

Event Report on the Commonwealth Cybersecurity Forum 2013, held in Yaoundé Conference Centre, Cameroon from 22-26 April 2013

The 3rd Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Forum, CTO, was organised in Yaounde, Cameroon from April 22-26, 2013. It was the first to be organised outside London and had as principal theme, "*Bringing Safety, Resilience and Security into Cyberspace.*" The Conference was jointly organised by the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation, CTO, and the Telecommunication Regulatory Board, TRB of Cameroon with other partners and stakeholders in the international telecommunication sector. It brought together stakeholders from commonwealth member countries that discussed on ways of protecting cyberspace to stem increasing cybercrime. The first three days of the international conference were reserved for interactive debates aimed at crafting palpable frameworks to permit the adoption of national and international policies for "Child Online Protection" in some Commonwealth countries in Africa, parallel sessions that included the special briefing for Commonwealth Parliamentarians in a bid to examine a legal framework for electronic commerce, bringing together a cross section of Commonwealth Parliamentarians from Australia, Cameroon, Namibia, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Republic of Tanzania who under the facilitation of Ms Cecile Barayre of UNCTAD, examined international and regional best practices on key legal aspects of electronic commerce and cyber security aimed at putting in place legislation to handle the transformation of commerce through ICTs. Prof Ian Walden, head of the Institute of Computer and Communications Law, Queen Mary, University of London, led exchange discussions.

Jean Louis Beh Mengue, the General Manager of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board- TRB, Cameroon, welcomed participants remarking that:- it was an honour for Africa in general and Cameroon in particular to host the 3rd Cyber Security forum jointly organised by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation – CTO and the Telecommunications Regulatory Board and the first forum outside London. He added that the choice of TRB was not by accident but a natural order following excellent, fruitful and longstanding relations with the CTO thanks to the Government of Cameroon. the forum, he articulated marks the 10th anniversary of "Safer Internet for Africa" and in a continent where ICTs and digital connectivity are at the nerve centre of an economic and social transition connecting citizens and communities even though full of benefits as well as injuries because they play a tremendous role in socio-economic development. He lamented that; "exponential rise" in cyber crimes is capable of generating economic instability, disrupt national security and social interaction within nations and across borders". Jean Louis Beh Mengueh made a clarion call to all stakeholders not only regulators to put hands on deck in managing vulnerabilities so that society may continue to enjoy benefits that ICTs offer because it is only through such concerted effort that current and emerging cyber security challenges can be addressed.

The Secretary General of CTO cum Moderator of forum, Prof. Tim Unwin doffed his hat for the Government of Cameroon and all local stakeholders for the warm reception to delegates. He welcomed most especially the Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Regulatory Board; delegates from Australia, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean to this third forum; fruit of 18 months of negotiations. Tim thanked the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cameroon to whom he joined the voice of the Commonwealth family to express his gratitude to the Government represented by the Prime Minister. He paid special tribute to the GM of TRB. whom he venerated. The CTO Scribe enjoined the Government of Cameroon to include NGOs, Civil society, men and women, old and young, poor and rich, able and disabled on board to work together in order to overcome ICT challenges. He saluted CTO partners; Internet Watch Foundation, Microsoft, Council of Europe, AFRINIC, ICCAN, MTN, etc for their commitment to see that the drive towards cyber security gain grounds the world over.

Declaring deliberations opened on May 25, 2013 on behalf of the Prime Minister, Head of Government of the Republic of Cameroon, Hon. Philemon Yang, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Hon. Jean Pierre Biyiti Bi Essam while welcoming delegates and thanking CTO and member countries for the choice of Cameroon said it was a unique opportunity to strengthen relations with CTO and members of the prestigious organisation in which Cameroon got admission in 1995. Biyiti Bi Essam saluted the organisers for the choice of the conference theme: "Bringing Safety, Resilience and Security into Cyberspace" acknowledging that so much uncertainty surrounds sensitive information being transmitted online. According to the minister, the theme for 2013 was very relevant as it builds trust and confidence in the new ICT dispensation. He warned that while taking measures to secure the cyber space, adequate measures must equally be taken to guarantee privacy. He told the world that the Cameroon Government since December 2010 has not left any stone unturned in terms of legislation on cyber security, criminality, electronic communication and e-commerce. And as if that was not enough, the Cameroon Government put in place a second regulatory; the National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies – ANTIC charged with the securities of networks and information systems through security audits of information systems, Computer Incidence Response Team, CIRT and the Policy Key Infrastructure, PKI.

The Cameroon minister made it clear that online service delivery was a priority not only in Cameroon but in all developing countries and ICTs in general boost economic growth especially through broadband infrastructure development; this is the reason why cyber security has become cause for concern. He used the occasion to encourage all participating states to seize this opportunity and deliberate whole heartedly and implement the recommendations of the forum in order to out-pace cyber criminals and foster the development and expansion of ICTs in respective member countries. As for Cameroon, Hon. Biyiti was categorical that his country was only waiting for the resolutions and recommendations as a night-watch man waits for the dawn.

Numerous presentations and interactive sessions sanctioned the five days conference in Yaounde which brought together experts in the various domains on ICTs. David Pollington, Director of International Security Relations, Microsoft, spoke on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection: Implications for Developing Countries. He said at the international level, Public-Private Partnership Models for international level collaboration need stronger support from both government and industry while at the national level; Public-Private Partnership models established for more than 10 years around the world are maturing. Alexander Seger, Secretary of Cybercrime Convention Committee and Head of Data Protection and Cybercrime Division, Council of Europe, gave an analysis of the Budapest Convention. He said many countries have used the Budapest Convention as guidelines to draw their national conventions. Alexander Seger added that the laws of some of these States are sufficiently in line with the Budapest Convention to seek accession into establishing national frameworks.

Meanwhile, Mario Maniewicz, Chief, Infrastructure, Enabling Environment & E-applications Telecommunication Development Bureau International Telecommunication Union, made startling revelations:

- Every second, 18 adults become victims of cybercrime, resulting in more than **1.5 million** cybercrime victims each day on a global level with losses totaling an average of US\$197 per victim across the world in direct financial costs, cybercrime costs consumes more than a week's worth of nutritious food necessities for a family of four.
- In the past 12 months, an estimated 556 million adults across the world experienced cybercrime, more than the entire population of the European Union. This figure

represents 46% of online adults who have been victims of cybercrime in the past twelve months, compared with the findings from 2011 (45 percent).

- More than 1.5 billion attacks took place solely through the web in 2012.

Maniewicz explains further that “While launching 1.5 billion web attacks throughout 2012 Cybercriminals used 6.5 million of unique domains (2.5 million more than in 2011) Servers seeded with malicious code were detected in the Internet zones of 202 countries around the world. He added that almost all governments’ websites of the UN Member States have been attacked between 2011 and 2012 at various levels, from defacement to DDOS, from phishing to data theft and that between 2011 and 2012, some 20 intergovernmental organisations and UN bodies, including IAEA, IMF, UNDP, UN, ITU, have been victims of cyberattacks of various magnitudes. Mario expressed anxiety over what he described. Continued rise of targeted attacks and advanced persistent threat. Attacks targeting cloud-based infrastructures will increase, Member States are starting to move from defensive to offensive *Rise of cyber warfare* and that United Nations System as one of the main targets identified for 2013 *UN organisations and UN conferences will be affected*. A way forward he prescribes the urgent need for proactive solutions, proposing “Capital intensive solutions” and the necessity for better early warning systems addressing different types of attacks.

Marcel Ambiana Belingue, Senior Manager, Programmes, CTO, treated “Building National Capacity for Cybersecurity ASSURANCE

In an overview, he discussed, Cyber Risk Management in National ICT Policy Development, Cybersecurity as a Business Continuity Strategy, PDT – A Capacity Building Programme for Cybersecurity BELINGUE described CTO to be the preferred partner organisation for governments, the private sector and civil society in delivering effective ICTs for development (ICT4D) in the Commonwealth and beyond.

His presentation bore special bias for Singapore’s iGov2010 (2006-2010): To be an integrated government that delights customers and connects citizens through ICTs which is driven by strategic thrusts, including Singapore’s competitiveness, this he saw as a role model for member countries to emulate because 8 out of 10 users are being “very satisfied” with the quality of government e-services. He reassured participants that, e-Government strategies play a key role in setting standards in establishing a safe cyber space. His findings state that Singapore’s, iDA (planning, policy development, regulation, industry development), iN2015 – An Intelligent Nation, a Global City, Become #1 in the World in using ICTs to add value to the economy, Sectoral transformation of key economic sectors; ultra-high speed, pervasive, intelligent and trusted communication infrastructure; ICT-savvy and globally competitive workforce, National Trust Framework built on Identity, Privacy, and Security, Key economic sectors: Financial services, Tourism, hospitality & retail, government, manufacturing & logistics, education, etc. He analysed the background and fall-outs of PDT– A Capacity Building Programme for Cybersecurity, in-house bespoke training and consulting programmes funded by CTO and developed to meet member-specific strategic and operational needs, priority and sponsored access to regional and international training programmes, access to international expertise and exposure to the latest industry best practice, opportunities for benchmarking and long-term partnerships, priority registration for other CTO programmes. And those stand to benefit: Government ICT ministries; Communications regulatory agencies, Network operators and service providers Manufacturers, Professional services firms and of course modalities fundings; Membership, Requesting partners’ membership contributions: 70%, Supplying partners’, membership contributions: 13%, Programmes commercialization, Local partner’s contribution 10% and Delegates fees 7%

Created in 1985, over 110 programmes delivered since 2010 CTO has trained over 36,000 ICT professionals and has reached out to members in 31 countries. PDT's vision "To be the preferred partnership for the delivery of cost-effective access to ICT knowledge for human capital development."

Dr Asheri Kilo who facilitated "Assessing the safety of women in cyberspace" kick-started the exposes in that domain by posing a rhetorical question whether women were safe in cyberspace. She said at the 4th World Conference for Women in Beijing, in 1995, ICTs were recognised as critical for achieving women's empowerment and gender equality and that ICTs provide opportunities for women's full and equal participation in all spheres of society. Dr Eni Muna Mbuagbaw who works in the Cite Verte District Hospital, Yaounde, talked on Assessing the Safety of Women in Cyberspace, especially as related to health issues. She said pertaining to health, women are relatively safe and should inform their doctor about what they read on the internet. She added that women should trust their physician than their virtual doctor. Ms Augusta Epuli Anjoh, of the Reference Multipurpose Centre for the Promotion of Youth in assessing the safety of women in cyberspace, said there are many ways for women to protect themselves in cyberspace. She stated that preventing technology-related violence against women is an important component in ending violence against women today and contributes to creating a safe and secure environment for women and girls in every sphere of life. On her part, Susie Hargreaves, CEO, International Watch Foundation, IWF, said the best ways to keep young girls and women safe in cyberspace were education, parental control, age verification and filtering. She opined that girls and women should not do anything online that they would not do offline.

Jean-Jacques Massima-Landji, the Head of ITU Area Office in Yaounde gave an overview of ITU's Cybersecurity activities. He said there was need for international cooperation in fighting cybersecurity because of the phenomenon of the crimes as they can be committed everywhere in the world. He said during the World Summit on the information society, WSIS, in 2005, ITU was entrusted by leaders of the international community to act as the facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5 which dwells on, "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs."

Cécile Barayre who is Programme Manager, E-Commerce and Law Reform, UNCTAD, Division on Technology and Logistics, spoke on Harmonising Cyberlaws and regulations: the experience of the East African Community. She said the development of cyber laws in the region is critical to underpin the realisation of full potentials in regional e-commerce, electronic financial transactions and business processes outsourcing.

Mr Auguste Yankey ICT Policy Officer, Information Society Division, Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission, AU, presented the African Union Perspectives on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Issues. He dwelled on The AU Draft Convention on Cybersecurity and related activities. He stated that Cybercrime in Africa is growing faster than any other continent. Out of the top ten countries in the world with a high level of cybercrime prevalence, Africa is host to four of these countries (Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana and South Africa. According to Mr Auguste Yankey, the AU draft Convention seeks to provide AU Member States with the necessary capacity and tools for harnessing the Information Society for continental integration & development. He added that the objective of the AU Draft convention is to harmonise e-legislation related to e-transactions development, personal data protection, cyber security promotion and fight against cybercrime. The AU aims at facilitating the setting up of National CERTs to contribute to the continental and global cooperation and fight against cybercrime

Mr. Pierre Kapute, Inspector General in charge of Technical Services in the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications lectured on Harmonisation of ICT Regulations within the Central Africa Region. He said Cameroon has put in place legal instruments to further the access of

the country to the use of ICTs. According to him this includes the validation of the Strategy Document for Growth and Employment by the Government that advocates the emergence of Cameroon in 2035 through the integration of ICT in all sectors of activities, and also the Government's commitment in improving the mobile telephony services through the granting of a third generation license.

Discussing on the theme internet resources and cybersecurity, Pierre Dandjinou, Vice President, Africa Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and numbers, ICANN, indicated that Africa, like other regions, will heavily embrace fiber technology in order to make (broadband) Internet access a universal service. He added that Africa has the opportunity to transform its weak copper infrastructure into an opportunity for innovation by exploring new form of Internetworking infrastructure and services. Talking about moving from Ipv4 to IPv6, he said it is important to bear in mind that the internet works on a point to point peering agreement basis. As such, he said, "You have to announce your prefixes to run a network! And at some point in time the default will be IPv6 for the major players ... if you are not already testing IPv6 you will find yourself in a situation where you would not be able to announce IPv4 (at a reasonable cost) as service levels for this will gradually erode over time."

Dr Janvier Ngoulaye, Board member of AFRINIC which is the Internet Numbers Registry for Africa, equally dwelled on IPv6 in Africa. He indicated that internet number resources include IP addresses (IPv4 & IPv6) and autonomous system (AS) numbers. He stated that accurate IPv6 record-keeping does more than help law enforcement because it is useful for combating abuse, fighting anti-spam measures and for civil litigants.

Patricia Dovi Sampson, Director Research, Statistics & Information Management Ministry of Communications, Ghana, spoke on privacy and security in the information age. She drew inspiration from the Data Protection Act of Ghana. She said the purpose of the Data Protection Act is balancing an individual's right to privacy against an organisation's need to use data relating to the individual for the purposes of their business – this includes where that purpose is research. She said according to one of the principles of the Data Protection Act, "Personal data shall be obtained only for specified and lawful purposes, and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with those purposes"

Talking on privacy and security, Ashley Jelleyman, General Manager, Information Assurances and Risk Assessment, BT Security said, 'You can't have both at the same time.' According to Conrad Atefor Tsefor, Regional Specialist INTERPOL Regional Bureau, Yaounde, who talked on privacy and security on the internet, "The web is a relatively young community, a neighborhood where few people lock their doors. But this community is rapidly growing into a city. Perhaps it's time you thought about installing some locks."

Talking at the close of the conference, Professor Tim Unwin, SG, CTO said he was optimistic that the conference participants were going to put in place the lessons they learned during the Yaounde Conference. He said it will make no sense for huge financial and human resources to be employed to organise the conference only for the recommendations to be put on the shelves and cupboards. He stated that the CTO was ready as usual to facilitate the putting in place of good practices that could result into safety, resilience and security into cyberspace.

Sponsors and stakeholders included: Mobile alliance against child sexual abuse, GSMA, IWF, Internet Watch Foundation, Council of Europe, MICROSOFT etc.

A spokesman on behalf of participants expressed gratitude to the people of Cameroon for their wonderful hospitality. He went further to thank the CTO and ITU for the choice of Cameroon.

Like previous speakers, he said the theme of the conference “Bringing Safety, Resilience and Security into Cyberspace” was too relevant and admonished his peers to implement the Yaounde recommendations, so that e-communication, e-commerce, e – education etc be put into law to enhance development. He admitted that making a law is very expensive but the guiding principle remains the goodwill which Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation member countries must apply to see legislation especially on cyber security take off, if not they will remain on the shelves.

The evenings were spiced with galas at the Yaounde Hilton Hotel, Mont Febe Hotel, Djeuga Palace Hotel. It was a very successful forum.