Tanzania Internet Governance Forum (TzIGF) 2025 Report

Theme: Partnership for a Resilient Digital Governance in Tanzania
JNICC, Mkomazi Hall • 29 May 2025

Opening Session

The 12th Tanzania Internet Governance Forum opened with a strong call for collaboration and shared responsibility across all sectors. Dr. Nazarius Nicholas delivered the welcoming address on behalf of Tanzania IGF MAG Chair welcomed participants and emphasized that the country's digital transformation is advancing rapidly, but its success depends on coordinated action among government, civil society, the private sector, academia, innovators and development partners.

Keynote Address – Dr. Moses Mwasaga, Director General, ICT Commission
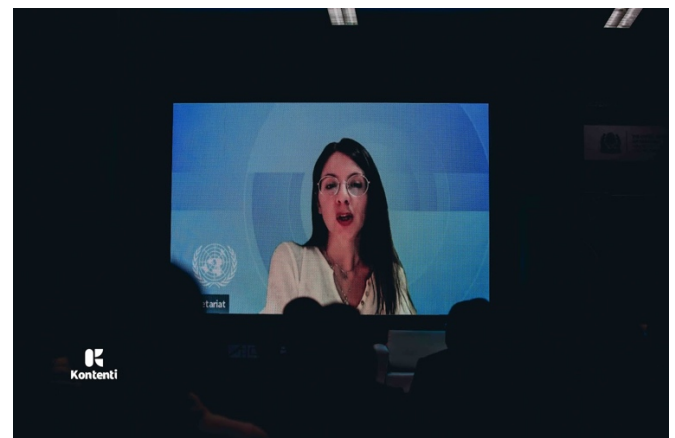

Dr. Moses Mwasaga officially opened the forum by highlighting the central role of ICTs in Tanzania's national development strategy. He explained that digital systems now support essential sectors—including health, education, agriculture, finance and public administration—and that the national digital transformation agenda is driven by the need for innovation, efficiency and citizen-centered services.

He stressed that resilient digital governance requires both technological investment and trust, and called on all institutions to prioritize cybersecurity, data protection and digital literacy. Dr. Mwasaga also noted progress in national infrastructure, including expanded connectivity, improved digital public services and increased adoption of e-government systems. However, he also pointed out that cyber threats, misinformation and limited user capacity remain major challenges.

Opening Remarks – Ms. Anja Gengo, United Nations IGF Secretariat
Joining virtually, Ms. Gengo commended Tanzania for hosting the national IGF, Africa Youth IGF and Africa IGF in the same week—calling it a sign of leadership in digital cooperation. She emphasized that NRIs are long-term processes where communities shape policy and align local needs with global governance themes.

Newcomers Introduction – TzIGF Secretariat

New participants received an introduction to the IG model, multistakeholder processes, and how national, sub-regional, regional and global Internet governance intersect.

Session 1: Civic-Tech and Innovation

Dr. Joseph Mushi explained how civic-tech solutions are transforming citizen engagement in Tanzania. He highlighted tools built by local innovators that allow the public to report issues, access information, track service delivery, and interact more directly with government systems.

He noted key barriers such as limited funding, lack of access to government data, regulatory uncertainty, and gaps in digital literacy among users. Dr. Mushi emphasized that strong cooperation between innovators, government, civil society and private sector is crucial to building sustainable civic-tech ecosystems.

He concluded by calling for policy frameworks that encourage experimentation and support local innovators.

Session 2: Inclusive National Digital Policies

Speakers:
• Mr. Kulwa Kapama (eGA)
• Hon. Judge Dr. Wilbard Laltaika
• Catherine Kimambo (ACP)
Moderator: Yusuph Kileo

Mr. Kapama emphasized that interoperability frameworks, e-government services and digital-ID systems are essential for inclusive digital transformation. He stressed that accessibility and digital literacy remain key barriers in underserved communities.

Judge Laltaika focused on rights-based digital governance, reminding participants that digital expansion must remain grounded in constitutional protections and ethical use of technology.

Catherine Kimambo discussed the cybersecurity dimension of inclusion, explaining that meaningful digital access requires safety, awareness and coordinated national cybersecurity programs.

Moderator Yusuph Kileo closed by noting that inclusive digital policy must combine technology, rights, access and safety.

Session 3: Cyber Trust

This session explored how rising digital threats are reducing online trust in Tanzania. Speakers highlighted issues including online fraud, impersonation, identity theft, misinformation and privacy concerns.

Community initiatives such as Ni Rahisi and TMC digital-safety programs were commended for helping citizens build safer online habits. Participants emphasized that trust requires shared responsibility across government, platforms, civil society and users.

The session concluded with calls for stronger national awareness campaigns, better data

protection, and training for youth and women.

Session 4: Disability Rights & Inclusion

Speakers: Francis Chiwango & Getrude Jonas (MERODI)
Moderator: Dr. Nazar Nicholas

Mr. Chiwango stressed that accessibility is a right, not an option. He noted that many digital services in Tanzania fail to meet accessibility standards, creating significant barriers for persons with disabilities.

Ms. Jonas shared personal examples of digital exclusion, including inaccessible websites, lack of captions, and poorly structured apps. She highlighted the emotional impact of exclusion and the importance of universal design.

Dr. Nicholas emphasized collaboration between policymakers, developers and disability organizations to ensure long-term accessibility in digital systems.

Session 5: Women's Online Safety
Speaker: Imani Henrick Luvanga

Imani Luvanga presented evidence of harmful online behaviors targeting women in Tanzania, including harassment, smear campaigns, impersonation, cyberstalking and coordinated attempts to silence women in leadership, journalism and activism.

She emphasized that these attacks limit participation, visibility and safety. Imani called for survivor-centered reporting systems, national digital-safety education, platform accountability and better institutional support.

Participants concluded that online gender-based violence is a barrier to full democratic participation and must be addressed through policy, education and community action.

Recommendations & Declaration

Participants developed the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen multistakeholder governance and coordination.
2. Support civic-tech ecosystems through funding, policy reforms and capacity building.
3. Advance inclusive digital policy and expand digital literacy.
4. Build cyber trust through awareness, transparency and secure systems.
5. Protect women online through survivor-centered support and platform accountability.
6. Enhance accessibility through mandatory compliance with disability-access standards.
7. Establish thematic working groups on elements of Internet Governance such cybersecurity, digital rights, Digital Inclusion etc.

Declaration:
Participants reaffirmed their commitment to building an inclusive, secure and resilient digital future for Tanzania and supporting continental and global IGF processes.

Closing Ceremony

Dr. Nicholas Merinyo Mkapa closed the forum by commending participants for constructive dialogue and recommitting the ministry to strengthening digital governance, safety and inclusion.

He encouraged stakeholders to engage actively in the newly formed thematic working groups to ensure recommendations lead to concrete national action.

The forum concluded with appreciation to all participants and group photographs.