, meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, endorsed that SADC Secretariat collaborates with the Association of Progressive Communications (APC), NEPAD Agency and SANGONeT to convene SAIGF prior to the 6th Global IGF held in September 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.
  - This was to ensure representation of the views and voices of Southern Africa at the 6th Global IGF.
  - At that time, Southern Africa was the only sub-region without a Regional IGF.
The Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF) was launched during a Meeting that was held from 1 to 3 September 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The African Union Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in their **2012 Khartoum Declaration** requested Member States:

- “To promote the organization of National Internet Governance Forums (NIGFs) aimed at facilitating dialogue between all stakeholders on ICT for Development issues and facilitate the participation of their respective countries in Regional and African IGF (AfIGF) activities as well as in the Global IGF”.

At their Meeting in 2012, the SADC Ministers responsible for ICTs:

- “Urged Member States to set up their National Internet Governance Forums (NIGFs) and contribute their input by participating in the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF)”. 
2. SAIGFs Convened

- As mentioned above, SAIGF was launched in Johannesburg, South Africa from 1 to 3 September 2011 (SAIGF-11).
- SADC Secretariat could not identify a host for SAIGF-12.
- Angola hosted SAIGF-13 from 5 to 7 August 2013 in Luanda.
- Malawi hosted SAIGF-14 from 17 to 19 September 2014 in Lilongwe.
- A Capacity Building Workshop for Convenors of National IGFs was held on 1 and 2 April 2015 in Gaborone, Botswana.
  - Zimbabwe launched her National IGF (ZIGF) on Wednesday 17 June 2015.
- Zimbabwe hosted SAIGF-15 on 20 and 21 October 2015 back to back with the Second Meeting (in 2015) of the SADC ICT SCOM on 22 and 23 October 2015 in Harare.
- SADC Secretariat could not identify a host for SAIGF-16 and SAIGF-17.
- South Africa is hosting SAIGF-18 today and tomorrow here in Durban.
  - Note that a Thematic Workshop is always part of the SAIGF.
3. Objectives of SAIGF

- To increase awareness and build capacity on Internet Governance issues in the SADC Region so as to ensure informed dialogue on policy and related matters between all stakeholders;
- To ensure representation of the views of the SADC Region in the African IGF (AfIGF) and the Global IGF;
- To establish a coordinated and coherent framework for dealing with Internet Governance issues in the SADC Region;
- To facilitate the participation of a broad range of SADC stakeholders in the SAIGF; and
- To ensure that SADC Member States establish their National IGFs and be part of the AfIGF and the Global IGF processes.
4. Terms of Reference of the SAIGF MCT

- To oversee, facilitate, coordinate and ensure smooth and effective organization, convening and follow up of all activities related to the SAIGF on an annual basis;
- To promote, encourage and strengthen dialogue and communication between all stakeholders of Internet Governance in the SADC Region;
- To explore the mobilization of resources necessary to promote participation in and convening of the SAIGF;
- To promote awareness of the SAIGF;
- To prepare, publish and disseminate the proceedings of the SAIGF and maintain good flow of information among all parties;
- To be the vital link between the SAIGF on the one hand and the AfIGF, the Global IGF and other relevant regional and continental structures on the other hand;
- To establish and maintain good working relations with National IGFs and regional actors; and
- To be the role model for SADC Member States to adopt when setting up their National IGFs Organizing Committees.
5. Membership and Structure of the SAIGF MCT

- Membership is open to the following recognized stakeholder groups:
  - Inter-Governmental;
  - Government;
  - Civil Society;
  - Private Sector;
  - Technical Community; and
  - Academia.
- SADC Secretariat is ex-officio and the Secretariat.
- Other membership posts are limited to a two-year cycle and can be re-appointed for one extra term.
- Representatives from Government come from both the immediate past host country that will have convened the SAIGF and the current host country.
- The Vice-Chairperson is chosen from the two nominated Government representatives from the host country and has a term that only expires when SAIGF is convened again and the position is passed on to the new host country.
Membership and Structure of the SAIGF MCT (Continued)

- Positions for +1 Member for Academia and +1 Member of the Private Sector were not filled.
- Two meetings are to be convened in one year cycle of the SAIGF.
- The Chairperson may call extra-ordinary meetings as may be required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder Group</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Governmental</td>
<td>SADC Secretariat</td>
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<td>NEPAD Agency (Observer)</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Current Host</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>SANGONET</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>Information Society Initiatives Trust (ISIT)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Regional Consumer Association/Chambers of Commerce</td>
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<td>Technical Community</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>SARUA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of Representatives |
6. Relationship of the SAIGF MCT with NIGFs in the Region

- The SAIGF Multi-Stakeholder Coordinating Team is to establish and maintain relationships with SADC National IGFs and their Organizing Committees and provide guidance, where required.

- For the purpose of role-modelling and transfer of expertise, SADC National IGFs Organizing Committees are granted the privilege to participate with observer status in meetings and discussions convened by the SAIGF Multi-Stakeholder Coordinating Team.

- The SAIGF Multi-Stakeholder Coordinating Team is to build capacity of Convenors of NIGFs.

- Nine SADC Member States have set up their National IGFs.
7. SAIGF Model

- **Global IGF**
- **AfIGF**
- **SAIGF**
- **NIGFs**

**SAIGF Multi-stakeholder Coordinating Team**

**Secretariat: SADC Secretariat**

**SADC Process**

- **Summit**
- **Council**
- **ICT Ministers’ Meeting**
- **ICT SCOM**

**SADC Process**
Thank you for your kind attention!

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