



West Africa Digital Governance Forum

The Banjul Recommendations

Participants in the Launching Event for the West Africa Digital Governance Forum, held in Banjul, 13 and 14 September 2023, approve the following recommendations:

1.

The WADGOV Forum is launched as an open platform to articulate efforts among West Africa countries in the region in order to develop digital governance policies, strategies, mechanisms, and initiatives, contributing to promote the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, namely more inclusive and participated societies, citizen empowerment, and transparent, accountable and trustworthy public institutions.

2.

As such, the Forum will act to network with diverse and relevant stakeholders in the region, from officials and governmental agencies to academia and the private sector, to share experiences and best practices, foster synergies at the regional level, and design, promote, and assess meaningful digital governance projects in West Africa.

In particular, a close collaboration with ECOWAS will be pursued to reinforce and articulate efforts and avoid replication of initiatives.

3.

Originally proposed by UNU-EGOV, the *United Nations University Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance*, the WADGOV Forum reaches today a level of maturity and interest, requiring a step further. This entails the common commitment to

- Join efforts to build a broader community in the West Africa region, for mutual support to regional cooperation, shaping the path to accelerate digital transformation in Government, Public Administration and public service delivery in the region.

- Promote a collaborative analysis and detailed study of the reality, drivers and challenges for digital governance in West Africa, as an instrument to build common awareness, identify and address crucial needs, and inform concrete action proposals at national and regional levels.
- Plan and promote the realization along 2024 of a second general meeting of the Forum, hosted by a country in the region.
- Constitute a WAGDOV Forum **Founding Committee** joining together, in personal capacity, relevant stakeholders from the different countries in the region, international organizations and the private sector, responsible for designing, along the next six months, a roadmap for 2023-24, in order to
 - expand and consolidate the WAGDOV Forum;
 - ensure its web presence, possibly through a dedicated website and email-list;
 - seek for the formal commitment of all West Africa countries in addition to other relevant regional and international organizations;
 - envisage a suitable governance model, and
 - secure the necessary resources to guarantee its basic operation.

4.

The Founding Committee will be chaired by a national focal point. Given that the first meeting was generously hosted by The Gambia Government, Mr Lang Loum is invited to serve in this role until September 2024.

The WADGov Forum was supported by Project INOV.EGOV - NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000087

