

Meeting: Internet of Things
Committee: Enhancing Ethics of IOT Usage.
Country: Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a country in West Africa and it comprises 36 states and the federal capital territory, where the capital, Abuja is located. This country became a formal independent federation in 1960, so over 2 decades, the internet has fundamentally redefined everything “ re-definable” and its effect is that of a game changer for business, government and every other sector that matters. Africa has been a huge breeding ground for the internet as reports indicate that 297.9 million internet users (so-called “Netizens”) existed on the continent as at 2014, with Nigeria leading the continental internet party with about 75 million users. Thus, hopes are high that Nigeria, Africa’s largest economy, would also lead the IoT revolution in the region. The Internet of Things become a prominent factor of the complex internet infrastructure, the Internet of Things (IOT) which is a market in itself includes components and devices that enable connectivity and exchange of information through the internet. The rapid adoption of internet connectivity around the world has enabled appliances for electronics such as microwaves, television, connected vehicles and wearable electronic. Internet of Things actually is basically an interconnection of devices which could include object people mechanical machines and what have you their interconnection to be able to correlate with each other and connect with each other such that you could give timely instructions and get timely data that you could use for analytics and making better decisions. Time to time, enhancing the ethics of IoT usage will be crucial because of the globalization and development.

The delegation of Nigeria recognizes that “Looking to the future, Cisco IBSG predicts there will be 25 billion devices connected to the Internet by 2015 and 50 billion by 2020. It is important to note that these estimates do not take into account rapid advances in Internet or device technology; the numbers presented are based on what is known to be true today,” another Cisco report states. In addition, Nigeria believes that The IoT has tremendous potential to enhance society, work, and life. Smart, networked systems can make us safer in our homes and vehicles, increase our efficiency at work and at play, empower us through information, and create new opportunities. But technologies have neither social values nor ethics. However, Nigeria believes the potential of the IoT will be achieved when we have a common sense of appropriate behavior, social mechanisms to enforce responsibility and accountability, and when we enable technical architectures that incorporate safety, security, and protections. For best results, we need to develop all of these in coordination and not just after technologies have matured.

Nigeria hopes South Africa currently has enough power to drive the technology but Nigeria has to step up its power generation profile to facilitate this upgrade. Service quality from telecoms operators is another critical enabler, and the country has to do better in this regard by investing in better infrastructure and generally alleviating the bureaucracies in the sector.

Lastly, existing manpower will need to be retooled, re-skilled and empowered to leverage the new opportunities that will become available with the IoT as well as deal with the challenges that will come with it. So now is exactly the right time for thought leadership and exploration. Nigeria need to be developing the intellectual groundwork for IoT governance, policy, and laws to understand how to prioritize and promote the public good within the IoT. We need to understand intended and unintended consequences for a broad spectrum of potential IoT policy, regulation, and frameworks. We need to work now to understand the specifics of how the IoT will impact current social mechanisms or necessitate new ones to create an environment in which the IoT can achieve its highest potential.