

# THE AFRICAN SCHOOL ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE: TRACER STUDY OF FOUR ROUNDS OF AFRISIG (2013-2016)



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## **INTRODUCTION**

The African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) is an annual five-day residential knowledge and leadership building event established by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency and from 2015 organised in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF). The primary objective of AfriSIG is to give Africans from multiple sectors and stakeholder groups the opportunity to gain knowledge and build the confidence that will enable them to participate effectively in internet governance (IG) processes and debates at all levels: national, regional and global.

AfriSIG has been convened annually since 2013. Each event brings together between 40 and 60 participants and faculty. For the most part, individuals participate only once as ordinary participants. However, some participants have served as faculty or resource persons at subsequent AfriSIG events, and many faculty have played this role at more than one of the annual events. This study, conducted during the first quarter of 2017, covers the first four Schools (2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016).

Most of those who have been part of AfriSIG over the years are registered on the AfriSIG alumni email list. By the time this research was done, there were about 190 names on the list. It is an extremely active list, especially around the time of events relating to internet governance. About 200 emails were sent to the AfriSIG alumni email list between 10 April 2017 and 4 July 2017, a period of a little less than three months. This averages out at more than two emails a day, including weekends. Since 2016, participants have also been using WhatsApp groups.

At the end of each of the annual events, participants were asked to complete an evaluation form. Analysis of these forms provided immediate feedback on what had worked well in the training and what could be improved. This immediate feedback could not, however, give a good sense of how participants would use the information, skills and contacts that they had gained subsequently.

In early 2017 a request was sent out via the email list and the WhatsApp group for participants to complete an online questionnaire. The main objective of this “tracer” questionnaire (attached as Appendix 1) was to determine what had happened to participants since they took part in AfriSIG. The questionnaire was not directed primarily at those who had served only as faculty and/or facilitators, as a separate evaluation exercise had been conducted with them previously. Nevertheless, as seen below, a small proportion of those who responded to the questionnaire had served as faculty, but not as participants.

## **PROFILE OF AFRISIG PARTICIPANTS**

Of the 140 participants who have attended AfriSIG over the four years under study (2013 to 2016), 67 (48%) were women, giving a gender mix close to equal. Table 1 reveals that the gender balance was relatively even in all years except 2014, when only 41% of participants were women.

The figures in Table 1 exclude faculty and resource persons and therefore do not represent the total number of people present at each School.

Table 1. AfriSIG participants by year and gender

Gender	2013 Durban	2014 Mauritius	2015 Addis Ababa	2016 Durban	Total
Female	13	16	17	21	67
Male	15	23	15	20	73
Total	28	39	32	41	140
% female	46%	41%	53%	51%	48%

Table 2 shows the gender breakdown for all countries recording four or more participants over the years. Of the 11 countries, five have more than half of the participants being women. All four Ghanaian participants were women. At the other end of the spectrum, only one of the five Ethiopian participants was a woman.

Table 2. AfriSIG participants by gender for countries with 4 or more participants

Country	Female	Male	Total
Botswana	4	2	6
Cameroon	2	3	5
Ethiopia	1	4	5
Gambia	1	2	3
Ghana	4		4
Kenya	7	5	12
Nigeria	2	6	8
South Africa	14	17	31
Tunisia	3	1	4
Uganda	12	4	16
Zimbabwe	5	7	12
Total	67	73	140

Table 3 shows the country breakdown for all years. Across the four years, AfriSIG has had participants from 39 countries. South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Ethiopia and Ghana are recorded as having at least one participant in each year. South Africa, which accounts for close to a quarter (22%) of all participants, has at least four participants each year, while Uganda (11% overall) and Zimbabwe (9% overall) have at least two participants each year. South Africa has its highest relative participation (38%) in 2014, while Uganda has its highest (22%) in 2016.

Table 3. AfriSIG participants (excluding faculty/resource persons) by country and year

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	% of total
South Africa	6	15	4	6	31	22%
Uganda	3	2	2	9	16	11%
Kenya	2	3	6	1	12	9%
Zimbabwe	3	5	2	2	12	9%
Nigeria	4		1	3	8	6%
Botswana	2	2	1	1	6	4%
Cameroon		2	1	2	5	
Ethiopia	1	1	2	1	5	
Ghana	1	1	1	1	4	
Tunisia			3	1	4	
Gambia		1	1	1	3	
Malawi	1	1	1		3	
Congo, Democratic Republic of (DRC)			1	1	2	
Congo, Republic of				2	2	
Lesotho		1	1		2	
Senegal			1	1	2	
Zambia		1	1		2	
Algeria		1			1	
Burkina Faso		1			1	
Burundi				1	1	
Canada	1				1	
Chad				1	1	
Comoros				1	1	
Egypt				1	1	
Italy	1				1	
Ivory Coast			1		1	
Mauritius				1	1	
Morocco				1	1	
Mozambique		1			1	
Namibia				1	1	
Rwanda	1				1	
Sierra Leone			1		1	
South Sudan				1	1	
Spain		1			1	
Sudan			1		1	
Tanzania	1				1	
Togo				1	1	
Uruguay	1				1	
Total	28	39	32	41	140	100%

The country classification is sometimes open to question, particularly in respect of those classified as coming from South Africa. Those classified as coming from South Africa included four Zimbabweans, one Italian, one Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) national and one Spaniard resident in South Africa, as well as one South African resident in Germany.

## PROFILE OF AFRISIG FACULTY

At least 57 people acted as faculty or resource persons over the four AfriSIG courses included in this study – 23 in 2013, 28 in 2014, 20 in 2015 and 24 in 2016. Of the 57, 32 played this role at only one AfriSIG, 15 did so twice, seven did so three times, and three people were resource persons or faculty at all four AfriSIG events. This pattern suggests that there was both continuity across the four courses and an opportunity for a relatively wide range of people to attend AfriSIG and contribute.

Information about the geographical base is available for 52 of the 57 faculty and resource persons. Table 4 shows a decrease in the number of non-African faculty and resource persons after the first year. This is at least partly explained by the availability of AfriSIG alumni who served as resource persons in subsequent years. The African faculty and resource persons came from 15 different African countries. South Africa (with 11) and Kenya (6) were the most common countries of origin for resource persons and faculty, with two additional people from other African countries also based in South Africa at the time.

Table 4. Faculty and resource persons by year and geography

Year	Africa	Other	Total
2013	11	9	20
2014	24	4	28
2015	14	5	19
2016	20	3	23

## THE TRACER STUDY

### Profile of respondents

A total of 42 people completed the questionnaire. Of these, 31 had been participants, out of a possible 140 people who had been participants in AfriSIG over the four years. This gives a response rate of 22%, which is a relatively good rate for a tracer study, where there is usually a very poor response rate.

Of the 42, 19 were women – giving a gender ratio of 45 women to 55 men.

Eight of the 42 had attended AfriSIG in 2013, 16 in 2014, 11 in 2015 and 19 in 2016. As expected, there is therefore some tendency for those who attended more recently to be more likely to respond. Nevertheless, the number for 2014 is more than the number for 2015. This can be at least partly explained by the fact that 2014 had 39 participants in total compared to only 32 in 2015. Of the total, 34 attended only one AfriSIG, four attended twice, and a further four attended three times.

Table 5 shows that the number of participants who responded was more than double the number of faculty/resource persons for each of the events. However, the distribution changed over time as some previous participants became faculty or resource persons. Only two people who attended twice did so both times as participants. Of the remaining six who attended more than once, three attended first as a participant and subsequently as faculty/resource persons.

Table 5. Roles of respondents in AfriSIGs 2013-2016

Role	2013	2014	2015	2016
Participant	6	12	9	13
Faculty/resource person	2	4	2	6

At the time that they (last) attended AfriSIG, respondents were working and/or living in 19 different countries. Only two of these countries (Switzerland and the United States) were not in Africa. Countries with more than one participant each were Botswana (3), DRC (2), Kenya (4), Nigeria (2), South Africa (12), Uganda (4) and Zimbabwe (3).

At the time that they completed the questionnaire, respondents were working and/or living in 21 countries. Only four respondents were not in the same country as previously. Canada and Malawi had been added to the previous list of countries, and Botswana and Kenya had each lost one person.

Respondents were asked which stakeholder group they belonged to when they (last) attended AfriSIG, and which group they now belonged to. Table 6 shows staff and members of civil society organisations (CSOs) dominating in both periods. This group accounted for about a third of participants. The next largest grouping in both periods was academics. The number in both these groups increased over time, i.e. some of those who were previously in other groups were now in CSOs or academia.

Two of the consultants were now staff or members of CSOs, while a further two had become academics. Those who classified themselves as “other” when attending AfriSIG were from a regulators association, a legal and policy advisor, a researcher, and a “fellow”. The researcher subsequently became a government official.

Table 6. Stakeholder group when attending and now

Group	When at AfriSIG	Now
Staff/member of CSO	14	16
Academic	7	10
Consultant	5	1
Technical community	4	3
Government official	3	4
Business	2	1
Parliamentarian	1	1
Development/donor agency	1	1
Regulator	1	2
Other	4	3



Those who had acted as faculty or resource persons at one or more AfriSIGs were academics (2), a consultant, a CSO person, and a technical person.

## Roles in internet governance

The next set of questions asked about respondents' roles in internet governance (defined broadly and including discussion and policy-making processes and forums) in two time periods, prior to and after attending AfriSIG. Participants were able to indicate that they had played speaker, moderator or similar roles and/or a role as an ordinary participant in either of the two time periods.

Table 7 reveals that the number with no role in internet governance dropped from 11 before attending to only two after attending. The number who acted as speaker or moderator at IG events more than doubled, from 15 to 34, while the number who were "ordinary" participants decreased. Not shown in the table, the number who played roles of both speaker/moderator and ordinary participant doubled – from four before attending to eight after attending AfriSIG.

Table 7. Roles in IG before and after attending AfriSIG

	Speaker, moderator	Ordinary participant	No roles
Before attending	15	20	11
After attending	34	14	2

When asked whether they had been involved in organising IG events before and after attending AfriSIG, there was again a marked increase in activity. The number not involved at all dropped from 22 to three, the number involved a little stayed more or less constant (16 and 15 respectively), while the number involved a lot was six times higher than before – at 24 rather than four.

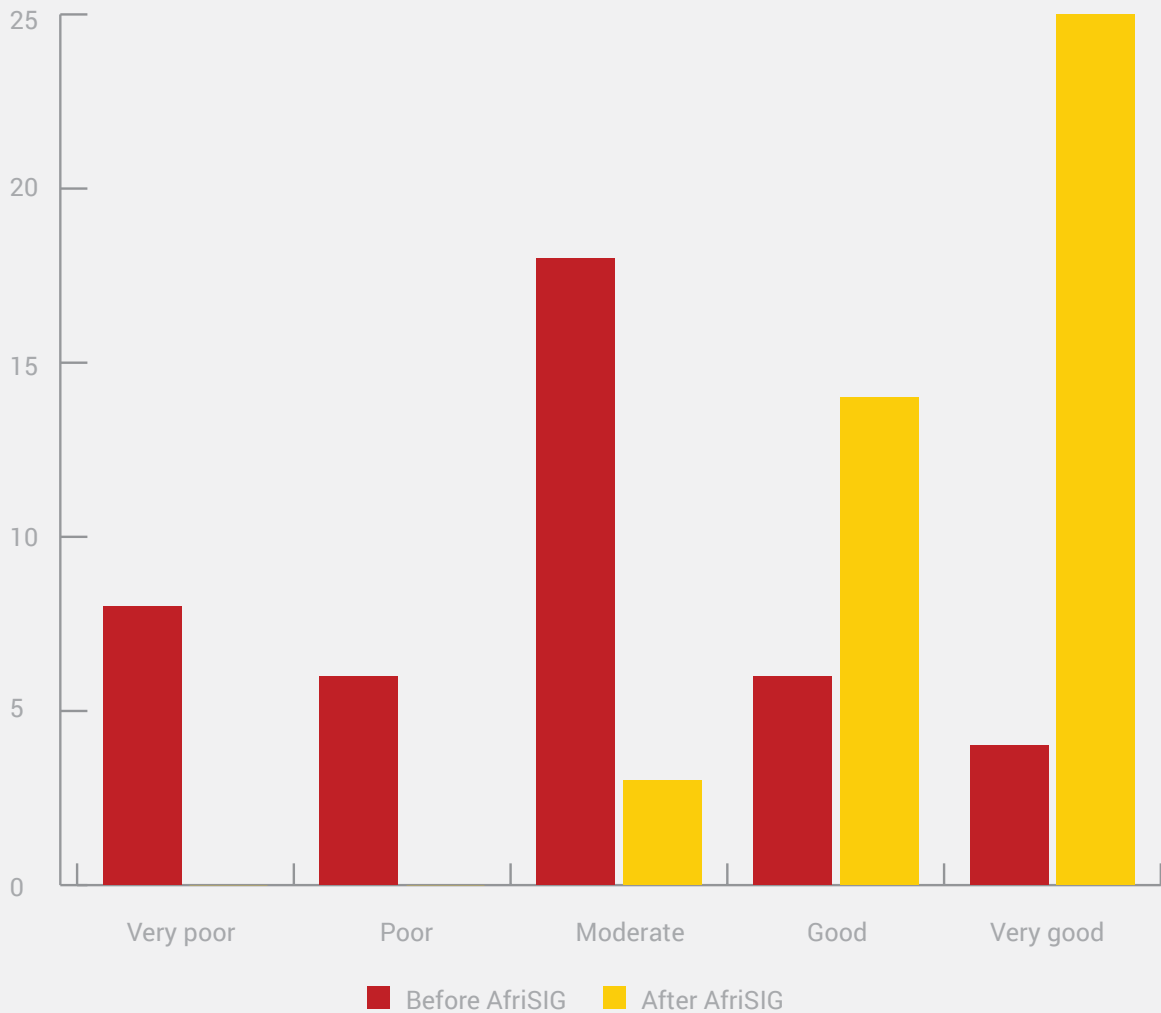
Table 8. Involvement in organising IG events before and after AfriSIG

	Not at all	A little	A lot
Before attending	22	16	4
After attending	3	15	24

## Understanding of internet governance

Figure 1 shows a clear improvement in respondents' reported level of understanding of internet governance after attending AfriSIG. Before attending, 14 people claimed to have known very little or nothing at all about it, while none claimed this after attending. At the other end of the spectrum, only 10 said they had a good or very good understanding before attending, while all but three were in this position after attending. The fact that a relatively large number – but under half – had a "moderate" understanding already before attending makes sense, as those with some interest in the area would be more likely to hear about AfriSIG and want to attend.

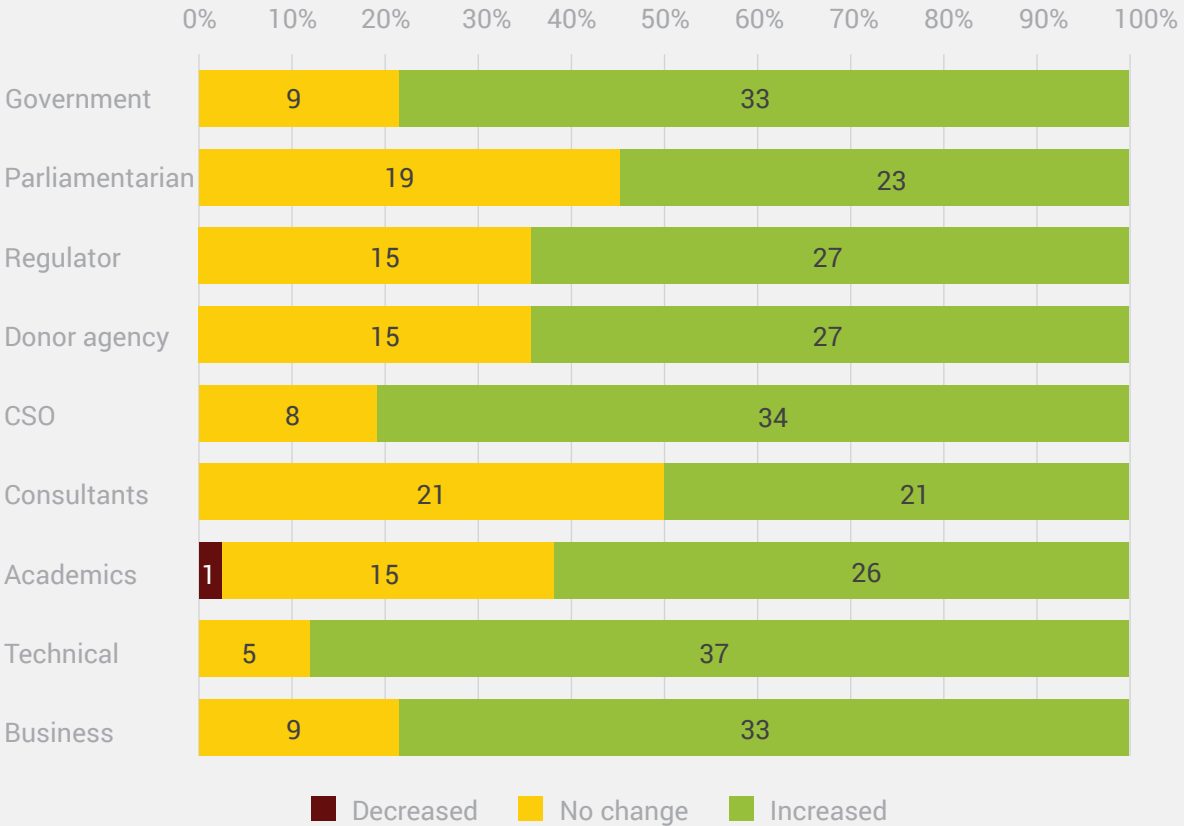
Figure 1. Understanding of IG before and after attending AfriSIG



The next set of questions asked about their understanding of the roles of different stakeholder groups in internet governance.

Figure 2 shows the reported degree of change in the respondents' level of understanding of the roles of each of the different stakeholder groups. The fact that the patterns are not constant across stakeholder groups suggests that respondents thought about each category carefully rather than simply responding in an identical way for each one. For all groups, more than half of the respondents said that their understanding increased. The least change was found in respect of consultants and parliamentarians. This could imply that participants felt that these two groups had less of a role to play than others. The most change was found in respect of technical people, CSOs and business.

Figure 2. Change in understanding of roles of stakeholders



When asked how participation in AfriSIG had changed their understanding of the multistakeholder approach more generally, two said there had been no change in their understanding, eight reported a small change, and 32 reported a big change. Both of those who reported no change attended AfriSIG as resource persons, and one of them was not from Africa.

**Gender and Internet Governance eXchange**

In some years, AfriSIG included a Gender and Internet Governance eXchange (gigX), sessions that focused on building awareness and understanding of the relationship between gender, women’s rights and internet governance.

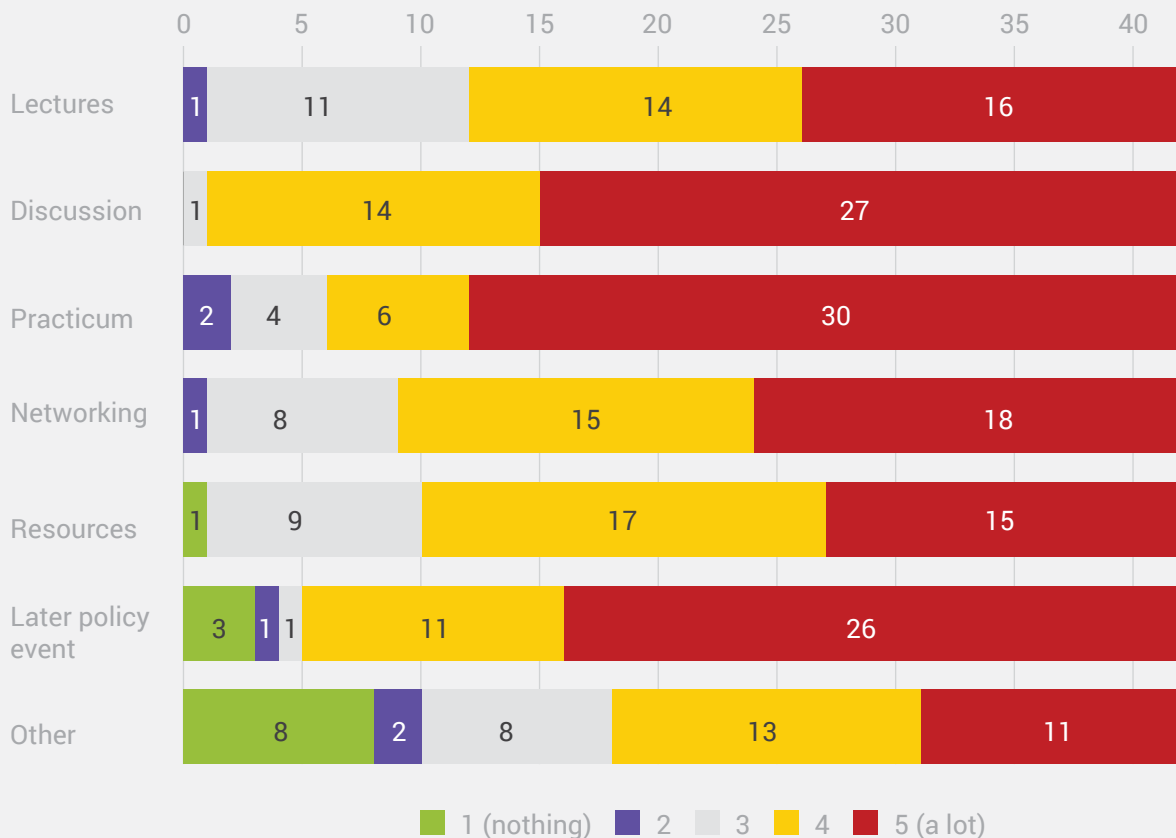
Eight people, of whom one was a man, said that they had attended gigX before AfriSIG. Of the eight, two said they had a very poor understanding, three a poor understanding and three a moderate understanding of gender and internet governance before attending. After attending, three each had very good and good understandings, leaving one with a poor understanding and one who did not rate their understanding after attending.

**Methodologies used in AfriSIG**

Figure 3 reflects responses when asked for a rating (from 1 to 5 – “nothing” to “a lot”) of how much they learned from different methods used during AfriSIG. The figure shows clearly that learning was rated highest for more practical methods. In particular, the

practicum emerges as the most useful aspect of AfriSIG from a learning perspective, with discussions and participation in a policy event after AfriSIG next most useful. If we exclude the miscellaneous “other” category, lectures emerge as the least useful approach. Resources are also among the less useful methods of imparting learning. Nevertheless, even with lectures, 16 of the 42 respondents – over a third – gave the highest rating possible.

Figure 3. Rating of how much learned from different method



## Impact

Of the 42 respondents, 39 said that participation in AfriSIG made a difference to them personally, 30 said it made a difference for their organisation or institution, and 31 said it made a difference beyond themselves and their organisation or institution. In each case, those who answered yes were asked to explain. Most did so, but a few unfortunately did not.

Among those who reported a *personal difference*, more than half (23) said that it increased their understanding of internet governance. In a few cases they noted that their understanding had increased in respect of specific aspects, such as gender (two people), rights (three), the different IG stakeholders, and other countries (two). Four people – including some who had said that it had increased their understanding – said that AfriSIG had made them more confident. Five people said that participation in AfriSIG increased their interest in IG issues.

Eight people said that after attending AfriSIG they had been participating more in IG. One noted that they had participated in the role of moderator and also organised IG events, while another also reported having played a leadership role on IG issues and programmes. A third had been selected to participate in the UN IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group for 2017. Five people said that participation in AfriSIG had been an opportunity to network and establish new contacts.

Several people referred to further study. Two had enrolled in online courses. Another had enrolled for a PhD. Two people referred to the ICANN fellowships, for which at least one had applied. One person had written a conference paper, while another referred more generally to having started “research and writing” on IG.

Several people referred to the issue of cybersecurity or security online. Two said that they had shared knowledge on this topic with others, with one having used a network of digital security trainers to co-organise Cyber Indabas. A third had enrolled in an online course on the topic.

Finally, one person said they were now more tolerant of other stakeholders, a second said they were applying the concept of multistakeholderism in business, and a third now felt able to organise module training sessions.

Among those who reported a *difference for their organisation or institution*, three said that after they attended, their organisations had organised or played a lead role in organising national IGFs, while one had organised a local version of AfriSIG. Another said that they were now regularly approached in relation to organising the local IGF. Another organisation sponsored a participant in the 2016 global IGF.

Four organisations had mainstreamed issues raised at AfriSIG into their programmes. One of these organisations had established a research team to focus on IG, and had “streamlined” the issue into the policy and strategy of the organisation, and had discussions with policy makers on the topic. A second had developed IG research topics. A third had included IG in its focus on internet freedom. The fourth participant noted:

We are now looking at the use of the internet as a fundamental human right and asking journalists union to join the campaign. In the next three years, issues concerning online safety and internet governance will form the core component of our programmes.

Several participants noted that the fact that they now had expertise on this issue had placed their organisation in a new position. In most cases they elaborated in what respect the organisation’s position had changed. Thus in three cases, the organisation’s training capacity had improved. One elaborated as follows:

Am currently engaging various stakeholders to offer capacity building programs for Law Enforcement in Digital Rights and Cyber Security. I am also a C facilitator in Cyber Crime at Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisations and INTERPOL organised courses in the region.

In a fourth case the person felt that they were better placed to coordinate the organisation’s internet freedom work. In the fifth case the person was involved in planning the process for policy and other decisions in relation to country code top-level domains (ccTLDs), while a sixth person said they were able to engage in policy making more generally. Finally, a further

response shows how the alliances formed and knowledge of available resources were key aspects of the new specialist attributes:

As digital security trainers, we found ourselves increasingly being needed by circumstances to interpret what the different implications of the proposed cyber law would be. My participation in AfriSIG helped especially by way of formulating helpful alliances and becoming aware of existing resources that we can make reference to in our work, including how to stay updated on topical developments and issues.

Four people said that their organisations now had more interest in and were more engaged on the issue of IG. In one case this had resulted in the issue being included in the organisation's vision.

Six people said that their participation in AfriSIG had enhanced the organisation's network or partnerships and/or made it better known.

At least three participants indicated that they were now advocating multistakeholderism. One was doing so in engagement with a government ministry, another was advocating for involvement of youth and women, while in the third case the participant said that they now involved other people in making key decisions, and that had made the team more productive. In this last case, it seems that the participant had introduced a multistakeholder approach at work.

Finally, those who said AfriSIG made a *difference beyond themselves and their organisation or institution* provided a wide range of answers. Some of these echoed earlier responses, such as involvement in organising local IGFs and the organisation being recognised as having expertise in this area.

Some participants spoke about sharing information with others, including "friends", "colleagues" and "ordinary internet users". One said that this had encouraged others to attend IG events. In addition, one person said that they were actually seeking working groups/best practice forums on the continent to join so as to be able to contribute to addressing issues from a human rights perspective.

Two noted that there was strong participation by AfriSIG participants in global IGF events. One of these noted that African participation was previously limited. Other participants spoke about their own enhanced participation in global forums and events, including ICANN. One of these noted that the organisation now received more invitations to such events, while another said they had organised an IGF session on behalf of their organisation.

One participant reported collaborating with two other gigX participants to host a conversation on safety online. Another said their organisation had organised "mini workshops" on gender and IG.

One organisation had allocated funding to support IG work in East Africa. Another participant was encouraging affiliated unions on the continent to focus on internet safety in their work.

The last question in this set asked whether participants were aware of AfriSIG making a *difference for other people*. All but four (38 in total) said that this was the case. All but six then explained their positive answer.

Many of the responses referred to AfriSIG participants in general. For example, they said that co-participants had formed a “chorus” that had “become louder than ever before”; that there was ongoing contact and discussions between participants that broadened knowledge and professional networks; that the contact extended beyond online to visits to each other’s countries, collaborative work and “brave conversations”; that the AfriSIG class (of 2016) was “very connected” and engaged in more advocacy and policy making than previously; that AfriSIG graduates had an enhanced online presence, especially on Twitter; that participants’ knowledge, confidence and participation in IG-related events had increased; that participation included acting as moderators and organisers at national, regional and international level; that alumni were making “significant contributions” in the IG field; that many AfriSIG participants had become “game changers in the internet space”; that some had obtained jobs in IG-related organisations since AfriSIG; and that alumni had written interesting articles on IG.

A few responses referred to specific individuals, as follows:

- Halefom Hailu Abraha, who twice became an ICANN Fellow and participated alongside another AfriSIG person in the Council of Europe annual Octopus Cyber Crime Conference.
- Two participants who had assumed new responsibilities within IG spaces, from where they could advocate for changes.
- Thatho Mfikwe, who had been elected president of ISOC Johannesburg.
- Nhlanhla Ngwenya, who played an active role in IG issues in Zimbabwe.
- A participant from Cameroon who had engaged in advocacy to restore internet service in some regions after the internet shutdown that occurred in the country.
- A participant from the Nigerian regulator who now reaches out on advocacy issues.

## Going forward

Almost all (38) of the respondents said that they had recommended AfriSIG to other people. Of those who did so, 11 said that at least one person to whom they had recommended AfriSIG had subsequently attended, 13 said that no one to whom they had recommended it had attended, while 14 did not know whether anyone had subsequently attended AfriSIG.

Finally, respondents were asked if they had anything to add. Just over half (22) responded to this invitation. Some of the 22 used this opportunity to commend and/or thank the organisers of AfriSIG. Such thanks were often added to other observations.

At least two commented that participation in AfriSIG had changed their life in some way. This included “shap(ing)” a “career path” as well as “life-changing” used more generally. Participants used strong terms such as “passion”, “fantastic opportunity” and “eye opener” in commenting on what AfriSIG had meant to them personally. One said that the “link with women issues is simply mindblowing”.

At least five participants advocated for there to be follow-up events for participants. One of these suggested that reporting back every few years could be a prerequisite for participation. Another noted that an “advanced” programme was necessary given the dynamic nature of the internet and IG. Yet another suggested that AfriSIG be a “continuous” programme so that participants could receive frequent reminders of what they needed to do.

Several participants commented or made suggestions in respect of diversity of participants. One recommended that a French AfriSIG be organised if at all possible. Another suggested

an increased number of participants, as well as greater variety. A third suggested that the selection process be revised to avoid “recycling the same people in the IGF” and to get “new blood” and more grassroots participants. A fourth encouraged AfriSIG to continue to use a “multistakeholder” approach in selecting participants. An academic noted that in most years, AfriSIG had been scheduled during semester time, making it “unworkable” for academics to attend.

Many participants used the word “develop” in describing what AfriSIG did. The use of this word ranged from developing Africa, through developing youth, to developing particular participants. The participant who referred to youth saw AfriSIG as playing a “crucial” role in this respect, while another participant saw AfriSIG as “unique” in the way it was “nurturing and empowering” Africans to participate in IG issues regionally and globally. Still on development, one participant suggested that AfriSIG should consider supporting the development of national schools of internet governance (SIGs). As seen above, several participants had taken it upon themselves to do this after participating.

The importance of practical work was highlighted by two participants, one of whom noted that the practicum on internet shutdowns was an “eye opener” while the second suggested that there should be fewer long discussions and more on “practical tactics to raise awareness about internet rights”.

A few participants offered concerns about AfriSIG. One listed five concerns, as follows: (a) use of outdated information by some lecturers; (b) over-use of a lecture-style format; (c) lack of appreciation by some lecturers of participants’ existing knowledge and experience; (d) “a lacklustre approach to exciting progressive topics”; and (e) lack of understanding among some lecturers of the African context. It is possible – indeed likely given that the problems seemed to be confined to a single week – that the five points all relate to a limited number of lecturers. The participant noted that these weaknesses meant that Anriette Esterhuysen, overall facilitator of AfriSIG and the executive director of APC at the time, had to bridge the gaps, and was “great” at doing so, but that it meant there was too much dependency on one person.

Finally, two participants referred to the active way in which AfriSIG alumni engaged in the IG field. The full response by one of these two participants illustrates both this point and the superlatives often used in the responses more generally:

AfriSIG is a power house that graduates alumni with exponential skills and knowledge that the world needs. It’s humbling enough to see what alumni is currently doing in the industry. Their work is impacting everyone in a positive way.

## **CONCLUSION**

Appendix 2 contains a blog post produced by an AfriSIG alumnus attending the ICANN59 meeting of June 2017 in Johannesburg. It gives a flavour of the pride AfriSIG alumni feel in this status, as well as the extent to which they are active in an important IG space. The blog post provides a fitting end to an evaluation that is overwhelmingly positive, and that gives many different indicators of impact on participants, their organisations and institutions, and internet governance in Africa more generally.



**APPENDIX I**

**AFRISIG TRACER STUDY: QUESTIONNAIRE**

Every year since 2013, the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) has organised an African School on Internet Governance (AfrISIG). This school brings together people from different African countries who are already involved, or want to be involved, in internet governance. Evaluations have been conducted after these events to obtain feedback on what worked well and what could be improved. APC now wants to find out what has happened since to all those who were part of AfrISIG and what their views about the School are now.

We are therefore emailing you as a participant, faculty member of resource person at one or more of the AfrISIG events. We hope that you will agree to complete a short tracer study questionnaire. The majority of the questions are closed-ended (tick box) so that the questionnaire will not take a lot of your time. However, we also welcome any additional comments and feedback that you can give. If you have such feedback, please email it to [debbie.budlender@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.budlender@gmail.com).

We ask for your name so that we have a record of who has already responded. We will, however, not use any personal information in the evaluation report.

Please respond to the questionnaire by 24 March 2017.

Name: .....

Please mark each of the years that you attended AfrISIG, and what your role was in each:

Year	Location	Attended	Choose ONE of the 3 options		
			Participant	Faculty	Resource person
2013	XXX	Y / N			
2014	XXX	Y / N			
2015	XXX	Y / N			
2016	XXX	Y / N			
		Y / N			

Country in which you currently live: .....

Country in which you were living when you last attended AfrISIG: .....

Current position:

- Government official
- Development agency official
- NGO staff member
- Civil society organisation member
- Consultant
- Academic
- Other (describe)

Position when you last attended AfriSIG

- Government official
- Development agency official
- NGO staff member
- Civil society organisation member
- Consultant
- Academic
- Other (describe)

Please rate your participation in internet governance processes before and after attending AfriSIG:

	Not at all	A little	A lot
Before attending			
After attending			

Please rate your role in organising internet governance processes before and after attending AfriSIG:

	Not at all	A little	A lot
Before attending			
After attending			

Please rate your level of knowledge and understanding of internet governance issues before attending AfriSIG and now

	Very poor	Poor	Moderate	Good	Very good
Before AfriSIG					
Now					

Please rate how much you learnt from different types of activities at the AfriSIG event/s. Use a rating of 1 (nothing) to 5 (a lot).

	1 Nothing	2	3	4	5 A lot
Lectures/inputs					
Discussions					
Practicums					
Informal networking					
Resources (e.g. documents)					
Other					

Did attendance at AfriSIG make any differences for you as an individual after the event?

Yes / No

If YES, please describe the change.....

Did attendance at AfriSIG make any differences for your organisation/institution?

Yes / No

If YES, please describe the change.....

Did your attendance at AfriSIG make any differences beyond you and/or your organisation/institution?

Yes / No

If YES, please describe the change.....

Have you observed that AfriSIG made a difference to any other people who attended AfriSIG?

Yes / No

If YES, please describe who changed and how they changed

.....

Have you recommended AfriSIG to any other people?

Yes / No

If YES, did any of the people to whom you recommended AfriSIG subsequently attend AfriSIG? Yes / No / Don't know

Do you have anything to add: .....

Please remember that we also will appreciate it if you send further views by email to [debbie.budlender@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.budlender@gmail.com). Please put "Afrisig Tracer Study Feedback" as the heading for your email.

## AFRISIG ALUMNI: A GROWING PRESENCE IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE SPACES

<https://www.apc.org/en/blog/afrisig-alumni-growing-presence-internet-governance-spaces> >

By Arsène Tungali, 28 June 2017

The African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) is an annual five-day residential course run by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. The goal of the School is to develop a pipeline of leading Africans from diverse sectors, backgrounds and ages with the skills to participate in local and international internet governance structures, and shape the future of the internet landscape for Africa's development.

Alumni from the four editions of AfriSIG held so far are successfully moving into the internet governance space by participating in major events at both the regional and international levels. They are selected or invited to participate on the basis of their engagement and work in their respective communities. AfriSIG was an opportunity that helped them either to enter the internet governance space or to gain a deeper understanding of the main internet governance issues, with a focus on regional bodies and institutional actors.

At the ICANN59 meeting taking place this week in Johannesburg (26-29 June), many AfriSIG alumni are present and involved in various aspects of the event. Some are representing ICANN constituencies they are active in, while others are just entering into the ICANN space, another global actor developing policies in a multistakeholder way.

There are two main categories of fellowships that ICANN offers. Many of the AfriSIG alumni were selected for these fellowships, either for the first time or as alumni of the programme. Other AfriSIG alumni like Yolanda Mlonzi (Class of 2015) and Thato Mfikwe (Class of 2016), who live in Johannesburg and are members of the ICANN Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC), helped organise a two-day NCUC outreach meeting that took place on 23-24 June – and was a big success, based on comments from those who attended. So, kudos to them!

### **The ICANN59 Fellowship Programme (including the Newcomer Regional Pilot Programme)**

The AfriSIG alumni selected for this fellowship include Evelyn Namara (Class of 2016, Uganda), Emmanuel Agbenonwossi (Class of 2016, Togo), Michael Ilishebo (Class of 2014, Zambia, and also a member of the Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group, IGF MAG), Silas Ngabirano (Class of 2016, Uganda) and Koliwe Majama (Class of 2016, Zimbabwe). Koliwe Majama stood out in particular for her engagement in various sessions, taking the floor to challenge panels and raise some important issues. Arsène Tungali (Class of 2016, Democratic Republic of Congo) served as her Coach for this meeting, and met with her prior to the meeting to discuss various aspects of ICANN and how she could prepare to fully benefit from this opportunity.

There are also some AfriSIG participants who are not part of the fellowship but who happen to be attending this meeting and proudly representing the community. They include Mistura Aruna (Class of 2013, Nigeria, representing his country in the ICANN Government Advisory Group), Anri van der Spuy (Class of 2014, a former ICANN Fellow and NextGen participant and now a mentor), Brian Tshuma (Class of 2014, an NCUC member and funded by Guptas), Dr. Jerome Terpase Dooga (Class of 2013, Nigeria), and Tracy Kganakga (Class of 2016, South Africa).

## **The NextGen Programme**

AfriSIG alumni selected for this programme, who are newcomers at ICANN, include Joash Ntega Moitui (Class of 2016, Kenya) and Mauricia Abdol (Class of 2016, South Africa). Joash and Mauricia gave presentations about the work/research they are involved in, as part of the requirements of the NextGen Programme.

Joash spoke about the role of social media in political violence and conflict mitigation in Kenya, discussing the use of social media in the violations that happened right after elections in Kenya, while Mauricia's thought-provoking presentation was entitled "The Ubuntu-centred ICANN multistakeholder model: Challenging the parameters of the multistakeholder model with a strategic injection of the 'youth' population in Africa for Africa".

## **Alumni representing At-Large Structures**

Some AfriSIG alumni have their organisations registered as At-Large Structures (ALS). They have benefited from ICANN support to attend their general meeting as well as ICANN59. Serge Parfait Goma (Class of 2016, Republic of Congo), who is representing an ALS, is very vocal and uses every opportunity to take the floor and raise issues in different meetings.

From the type of interventions or comments most of these fellows are making at the ICANN meeting, one can easily note that AfriSIG was useful in helping them understand the multistakeholder model of ICANN. Pierre Dandjinou, vice president of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Africa, said during a Fellowship session that participants should not only enjoy the meeting or be vocal in various sessions, but they should also make sure they convey the messages and recommendations from this ICANN policy meeting to their constituencies and communities back home. He can count on the "Afrisiggers" present at ICANN to do just that.

If you are attending any other upcoming internet governance-related meetings this year, you will surely come across AfriSIG alumni, who will continue to speak about the valuable work each one of them is doing and about what Africa needs in terms of internet governance.

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