# ECOWAS Capacity Building on Cybercrime

#### ECOWAS Commission First African Forum on Cybercrime 16 October 2018



#### At a Glance



- Established 28 May 1975
- **15 Member States** 
  - 8 Francophone: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Togo
  - **5** Anglophone: Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone
  - 2 Lusophone: Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau
- a 4 middle income countries
- Population : 380 Million+
- Internet Penetration: 39.77 %

Sources: <u>http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/western-africa-population/</u> <u>http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats1.htm</u>

## **ECOWAS Directive on fight against Cybercrime**



Aims to:

- Bridge the legal gap relating to cybercrime repression through the adoption of new offence specific to ICT
- Adapt traditional offences to ICT offences, sanctions and the punishment regime in force in Member States to the new technological environment
- Key Chapter for Cooperation
  - Rules of procedure (Articles 30, 31, 32 & 33)
- Directive in compliance with
  - Budapest Convention
  - AU Convention on Cybersecurity and data protection

### **Other ECOWAS Related Texts on Cybercrime**



- ECOWAS has established some rules for cross border cooperation and technical assistance which could be used by Member States to render mutual assistance on cybercrime issues
  - Article 57 of the ECOWAS revised Treaty on judicial and legal cooperation, which prescribes that the Member States undertake to promote judicial cooperation with a view to harmonizing judicial and legal systems
  - Convention A/P1/7/92 of ECOWAS relating to mutual aid on judicial penal matters
  - ECOWAS Convention A/P1/8/94 relating to Extradition
  - Agreement on cooperation in criminal police matters between the Member States of ECOWAS



#### Challenges

- Domestication
- Skillsets
- Cooperation





#### **ECOWAS Cybersecurity Agenda**



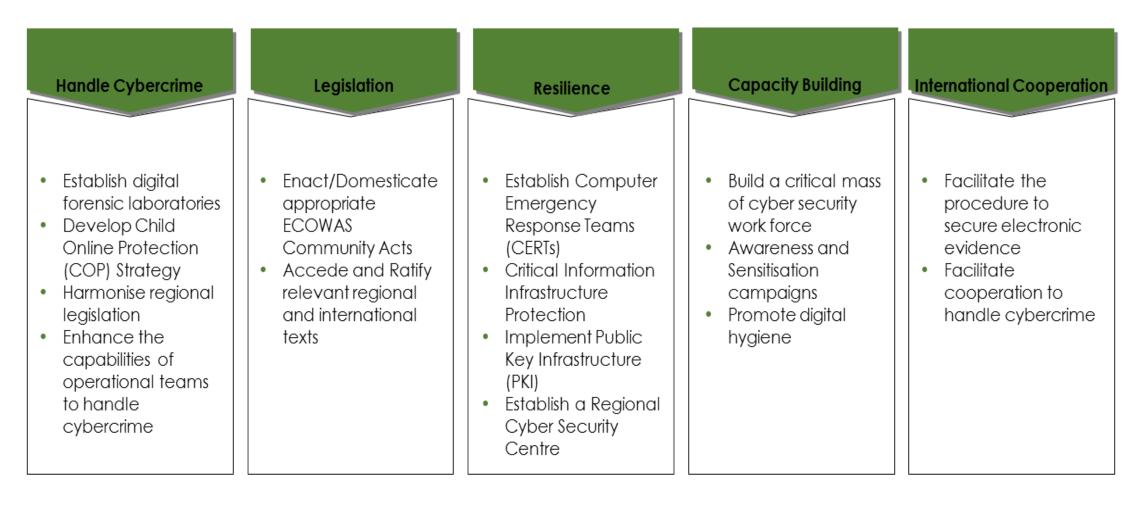
Pillar 1 Fight Cybercrime Pillar 2 Improve the Cyber Security Environment



#### **Pillar 1: Fight Cybercrime**



**Actions** 



### **Capacity Building**



- Trainings for Prosecutors and Investigators in collaboration with Global
  Prosecutors E-Crime Network and Council of Europe
- **Train the Trainer Events with Council of Europe** 
  - 2017: Introductory Training of the Trainers Course for Judges, Magistrates and Prosecutors on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence
  - 2018: Advanced Judicial Training of Trainers Course on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence
- Trainings under 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF)



#### **Recommendations for Member States**



- Adopt and implement necessary legal frameworks in line with regional, continental texts and International Conventions to fight cybercrime
- Create specialised units to fight against cybercrimes
- Train law enforcement institutions personnel, especially judges and magistrates on the specificities of cybercrimes
- Improve abilities to collect, to share and to preserve electronic evidence regionally and internationally
- □ Enhance regional cooperation by sharing information and best practices

