



## Our Focus

### ICTs FOR DEMOCRACY

The internet holds great possibilities for improving citizens' engagement in governance. But are digital technologies really enhancing citizens' participation in democratic processes? What are the challenges, prospects, and innovations? CIPESA researches into these matters, and works with grassroots organisations engaged in the ICT and governance arena.

### ONLINE FREEDOMS

ICTs have become key platforms for citizens to enjoy their right to freedom of expression but several threats stand in the way of African citizens' enjoyment of their digital rights. CIPESA conducts research and awareness on how policies and practices in Africa affect online freedoms, and monitors violations to online freedoms on an ongoing basis.

### OPEN DATA AND eGOVERNANCE

ICTs could be a key enabler of open governance in Africa. Opening up data in the hands of state agencies, donors, and the private sector, is crucial. CIPESA is working at national and regional level to promote more government openness and e-governance including through advocating the Right to Information.

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Since 2004, CIPESA has been involved in research, advocacy, and awareness-raising on how internet governance impacts on access, affordability, development, safety and security, and prudent management of the internet. With various partners, we organise annual Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) in Uganda and East Africa, and are active players in the global IGF.

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 coordinating the ICT4Democracy in East Africa network ([www.ict4democracy.org](http://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 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.

# 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.



**OpenNet  
Africa**

CIPESA is the coordinator of the OpenNet Africa project ([www.opennetafrica.org](http://www.opennetafrica.org)), which is aimed at monitoring and promoting internet freedoms, primarily in East and Southern African states.

### Current projects

- iParticipate Uganda - Catalysing Civic Participation and Democracy Monitoring Using ICTs.
- Monitoring Internet Freedoms in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.
- Uganda Open Development Partnership.
- National, Regional and Global Internet Governance Forums.
- ICTs and State/Governance Building in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.
- Leveraging Open Data and the Right to Information to Promote Service Delivery in East Africa.

In partnership with:



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