



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum**  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, Bo, Sierra Leone**  
**Theme: The Internet: An Education and National Development Enabler.**

## **SLIGF 2022 Communiqué**

We, the participants at the 6th Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum (SLIGF), organized by the Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, Sierra Leone Internet Society (ISOC-SL), the University of Njala, Eastern Technical University, Canadian University, and the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Government of Sierra Leone, held at the Queen of Rose Conference Hall, Bo, Sierra Leone on the Wednesday 22nd June 2022

- **Recalling** that this is the sixth session of the Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum;
- **Recalling** that previous Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forums had concluded that good Internet governance is critical for sustainable ICT development and social-economic impact;
- **Recalling** that the first, second, third, fourth and fifth Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forums discussed issues such as access, security, critical Internet resources, privacy, cloud computing, and openness in Sierra Leone;
- **Recalling** the continued commitment and support given by the Ministry of Information and Communication, AFRICELL, Metro Cable, for the success of the SLIGF 2018, and participation by national stakeholders in the forum;
- **Recalling** that the SLIGF supports the multi-stakeholder model/approach in governing the Internet in Sierra Leone, the sub-region and globally;
- **Recalling** that is the first SLIGF to be held outside of the Capital City of Freetown

### **Elects to:**

Hold the annual Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum on a regional rotation and ensuring that as a national programme, every Sierra Leone District gets to host the forum

### **The forum agrees and makes the following recommendations:**

#### **1. On Security:**

- Government should do extensive dissemination of the 2021 Cybersecurity Act to counter cybercrimes and internet misuse
- ISOC should engage Internet Society stakeholders to plan for the annual celebration of Global Encryption Day

## 2. On Accessibility:

- ICT literacy from basic to higher education should be mandatory
- Government and other stakeholders to extend facilities in the provinces
- SALCAB operators to enhance and extend the national Fibre infrastructure for Last-Mile solutions
- ISOC to organise Hackathons for the creation of applications that make it easy for illiterate or partly illiterate users to access the Internet
- Creation of ICT policies that will improve access in unserved and underserved areas

## 3. Internet Service Providers:

- Service providers should invest in the upgrade of their network equipment for full 3G or 4g capability.
- Government and/or private sector should create redundancy for the international gateway with the landing of a second submarine cable system or terrestrial international links
- All stakeholders to work towards a reduction in infrastructure costs by encouraging colocation and other cost saving options.
- Enforce the contribution and utilization of the Universal Access Fund for the building of infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities.

## 4. On Affordability:

- Recommends that the key drivers: Government of Sierra Leone, NATCOM, SALCAB and the Service Providers should work towards a reduction of the cost of data.
- Low or no duty on entry level smartphones and other internet devices.
- NATCOM should utilise its regulatory powers in curtailing uncompetitive data market practices.
- Government should provide incentives for alternate energy sources as well as reduce fuel energy costs.

## 5. **WE THANK** The Government of Sierra Leone, Ministry of Information and Communications (SL), the various universities, schools, and all participants for their support.

Bo, Sierra Leone

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