UNESCO Session at the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2018 – Accra, Ghana

11:30-13:00, Friday, 28 September 2018
Venue: Room 1, La Palm Royal Beach Resort, Accra (Ghana)

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Theme: **Advancing Access to Information through the Internet Universality Indicators**

Description:

UNESCO's session on "Advancing Access to Information through the Internet Universality Indicators" will bring in various stakeholders from different African countries to reflect and exchange on how to use the Internet Universality indicators as a tool to enrich the stakeholders' capacity for assessing Internet freedom and development, broaden international consensus, and foster access to information, online democracy and human rights.

UNESCO will present the final draft of Internet Universality indicators and focus the discussion on those ones measuring access to information at a national level. This session will seek to define the intersection of the notion of access to information and the application of the Internet Universality Indicators. The discussion will also explore the gaps in Internet policy affecting the use and access to the Internet through the lens of gender and youth in Africa, and will seek to empower stakeholders in the use of the Internet Universality Indicators to assess Internet landscapes against the ROAM principles.

The discussion will focus on the potential use of the Indicators as a means of assisting African stakeholders in assessing Internet freedom and development; on the possibilities of applying the indicators over the next two years in the different African countries; and on the coalitions for funding and joining a steering committee that could be put together in the region.

In-Person Moderator: Ms. Xianhong Hu, UNESCO
Rapporteur: Abdul Hamid Yakub, UNESCO

Speakers:

- Ms. Fatou Jagne, ARTICLE 19's Regional Director for Senegal and West Africa, Nigeria.
- Mr. James Marenga, Vice Chairperson at Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Tanzania.
- Mr. Qemal Affagnon, Regional Coordinator for West Africa at Internet Sans Frontières, Benin.
- Ms. Damola Sogunro, Principal Computer Analyst at the Federal Ministry of Communications and Technology, Nigeria.

AGENDA – Friday, 28 September 2018 (11:30 – 13:00)

ACTIVITY	TIME (DURATION)
Pre-session meeting:	
Preparation meeting with the panelists (15 minutes before the session)	**11:15 – 11:30** (15 minutes)
Introducing the Session:	
Introduction remarks from the Moderator (Ms. Xianhong HU, UNESCO)	**11:30 – 11:40** (10 minutes)
Panel Discussion: Key Questions	
First track: - How do you think the use of these indicators (to measure Internet policies and to serve as a research tool for assessing Internet development) could effectively assist African stakeholders in assessing Internet freedom and development? - What are the gaps you have observed in Internet policy, which are currently affecting the use and access to information in Africa? Time for each intervention (speakers): 4 to 5 minutes.	**11:40 – 12:00** (20 minutes)
Second track: - How stakeholders in African countries could be motivated to use and apply the Internet Universality Indicators to assess their respective national landscapes? - What coalitions for funding and joining and steering committee (for the assessment of access of information through the application of the Internet Universality Indicators) could be put together in African countries? Time for each intervention (speakers): 4 to 5 minutes.	**12:00 – 12:20** (20 minutes)
Third track: - What are the possibilities of applying the Internet Universality Indicators in African countries over the next two years? Time for each intervention (speakers): 2 minutes.	**12:20 – 12:30** (10 minutes)
Opening the floor to questions from the audience:	
Q & A Session	**12:30 – 12:55** (25 minutes)
Rapporteur's report and closing remarks	**12:55 -13:00 (5 minutes)**

Background Information:

In 2015, the concept of "Internet Universality" was adopted by UNESCO's General Conference, with the goal of highlighting features of the Internet which are fundamental to fulfilling its potential for sustainable development and for the realization of an inclusive knowledge society. Based on four principles – the R-O-A-M principles – the Internet Universality indicators are aimed at helping States and stakeholder measure Internet policies as well as serve as a research tool for assessing Internet development. These principles advocate for an Internet that:

> R – is based on human Rights
> O – that is Open
> A – that should be Accessible to all
> M – that is nurtured by Multi-stakeholder participation.

The application of the R-O-A-M principles is underscored by the need for public access to information, a target outlined in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.10, which calls for the significant increase in access to information and communications technology and to strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2030.

As we mark the third year of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), UNESCO will take the opportunity of the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2018 (FIFAfrica) to present the [Internet Universality Indicators Framework](). Developed in the context of increasing digital rights violations (including restrictive content regulations, retrogressive laws and financial barriers limiting access to information for socio-economic development), these Indicators will make it possible to assess Internet Universality at the empirical level, thereby enabling evidence-based policy for improvement. The Indicators will also constitute an open research tool available to governments and other interested stakeholders, from any groups or sector, to undertake national research assessments.

The Internet Universality Indicators framework includes 303 quantitative, qualitative and institutional indicators (including 109 identified as core ones, and developed under 6 categories, 25 themes, and 124 questions), along with a list of sources and means of verifications identified. On top of the ROAM categories, 79 cross-cutting indicators (X category) were developed to address the notions of gender, the needs of the children and young people, sustainable development, trust and security, and the legal and ethical aspects of the Internet, as well as 21 contextual indicators concerned with the demographic, social and economic characteristics of a country.

The project "Defining Internet Universality Indicators" was launched in January 2017, with the support of a Swedish Fund in Trust contribution and the endorsement of the 29th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC. The framework of Indicators has been developed following a three-phase process (including desk research, global multi-stakeholder consultation online and offline, and the pre-testing and piloting of the Indicators in various countries), undertaken by UNESCO with the support of a consortium led by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), which comprises ict Development Associates, LIRNEasia, and Research ICT Africa. The project has been supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Internet Society.

Resources and links:

Internet Universality Indicators website: https://en.unesco.org/internetuniversality

Full version of the draft Internet Universality Indicators:
https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/unesco_internet_universality_indicators_second_version.pdf

ANNEX: Draft Indicators related to Access to Information within UNESCO's Internet Universality Framework

CATEGORY R – RIGHTS

THEME C – RIGHT TO INFORMATION

QUESTIONS AND INDICATORS:

C.1   Is the right to information guaranteed in law and respected in practice?

Indicators:
- Constitutional or legal guarantee of the right of access to information consistent with international and regional rights agreements, laws and standards, and evidence that it is respected and enforced by government and other competent authorities

C.2   Does the government block or filter access to the Internet as a whole or to specific online services, applications or websites, and on what grounds and with what degree of transparency is this exercised?

Indicators:
- Legal framework for blocking or filtering Internet access, including transparency and oversight arrangements

C.3   Is a variety of news sources and diverse viewpoints on issues of public importance available online?

Indicator:
- Number and diversity of news services concerned with international, national and local news, online and offline

Means of Verification:

Evidence concerning indicators in this theme can be obtained from:

- official publications, including reports of media regulatory and data protection agencies
- country information pages on the website of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- reports by national human rights committees and councils
- legal precedents and judgements
- media reports and academic studies
- transparency reports published by online platforms and other media companies
- information from credible and authoritative informants

CATEGORY O – OPENNESS

THEME B – OPEN STANDARDS

QUESTIONS AND INDICATORS:

B.4   Does the government promote and adopt standards to facilitate accessibility to the Internet and e-government services for persons with disabilities?

- Government policy and practice towards ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Perceptions of persons with disabilities concerning accessibility policy and practice

Means of verification:

Evidence concerning the indicators in this theme can be obtained from:

- official publications, including national development strategies and reports of government departments concerned with innovation and information technology
- international and national standard-setting and oversight authorities
- Internet professional associations, including Internet Society chapter, and business organizations
- media reports and academic studies
- information from credible and authoritative informants, including Internet businesses

THEME E – OPEN DATA AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

QUESTIONS AND INDICATORS:

E.1   Has legislation been enacted which requires open access to public data, with appropriate privacy protections, and is that legislation implemented?

Indicator:
- Existence of a legal framework for access to open data which is consistent with international norms and privacy requirements
- Evidence concerning the extent to which open data resources are available and used online

E.2   Do government departments and local government agencies have websites which are available in all official languages and through all major browsers?

Indicators:
- Government policy to ensure provision of websites with appropriate language and browser access, and evidence concerning effective implementation
- Proportion of government services with websites (value/ranking in UNDESA online services index)
- Quality of government websites (extent of language availability, quantity of content, availability of mobile version)

- Proportion of adults who have used e-government services within twelve months, aggregate and disaggregated

Means of verification:

Evidence concerning the indicators in this theme can be obtained from:

- legal and other arrangements concerning open data and open government
- reports from government departments concerning implementation and use of open data and open government
- government websites
- information compiled by UN DESA through its regular *E-Government Survey* and E-*Participation Index*
- opinion surveys of users of open government services
- media reports and academic studies
- information from credible and authoritative informants, including Internet businesses

CATEGORY A – ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL

THEME E – LOCAL CONTENT AND LANGUAGE

QUESTIONS AND INDICATORS:

E.1   How many Internet domains and servers are there within the country?

   Indicator:
   - Number of registered domains (including ccTLDs. gTLDs and IDNccTLDs) per thousand population, and trend where available

E.3   Are domains and online services available which enable individuals to access and use local and indigenous scripts and languages online?

   Indicators:
   - Availability of Internet domains and websites in local scripts

Means of Verification:

- government statistical offices and communications departments, including reports on connectivity and usage submitted to the ITU and other international agencies
- government policies and regulatory arrangements concerned with universal access
- communications regulators
- ICANN, Regional Internet Registries and national domain name registries
- fixed and mobile communications network operators
- Internet service businesses, particularly Wikimedia (for E2) and social media businesses (for E3)
- household and other surveys concerned with Internet access and use, including perception surveys concerned with barriers to access and use
- international and national agencies concerned with linguistic and ethnic minorities, including indigenous communities
- media reports, academic and business consultancy studies
- information from credible and authoritative informants

THEME F – CAPABILITIES / COMPETENCES

QUESTIONS AND INDICATORS:

F.2   Are media and information literacy programmes (including digital aspects) provided for adults by government or other stakeholders, and, if so, to what extent are they being used?

   Indicators:
   - Existence of media and information literacy programmes, and usage statistics, disaggregated by gender
   - Perceptions of media and information literacy among users

Means of Verification:

- government statistical offices and communications departments, including reports on connectivity and usage submitted to the ITU and other international agencies
- government departments concerned with
- educational authorities, higher education institutions and civil society organisations concerned with education
- household and other surveys concerned with Internet access and use, including perception surveys concerned with barriers to access and use
- workplace surveys and labour market data
- media reports and academic studies
- information from credible and authoritative informants

CATEGORY M – MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

THEME A – LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

QUESTIONS AND INDICATORS:

A.2   Does the government encourage public participation in national policy processes?

Indicators:
- Value and ranking in UN DESA E-Participation Index
- Policy and legal arrangements requiring public consultation and legal and practical arrangements for online consultation processes

Means of Verification:

- government official publications and reports
- legal frameworks for e-commerce, digital signatures, cybersecurity, data protection and consumer protection
- data compiled and published in DESA's biennial E-Government Survey and e-participation index
- media reports and academic studies
- information from credible and authoritative informants

CATEGORY X – CROSS-CUTTING INDICATORS

THEME C – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

QUESTIONS AND INDICATORS:

C.1   Do national and sectoral development policies and strategies for sustainable development effectively incorporate ICTs, broadband and the Internet?

Indicators:
- Existence of a recent, comprehensive policy for the development of ICTs, broadband and the Internet, which includes consideration of likely future developments in these fields

C.6   What proportion of public service facilities have Internet access?

Indicators:
- Proportion of primary schools with Internet access
- Proportion of libraries with Internet access
- Proportion of health clinics with Internet access

Means of Verification:

- official publications and reports from government departments concerned with sustainable development
- national statistical offices
- statistics on e-waste
- statistics from communications businesses, including network operators and online services
- household and other surveys concerned with the use of online banking, mobile financial services, online learning services, online health services and online shopping services
- educational authorities
- statistics concerning e-commerce and surveys of SMEs
- media and civil society reports and academic studies
- information from credible and authoritative informants