



**MANO RIVER UNION
INTERNET GOVERNANCE
FORUM**

Comprehensive Report Mano River Union Internet Governance Forum (MRU IGF) 2024

**Held in Freetown, Sierra Leone
Date: October 19-20, 2024
Venue: New Brookfield Hotel, Freetown**

**Prepared by
MRU IGF Secretariat -Committee**

Table of Contents

1. **Executive Summary**
 - **Overview of the MRU IGF 2024**
 - **Key Outcomes and Impact**
2. **Objectives and Purpose of the MRU IGF**
 - **Goals of the Forum**
 - **Specific Focus Areas**
3. **Program Overview**
 - **Forum Structure and Sessions**
 - **Highlights from Panels, Workshops**
 - **MRU IG Youth Engagement Session**
4. **Key Speakers /Panelist Points/Key Outcomes and Recommendations**
 - **Digital Infrastructure Development**
 - **FinTech and Financial Inclusion**
 - **Digital Literacy and Youth Empowerment**
 - **Cybersecurity and Digital Rights**
5. **Conclusion**
 - **Achievements and Lessons Learned**
6. **Recommendations**
 - **Strengthening Regional Collaboration**
 - **Expanding Digital Literacy Programs**
 - **Promoting Public-Private Partnerships**
 - **Institutionalizing the MRU IGF**
 - **Implementing Action Points from the Communiqué**
7. **Next Steps: Planning for MRU IGF 2025**
 - **Venue Selection and Budgeting**
 - **Securing Sponsorships**
 - **Program Focus for 2025**
8. **Prepared By**
 - **MAG & Committee for MRU IGF 2024**
 - **Regional Coordinator Details**

Executive Summary

The **Maiden Mano River Union Internet Governance Forum (MRU IGF)**, held from **October 19-20, 2024**, in **Freetown, Sierra Leone**, was a historic and transformative event. It brought together a wide array of stakeholders from across the MRU countries—**Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea**—to discuss critical internet governance issues and collaborate on the digital transformation agenda for the region.

The event featured insightful panel discussions, technical workshops, and youth consultations, which laid the groundwork for sustained cooperation on issues such as digital infrastructure, financial inclusion, digital literacy, cybersecurity, and public policy in the digital age. Over **200 participants** for the two days attended the event, with **multi-stakeholder representation** from government, private sector, civil society, academia, and technical communities.

A comprehensive **Communiqué** was developed and circulated to the respective governments of the MRU countries, summarizing key recommendations and action points to be factored into their national digital transformation strategies. This report highlights the key outcomes, expenses, recommendations, and the road ahead for future MRU IGF events, particularly the 2025 edition.

Background to This Report

This report serves as a formal documentation of the inaugural Mano River Union Internet Governance Forum (MRU IGF), held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, as part of efforts to advance internet governance discussions within the Mano River Union region. The event brought together stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, the private sector, and youth groups to address critical issues related to digital inclusion, internet access, cybersecurity, and ICT policy harmonization across the MRU member states.

Aligned with the mandate of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF), this report highlights key outcomes, challenges, and recommendations from the event while underscoring its significance in fostering regional collaboration and aligning with global internet governance priorities.

Through this submission to the UN IGF Secretariat, we aim to showcase the event's impact, foster greater visibility for regional internet governance initiatives, and contribute to ongoing global discussions on equitable and sustainable digital transformation.

MRU Member States: Brief History & Formation

Formed in 1973, the Mano River Union (MRU) is a political and economic coalition among Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire, aimed at fostering regional peace, collaboration, and sustainable development. In the context of digital transformation, these member states have recognized the importance of a dedicated platform to address regional internet governance issues. The MRU IGF, therefore, was established as a unifying force to address the digital divide, cybersecurity, and policy gaps unique to these states, while aligning with global internet governance frameworks.

MRU countries share common socio-economic characteristics and challenges, making their collective approach essential for formulating policies and initiatives that enhance digital inclusivity and resilience across the region. Through the MRU IGF, these member states collaboratively explore solutions for creating a more equitable digital future, ensuring the distinct needs of this sub-sub-region are represented in global internet policy discussions.

MRU NRI Members

The MRU IGF is a unique initiative within the ecosystem of West Africa, positioning itself as a sub-sub-regional NRI (National and Regional Initiative) within the larger framework of the West Africa IGF. It comprises Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire, each country represented as an individual NRI and yet united under the MRU IGF. The MRU IGF serves to represent the specific internet governance concerns of this underserved sub-region, adding depth to the voices heard at the West Africa IGF and beyond.

By addressing the distinct needs of the MRU countries, MRU IGF brings valuable insights and perspectives to the global internet governance dialogue. Our purpose is not to diverge from the West Africa IGF but rather to enrich it by ensuring that the concerns of our communities are visible, acknowledged, and addressed.

2. Objectives and Purpose of the MRU IGF

The **MRU IGF 2024** sought to:

- Strengthen multistakeholder dialogue on internet governance in the MRU region.
- Identify key challenges and opportunities for digital transformation.
- Promote cooperation among MRU countries to ensure sustainable digital development.

- Engage young people in digital literacy, skills development, and the digital economy.
- Foster a secure, reliable, and inclusive digital environment across the MRU region.

Specific Goals

- Foster discussions on **digital infrastructure** challenges and solutions.
- Promote understanding of **FinTech, digital financial inclusion**, and related regulatory frameworks.
- Highlight the importance of **digital rights and security**, with a focus on vulnerable populations.
- Amplify youth voices through the **MRU Youth IGF**, allowing young participants to engage in internet governance dialogues.

Program Overview

The two-day forum was structured around key panel discussions, technical workshops, and youth-focused sessions. Below is a breakdown of the core sessions and topics covered:

Session	Topic	Speakers/Facilitators
Panel 1	Digital Infrastructure Development in the MRU Region	Samuel Yeboah (C Squared), Sankoumba Kourouma (Guinea ISOC), Rep. MoCIT-SL, Rep. Zoodlabs
Panel 2	Media Literacy on Misinformation and Disinformation in the MRU region Panel	Dr. Victor Monino , Millicent Karbgo , Cecilia Sessay (SLBC) , Peterking Quaye
Panel 3	Cybersecurity in MRU Region	Dr. Martain Koyabe
Panel 4	Digital Connectivity in the MRU region	Zobb SL , Dr. Abudlai Sanko (Govt.) Ajara Marie Bomah
Panel 5	FinTech and Digital Financial Inclusion	Ivan Kargbo (ISOC), Oluwatosin Ayorinde (Limkokwing University), Samuel Kpartor (FLY), Dennis Kromah (YARD Liberia), Sorieba Daffae (Monieme SL), Rep. MoCIT-SL
Special Presentation #1	Ms. Khadija Umar	PIN Senior Programmes Manager -Anglophone Africa
Special Presentation # 2	Dr. Martin Koyabe	GFCE – Cyber Resilience Capacity Building for Africa- MRU Region Cyber Maturity Level
Special Presentation #3	C-Squared Africa -Digital Connectivity in Liberia and impact on digital public goods in MRU region the case of Liberia	Samuel Yeboah (C Squared): Chief Technical Officer C-Squared -Ghana
Special Presentation #5	Guinea IGF Country Progress and Engagement	NRI Coordinantor for Guinea – • Sankoumba Kourouma & Guinea ISOC
Special Presentation #6	Liberia IGF Country Progress and Engagement	Peterking Quaye Rep & NRI Coordinantor
Special Presentation # 7	Sierra Leone IGF County Report & Sierra Leone IGF	Ajara Marie Bomah - Sierra Leone IGF NRI Coordinator
Technical Workshop # 1	IPv6 Deployment and DNSSEC Implementation	Mr. Brice Abba (AFRINIC),
Technical Workshop # 2	ICANN -CcTLD : Strengthening Internet Governance through Secure and Reliable Systems	Yaovi Autohun – Africa Engagement Manager ICANN representative
Youth Session MRU Youth IGF	Digital Literacy for Youth Presentation	Glen Mends (Celestial Clicks), Ivan Benjamin (UNDP), M'mah Zombo (Korlie Limited), Amara Kargbo, Guinea Youth IGF Rep

The forum also featured consultations on **Media Literacy**, addressing misinformation and disinformation, as well as key discussions on cybersecurity.

4. Key Speakers /Panelist /Key Outcomes and Recommendations

Key Speakers /Panelist Points :

Panel 1: Digital Infrastructure Development in the MRU Region

- **Samuel Yeboah (C Squared):**
Highlighted the need for regional broadband expansion and the importance of cross-border collaboration to improve connectivity in rural areas. Emphasized public-private partnerships as a key driver for digital infrastructure growth.
- **Sankoumba Kourouma (Guinea ISOC):**
Discussed the challenges of last-mile connectivity in Guinea and proposed innovative financing models, including universal service funds, to bridge the digital divide.
- **Dr. Saknoh Representative, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (Sierra Leone):**
Shared government initiatives aimed at increasing internet penetration in underserved areas and the progress of the national broadband strategy.
- **Agnes Jigba. Representative, Zoodlabs:**
Stressed the importance of modern data centers and scalable network solutions to meet the growing demand for internet services in the MRU region.

Panel 2: FinTech and Digital Financial Inclusion

- **Ivan Kargbo (ISOC):**
Advocated for harmonized regulatory frameworks to enable seamless cross-border financial transactions in the MRU region. Highlighted the role of mobile money in empowering rural communities.
- **Dr. Victor Monini (IPAM /University of Sierra Leone):**
Addressed the role of educational institutions in fostering financial literacy and creating awareness about digital financial tools among youth.
- **Samuel Kpartor (FLY):**
Presented case studies showcasing how mobile banking has transformed access to credit for small businesses, particularly for women entrepreneurs.
- **Dennis Kromah (YARD Liberia):**
Stressed the need for robust consumer protection mechanisms to safeguard digital financial transactions and foster trust in digital platforms.

Technical Workshop: IPv6 Deployment and DNSSEC Implementation

- **Mr. Brice Abba (AFRINIC):**
Delivered a hands-on workshop on the practical steps for deploying IPv6 and ensuring secure internet naming systems through DNSSEC.
 - **Key takeaway: Urged MRU countries to adopt IPv6 to future-proof their networks and avoid IP address shortages.**

Workshop Presentation :

Mr . Yaovi Ahunton -Vice President for Engagement Africa- ICANN Representative:

Provided an overview of global DNSSEC adoption trends and emphasized the importance of training local technical experts in advanced cybersecurity protocols.

Session by ICANN Official: Strengthening Internet Governance through Secure and Reliable Systems

- **ICANN Representative:**
Delivered an insightful presentation on the importance of secure and reliable internet systems to foster trust in the digital ecosystem.

Key Points in his presentation /Highlights:

1. **DNSSEC Implementation:**
 - Emphasized the critical role of DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) in preventing DNS-related cyberattacks such as cache poisoning and spoofing.
 - Provided an overview of global adoption trends and encouraged MRU countries to prioritize DNSSEC integration within their national frameworks.
2. **IPv6 Deployment:**
 - Highlighted IPv6 as a future-proof solution to the growing demand for IP addresses, addressing the limitations of IPv4.
 - Stressed the importance of training local technical experts and creating regional task forces to accelerate IPv6 adoption.
3. **Capacity Building:**
 - Urged governments and stakeholders to invest in capacity-building initiatives that empower technical communities and policymakers with advanced knowledge of internet governance.
4. **Collaboration Opportunities:**
 - Announced ICANN's continued support for capacity-building workshops and stakeholder engagement in the MRU region.
 - Encouraged partnerships with regional organizations to strengthen internet governance structures and enhance technical resilience.
5. **Youth Engagement:**
 - Highlighted ICANN's youth programs, which aim to empower young people to participate actively in internet governance discussions and contribute to policy recommendations.

MRU Youth IGF Engagement Session :

Youth Session: Digital Literacy for Youth

- **Glen Mends (Celestial Clicks):**
Encouraged digital entrepreneurship among youth, suggesting the establishment of community tech hubs to foster innovation.
- **Ivan Benjamin (UNDP):**
Highlighted the role of digital skills training in addressing unemployment and reducing youth migration in the MRU region.

M'mah Zombo (Korlie Limited):

Shared success stories of youth-led initiatives in digital literacy and advocated for increased funding for youth-driven tech projects.

- **Amara Kargbo (Guinea Youth IGF Representative):**
Spoke about the impact of the MRU Youth IGF in amplifying young voices and creating actionable recommendations for internet governance.

Consultation: Sierra Leone Women in Journalism .President , Millicent Kargbo

Media Literacy and Cybersecurity

- **Facilitators:**
 - Stressed the role of media literacy in combating misinformation and disinformation.
 - Discussed the importance of harmonized cybersecurity frameworks to address emerging threats.
 - Recommended strengthening collaboration among MRU countries to implement effective cybersecurity measures.

Recommendation :

The **Maiden MRU IGF** has set a solid foundation for collaborative efforts in advancing digital governance in the Mano River Union region. The forum highlighted the unique challenges faced by **Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone**, while also presenting actionable solutions that could drive digital transformation in these countries. The strong **youth engagement** and cross-sector collaboration were major highlights of the event, demonstrating the commitment of all stakeholders to fostering an inclusive digital future.

Digital Infrastructure

The panel on **Digital Infrastructure Development** identified several key challenges, including the lack of robust infrastructure in rural areas, limited broadband penetration, and the need for stronger public-private partnerships. It was recommended that:

- Governments collaborate with the private sector to implement **regional broadband infrastructure** projects.
- A **regional roaming protocol** should be fast-tracked to reduce costs and improve connectivity across MRU countries.
- National governments should explore **innovative financing models** to enhance infrastructure development.

FinTech and Financial Inclusion

Discussions on **FinTech** and **financial inclusion** highlighted the importance of **mobile money** and **digital banking** as tools for economic empowerment, especially for women and rural populations. The forum recommended:

- Harmonizing **regulatory frameworks** for digital financial services across MRU countries to ensure cross-border operability.
- Strengthening **consumer protection** mechanisms to safeguard against cyber fraud.
- Expanding **digital financial literacy programs**, particularly for underserved communities.

Digital Literacy and Youth Empowerment

The **MRU Youth IGF** provided a platform for young participants to discuss the **digital divide** and how education can promote digital literacy. Major recommendations included:

- Expanding **digital literacy** and skills development programs in primary and secondary schools.
- Encouraging **youth entrepreneurship** in the tech sector through incubators and digital hubs.
- Enhancing access to affordable internet services for students and young entrepreneurs.

Cybersecurity and Digital Rights

The technical workshop on **IPv6 deployment and DNSSEC** provided participants with practical knowledge on securing the internet's naming system. It was recommended that:

- **National cybersecurity strategies** should be updated to reflect modern threats and risks, with a focus on implementing **DNSSEC**.
- **Data privacy laws** should be harmonized across MRU countries to ensure the protection of citizens' data in line with international standards.

Strengthen Regional Collaboration: Governments of the MRU region should deepen cooperation on **digital infrastructure**, cybersecurity, and regulatory harmonization.

1. **Expand Digital Literacy Programs:** Increased investment is needed in digital literacy and skills development for both youth and vulnerable groups.

2. **Promote Public-Private Partnerships:** Infrastructure projects should be driven by **public-private partnerships** to ensure sustainability and scalability.
3. **Institutionalize the MRU IGF:** The MRU IGF should be an annual event, with stronger involvement from **international bodies** such as **ICANN** and **AFRINIC** to ensure technical expertise and support.
4. **Implement Recommendations:** The Communiqué circulated at the event should be factored into national digital strategies, with clear timelines for implementation and regular monitoring.

8. Next Steps: Planning for MRU IGF 2025

- **Proposed Venue Selection:** The next MRU IGF is slated for **October 2025**, with discussions on hosting it in **Monrovia, Liberia**.
- **Budgeting and Sponsorship:** An estimated budget of **\$60,000** is anticipated for the next event, with plans to secure funding from more private sector partners and international bodies.
- **Program Development:** The 2025 edition will build on the successes of 2024, focusing on **emerging technologies, blockchain, and artificial intelligence** in the MRU region.

Annexed - Photo Gallery (Day 1 & Day 2)









MANO RIVER UNION
INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM

MRU IGF 2024

Venue: New Brookfield Hotel Conference Hall -Freetown, Sierra Leone
From October 9th -10th 2024 |Theme: "Bridging the Digital Divide for
Inclusive Development."

ATTENDANCE SHEET

DAY 2

DATE: 10/ Oct 2024

	FULL NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Awalqyah J. Flomo	awalqyahjflomo@gmail.com	+231886366313	
2	Sarah Harris	Saahharris20@gmail.com	+231886253546	
3	Roberta M Roberts	roberta.m.roberts@gmail.com	+231738162740	
4	CAROLUS F.L. SOZO	Cariousso101602@gmail.com	0772084955	
5	Ratello Tanoeh	ratellotanoeh5@gmail.com	0776106866	
6	Diamond Howard	diamondhoward88@gmail.com	+231770039678	
7	HABAKKUK PARKER	habakkukparker442@gmail.com	+231776817209	
8	CATARINA A. PULANO	catarinapulano2@gmail.com	+231777136755	
9	Abraham Dellech Wala	abrahamdellechuala@gmail.com	088661024/079661024	
10	Haisin Kelly Marsh	kellseng4@gmail.com	079957998	
11	Thompson Julu	thompsonjulu@gmail.com	0880078643	
12	Thabiri S. Kappo		076-429926	
13	Elijah T. Johnson Jr	elijahjohnsonjr1@gmail.com	+231880863600	
14	Gloycious L. Bondo	gloyciouslappiebondo12@gmail.com	+232777337161	
15	Dorothy M. Mughn	dorothyruahn17@gmail.com	+231776658817	
16	Abel Philips	abelphilips53@gmail.com	+231776110013	
17	Glenn Mends	mendsglenn91@gmail.com	+2327460798	
18	Princess Magdalene Fallah	princessfallah2024@gmail.com	0555891510	
19	Reuben Johnson Barua	reubenbarua03@gmail.com	231888870225	
20	Leona X. Goro	leona.x.goro	0770195860	
21	Benson M. MOKKO	willieckent19@gmail.com	0776095059	
22	Abu Bakarr Tanawally	abubakarr21@gmail.com	088-600964	
23	Augustine Mowoh	ajuniorowoh@gmail.com	076489500	
24	Joanna Balluh	joanna-balluh2014@gmail.com	0770320165	
25	Mohamed A. Koroma	mohammedakoroma043@gmail.com	+2323063780	
26	Bintou Cipe	bintoucipet21773653@gmail.com	079175639	
27	Isha Beretay	ishaberetay127@gmail.com	076520710	
28	Richard Ganda	gandarichard3@gmail.com	031-085800	
29	Sdratu Mariana Sesay	sdratumsesay2002@gmail.com	073822854	
30	Sahr Sheku Davowah	Sahrshetudavowah@gmail.com	079044086	
31	Aminata Sumaray	aminatasumaray@gmail.com	031022389	
32	Jamba Francis Manga	mangafrancis081@gmail.com	079804071	
33	Mohamed A. Bangura	mohamedabangura504@gmail.com	078534613	
34	Mohamed L. Bah	lambah822@gmail.com	072013011	
35	Chinor m. conteh	chinormabelconteh@gmail.com	090588737	



MANO RIVER UNION
INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM

MRU IGF 2024

Venue: New Brookfield Hotel Conference Hall -Freetown, Sierra Leone
From October 9th -10th 2024 |Theme: "Bridging the Digital Divide for
Inclusive Development."

ATTENDANCE SHEET

DAY 2

DATE: ___/___/___

	FULL NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Benson Matic Mokko	Willieclment119@gmail.com	0880278268	[Signature]
2	Reuben Johnson Barclay	reubenbarclay03@gmail.com	23188870225	[Signature]
3	Mohamed A. Kormo	mohammedakormo1043@gmail.com	+232-3063780	[Signature]
4	Joanna Ballah	Joannaballah14@gmail.com	+231 88020163	[Signature]
5	Jamba Francis Mangg	manggfrancis031@gmail.com	+2327980401	[Signature]
6	Blessing O. Jacobs	blessingjacobi1994@gmail.com	+231 88845734	[Signature]
7	Awalayah J. Flomo	awalayahjflomo@gmail.com	+231880366318	[Signature]
8	Lorithu M. Nuani	lorithynuani17@gmail.com	+23177668817	[Signature]
9	Abu Bakarr Torrawally	abubakarr21@gmail.com	088-600964	[Signature]
10	Catarina A. Pulono	catarina.pulono@gmail.com	0777136755	[Signature]
11	Ratello Tarwoch	ratello tarwoch@gmail.com	0776106866	[Signature]
12	Alpha Bangura	alphabangura772@gmail.com	078 269186	[Signature]
13	Abdulai Salmaan Kargbo	SalmaanKargbo@gmail.com	088 898499	[Signature]
14	Amy Mujah Smith	AmyMujahSmith@gmail.com	077-533-705	[Signature]
15	Princess D. Aluwa	PrincessDAluwa@gmail.com	077-533-705	[Signature]
16	Mohamed Bayura	medbayura09@yahoo.com	078-419920	[Signature]
17				
18	Today	Day 2		
19	Musa Mansaray	princejackson@gmail.com	078044088	[Signature]
20	SSR Gammara	Prince of Wales	099120777	[Signature]
21	Amara Gogga	goggaamarai14@gmail.com	079604343	[Signature]
22	Lahmeal Tarawallie	Prince of Wales	080533228	[Signature]
23	Abdul S.M. Bangura		076-607-202	[Signature]
24	David M. Samuels	david.samuel84@gmail.com	080-386343	[Signature]
25	Bahr Korabor		096-23-63-27	[Signature]
26	Sean Arnold Gary Snell		031,206,906	[Signature]
27	Bailor Bah	bailorbah35@gmail.com	079342497	[Signature]
28	Fuwaz Milton Kuru	fuwazkuru@gmail.com	07670377	[Signature]
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				



MRU IGF 2024
 Venue: New Brookfield Hotel Conference Hall -Freetown, Sierra Leone
 From October 9th -10th 2024 |Theme: "Bridging the Digital Divide for
 Inclusive Development."

ATTENDANCE SHEET

DAY 2

DATE: 10, Oct, 2024

S/N	FULL NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Abdulai Salman Kargbo	Salmankarg@gmail.com	088898499	[Signature]
2	Alicia Koumava	Koumavaalicia880@gmail.com	078663336	[Signature]
3	Amy Mugh Smith	Amymughsmith22@gmail.com	077-533-705	[Signature]
4	Rosaline Koumava	rosalinebk700@gmail.com	079-033344	[Signature]
5	Blessing O. Jacobs	blessingjacobs1994@gmail.com	0888457341	[Signature]
6	MARIAM JANINET	jannetmariam17@gmail.com	030422991	[Signature]
7	Fatimata Alaiska w. Bah	bahfatimatalaiskaunic@gmail.com	076 510254	[Signature]
8	Ahal Musa	Aihalmusai26@gmail.com	723276737172	[Signature]
9	Mohamed L. Bangura	mohamedbang2003@gmail.com	7232 9956107	[Signature]
10	Jane Koroma	Janeybanie@gmail.com	099 4873 09	[Signature]
11	Nicholas Ulric-Elba	nicholasulrice14@gmail.com	034 260524	[Signature]
12	Aminata Athaji Fiamara	Athajifiamaraminata727@gmail.com	032526443	[Signature]
13	Isha Tarray	Country Radio	078 347 385	[Signature]
14	Sia Samsie	creator n p	030770360	[Signature]
15	Mohamed Bangura	Mb09@yahoo.com	078 419980	[Signature]
16	Josephine I. Kemara	josephineiwithkemara@gmail.com	078053380	[Signature]
17	Cyril Macauley	Cyril.macauley@merocable.io	079 011957	[Signature]
18	Mohamed Y. Tarray	Galaxy	078423699	[Signature]
19	IBRAHIM IVAN KARGBO	Ibrahimivank@yahoovpn.com	030096366	[Signature]
20	Alpha Bangura	alphabangura5772@gmail.com	058 269186	[Signature]
21	ABUBAKARR SESAY	sesayabubakarr5050@gmail.com	076 320 266	[Signature]
22	Joseph Idrissa Koroma	Jodrisicon@gmail.com	031887803	[Signature]
23	Maxso Morak	Jodrisicon@gmail.com	075274187	[Signature]
24	Henry i. Tarray		071-94-26-47	[Signature]
25	Louise Chaytor	ChaytorL@recentdst.com	076328067	[Signature]
26	Mamadou Jalloh	Imamadumadoui@gmail.com	075 043878	[Signature]
27	Fabou Adams Isah Sesay	Adamsfabou@gmail.com	079264683	[Signature]
28	Rahanna Jalloh	jallohrahannajalloh123@gmail.com	072-86-00-43	[Signature]
29	Ezekiel A. Koroma	EzekielA.Koroma.com	030-837073	[Signature]
30	Abul Sheriff Sarkoh	Dellasherriff558@gmail.com	031-526-981	[Signature]
31	Edward Sesay	EdwardSesay0354@gmail.com	074-275-302	[Signature]
32	Muniru S. Sheriff	sheikmunirsheeriff@gmail.com	079-15-06-36	[Signature]
33	Vandy Musa	VandyMusa058@gmail.com	075805687	[Signature]
34	Emmanuel Sartie	emmanuelansartie@gmail.com	076-07-10-86	[Signature]
35	Jamil .y. Sheriff	SherriffJamil1@gmail.com	088 09 83 09	[Signature]



MANO RIVER UNION
INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM

MRU IGF 2024

Venue: New Brookfield Hotel Conference Hall -Freetown, Sierra Leone
From October 9th -10th 2024 |Theme: "Bridging the Digital Divide for
Inclusive Development."

ATTENDANCE SHEET

[Handwritten Signature]

DAY 2

DATE: ___/___/___

	FULL NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Amara Kargbo	amarakargbo7526276@gmail.com	075756276	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Ibrahim Bangura	ibrahimbangura5641@gmail.com	077343531	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Amanda M Somba'	amandamusuSomba'@gmail.com	0886259135/077820166	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Martha Kargbo	marthakargbo@gmail.com	075537519	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Blessing K J Fufubu	blessingkufubu15@gmail.com	079241542	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Faduma Samuel Gote	samuelfaduma@gmail.com	078052097	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Samuel Yeboah	syeboah@csquared.com	+233277600042	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Mariam Jannah	jannahmariam17@gmail.com	030422991	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	B			
10	Juan Benjarrin	benjarrinjuan43@gmail.com	099845689	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Abdulai Tauba lebbie	atlebbie@gmail.com	077668061	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	ATOHOVI YAOVI	YAOVI.ATOHOVI@ICANN.ORG	+22997891228	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	Jane-Marie Amadeu	amadeujane.marie@gmail.com	076046339	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	Edoed Williams	br.edoedwilliams@gmail.com	076764727	<i>[Signature]</i>
15	Francis Kromah	frankromah1994@gmail.com	075277304	<i>[Signature]</i>
16	Dennis Kromah	sdenniskromah@gmail.com	+231711934742	<i>[Signature]</i>
17	De Victor Moinina	moininadevictor@gmail.com	078484553	<i>[Signature]</i>
18	Melina Silbali		079341295	<i>[Signature]</i>
19	Salamatou J. Sow	SalamatouJ.Sow@gmail.com	088707117	<i>[Signature]</i>
20	MARK-M. GBLA	markgblab@gmail.com	076-56-70-69	<i>[Signature]</i>
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				



MANO RIVER UNION
INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM

MRU IGF 2024

Venue: New Brookfield Hotel Conference Hall -Freetown, Sierra Leone
From October 9th -10th 2024 |Theme: "Bridging the Digital Divide for
Inclusive Development."

ATTENDANCE SHEET

DAY 1

DATE: 9 / Oct 2024

	FULL NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Carious L. Dolo	Cariousdolo1609@gmail.com	0772004955	[Signature]
2	Thompson Vally	thompsonvally@gmail.com	+231085067643	[Signature]
3	Bintou Cissé	bintoucissex621779653@gmail.com	0996175639	[Signature]
4	Isha Beretay	isha320710@gmail.com	07632-0740	[Signature]
5	Josephine I. Kamara	josephineishakamara@gmail.com	078053380	[Signature]
6	Brother Bayler	brotherbayler@gmail.com	077343531	[Signature]
7	Sor			
8	Augustine Monchi	ajuniormonchi@gmail.com	076489-500	[Signature]
9	Chiner mabel Conteh	Chiner-mabelConteh@gmail.com	090588737	[Signature]
10	Princess Magdine Fallah	Princessfallah2016@gmail.com	0555891510	[Signature]
11	Diamond Howard	diamondhoward88@gmail.com	0776039678	[Signature]
12				
13	Today	Day 2		
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				



ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE: 9, Oct 2024

DAY 1

	FULL NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Aminata Sumoray	aminatasumoray3@gmail.com	031022384	<i>Aminata Sumoray</i>
2	Robert M. Roberts	robertsumorayroberts@gmail.com	+231 778162740	<i>Robert M. Roberts</i>
3	Abel Philips	abelphilips53@gmail.com	+231776110013	<i>Abel Philips</i>
4	Elijah T. Johnson Jr	elijahjohnsonjr7@gmail.com	+231 80863600	<i>Elijah T. Johnson Jr</i>
5	Mohamed L. Bangura	mohamedbangura03@gmail.com	+232 99541017	<i>Mohamed L. Bangura</i>
6	Glenn Mends	mendsglenn9@gmail.com	+23274607968	<i>Glenn Mends</i>
7	Aloysius L. Bando	aloycioustoppicbando05@gmail.com	+23277733161	<i>Aloysius L. Bando</i>
8	Leona Y. Goro	leonggoro8@gmail.com	+231770195860	<i>Leona Y. Goro</i>
9	Saah Harris	saahharris90@gmail.com	+231770182592	<i>Saah Harris</i>
10	Abraham Delleh Wala	abrahamdellehwala@gmail.com	+231886610261	<i>Abraham Delleh Wala</i>
11	Sankoumba Kourouma	sankourumaa@gmail.com	+224626845617	<i>Sankoumba Kourouma</i>
12	Sankoumba Kourouma	sankourumaa@gmail.com	+224626945617	<i>Sankoumba Kourouma</i>
13	Sahr Sheku Othman	Sahrshekuothman37@gmail.com	+23279044086	<i>Sahr Sheku Othman</i>
14	Ayah Musa	ayahmusa126@gmail.com	+23276737172	<i>Ayah Musa</i>
15	Aminata Athaji Kamara	aminataathajikamara@gmail.com	032 526 443	<i>Aminata Athaji Kamara</i>
16	Richard B. Ganda	gandariichard3@gmail.com	031-085-800	<i>Richard B. Ganda</i>
17	Amanda M. Somba	mohamedibangura050@gmail.com	098-534613	<i>Amanda M. Somba</i>
18	Mohamed A. Bangura			<i>Mohamed A. Bangura</i>
19	Amanda M Somba	amanda musu somba@gmail.com	0886 259135	<i>Amanda M Somba</i>
20	Abdulai Kamara	abdulai.kamara72292@gmail.com	079-46-2519	<i>Abdulai Kamara</i>
21	HABAKKUK PARKER	habakkukparker442@gmail.com	+231776817209	<i>HABAKKUK PARKER</i>
22	Fatmata Aisha-w. Bah	kalifatimaalishawurie@gmail.com	076 51 0254	<i>Fatmata Aisha-w. Bah</i>
23	Favour Ajns I Satu Sesay	AJNSSSSesay@gmail.com	079264683	<i>Favour Ajns I Satu Sesay</i>
24	Francis Karama	FrancisKarama199@gmail.com	078277304	<i>Francis Karama</i>
25	Abdulai Jaaba Lebbie	atlebbie@gmail.com	078 6680 61	<i>Abdulai Jaaba Lebbie</i>
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				



MRU IGF 2024
 Venue: New Brookfield Hotel Conference Hall -Freetown, Sierra Leone
 From October 9th -10th 2024 |Theme: "Bridging the Digital Divide for
 Inclusive Development."

MEDIA

ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE: 9/04/2024

DAY 1

	FULL NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Soril Sosoy	Soril@mrucf.com	072-729064	[Signature]
2	Mohamed J. Bah	bahmohamedjuma71@gmail.com	072-93503	[Signature]
3	Hassan G. Karoma	hassan@karoma.org	076577514	[Signature]
4	George Williams	jwgeorge@georgewilliams.com	077767034	[Signature]
5	Jayce B. Mansaray	jayce@jays.com	078-66673	[Signature]
6	Archibald Strasser-Linj	Ebonzerstrass@gmail.com	077271556	[Signature]
7	Mahmoud Sibba	rosalinebk2001@gmail.com	079-341295	[Signature]
8	Rosaline Kiamara	shelkumei11abillb@gmail.com	079-033344	[Signature]
9	Shelku M. Sillah	amarakargbo075756276@gmail.com	099916229	[Signature]
10	Amara Kargbo	adonisfrancis81@gmail.com	075-756276	[Signature]
11	Adonis Francis	alhaji.kamaraaminata927	074672741	[Signature]
12	Aminata Alhaji Kamara	christopher.gauger	031969230	[Signature]
13	Christopher Gauger	Mohamed S. Koroma	031969230	[Signature]
14	Mohamed S. Koroma	mkoroma129@gmail.com	030184625	[Signature]
15	Janet G. Massagun	Janet G. Massagun		[Signature]
16	Janet G. Massagun	Fsamura885@gmail.com	077021768	[Signature]
17	T Sha Turay	Country Radio	078347385	[Signature]
18	Hassan Kelly Moku	icellzema14@gmail.com	079957989	[Signature]
19	Ibrahim S. Kargbo	Ibrahim S. Kargbo	034-507250	[Signature]
20	Martina Kargbo	SLAkolis / Egbekolu	078-537519	[Signature]
21	Mohamed Y. Turay	Galaxy Radio	07744843	[Signature]
22	Henry Kargbo	Future Media	077-748647	[Signature]
23	Sia Sansie	osadrwp	030770360	[Signature]
24	Stanley Sankoh	medica	030946711	[Signature]
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				

use this
0884
308817

078423
699

078965554
137360
076726760

(Signature)

:45 pm – 2:00 pm	<p>Panel Discussion 10: "Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on MRU Economies"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artificial Intelligence and Automation ▪ Blockchain Technology for Governance ▪ Internet of Things (IoT) for Sustainable Development Panelists : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Youth Sector – Blessing Kutubu , International Youth Advocate from Sierra Leone ❖ Govt Sector : Hon. V. Marshall Sambola Assistant Minister for Administration- Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications ❖ Technical Community – Vult SL ❖ Academia : Sahid Mustapha – Lecturer Forah Bay University- Sierra Leone ** TBC ❖ Civil Society : Guinea IGF Rep <p>Moderator: Edward William , Coordinator MRU IGF SL & Internet Society SL Chapter ranking management member Rapporteur: MRU+ISOC Rapporteur Team</p>
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	<p>Short Closing Ceremony and Reading of Communique from the Event</p>

Annexed – Agenda for Program

<p>2:45 am -3:45- Technical Workshops</p>	<p>Technical Workshops: IPv6 deployment & DNSSEC implementation, and broader internet ecosystem advancements. DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions) will be covered comprehensively, with ICANN offering their expertise on DNSSEC at large, ensuring participants gain practical knowledge on securing the internet's naming system. These workshops aim to equip stakeholders with the tools and technical know-how to build a more secure, reliable, and inclusive digital infrastructure in the MRU region. Facilitator/Presenter : Mr. Brice Ababa -Engagement Officer -AFRINIC Rapporteur: MRU + ISOC Rapporteur Team</p>
<p>Networking Session: by ISOC Chapter - Sierra Leone</p>	<p>Networking Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Tradition Night (Sierra Leone Cultural Night) /Cultural Dance Troupe Short Speech from the Minister of Communication, Innovation and Technology, Sierra Leone -TBC
<p>Day 2: MRU Internet Government Forum – 10TH October 2024</p>	
<p>Morning Session</p>	
<p>9:00 am – 9:30 am</p>	<p>Registration</p>
<p>9:30 am – 10:00 am</p>	<p>RECAP OF DAY 1 - MC</p>
<p>10:00 am – 10:10 am</p>	<p>Special Remark by from APNIC Vice Chairperson- African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance (APNIG) Hon Alhagie Mbow -Chairman West African Caucus Pan African Parliament Co-founder and Vice Chairperson- African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance (APNIG)-UN MAG Member.</p>
<p>10:10 am- 10:15 am</p>	<p>Country Report – Presentation on Country their Internet Governance Forum hosting and milestone Sierra Leone IGF Guinea IGF Liberia IGF Ivory Coast IGF</p>
<p>10:15 am – 11:30 am LIGHT TALK</p>	<p>Topic : "Digital Literacy and Tools for Digital Rights and Security in the MRU Region" Topic Overview: This session will focus on the essential digital literacy skills required to navigate the online space while protecting digital rights. It will highlight practical tools available to enhance digital security and safeguard online freedom.</p>
<p>11:30 am – 12:00 pm Workshop/Panel Session</p>	<p>Key Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Digital Rights and Security: How to empower individuals to protect their rights online, with a focus on privacy and security. Introduction to Ayeta: A tool designed to enhance digital literacy and equip users with knowledge on online safety, digital rights, and secure practices and Ripoti Usage <p>Presenter/Facilitator: Khadijah El-Uzman Senior Officer, Programmes Paradigm Initiative</p> <p>Topics "A More Inclusive Internet: Introducing the New gTLD Applicant Support Program Overview : This session will highlight ICANN's commitment to creating a more diverse and equitable internet by making the domain name space accessible to underserved communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive Access: ICANN's gTLD Applicant Support Program helps underserved regions participate in the global domain name system.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ivory Coast IGF – Fanny Salou (Coordinator) ** ❖ UN IGF Secretariat – Anja Ajiengo, Focal Point UN IGF Secretariat
	GROUP PHOTO -ALL PARTICIPANTS Lunch Break
12:00 pm –12:20 pm	Special Presentation by Partner : C Squared Presenter /Speaker : C Squared Official
12:20 pm–1:00 pm	Panel Discussion 1: "Digital Infrastructure Development in the MRU Region"
1:15 pm – 1:50 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current Status and Challenges of Digital Infrastructure ○ Strategies for Enhancing Broadband Connectivity ○ Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Development ❖ Speakers and stakeholder group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional Stakeholder: C Squared - Samuel Yeboah -Group Chief Technology Officer C Squared ○ Civil Society/ Technical : Sankumba Kourouma President -Guinea ISOC Chapter President ○ Representative from Ministry of Communication Innovation and Technology – Republic of Sierra Leone MoCIT/SL ○ Representative from Zoodlabs <p>Moderator: Cecelia Alice Sesay , Media Professional from Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation , Rapporteur: MRU IGF Sec + ISOC SL Chapter Team</p>
HEALTH BREAK	
1:50 am – 2:45 am	<p>Panel Discussion 2: "Cybersecurity and Data Protection in the MRU Region"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyber Threat Landscape in MRU Countries ○ National Cybersecurity Strategies ○ Privacy Regulations and Data Protection Measures ❖ Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical Community : Salieu Mansaray Member Sierra Leone IGF /ISOC Chapter SL (REMOTE) ○ Academia: Oluwatosin Babarinde Ayorinde Head of Faculty Limkokwing University (Sierra Leone) ○ Govt /MoCIT : Mr. Nicholas N. Johnson, Assistant Minister for Technical Services, Ministry of Post & Telecommunications ○ International NGO – Dr Martin Koyabe-Senior Project Manager GFCE Africa -Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (REMOTE) ○ Govt /Sector Regulator : National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre Representative ○ Dr. Gilpin ROK Bank Business Sector TBC ** <p>Moderator: Dr. Victor Moinoni – Lecturer IPAM Rapporteur: MRU IGF Sec + ISOC SL Chapter Team</p>
1:50 am – 2:45 am	HEALTH BREAK



Mano River Union Internet Governance Forum

MRU IGF 2024

Venue: New Brookfield Hotel Conference Hall -Freetown, Sierra Leone

From October 9th-10th 2024 | Time: 9:30 am | Theme: "Bridging the Digital Divide for Inclusive Development."

Day 1: MRU Internet Governance Forum -Plenary Session -October 9th, 2024

Morning Session	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Welcome Message and Opening Remarks by -ISOC Chapter Sierra Leone President & Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum - by Ajaratu Marie Bomah
10:00 am – 10:10 am	Overview of MRU IGF & Statement from Secretariat of Mano River Union Internet Governance Forum -MRU IGF / Introduction -by Peterking Quaye , Initiator & Regional Coordinator -Mano River Union Internet Governance Forum
10:10 am- 10: 20 am	Introduction of special Guest of Honor & Keynote Speaker – by ISOC Rep
10:20 am – 11:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Opening Speech & Guest of Honor: Hon Salma M. Bah Minister of Communication, Innovation and Technology, Sierra Leone Niame "Digital Unity for MRU Prosperity" with Keynote Speeches
11:30 am	Special Awards Presentation by Peterking Quaye -MRU IGF Secretariat & Ajaratu Bomah (President ISOC Chapter SL.)
11:45am – 12:00 pm	<p>Special Remark from Community /Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Internet Society Chapter -Sierra Leone - Vice President / Secretary ISOC Chapter Sierra Leone ❖ C Squared Liberia - Samuel Yeboah -Group CTO C Squared ❖ ICANN Rep – Yaovi Aoboun -Director Stakeholder Engagement & Operations for Africa – ICANN ❖ ISOC Chapter Guinea & Guinea IGF Rep -Sankounba Kouyouma President of the Guinean chapter of the Internet Society and the focal point of IGF Guinea ❖ Sierra Leone IGF - Ajaratu Marie Bomah, President / Focal Person ❖ Special Message from APNIC (Africa Network of Parliamentarian on Internet Governance) ❖ PIN Rep - Khadijah El-Ussman Senior Officer, Programmes Paradigm Initiative (REMOTE) ❖ Ministry of Post & Telecommunication Republic of Liberia Rep . ❖ Liberia IGF Rep -Peterking Quaye, Liberia IGF Coordinator ❖ Special Message from MAG Chair – UN IGF, Madam Carol Roche (VIDEO Message) ❖ Rep from Ministry of Digital Economy -Govt of Ivory Coast

Annex- Graphic of Representation & Participation

Gender Distribution of Participants – MRU IGF 2024

Category	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
Government Representatives	15	5	20	10%
Private Sector	30	15	45	22.5%
Civil Society & Academia	50	20	70	35%
Press & Media	10	2	12	6%
Technical Community	36	10	46	23%
Inter-Governmental	10	2	12	6%
Youth & Student Delegates	10	17	27	13.5%
Total	112	88	200	100%

Key Insights:

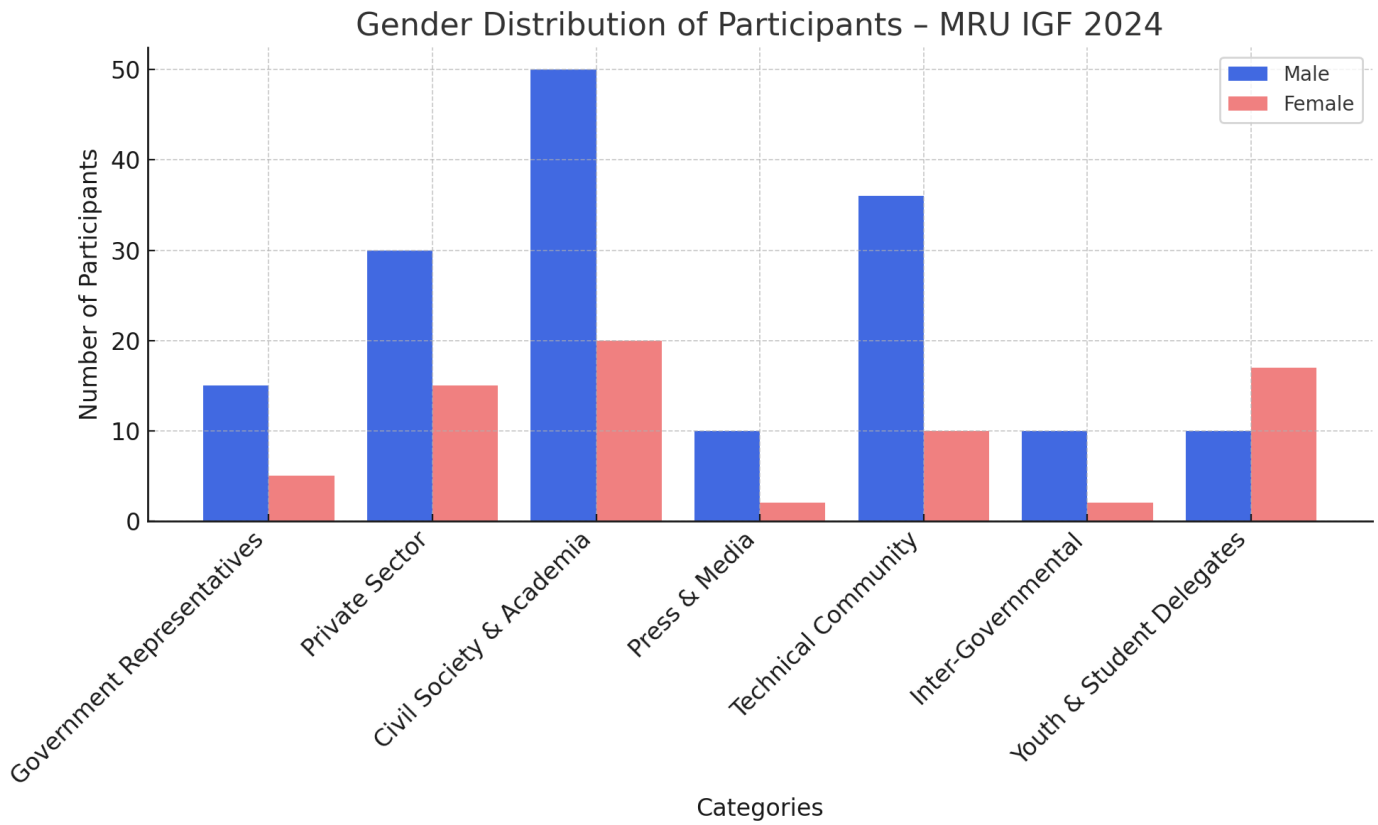
- Female participation accounted for 44%, while male participation was 56%.
- Youth & Student Delegates had a notable female majority, reflecting growing youth engagement in internet governance.
- Civil Society & NGOs recorded a nearly equal gender balance.
- Technical Community and Private Sector saw lower female participation, indicating areas for improvement in gender inclusivity.

graphical representation of the Gender Distribution & Participation at the MRU IGF 2024:

Gender Distribution Chart – MRU IGF 2024

- Gender representation per sector
- Overall gender percentage distribution

A bar chart displaying gender distribution by sector at the MRU IGF 2024.



Key Insights from Gender Representation in MRU IGF 2024:

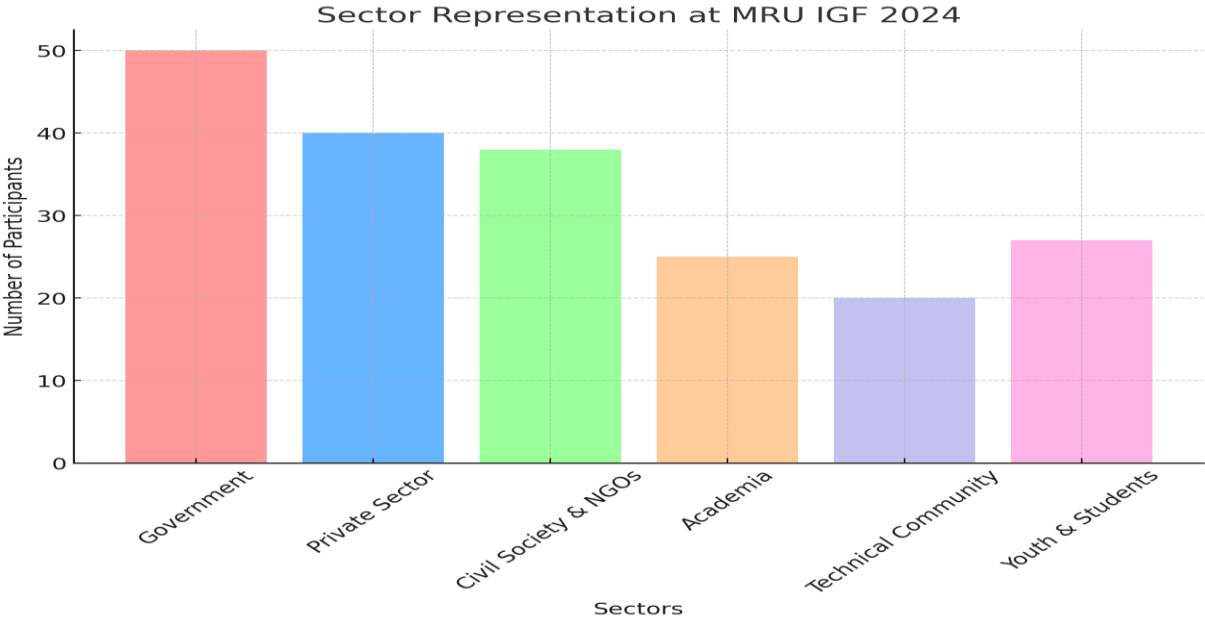
1. **Male-Dominated Participation:** The overall participation was 56% male and 44% female, indicating a gender gap.
2. **Civil Society & Academia Had the Highest Participation:** With 70 participants (50 male, 20 female), this sector had the highest overall representation.
3. **Youth & Student Delegates Showed Strong Female Presence:** Among youth and student delegates, female participation was notably high (17 female vs. 10 male).
4. **Technical Community and Private Sector Representation:** While these sectors had significant participation, male participants outnumbered females.
5. **Underrepresentation in Government and Inter-Governmental Sectors:** These sectors had the lowest female representation, highlighting a potential gap in women's participation in policy-making roles.

Gender Distribution Table – MRU IGF 2024

Category	Male Participants	Female Participants	Total
Government	15	5	20
Private Sector	25	15	40
Civil Society & Academia	20	18	38
Pres & Media	10	2	12
Technical Community	36	10	46
Intern-Governmental	10	2	12
Youth & Students	10	17	27
Total	112	88	200

- **Overall Male Representation: 56%**
- **Overall Female Representation: 44%**

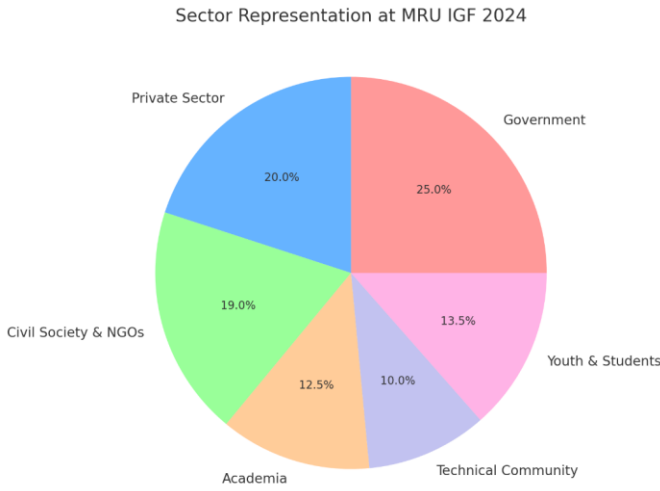
Sector Representation at the MRU IGF 2024 based on participation numbers.



Key Insights

- ◆ **Civil Society & Academia (19%)** had the highest representation, showing strong participation from research, policy, and advocacy groups.
- ◆ **Private Sector (20%)** played a crucial role, highlighting business and industry engagement in internet governance.
- ◆ **Government Representatives (25%)** actively participated, emphasizing the commitment of policymakers to digital transformation.
- ◆ **Technical Community (10%)** ensured that discussions remained technically grounded, while **Youth & Student Delegates (13.5%)** showcased growing youth involvement in digital policy.
- ◆ **Press & Media (12.5%)** presence helped amplify key discussions on digital rights, cybersecurity, and regional ICT policies.
- ◆ **Inter-Governmental Participation (6%)** reflected the role of international agencies in shaping regional ICT policy.

Sector representation at MRU IGF 2024.



Contact Us

For more information about the MRU IGF and opportunities for partnership, please contact us:

MRU IGF Secretariat

Email: info@mruigf.org

Website: www.mruigf.org

Twitter: @MRU_IGF

LinkedIn: MRU Internet Governance Forum



**MANO RIVER UNION
INTERNET GOVERNANCE
FORUM**