The African Internet Governance Forum – AfIGF 2017
04 – 06 December 2017
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Empowering Global Cooperation on Cyber-security for Sustainable Development & Peace

ECOWAS Cyber security Agenda

Dr Raphael KOFFI
ECOWAS Commission
rkoffi@ecowas.int
At Glance

- Established 28 May 1975
- 15 Member States
  - 8 Francophone: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Togo
  - 5 Anglophone: Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone
  - 2 Lusophone: Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau
- 4 middle income countries
  (Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria)
- Population: 375 Million+

Sources: http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/western-africa-population/
ICT Objectives

- Regional integration and development
- Establishment of a single ICT Market in West Africa

“There will be no real Digital Single Market without a secure cyber environment in the region”
Internet access in Africa

- ECOWAS 33.5%
- Africa 31.2%
- World 51.7%

Sources: [http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats1.htm](http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats1.htm)

Internet is fast becoming the essential Communication infrastructure of the 21st century.

ICT & Internet open new opportunities of development and become the backbone of Economy:

- A 10% increase on the Internet penetration rate, leads to a 1.3% increase on the country’s GDP
- A 10% increase in mobile penetration rate increases GDP by 1.2%

However, being constantly connected brings increased risk of threats (theft, fraud, abuse, etc.)
Cybersecurity Situation

- Delay in the harmonisation of Regional and Continental legal frameworks
- Preeminent positions in global cybercrime ranking and lot of damages
- Poor awareness
- Lack of information sharing on best practices
- Low level of regional and international cooperation
- Few CERT/CSIRT
- Few countries in Africa have taken actions to protect their CII
- Desperate need of capacity building
Global Cooperation on Cyber-security

- Cybersecurity is a global concern as it has regional & international dimension (no agency or country can prevent or respond to cyber threats alone)

- Critical Information Infrastructures Protection (CIIP) key to cybersecurity: “Without CIIP there is no Cybersecurity. When you have done CIIP, now you are ready for cybersecurity” Peter Burnett, GFCE-Meridian Coordinator

- CII and cybersecurity at large are vital for the economy and societal growth of African countries
  - Capacity building
  - Need of cooperation between government and private sector
  - Need of interagency and Cross-border cooperation
Global Cooperation on Cyber-security

Measures for cooperation to empower Cybersecurity

- **ECOWAS**
  - Directive C/DIR.1/08/11 on Fighting against Cybercrime within ECOWAS
  - Supplementary Act A/SA.1/01/10 on Personal Data Protection within ECOWAS
  - Supplementary Act A/SA.2/01/10 on Electronic Transactions
  - *ECOWAS Cybersecurity Agenda*

- **African Union Convention**
  - Article 24 recognizes the importance of Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) for the MS
  - Article 25 urges Member State to adopt legislative and/or regulatory measures for the Protection of critical infrastructure

- **Budapest Convention**
Global Cooperation on Cyber-security

ECOWAS Cyber security Agenda

 Fight Cybercrime

- Appropriate legislation
- Sensitisation and legal capacity building
- Establish forensic laboratories
- International cooperation

 Improve the cyber security environment

- Define National cyber security strategy
- Establish CERTs/CSIRTs
- Sensitisation and capacity building
- CIIP
- Establishment of Regional Cybersecurity Center
Global Cooperation on Cyber-security

ECOWAS Cyber security Agenda

**Improve resilience and robustness of Information Infrastructure**

- Establish strategic frameworks
- Improve cybersecurity awareness
- Enhance capacities to handle computer security incidents
- CIIP

**Improve capacities of key stakeholders**

- Enhance capacities to respond to cybercrime cases
- Enhance capacities to cooperate and share information
- Strengthen compliance with human rights and the rule of law
Outlook

- ECOWAS Community Texts
  - Malabo Convention
  - Budapest Convention
  - Etc.

- GFCE
  - Council of Europe
  - CAMP
  - Meridian Process

- Capacity building of stakeholders
  - ECOWAS Cybercrime Justice Network
  - ESATIC

- Domestication
  - Ratification

- Skillsets

- Cooperation & Partnerships

- Going Forward
  - *ECOWAS Cyber Agenda*

- European Union
  - World Bank
  - Etc.
Conclusion

- It is important to enhance capacities and capabilities to prevent, detect and handle cyber attacks or incidents but also to cooperate efficiently.

- African Member States requested to join Major Initiatives and participate in international fora to benefit from experiences, best practices and capacity building.

- *If we want to succeed in cybersecurity for Economic growth and peace, no country should be lagged behind.*

An African adage says “**Alone we can go faster, together we can go further**”
THANK YOU !