

# INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS: GATEWAYS TO ACTION

CAMEROON | MALAWI | NAMIBIA | SOMALIA | UGANDA

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Country partners



# PROGRAM FLOW

Pre-meetings hosted by Digital Shelter, YONECO, namTshuwe, PROTEGE QV, CIPESA

Main Convening: 14h00 - 16h00 (East African Time)

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8KYXsEzwRUalKlvqVcC8lA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8KYXsEzwRUalKlvqVcC8lA)

## **WELCOME**

Juliet Nanfuka | CIPESA

## **INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS: WHAT THEY ARE AND WHY THESE MATTER**

Dorothy Gordon | Chair of  
the UNESCO Information For  
All Programme

## **THE UNESCO PERSPECTIVE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Xianhong Hu | Programme  
Specialist at UNESCO and  
Global Focal Point of Internet  
Universality Project

## **TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND METHODOLOGY**

Simon Ellis | International  
technical Advisor

## **LESSONS FROM KENYA**

Grace Githaiga | Convenor of  
the Kenya ICT Action  
Network

## **LESSONS FROM GHANA**

Dr. Simon-Peter Kafui Aheto |  
National IUI Assessment in  
Ghana

## **DISCUSSION**

Participants

## **WAY FORWARD**

UNESCO and CIPESA

## **FOR INQUIRIES**

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# Internet Universality Indicators: Gateways To Action

## Convening

### Background

In 2015, the 38th General Conference of UNESCO endorsed a new definition on the universality of the internet. It was based upon four principles - Rights, Openness, Accessibility to all and Multi-stakeholder participation, the ROAM principles. UNESCO recognized that these Internet Universality Indicators (IUI) were central to the growth and evolution of the Internet, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The addition of cross-cutting indicators in 2018 resulted in the ROAM-X Indicator framework comprising of 303 indicators that assess the extent to which national stakeholders, including governments, businesses and civil society, comply with the ROAM principles.

To date, UNESCO has worked with stakeholders in a range of countries with national assessments having progressed in various countries. As such, in March 2022, UNESCO, jointly with the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) convened a regional dialogue which gathered a number of leading national actors and experts who shared best practice and lessons learned from implementing national assessments of ROAM-X indicators in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Niger and Senegal.

Meanwhile, in 2008 the IPDC endorsed the Media Development Indicators (MDI) which serve to assess the overall environment for media development in a country. Another important indicator is the Journalist Safety Indicator (JSI) which serve to identify the actions that are taken by the various relevant stakeholders in promoting journalists' safety and fighting impunity at national level.

Together, these media and internet assessment tools are serving to assess and improve Internet and media ecosystems, policies at the national level in addition to fostering digital and strategic collaborations at the international and regional levels for the countries especially in countries where these assessments have been conducted.

Despite growing diversity in Africa's media and digital landscape, there remains various undercurrents detrimental to its growth. The plurality, neutrality, safety, and freedom of expression of the media face continued affronts while citizens face gaps in data privacy, internet access affordability, non-existent or weak digital rights framework through to fast changing shifts in content moderation, surveillance capitalism and even online content regulations.

These factors are causing the media in several countries to fall short of the MDIs and the JSIs, while increasing regressive shifts in internet access and use by citizens and the media alike is also affecting the performance of states on the IUIs. However, in-depth, structured assessment can better reveal the extent to which states are actually performing and allow for achieve evidence-based policy reform and improvement.

On 16 March 2022, UNESCO, jointly with the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) convened a regional dialogue on implementing Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators (IUI) in Africa.

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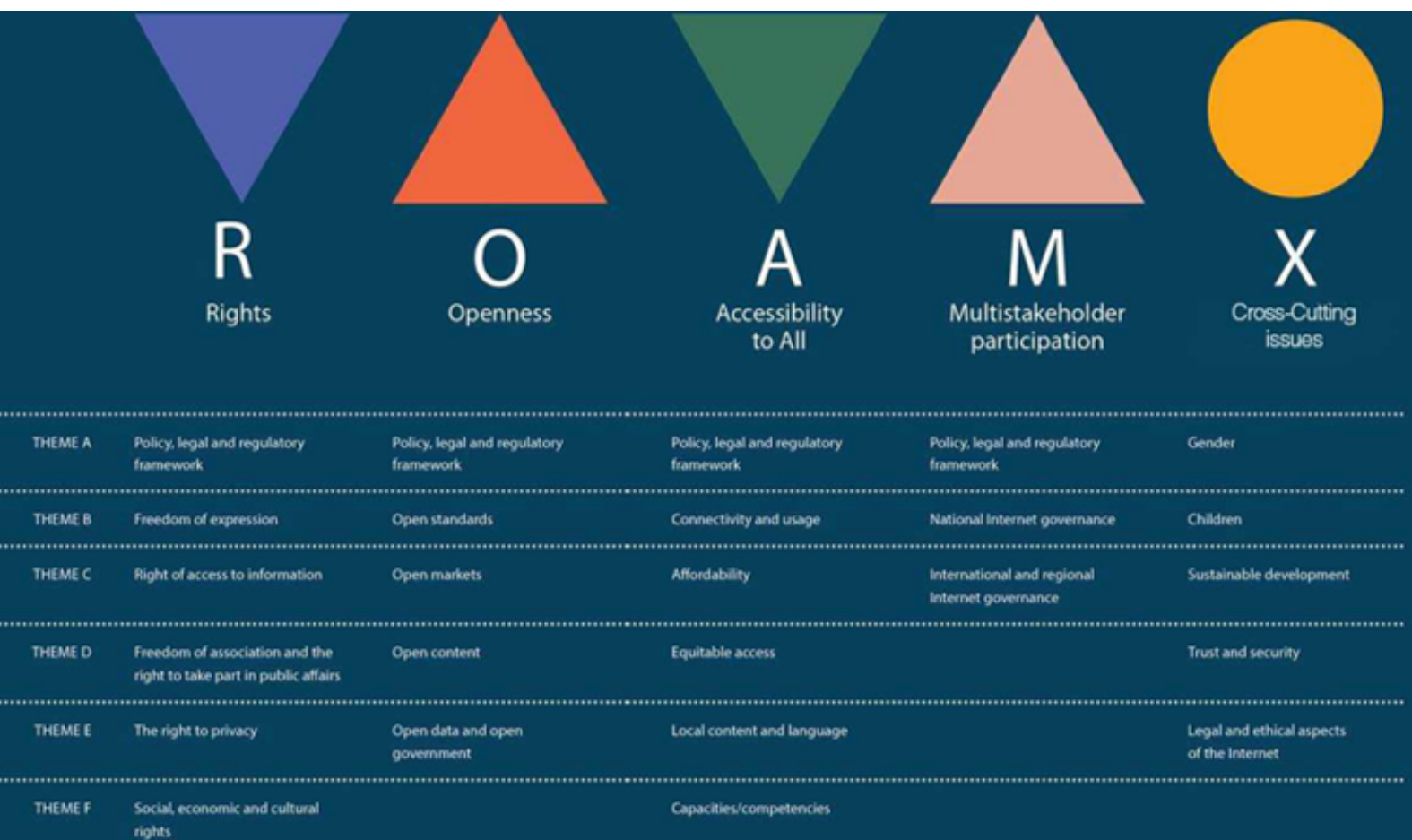
The event, supported by the International Program for Development of Communication (IPDC) of UNESCO, gathered a number of leading national actors and experts who shared best practice and lessons learned from implementing national assessments of ROAM-X indicators in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Niger and Senegal.

Following on from this, we are hosting of an Africa regional event, in which we aim to advocate for media and Internet policy reforms which can enhance the awareness of these indicators as well as promote the utilisation of the three indicators – IUI, JSI, and MDIs for national assessments in more countries by more stakeholders including policy experts, government representatives, academia, digital rights activists and the media.

This “Internet Universality Indicators: Gateways To Action” hybrid convening will include participants in remote hubs in Cameroon, Malawi and Somalia which will sync with online participants from Namibia, Uganda and a range of other countries in a webinar for a shared discussion on the ROAM-X Indicator framework.



## UNESCO’S Internet Universality Indicators: A Framework for Assessing Internet Development



# USEFUL LINKS

**SEE THESE COMPLETED INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATOR ASSESMENTS FOR [BENIN](#), [KENYA](#), [SENEGAL](#)**

**VIDEO: [REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON THE INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS \(IUI\)](#)**

**[INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS](#)**

**[AFRICAN COUNTRIES ENGAGE IN REGIONAL DIALOGUE OVER INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS STUDY](#)**

**[STEERING AI AND ADVANCED ICTS FOR KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES: A RIGHTS, OPENNESS, ACCESS, AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVE](#)**

**[JOIN THE DYNAMIC COALITION ON IUI'S](#)**