



# REPORT

West African Peering Forum  
(WAPF-2026)



June 17–18, 2026 / Cotonou, Benin

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# *Partners*

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

**AfriNIC:** African Network Information Centre

**API:** Application Programming Interface

**AS:** Autonomous System

**ASN:** Autonomous System Number

**BGP:** Border Gateway Protocol

**ccTLD:** country code Top-Level Domain

**CDN:** Content Delivery Network

**CIVIX:** Côte d'Ivoire Internet Exchange Point

**COTIX:** Cotonou Internet Exchange Point

**DNS:** Domain Name System

**DNSSEC:** Domain Name System Security Extensions

**DWDM:** Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing

**ICANN:** Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

**IP:** Internet Protocol

**IPv4:** Internet Protocol version 4

**IPv6:** Internet Protocol version 6

**ISP:** Internet Service Provider

**IXP:** Internet Exchange Point

**IXPN:** Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria

**NAT:** Network Address Translation

**Open DWDM:** Open dense wavelength-division multiplexing

**PeeringDB:** Community database for peering and interconnection

**RINEX:** Rwanda Internet Exchange

**RIPE Atlas:** Internet measurement system operated by the RIPE NCC

**WAPF:** West African Peering Forum

# 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The West Africa Peering Forum (WAPF) brought together West Africa's key internet ecosystem players in Cotonou on June 17-18, 2026. The region is seeing rapid growth in digital usage, yet a large share of internet traffic still detours through Europe or North America before heading back to the continent. This not only drives up costs and hurts user experience but also leaves networks more vulnerable to cable cuts. Set up to boost Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and local peering, the WAPF is all about strengthening digital sovereignty and fostering local content hosting. The 2026 edition tackled these challenges head-on while mapping out practical ways to build a more resilient, high-performing, and inclusive internet ecosystem. This report captures the key takeaways and recommendations from the two-day event.

## Overall Goal:

To contribute to building a robust, open, and interconnected internet in West Africa through capacity building, knowledge sharing, and the promotion of best practices in peering and interconnection.

## Specific Goals:

More specifically, WAPF 2026 aimed to:

- Foster a sustainable internet ecosystem by encouraging local peering agreements between ISPs, mobile operators, and content providers;
- Provide a platform for knowledge sharing and for building both technical and strategic skills among stakeholders;
- Advocate for policy and regulatory reforms that support the growth of IXPs and regional interconnection;
- Identify and promote governance models and technical solutions (Open DWDM, IPv6, ASN) that are well-suited to the West African context.

## Methodology and attendance:

Held in person at the Golden Tulip Le Diplomate Hotel in Cotonou, the forum featured plenary sessions focused on the big-picture peering issues, thematic workshops for more in-depth discussions, and a high-level opening panel on policy and regulatory matters.

## Attendance:

- 281 participants in total – 172 in person and 109 online;
- Representatives from 23 countries.



## Program Overview:

Day one focused on technical foundations and operational challenges, with sessions covering network buildouts, infrastructure resilience, and the role of critical digital resources. Day two turned to strategic issues, featuring discussions on the peering economy, IXP governance models, and forward-looking recommendations for the West African ecosystem.

To deliver on the forum's objectives, the sessions were organized around several key themes.

## 2. SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

**D1** Wednesday,  
June 17, 2026

### Opening Addresses

The session opened with high-level remarks that established the political and strategic tone for the forum.

Mr. Élias GNANCADJA, Vice-President of the Internet Society's Benin Chapter (ISOC Benin), welcomed the delegations present and underscored that peering, routing, and interconnection are key pillars of regional digital sovereignty. He stressed that local traffic retention brings down costs, boosts quality of service, and enhances resilience.

He also highlighted the work carried out by Internet Society Benin on the ground, particularly in developing local technical skills and structuring the national digital ecosystem. He called on all stakeholders, public, private, and technical, to join forces in building an open, safe, and sustainable internet for West Africa.



*"Local traffic retention is a major strategic priority."*

**Élias GNANCADJA**



Mr. Hervé HOUNZANDJI, Chair of the Organizing Committee, laid out the key themes that would anchor the two days of the forum: resilient infrastructure, regional interconnection, IXP growth, local content hosting, and skills development. Beyond the technical side, he stressed the event's human purpose; building lasting connections between operators, engineers, regulators, decision-makers, and technical partners.

*"Peering, Internet exchange points, data centers, and content delivery networks are not just technical matters; they have a direct bearing on sovereignty, development, and inclusion."*

**Hervé HOUNZANDJI**

He expressed gratitude to the Beninese authorities, institutional partners, sponsors, speakers, and the organizing committee, whose dedicated efforts made this edition a reality.

Mr. Pierre DANDJINOU, ICANN's Vice-President for Africa praised Benin for its warm welcome and underscored that resilient infrastructure is a prerequisite for a universal and interoperable Internet.

*"Infrastructure resilience underpins a universal and interoperable Internet that works reliably no matter where you are."*

**Pierre DANDJINOU**



He referred to the *Coalition for Digital Africa* program, developed with ICANN, which has enabled the deployment of root DNS server copies across Africa, reducing outbound traffic and improving access speeds for African internet users. On the topic of domain names, he encouraged African registrars to support users in adopting new extensions such as *.africa*. Finally, he stressed the importance of capacity building, stating that *"it is through talent that Africa will make the difference,"* and called for greater awareness of the resources needed to meet this challenge.



Mr. Geoffroy BONOU, Technical Advisor to Benin's Minister of Digital Transformation, delivered remarks on the Minister's behalf, stressing the strategic value of regional cooperation.

*"There can be no sustainable digital transformation without robust, open, and well-connected internet infrastructure."*

**Geoffroy BONOU**

He pointed to the rapid surge in digital usage across West Africa, a trend constrained by tromboning, which drives up costs and latency.

He also showcased Benin's ongoing investments, from fiber-optic rollouts and enhanced international connectivity to public-service modernization and regulatory upgrades.

Several regional strategic priorities were identified by Mr. BONOU, including the development of IXPs, the strengthening of local hosting, the emergence of high-performing data centers, the improvement of interconnection, and the promotion of an investment-friendly environment. He concluded that hosting WAPF in Benin was a recognition of the progress made, before officially declaring the forum open.

## First Plenary - Policy, Regulation, and the Internet Ecosystem: Are We Enabling or Inhibiting Growth?



**Moderator:** Mr. Jean-Baptiste MILLOGO, Director of Internet Development and Technology at Internet Society Global.

**Panelists:**

- Ms. Séraphine BOGHI (CIVIX, Côte d'Ivoire);
- Mr. Raymond A. BILL (National Communications Authority, Ghana);
- Mr. Ghislain NKERAMUGABA (RINEX, Rwanda).

### Main points raised:

Ms. Séraphine BOGHI shared CIVIX's experience, where a multi-stakeholder governance model was introduced after an initial setback in 2013. This approach, bringing together public authorities, operators, and technical stakeholders around a shared charter and a consultation committee, has delivered tangible results: traffic has grown from just a few megabits to roughly 36 Gbps today. Transparency, communication, and building operator trust were key to this success, with plans to open up to new players and attract more local traffic.

As for Mr. Raymond A. BILL, he presented the new national digital economy strategy adopted in 2024, which integrates cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and digital money transfers. Universal access and connectivity form its first pillar, with a focus on liberalization and incentive-based regulation. With four submarine cables and roughly 40,000 km of terrestrial fiber, Ghana has stepped up its policy following the fiber cut of March 14, 2024. Operators are now required to ensure cross-border connectivity to neighboring countries, and the government is also exploring the use of public infrastructure to extend regional connectivity.

Mr. Ghislain NKERAMUGABA, for his part, presented his country's experience, where long-term visions place digital at the heart of development across all sectors, administration, education, health, and commerce. The RINEX exchange point saw its traffic double in a single week, reaching 24 Gbps during a major sporting event. The non-profit organizational model, which became financially self-sufficient after three years, has proven its value. The keys to success lie in a clear and shared vision, an environment conducive to digitalization, appropriate legal protections, and a solid technical ecosystem.

**Q&A and open floor discussion:**

| Questions                                                                                                                                                | Answers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1. What is Benin's vision and track record in digital infrastructure development?                                                                       | The moderator invited participants to respond. Key takeaways: Benin aims to become a sovereign digital hub by 2060. With 3,500 km of fiber optic cable, nearly 90% 4G coverage, an operational datacenter, digital ID system, and e-payment platforms, the country has already transformed its economy. Today, 97% of taxes are collected online, and government revenue has nearly tripled. In 2026, \$48 million is still being invested in this priority initiative. |
| Q2. Why is terrestrial fiber so scarce in West Africa, and what steps are governments taking to change that?                                             | Panelist: Fiber is largely in the hands of operators, who naturally prioritize profitable urban markets. Ghana's "Big Ones" policy, however, mandates fiber conduit installation during roadworks, and if extended to border regions, it should help lower costs and prevent fiber cuts.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Q3. What are governments doing to align regulations and facilitate cross-border connectivity, especially given that West Africa has only one main route? | Panelist: Ghana remains open to further investment. The "Big Ones" policy is specifically designed to lay fiber conduits along roads, including those leading to borders, so cross-border links become easier to build.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Q4. Where do things stand with the root DNS server installation and the opening of the exchange point to other fiber providers at CIVIX?                 | Ms. Séraphine: Talks are ongoing for the installation of a root DNS server. The exchange point is also looking at opening up to additional providers in order to boost its neutrality and appeal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

Participants were invited to the poolside for a group photo with the distinguished guests. After the photo, coffee and light refreshments were served, giving everyone a first chance to network informally.

## Session 01 - How to Build Your First Optical Network: A Look into Open DWDM

**Moderator/Facilitator:** Mr. Mark TINKA (Managing Director, TransmissionCo)

The objective of this workshop is to present a practical approach to reducing costs and simplifying optical transport network architecture in the context of peering, with a focus on Open solutions suited to the African context.

### Main points raised:

In a traditional DWDM architecture, transponders account for a significant share of expenses. By removing them and keeping only the line system (amplifiers and filters), long-term savings of around 50 to 80% on overall network costs are achievable.

Equipment from different vendors, such as *NOKIA*, *Juniper*, *Arista*, and *Cisco*, can work together, offering greater flexibility and helping avoid vendor lock-in. Two categories of suppliers were distinguished: traditional vendors, which offer large, proprietary, and costly modular platforms, and newer Open vendors like *PacketLight* and *Smartoptics*, which provide compact, standards-based, license-free systems. For Africa, the Open approach is recommended due to its affordability.

Leasing a service from a provider incurs recurring costs, whereas investing directly in equipment represents a fixed upfront cost. Direct investment becomes more cost-effective over the long term, since you then only pay for the fiber itself, with no additional fees.

A word of caution, however: the common practice in East Africa of using a single fiber core and charging double for the second one is not advised, as it often ends up costing more in the long run.

### Q&A and open floor discussion:

| Question                                                      | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1. Why are some vendor brands missing from the presentation? | Mark TINKA: Geopolitical factors are at play for some. Vendors like PacketLight are under pressure, while Smartoptics, originally Scandinavian, is seen as more neutral. Traditional vendors such as Ciena are struggling to adapt to open models because their business models are built around licensing. |

Q2. How do you deal with frequent fiber cuts caused by construction work?

Mark TINKA: You have to accept unpredictability and focus on reliability rather than raw performance. Investing in resilience, more powerful amplifiers, backup routes, is advisable, and pricing should reflect that added value

Q3. How can you reach 2,500 kilometers with a 400G ZR+ module?

Mark TINKA: This module uses PC-CS technology, which extends reach or boosts capacity. On an amplified network, it can achieve 2,500 km at a cost of around \$11,000–\$12,000, compared to \$5,000–\$6,000 for a standard module.

Q4. What is the minimum recommended design for a data center operator looking to scale their infrastructure?

Mark TINKA: The issue is more regulatory than technical. In some countries, only one operator is allowed to lay their own fiber, which stifles innovation. Once that regulatory barrier is removed, the technical solutions will follow.

## Session 02: The Cost of Downtime: Network Resilience as AI Scales



**Speaker:** Mamuel Yameul Owusu YEBOAH (Csquared Ghana)

### Main points raised:

On the financial impact of outages, the speaker opened with a provocative question: What is one minute of downtime worth to your business? He then invited the audience to consider not just the financial cost, but also the loss of customers and trust, especially in the age of artificial intelligence.

The key lesson from the major 2024 outage: This disruption, which affected several countries in the region and impacted roughly 480 million people for nearly 13 hours, laid bare the fragility of critical infrastructure and the growing dependence of economies on connectivity. **Mr. YEBOAH** described the Internet as "*digital oxygen*" and likened the outage to being starved of oxygen for 13 hours.

On the subject of AI, the key takeaway is that it increases the value of every minute of connectivity even further. In the future, users will interact with a single AI agent that manages everything, making resilience all the more critical, because every microsecond counts. For the speaker, resilience is no longer just a technical matter; it is a strategic investment to future-proof one's business, strengthen user trust, and meet the demands of emerging technologies. He concluded by urging stakeholders to rethink their resilience strategy, not as a cost, but as a competitive advantage.

### Personal Peering n°1:

The facilitator kicked off this activity by inviting all network providers, IXP operators, and connectivity providers to prepare a short overview of their network. The key information requested included the network name, AS number, points of presence, contact details, and services offered. The goal was to raise their profile and ease business-to-business exchanges. A QR Code was made available in the room to simplify the submission of presentations to [pc@wapf.africa](mailto:pc@wapf.africa).

### Networking & lunch:

Participants enjoyed lunch in a relaxed, convivial setting. Some feedback emerged: one attendee noted that the presentations had made them realize the importance of integrating physical and hardware layers into their software infrastructure. There was also a suggestion to expand the forum's reach in future editions by bringing in more key players, like NCN from Nigeria, who were not represented this year.

## Session 03 - Deepening ASN and IPv6 Adoption with Enterprises in Africa



**Moderator:** Mr. Temitope OSUNRINDE (Africa Hyperscalers)

**Panelists:**

- Brice ABBA (AfrinIC),
- Ghislain NKERAMUGABA (Internet Society),
- Olawale OWOEYE (Cedarview Communication),
- Silas PEPRAH (Accra-IX).

*From left to right: Mr. Abba, Mr. Nkeramugaba, Mr. Olawale and Mr. Peprah.*

The workshop set out to pinpoint both the obstacles and the enablers for rolling out ASNs and IPv6 more broadly, not just to ISPs, but also to businesses, financial institutions, and government bodies.

### Main points discussed:

Africa accounts for only 2,800 ASNs, just 2.2% of the global total, despite being home to 18% of the world's population. These ASNs are largely concentrated among ISPs, while enterprises, banks, and government agencies still rely on their providers for routing. IPv6 adoption has surpassed 50% globally, yet it remains in the single digits in several African regions.

In terms of obstacles to ASN adoption, the following were identified: lack of awareness of the procedures, dominance of large incumbent operators, over-reliance on NAT for security reasons (a myth), difficulty in justifying needs to AfrinIC, and a prevailing "[...] if it ain't broke, don't fix it" culture in many large organizations. There is also the slow pace of IPv6 adoption, driven by fear of change, a lack of compelling arguments from engineers when engaging with decision-makers, outdated equipment, and limited awareness of the procedures involved.

The economic impact is this: without an ASN, a business cannot connect directly to major players like *Hurricane Electric*, leaving it confined to more expensive transit offerings. CDNs look at the number of ASNs to gauge a market's attractiveness, creating a vicious cycle where fewer ASNs mean less local content, which in turn results in less local traffic.

**Q&A and open floor discussion:**

| Question                                                                   | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1. Why is IPv6 adoption so slow in Africa?                                | Brice ABBA: It's due to fear of change, engineers lacking convincing arguments for decision-makers, outdated equipment, and a lack of awareness of the process. AfriNIC has trained over 3,000 engineers since 2012 and now offers an "IPv6 for Managers" module to help raise awareness among leadership. |
| Q2. What is the impact of the low number of ASNs on market attractiveness? | Silas PEPRAH: CDNs and major content providers assess a market's attractiveness based on the number of ASNs. A low count means fewer networks to exchange traffic with locally, which reduces the incentive to invest in local points of presence.                                                         |

**Personal Peering n°2**

Organizers reminded participants to get their presentations ready for the Peering Personnel activity, designed to foster technical partnerships between operators and network managers. Submissions were to be sent to [pc@wapf.africa](mailto:pc@wapf.africa).

A coffee break then gave participants the chance to continue informal exchanges and explore new collaboration opportunities.

## Session 04 - Lightning Talks

The day's final technical session brought together a series of short talks on the changing shape of the regional Internet ecosystem:

- › [Mr. Carl ANIAMBOSOU](#), President of Benin's IXP (COTIX), gave an update on progress and what lies ahead;
- › [Mr. Brice ABBA](#) reported on AfriNIC's work, covering available resources and current initiatives;
- › [Mr. Jean-Baptiste MILLOGO](#) introduced the Open Fiber Data Standard, an open framework for sharing fiber infrastructure data;
- › [Mr. Ghislain NKERAMUGABA](#) walked through West Africa's peering gaps and disconnections in a session titled *The Peering Disconnect*;
- › [Mr. Beau-Clair Isidore VIEIRA](#) shared thoughts on building a coherent regional interconnection strategy for West Africa;
- › [Mr. Brice ABBA](#) also gave a debrief on the Central Africa Peering Forum, adding valuable cross-regional insights.

Taken together, the talks showcased the latest technical and institutional progress while underscoring shared priorities for strengthening digital infrastructure across the region.

## Day 1 Wrap-ups and Announcements

The organizers thanked all participants, speakers, partners, and sponsors for their contributions to the success of this first day. They announced that certain activities, including the Peering Personnel sessions, would continue the following day and encouraged participants to get their presentations ready. The moderator also suggested revisiting the ASN and IPv6 panel topic at the next edition of WAPF to track progress.

The day wrapped up in a gala dinner offered to participants, providing a convivial setting for networking and strengthening professional relationships.

**D2** Thursday,  
June 18, 2026

## Session 05 - PeeringDB as a Tool for Peering and Interconnection Growth



**Format:** Presentation & Panel

**Moderator:** Mr. Obinna ADUMIKE (Head Converged Digital Infrastructure Africa)

**Panelists:**

- > Mr. Ben RYAL (Meta/Chair PeeringDB Outreach Committee)
- > Mr. Kelechi NSOFOR (Sales Director Digital Realty West Africa)
- > Mr. Samuel Yameul Owusu YEBOAH (CTO CSquared Ghana)

### Key points from the panel:

PeeringDB is a free, community-driven, not-for-profit database run by volunteers from the industry. It serves as a trusted global reference for locating networks, IXPs, data centers, and facilities, and for assessing interconnection opportunities. PeeringDB was built to solve the problem of unreliable contact information between network engineers, a major barrier to peering growth. Today, any organization with an ASN, whether an ISP, operator, cloud provider, or IXP, can set up a profile, list their PoPs, peering policies, and contact details, and get more visibility in the community. Sales teams rely on it to scout for partners, and many large players now require a complete, current PeeringDB entry before they'll even start a conversation.

On the technical side, PeeringDB's API makes it possible to automate exchanges, but this feature remains underutilized in Africa. Governance is based on several volunteer committees: administration, operations, outreach, and products, the platform now has over 34,000 members.

A major observation was made: West Africa is heavily underrepresented. Nigeria, for instance, has 256 ISPs and roughly 156 ASNs, yet fewer than 10% of its players are on PeeringDB. This gap limits the tool's benefits for the regional ecosystem. Panelists also called on local companies to sponsor the platform, which is currently supported almost exclusively by international players.

Discussions highlighted the importance of keeping data up to date (good account hygiene) at the risk of causing BGP session drops. Data center operators, such as **Mr. Kelechi NSOFOR**, noted the difficulty of getting their facilities recognized as points of presence, an awareness effort still too often overlooked. **Mr. Samuel YEBOAH** illustrated the tool's practical value for a large network: identifying players, establishing connections, and aiming for at least 80% local traffic retention.

Finally, collaboration and awareness were identified as the main challenges. Despite repeated campaigns, many engineers are still unaware of PeeringDB's existence. Targeted local actions (videos, workshops, hands-on sessions) are needed to close this gap.

#### Q&A and open floor discussion:

| Question                                                                                              | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1. How can you prevent PeeringDB accounts from being abandoned when an employee leaves?              | Panelists: Use generic email addresses (e.g., peering@) and set up accounts with multiple authorized people to ensure continuity.                                                                                     |
| Q2. Suggestion to set up a collaboration between PeeringDB and AfriNIC to cross-reference databases.  | Panelists: The idea was well received. Participants also suggested that operator associations include guidance on joining PeeringDB as part of their regular program.                                                 |
| Q3. How can you get customers to update their PeeringDB profiles, even after demonstrating its value? | Panelists: Submit a feature request on GitHub to propose that data centers be allowed to list their customers (with their consent). Also recommend that IXPs make PeeringDB updates part of their onboarding process. |
| Q4. Why would someone without a network even bother signing up for PeeringDB?                         | Ben RYAL: Out of curiosity, to get a picture of the global Internet ecosystem, or simply to understand the industry better. Journalists, for instance, can also tap into the data for their stories.                  |
| Q5. How about creating video tutorials and short training modules for PeeringDB?                      | Panelists: Videos are already out there, but the real challenge is making sure they're easy to find and accessible to those who need them.                                                                            |
| Q6. Should new ASN holders be automatically notified and encouraged to set up a PeeringDB profile?    | Panelists: The idea was well received, it was seen as a great way to make PeeringDB onboarding a standard part of launching a new network.                                                                            |

## Session 06 - The Sovereignty Imperative

**Format:** Presentation

**Speaker:** Ms. Esther KING – Senior Engineer, Co-founder of GAMCHIX, and Co-chair of the WAPF 2026 Program Committee



### Main points raised:

**Ms. Esther KING** highlighted a striking paradox: West Africa is experiencing some of the continent's most dynamic digital growth, yet its infrastructure is struggling to keep up. Latency in the region ranges from 150 to 250 milliseconds, compared to 20 to 50 milliseconds in well-optimized environments.

She attributed this inefficiency to two main causes.

First, some content is neither hosted nor cached locally, which forces requests to travel all the way back to origin servers outside the region;

Second, even when content is available locally, networks are not always interconnected as efficiently as they could be, and traffic still defaults to international transit routes.

The result is a latency penalty of over 150 milliseconds and a 40–60% cost premium on bandwidth. Her proposed remedy? Neutral, open interconnection that keeps traffic local, cuts reliance on international carriers, and strengthens data sovereignty. She pointed to Teraco in South Africa as a case in point: over nine years, its membership grew by 288%, and traffic increased by 30% annually, all with no public funding.

For West Africa, three key lessons stand out:

Local peering boosts both data residency and performance, shaving off about 100 milliseconds;

Neutral infrastructure scales through a virtuous network effect;

The potential economic impact is an estimated \$12 billion, spanning sectors as diverse as e-commerce, FinTech, streaming, and SaaS.

Her closing message: West Africa has the assets to become a leader in digital sovereignty. But getting there will require stronger interconnection, more data centers, and a more robust digital backbone.

## Session 07 - IXPN, Banks & FinTechs



**Format:** Presentation

**Speaker:** Mr. Raphael ILOKA (Marketing Manager, Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria)

### Key points raised:

A major paradox is that banks and FinTechs have become the biggest consumers of internet infrastructure in Africa, yet they are paradoxically the least connected to exchange points. In most West African countries, the number of financial institutions connected to IXPs is either zero or one. Financial institutions face the same connectivity issues: slow transactions, local traffic that leaves the continent before coming back (tromboning), high transit costs, and concerns around reliability and resilience. IXPs offer natural solutions to all of these problems.

Take Nigeria's experience: IXPN has 135 members and peaks at over 2.3 Tbps, making it the largest IXP in Nigeria, the largest in West Africa, and the second largest in Africa. To address this knowledge gap, a mission was launched because many banking engineers still mistake IXPs for ISPs. IXPN offers financial institutions a completely free membership for the first twelve months, with free cross-connects through partner data centers (Rack Center, ADC). It is present in multiple data centers in Lagos and elsewhere across the country, positioning itself as close as possible to potential customers and leaving them with no reason not to connect.

The main barriers are lack of awareness, fear of technical complexity, regulatory concerns, and conservative infrastructure strategies. Solutions include simplifying the onboarding process, training technical teams, and organizing targeted events with bank CIOs.

The future of finance in Africa depends heavily on the future of interconnection. The rise of APIs, AI, edge computing, and digital currencies demands robust local infrastructure. If banks are building Africa's digital economy, IXPs must be its foundation.

**Q&A and open floor discussion:**

| Question                                                                                                                                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Q1.</u> How can banks overcome the obstacles related to ASNs and distance?                                                                                      | Mr. ILOKA: In Nigeria, nearly 90% of banks already have an ASN. As for distance, IXPN has invested in multiple points of presence across data centers in Lagos.                                             |
| <u>Q2.</u> How do you convince banks which need trust to connect to the IXP?                                                                                       | Mr. ILOKA: IXPN focuses on simplifying the process, providing tailored support, and hosting targeted events with CIOs to demonstrate the tangible benefits.                                                 |
| <u>Q3.</u> Should West African decision-makers take inspiration from Kenya's central bank, which requires disaster recovery sites to be over ten kilometers apart? | Mr. ILOKA: Kenya's policy has been a major catalyst. IXPs should communicate on low latency rather than traffic volumes to make a convincing case.                                                          |
| <u>Q4.</u> Should policymakers encourage banks to locate in data centers?                                                                                          | Mr. ILOKA: Nigeria's central bank and the interbank settlement system are already connected to IXPN. Moniepoint's numbers show the enormous potential of Fintechs, the urgent need to connect them to IXPs. |

## Session 08 - Shared Infrastructure to Address West Africa's Internet Penetration Gap

**Format:** Presentation

**Speaker:** Mr. Israel OGBOI (Presales Engineer, West Africa, Telcables Nigeria by Angola Cables)

### Key highlights:

Mr. **Israel OGBOI** painted a picture of the connectivity disparities across West Africa. According to ITU data (2024–2026), Europe has a penetration rate of 92.2%, Asia-Pacific 77.1%, while Africa lags behind at 35.7%. In West Africa, Ghana stands at 72.2%, Côte d'Ivoire at 41.4%, and Nigeria at 41.2%. Nigeria has seen its penetration climb from 5.55% in 2006 to 53% in the first half of 2026, but progress remains held back by infrastructure duplication, the energy crisis, high access costs, digital illiteracy, and short-sighted regulatory models.

To address this, he argued for stronger collaboration around sharing fiber networks, towers, data centers, and conduits. Such an approach lowers capex, speeds up rollout, improves ROI, and supports sustainable growth. Concrete examples already exist: operators share backbone fiber, ISPs pool metropolitan infrastructure, and rural providers are embracing open-access fiber models.

Still, the speaker pointed to persistent obstacles, including a lack of trust and cooperation among stakeholders. His concluding point: West Africa's Internet penetration gap is not just a connectivity challenge, it is also a collaboration gap in infrastructure. He called for greater encouragement of shared-infrastructure models to reduce duplication and make investment more efficient.

## Session 09 - Beyond Peering: Strengthening DNS, DNS Ecosystem Security, and Operational Resilience in West Africa



**Format:** Presentation

**Speaker:** Mr. Yazid AKANHO (ICANN)

**Main points raised:**

**Mr. AKANHO** reminded the audience that the DNS is a fundamental piece of Internet infrastructure, yet it remains poorly understood by local players.

Around 80 DNS queries are required to load a single web page, making it a critical factor in user experience. He illustrated a striking paradox: content hosted right in Cotonou may still have its DNS queries routed through Paris before being told it's actually local adding, needless latency.

Peering, while valuable for data traffic, does not directly improve DNS resolution. If the user's resolver is located outside the country, peering won't help. He presented DNSSEC as the only technology that guarantees the authenticity and integrity of DNS responses. Regional disparities are evident: Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal now achieve over 80% internal DNS resolution, while response times drop from 2.1 ms internally to over 126 ms when external resolvers are used.

West Africa has only 34 RIPE Atlas probes, which limits performance measurement. The speaker recommended that IXPs host local resolvers, and that operators adopt DNSSEC and diversify their resolver choices.

**Q&A and open floor discussion:**

| Question                                                                                                                               | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1. Has Nigeria signed DNSSEC?                                                                                                         | Mr. AKANHO: Yes, .ng is now signed, which is excellent news, as it is Africa's largest ccTLD. He commended this milestone, while noting that second-level domains must also be signed.                                                                                                                                  |
| Q2. What is the difference between a DNS root server and a peering root server? And where does the Universal Acceptance process stand? | Mr. AKANHO: The DNS root server holds the zone file for TLDs (.com, .org, .bj), whereas a peering root server is used to automate peering agreements. Universal Acceptance is a broad program aimed at adapting Unicode to Internet realities, with a significant component driven by the Coalition for Digital Africa. |

## Personal Peering:

The session wrapped up with a series of presentations from regional operators and exchange points, who showcased their infrastructure and peering services as part of the activity. These included:

- › **IXPN** (Nigeria): Peaks at over 2.5 bps, with multiple PoPs in Lagos and an open peering policy;
- › **Canal Box** (Benin): AS36924, present at AMS-IX, TGX, AquaX, CIVIX, BEFIX, and in Central, Southern, and East Africa;
- › **Three Protocol** (Nigeria): AS329739, with PoPs in Lagos at Digital Realty and Rack Centre, connected to IXPN, offering IP transit and fiber services;
- › **Isocel Telecom** (Benin): AS37090, with PoPs in Cotonou, Lagos, Accra, London, Paris, and Niamey, providing fiber Internet and DLR services;
- › **Meta** (CDN): AS32934, serving the full Meta product family (Facebook, Instagram, Reels), and opening a second Nigerian PoP at Equinix PR1;
- › **COTIX** (Benin): AS37805, a new IXP with 5 members already connected, offering ports from 100 Mbps to 10 Gbps under an open policy;
- › **CIVIX** (Côte d'Ivoire): AS32966, with 15 members and 36 Gbps of aggregated traffic across two PoPs (MTN and Orange), a third is coming soon at Raxio;
- › **VTS** (Burkina Faso): AS37721, delivering IP transit and IPLC services from PoPs in Accra, across Africa, and in Europe;
- › **IXP Ghana**: AS4163693, 14 members, traffic hovering around 660 Gbps, open policy, with 1 Gbps, 10 Gbps, and 100 Gbps ports;
- › **West Africa IXP**: A regional player, interconnected with IXPs from Senegal to Angola, boasting over 50 peers and traffic north of 400 Gbps.

These presentations provided a valuable snapshot of existing infrastructure and peering opportunities across the region, while also strengthening ties among ecosystem players.

## Session 10 - Internet Peering as a Lever for Economic Growth and National Competitiveness in Benin

**Format:** Panel

**Moderator:** Mr. Hervé HOUNZANDJI (Infrastructure and Internet Resilience Engineer)

**Panelists:**

- › Mr. Éric AKOUTE – CEO, APIEx Benin
- › Mr. Vincent Arthur FLOREANI – Resident Representative, IFC/World Bank in Benin
- › Mr. Romain DAGBAME – CEO, TradePulse
- › Mr. Robert AOUAD – CEO, Isocel Benin

### Key points discussed:

Mr. **Éric AKOUTE** emphasized that the Internet has become a factor of production, just like water or electricity. Investors now ask specific questions about fiber availability, bandwidth, and costs before setting up operations. APIEx supports this momentum by exempting IT equipment and digital infrastructure under the investment code, provided that applications are submitted upfront. He stressed the importance of this incentive-based tax regime to make Benin competitive against its neighbors.

Mr. **Romain DAGBAME**, for his part, illustrated the tangible impact of the Internet on business competitiveness. For his organization, an outage of just a few minutes can result in losses of several million CFA francs. He also pointed out that connection quality matters just as much as availability, poor-quality calls can lose contracts and damage the company's reputation. Without reliable, high-performing Internet, no business can stay competitive.

Mr. **Robert AOUAD** offered a mixed assessment of the progress made in Benin. While significant strides have been achieved, thanks to strong political will, the end of the monopoly, and the arrival of submarine cables, challenges remain: frequent fiber cuts due to roadworks, aging submarine cables (one out of two is approaching end-of-life), and still-high costs. He also lamented Benin's regression in peering: after nearly 10 years of existence, the country's first exchange point is still swapping less than 1 Gbps of traffic, a situation he judged deplorable. He called for a collective wake-up call to put the issue back at the top of the agenda.

Finally, Mr. **Vincent FLOREANI** (IFC/World Bank) confirmed that digital infrastructure has now become a major area of intervention for the IFC, alongside transport and energy. The selection criteria for support include costs, resilience, regional integration, energy efficiency, and digital sovereignty. He underscored the catalytic effect these investments have on other sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and trade.



### Q&A and open floor discussion:

| Question                                                                                  | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1. What do you see for the next steps? In 3 to 6 months, can we expect concrete changes? | Mr. AKOUTE: A lot is in the works. Digital will be included as a core sector in the new version of the investment code, and the Cité Campus Numérique project is getting off the ground. Clear political will will translate into a strategy to promote digital hubs.                                                                                |
| Q2. What are the main obstacles to peering development in Benin?                          | Mr. AOUAD: Benin has regressed in this area. There has been a long-standing misunderstanding from public authorities, who saw the exchange point as a for-profit venture rather than an association of players looking to save costs. That led to a general loss of interest. Today, Beninese operators are forced to go to Nigeria to interconnect. |

## Session 11 - Lightning Talks

### Presentation:

- Mr. Ghislain NKERAMUGABA (ISOC): The Peering Disconnect – examining West Africa's peering gaps and disconnections;
- Mr. Beau-Clair Isidore VIEIRA: Elements for a Network Interconnection Policy and/or Strategy in West Africa – a framework for shaping a coherent regional approach;
- Mr. Brice ABBA (AfriNIC): Central Africa Peering Forum Update – lessons learned from the Central Africa Peering Forum.

### Main points discussed:

**Mr. Ghislain NKERAMUGABA** warned against the shift of peering toward a centralized model that undermines the resilience of local networks. In his view, remote peering leaves dependent countries vulnerable to submarine cable cuts and to the transit trap created by the high entry barriers set by major content providers. He also raised concerns about an identity crisis among IXPs, which are under commercial pressure to move away from their neutral role. He concluded with a call to action: prioritize physical local peering, lower barriers, and defend IXP neutrality.

**Mr. Beau-Clair Isidore VIEIRA**, as for him, reminded the audience of the fundamentals of peering and its tangible impact on reducing latency and costs. He cited benchmarks from Africa and around the world (IX.br, DE-CIX) before proposing a regional roadmap:

- › Institutionalize national IXPs,
- › Secure sustainable funding through Universal Service Funds,
- › Establish an ECOWAS sub-regional exchange point.

He then challenged the audience on who would take the lead in driving this momentum, and raised the importance of partnering with regulatory authorities.

**Mr. Brice ABBA** presented the Central Africa Peering Forum (FPAC/CAPF), an annual event that brings together interconnection stakeholders in Central Africa. He also touched on the forum's governance, which is now led by three co-chairs. Regional disparities in IXP development were also on the agenda. He concluded by inviting WAPF 2026 participants to the next edition, scheduled for September 30 – October 1, 2026, in Yaoundé, Cameroon; an opportunity to strengthen ties between the West and Central African ecosystems.

## Benin Call to Action

**Format:** Interactive session

**Facilitator:** Mr. Hervé HOUNZANDJI

**Theme:** Bringing Beninese stakeholders together to build a national peering and interconnection ecosystem.

### Session highlights:

Beninese participants acknowledged a disconnect between the international engagement of local stakeholders and their involvement in national initiatives. The exchange point was seen as a key unifying project, but its performance remains underwhelming, after nearly 10 years, traffic has yet to exceed 1 Gbps. The launch of a new exchange point (COTIX) was welcomed as an opportunity to seize.

Several obstacles were raised, including the regulator's lack of involvement in peering dynamics, the closure of the former exchange point limiting interconnection options, and a fear of the unknown or a lack of awareness among some players about the benefits of peering. The question of coercion versus voluntarism was also brought up.

Participants shared experiences from Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, where events like Peering Day have helped bring players together. These initiatives showed that a structured framework with a clear roadmap and objectives can unite stakeholders and generate collective savings. Others stressed the need to involve Benin's Electronic Communications and Postal Regulatory Authority (ARCEP Bénin) in the process. In other countries, operator license conditions already require connection to the exchange point, a measure that could be considered in Benin to create collective momentum.

The Benin Chapter of the Internet Society was identified as a natural facilitator, given its neutrality and ability to bring together all stakeholders, including young talent.

### Q&A and open floor discussion:

| Question                                                                                             | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1. Should this push be voluntary, or does it take some form of coercion to bring everyone together? | A mixed approach is needed. Voluntary momentum should be encouraged, but regulator involvement, with obligations built into license terms, can speed things up and ensure effective participation. |
| Q2. What role can the new exchange point (COTIX) play in this dynamic?                               | COTIX should serve as a platform for capacity-building and interconnection activities. Operators were encouraged to join, with support from the regulator and the technical community.             |

## Wrap-up Session

The session opened with thanks to all participants for their attendance and engagement throughout the two days, especially those who had been present since Monday for the IXP workshop.



The session also looked back at previous editions: the forum went virtual in 2021 with 288 participants; this year, it brought together 281 attendees from 23 countries right here in Cotonou.

A look ahead: upcoming regional events include AfPIF (August 18–20 in Kigali, Rwanda) and the Central Africa Peering Forum. As for WAPF 2027, it will be hosted outside Benin, and interested countries were invited to raise their hands. For those registered, a sightseeing tour is also on the calendar for the day after the forum, June 19, 2026.

## Acknowledgements

The West Africa Peering Forum 2026 was made possible by the generous backing of many partners. The Organizing Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to all sponsors for their commitment to advancing West Africa's Internet ecosystem. A special word of gratitude goes to the organizers, Internet Society, CSquared, and the Internet Society Benin Chapter, for their essential role in bringing the forum to life. Technical partners also made key contributions: Isocel and Celtiis for Wi-Fi connectivity, CTOD South Africa for the domain name, along with the entire technical crew, engineers, camera operators, lighting, audio, and video teams, and the warm-hearted hospitality staff.

The Program Committee, composed of 336 volunteers, was also recognized for shaping a strong agenda and keeping things on track. Last but not least, the Organizing Committee thanks all speakers, moderators, panelists, and participants, whose presence and engagement made this edition one to remember.

### 3. WAPF 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS

| Intended Recipients                                                        | N° | Recommendations                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Governments and Line Ministries                                            | 1  | Adopt “Big Ones” infrastructure policies – require fiber conduit installation during all road construction or renovation projects to reduce deployment costs. |
|                                                                            | 2  | Include digital as a strategic sector on par with water and electricity in national development plans.                                                        |
|                                                                            | 3  | Mandate IPv6 compatibility for all public digital services to drive private-sector adoption.                                                                  |
|                                                                            | 4  | Set a target date for phasing out IPv4 (by 2030-2040) to create momentum for acceleration.                                                                    |
|                                                                            | 5  | Integrate reliable energy access into digital infrastructure deployment strategies.                                                                           |
|                                                                            | 6  | Invest in new submarine and terrestrial infrastructure to secure international access and strengthen resilience.                                              |
| Regulatory Authorities and Central Banks                                   | 7  | Make connection to national IXPs mandatory in telecom operator license terms.                                                                                 |
|                                                                            | 8  | Incentivize financial institutions to connect to IXPs by requiring disaster recovery sites in data centers.                                                   |
|                                                                            | 9  | Regulators are encouraged to adopt more sustainable, long-term revenue models rather than short-sighted approaches that stifle investment.                    |
|                                                                            | 10 | Harmonize cross-border regulations (ECOWAS/UEMOA) to facilitate interconnection between countries.                                                            |
| Network Operators (ISPs, Mobile Operators, Content Providers, Enterprises) | 11 | Embrace IPv6 at scale and pursue ASNs as a strategic tool to improve performance and reduce NAT-related costs.                                                |
|                                                                            | 12 | Adopt the Open DWDM approach for optical networks to avoid vendor lock-in and gain flexibility.                                                               |
|                                                                            | 13 | Favor direct investment in optical network equipment over long-term service leasing.                                                                          |
|                                                                            | 14 | Make resilience a strategic priority by investing in backup routes and redundancy.                                                                            |
|                                                                            | 15 | Diversify DNS resolution strategies by developing internal infrastructure to ensure service continuity.                                                       |
|                                                                            | 16 | Host RIPE Atlas probes to improve network diagnostics across the region.                                                                                      |
|                                                                            | 17 | Rural connectivity providers are encouraged to adopt open-access fiber and shared wireless infrastructure models to extend coverage.                          |
|                                                                            | 18 | Require PeeringDB updates as part of the onboarding process for new members.                                                                                  |
|                                                                            | 19 | Offer risk-free demonstration programs (e.g., 12 months free) for banks and FinTechs.                                                                         |

|                                            |    |                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IXP Operators                              | 20 | Host local instances of DNS root servers and ccTLDs to improve regional performance.                      |
|                                            | 21 | Develop multiple points of presence in major data centers to make connection easier.                      |
| AfrinIC                                    | 22 | Cooperate with PeeringDB to automatically encourage new ASN holders to register.                          |
|                                            | 23 | Scale up training on IPv6, especially for executives “IPv6 for Managers” and engineers.                   |
| Internet Society (ISOC)                    | 24 | Organize national Peering Days to bring stakeholders together around interconnection.                     |
|                                            | 25 | Play a neutral facilitator role to bring together public, private, and technical stakeholders.            |
|                                            | 26 | Strategically raise decision-maker awareness about the importance of digital sovereignty through peering. |
| ccTLD Operators                            | 27 | Implement DNSSEC validation for all national domains to secure the DNS.                                   |
| Benin (Government, ARCEP, Operators, ISOC) | 28 | Revive Benin's exchange point (COTIX) by strengthening its governance and attractiveness.                 |
| Benin (Technical community, ISOC)          | 29 | Organize a Benin Peering Forum in 2027 to keep up national momentum.                                      |
| Benin (Government, Operators)              | 30 | Invest in a new submarine cable to replace the aging SAT-3 and secure access.                             |
| ARCEP Bénin                                | 31 | Include the obligation to connect to the national exchange point in operator license terms.               |

## 4. APPENDICES

### Schedule

| June/Juin 17<br>UTC+1 /<br>GMT+1 | WAPF 2026 Day1/Jour 01                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | June/Juin 18<br>UTC+1 / GMT+1 | WAPF 2026 Day2/Jour 02                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | June/Juin 19                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 - 09:00                    | Enregistrement / registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 08:00 - 09:00                 | Enregistrement / registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Benin Tour</b><br>for country exploration                                                                                                          |
| 09:00 - 09:45                    | <b>Introduction (Co - Chairs)</b><br><b>Housekeeping Rules</b><br>Introduction (Coprésidents)<br>Règles de conduite                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 09:00 - 09:10                 | <b>Recap Day 1</b> - Recap Jour 1<br>(by Co-chairs)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Bénin Tour<br>- sites des Vodoun Days,<br>- Temple des Pythons,<br>- Porte du Non-Retour,<br>- Musée de la Fondation Zinsou,<br>- Mémorial Zoungbodji |
| 09:45 - 11:45                    | <b>Formal Opening Session</b> - Séance d'ouverture officielle<br>1. <b>Welcome remarks</b> , Internet society Bénin Chapter / Mot de bienvenue, section béninoise de l'Internet Society<br>2. <b>Welcome remarks</b> , Local host representative / Mot de bienvenue, représentant des Hôtes locaux<br>3. <b>Welcome remarks</b> , Representative of Benin Internet Ecosystem/Mot de bienvenue, représentant de l'écosystème Internet du Bénin<br>4. <b>Formal opening declaration</b> / Déclaration d'ouverture officielle<br><b>Panel:</b> Policy, Regulation, and the Internet | 09:10 - 10:40                 | <b>Session 05</b> -<br>Topic: PeeringDB as a tool for peering and interconnection growth / PeeringDB comme outil de croissance du partage et de l'interconnexion<br><b>Panelists</b><br>Benin Royal - Meta/Chair PeeringDB Outreach Committee<br>Kelechi Nsofor - Sales Director Digital Realty West Africa<br>Network Operator -Samuel Yameul Owusu Yeboah, CTO CSquared Ghana<br><b>Moderator</b> |                                                                                                                                                       |

Ecosystem: Are We Enabling or Inhibiting Growth?/Politiques, réglementations et écosystème Internet: favorisons-nous ou freinons-nous la croissance?

**Moderator/Moderateur:** Jean Baptiste Millogo

**Panelists/Panelistes:** Bénin, Côte D'ivoire, Ghana, and AMS-IX representative / Représentant du Bénin, de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Ghana et de l'AMS-IX

Obinna Adumike - Head Converged Digital Infrastructure Africa

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -             | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 10:40 - 11:10 | <b>Session 06 -</b><br>Format: Presentation - Q & A<br>Topic: The Sovereignty Imperative<br>Speaker: Esther KING, Ingénieure Senior, cofondatrice de GAMCHIX, Co-chair du comité de programme       |
| 11:45 - 12:15 | <b>Family picture &amp; coffee break</b> - Photo de famille & Pause Cafe                                                                                                                                                                                     | 11:10 - 11:40 | Coffee Break - Pause-café                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 12:15 - 12:45 | <b>Session 01 -</b><br>Format: Presentation - Q & A<br><b>Topic:</b> How to build your first Optical Network: A look into Open DWDM / Comment construire son premier réseau optique: présentation d'Open DWDM<br><b>Speaker:</b> Mark Tinka / TransmissionCo | 11:40 - 12:10 | <b>Session 07 -</b><br>Format: Presentation - Q & A<br><b>Topic:</b> IXP, Banks & FinTechs / IXP, Banques et<br><b>Speaker:</b> Raphael Iloka -Marketing Manager Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria |
| 12:45 - 13:15 | <b>Session 02 -</b><br>Format: Presentation - Q & A<br><b>Topic:</b> The Cost of Downtime: Network Resilience as AI Scales / Le coût des interruptions de service: la résilience du                                                                          | 12:10 - 12:40 | <b>Session 08 -</b><br>Format: Presentation - Q & A<br><b>Topic:</b> Shared Infrastructure to Address West Africa's Internet Penetration Gap/Infrastructure partagée pour combler le                |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|               | réseau face à l'expansion de l'IA<br><b>Speaker:</b> Samuel Yameul Owusu Yeboah,<br>CTO CSquared Ghana                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |               | fossé de pénétration d'Internet en Afrique de l'Ouest<br><b>Speaker:</b> Israel Ogboi (Telecables Nigeria by Angola Cables)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |
| -             | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 12:40 - 13:10 | <b>Session 09 -</b><br>Format: Presentation - Q & A<br><b>Topic:</b> Beyond Peering: Strengthening DNS, DNS Ecosystem Security, and Operational Resilience in West Africa/Au-delà du peering: renforcer le DNS, la sécurité de l'écosystème DNS et la résilience opérationnelle en Afrique de l'Ouest<br><b>Speaker:</b> Yazid Akanho (ICANN)       |                    |
| 13:15 - 13:30 | <b>Peering personal</b> - Peering personnel #1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 13:10 - 13:30 | <b>Peering personal</b> - Peering personnel #3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                    |
| 13:30 - 15:00 | Networking & Lunch - Réseautage et déjeuner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 13:30 - 15:00 | Networking & Lunch - Réseautage et déjeuner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |
| 15:00-16:00   | <b>Session 03 -</b><br>Format: Panel Discussion,<br>Moderator/Moderateur:Temitope Osunrinde - Africa Hyperscalers<br><b>Topic:</b> Deepening ASN and IPV6 adoption with enterprises in Africa / Soutenir l'adoption d'ASN et d'IPv6 auprès des entreprises en Afrique<br><b>Panelists:</b><br>ABBA Brice - AfriNIC<br>Ghislain Nkeramugaba - ISOC<br>Network Operator - Olawale Owwoye, Cedarview communication<br>IXP Operator - Silas Peprah , Accra-IX | 15:00-16:00   | <b>Session 10 -</b><br>Format: Panel Discussion<br><b>Topic:</b> Internet peering as a lever for economic growth and national competitiveness in Benin / Le peering Internet comme levier de croissance économique et de compétitivité nationale au Bénin<br><b>Panelist:</b> APIEx, Banque Mondiale, ISOCEL,<br><b>Moderator:</b> Hervé Hounzandji | Déjeuner<br>Ouidah |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                    |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16:00- 16:15  | <b>Peering personal</b> - Peering personnel #2                                                                                                                     | 16:00- 16:15  | <b>Peering personal</b> - Peering personnel #4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 16:15 - 16:35 | Coffee Break - Pause-café                                                                                                                                          | 16:15 - 16:35 | Coffee Break - Pause-café                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 16:35 - 17:10 | <b>Session 04 -</b><br>Format: Lightning Talks<br>Carl Aniambossou: COTIX Update<br>Abba Brice: AfriNIC Update<br>Jean Baptiste Millogo: Open Fiber Data Standard, | 16:35 - 17:10 | <b>Session 11 -</b><br>Format: <b>Lightning Talks</b><br>Ghislain Nkeramugaba: The Peering Disconnect<br>Beau-Clair Isidore Vieira: Les éléments d'une politique et/ou d'une stratégie d'interconnexion des réseaux en Afrique en Afrique de l'Ouest<br>Brice Abba: Central Africa Peering Forum Update |
| 17:10 - 17:30 | <b>Closing</b> - Conclusion (Co-Chairs)<br><b>Announcements</b> - Annonces                                                                                         | 17:10 - 17:30 | (Co-Chairs)<br><b>Wrap up Session/</b> WAPF 2027 Updates - Session de synthèse / Mise à sur le pays WAPF 2027<br>Statistics of the event - Statistique de l'événement - WAPF 2027 Country announcement<br><b>Closing Session</b> - Session de clôture                                                   |
| 18:00 Onwards | <b>Gala Dinner</b> /dîner de Gala<br>Venue: Palais des Anges<br>Transport details                                                                                  | 17:30 onwards | <b>Closing cocktail</b> (TBC) - Cocktail de clôture - A confirmer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



## Team

- **Internet Society:**  
Ghislain NKERAMUGABA, Jean-Baptiste MILLOGO, Rocio ALVAREZ, Sally HARVEY.
- **Program Committee:**  
Co-chairs: Brice ABBA, Esther KING, Obinna ADUMIKE  
Members: Azubuike EGEREUGWU, Ben-Idriss DAMA, Carl ANIAMBOSSOU, Cedrick Adrien MBEYET, Silas PEPRAH, Hervé HOUNZANDJI
- **Local Committee:**  
Chair: Hervé HOUNZANDJI  
Members: Agossi KIKI, Carl ANIAMBOSSOU, Carmène Loyce, David CARRENA, Elias GNANCADJA, Fabrice DAKO, Gbééré Achille EYE, Hermine GOUKODADJA, Jediel ADEFOULOU, Kossi AMESSINO, Malick ALASSANE, Nabil CHOUTY, Samuel HOUNGBEME.
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