



Our Focus

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Since 2004, CIPESA has been involved in research, advocacy, and awareness-raising about the key internet governance issues and their impact on access, affordability, development, safety and security, as well as prudent management of the internet. Together with various partners, we organise annual Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) in Uganda and East Africa, while also remaining an active player in the global IGFs.

ICTs FOR DEMOCRACY

The internet holds great possibilities for improving citizens' engagement in governance. But how are digital technologies being used to enhance citizens' participation in the democratic process? What are the challenges and the prospects? What are the innovative ways and platforms being used? CIPESA is involved in research on these matters, while also working with some grassroots organisations engaged in the ICT and participation/ governance arena.

OPEN DATA AND eGOVERNANCE

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) could be a key enabler of open governance in Africa. And opening up data in the hands of government agencies, donors, and even the private sector, is crucial. CIPESA is working at national and regional levels to promote more openness and e-governance.

The Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) is one of two centres established in 2004 under the Catalysing Access to Information and Communication Technologies in Africa (CATIA) initiative, which was funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DfID).

CIPESA is a leading centre for research and information brokerage to enable policy makers in the region to understand ICT policy issues, and for various stakeholders to use ICT to improve livelihoods



The ICT4Democracy in East Africa Network

CIPESA is a member of the ICT4Democracy in East Africa network (www.ict4democracy.org), which is premised on the recognition that ICT enhances communication and the right to freedom of expression, as well as the right to seek, receive and impart information. In Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, partners of the Swedish Program for ICTs in Developing Regions (Spider) are leveraging ICTs to hold leaders accountable to the citizens, as well as to fight corruption, monitor service delivery, and contribute to building a democratic culture in the region

Current projects

- iParticipate Uganda - Catalysing Civic Participation and Democracy Monitoring Using ICTs
- Monitoring Internet Freedoms in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda
- Uganda Open Development Partnership
- National, Regional and Global Internet Governance Forums
- ICTs and State/Governance Building in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia

Our Activities

ICT policy advocacy

The lack of easy, affordable and timely access to information about ICT-related issues and processes is one of the top challenges African countries face. Accordingly, our objectives are to raise awareness about key issues, provide useful information to assist African participation in policy-making, and stir debate by convening productive gatherings.

Publications

We produce and publish commentary, briefing papers and news articles that are widely circulated in the region and beyond. Our commentaries - short and informative pieces aimed at sparking thinking and dialogue on important issues in ICT policy-making processes - provide an overview of selected ICT policy issues relevant to African stakeholders. They stir discussion by presenting views and posing relevant questions.

Research and Debates

CIPESA publishes and disseminates informative public briefings on ICT indicators, Regional Perspectives on Open Access, ICT Infrastructure, Leveraging Universal Service Funds to Grow The Uptake of ICTs, and many other subjects.

Workshops and Conferences

CIPESA, in collaboration with its partners organises workshops to sensitise stakeholders and share experiences on ICT policy and ICT for Development. Besides, we take advantage of opportunities to showcase and expose our work through presentations.

Capacity building

We understand that undertaking all the above activities requires the necessary expertise by partners – civil society organisations and grassroots communities. Accordingly collaborative efforts are undertaken to strengthen the capacity of these organisations and providing access to ICTs.

We work with networks, individuals and organisations (private sector, governmental, academic, civil society) across the region, and we are key members of several African and international initiatives that aim to improve the inclusiveness of the Information Society.



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