Asha D. Abinallah (Social Media and Data Journalism Consultant) is a graduate of the University Of Dar es Salaam and University of Texas in United States. She has been trained by National and International experts on the Use of New Media and Data Journalism, a field she has worked in for over five years, making her one of the social media content management expert in the field. She also works as the General Manager in a leading New Media House, Jamii Media (which hosts a popular website JamiiForums.com and FikraPevu.com) in Tanzania. She is also YALI Fellow 2015 in the Business and Entrepreneurship track in Texas, U.S. Asha D. is a writer; she writes articles and has recently published a Political book known as "AsemavyoZitto". Her community activities involve working with the Youth, teaching 'Gender Sensitivity' and ' use of Social Media'.

Renata Avila is a human rights lawyer from Guatemala. She worked as one of the lawyers representing the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum. Involved in Internet and Human Rights research since 2009, she joined Sir Tim Berners-Lee as lead of the Web We Want campaign at the Web Foundation, dedicated to preserving and upholding human rights, responding to threats to the future of the Internet. She currently serves as a Board Member of Creative Commons Board of Directors. She is also a member of Courage Foundation advisory board, assisting whistleblowers and sources at risk and in the D-Cent board, exploring the future of decentralised technologies. Follow Renata on Twitter @avilarenata

Moses Karanja describes himself as a political scientist perched on the intersection between collective security and Information controls in society. His area of research interest is security policy processes with an increasing focus towards cybersecurity. He is currently a research fellow at the Center for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) based at the Strathmore Law School in Nairobi, Kenya and Open Technology Fund (OTF) based in Washington DC. He has experience working on cybersecurity policy making in Kenya, the African Union Convention on cybersecurity and personal data protection and national security legislations and Internet freedom in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Kenya. His other research projects include working on mutating security threats from youth militias in Kenya, maritime security in the Indian Ocean and linkages between elections and security in East Africa. Twitter: @Mose_Karanja

James Generali Marenga is practicing Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania, holder of (PGDLP) Law School of Tanzania (2012), LLB - Open University of Tanzania (OUT) (2007), Advanced Diploma in Journalism of St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), (2000). He is a trainer and facilitator in the Media Law and Ethics with the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Member of the Coalition of the Right to Information (CORI) advocating for Right to Information laws in Tanzania since 2006. Panelist on various TV shows on the Constitution making processes in Tanzania. Child rights activist and seasonal Journalist formally working with the Guardian newspaper and founding editor of the popular swahili newspaper, Tanzania Daima in 2006. James is currently working with National Organisation for Legal Assistance (nola) as Program Manager Research Advocacy and Networking.

Jean Paul Nkurunziza holds a Bachelor degree in Psychology and Education Sciences since November 2000 (University of Burundi). Since March 2007, he has been involved in the field of Internet Governance, undertaking different capacity building programmes on behalf of DiploFoundation and the Internet Society as an online lecturer. In addition to that, he has worked as a fellow at the United Nations Internet Governance Forum Secretariat located in Geneva during 2010. He is a consultant in the ICT domain, having worked with organisations such as BEMM (Bureau d'EtudesModerneMultiservices), CEC (Centre d'Etudeet de Calculs) and the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA). He is also involved with non for profit organisations and is one of the founders of the Burundian Chapter of Internet Society and the Burundi Youth Training Centre.

Jaco du Toit is currently the Regional Adviser for Communication and Information for East Africa at the UNESCO Office in Nairobi. Covering Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Joca works in the fields of community media and media development, ICT in Education Science and Culture and the reinforcement of archives and libraries.

Dr. Ruth Nsibirano is a Gender expert working with Makerere University Library. Dr. Nsibirano holds a PhD in Gender Studies, has an MA in Women Studies and an Hons degree in Library and Information Science of Makerere University. She has done extensive research on issues of gender and ICT, intergration of technology in teaching and learning, and gender mainstreaming. She has participated in several Professional Level courses, national and regional research projects as well as in international conferences where she has contributed to discussion on ICT, as well as on the application of educational technologies in university teaching, learning and research. The goal of such research has been to contribute to increased gender equality in technology uptake. Nsibirano has compitencies in gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, information management, use of moodle Elearning platforms, online course content development among others.

'Gbenga Sesan is the Executive Director of Paradigm Initiative Nigeria. An Electronic & Electrical Engineering graduate from Obafemi Awolowo University, 'Gbenga completed Executive Education programs at Lagos Business School, New York Group for Technology Transfer, Oxford University, Harvard University, Stanford University and Santa Clara University. His consulting experience includes assignments completed for Microsoft, Harvard University, United Nations agencies, and other institutions, in over 30 countries. A 2014 Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year, he is a Crans Montana Forum Fellow, Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow, Ashoka Fellow, Our Common Future Fellow and Cordes Fellow. 'Gbenga served as a member on the Presidential Committees on Roadmap for the Achievement of Accelerated Universal Broadband Infrastructure and ICT Sector Restructuring in Nigeria, was listed in 2012 by CNN as one of the top 10 African Tech Voices To Follow On Twitter and by Ventures Africa as one of 40 African Legends Under 40. 'Gbenga is married to Temilade Sesan, PhD, an expert on Energy Poverty and Development issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

Esther Nakkazi is a freelance science reporter, media trainer and consultant. She has spent time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as a Harvard Knight Science Journalism Fellow, and obtained her Bachelors of Arts in Literature from Makerere University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism from the Uganda Management Institute. Since 2010, she has been a Mentor with the World Federation of Science Journalists programme and is also the Founder of Health Journalists Network in Uganda (HEJNU) www.hejnu.com. She has published extensively, including with The East African (www.theeastafrican.co.ke), Nature (www.nature.com), SciDev (www.scidev.net), IRIN/PlusNews (www.plusnews.org), Onislam (www.onislam.net) and the Network of Climate Journalists for the Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGAH) website – www.necjogha.org. Follow her on Twitter @Nakkazi and blog: www.estanakkazi.blogspot.com.

Dan "blah" Meredith - Principal Director, Open Technology Fund (OTF). Over the past decade, Dan has identified as an activist, technologist, journalist, and now funder exploring emerging trends intersecting human rights, transparency, global communication policy and technology, information security, and the Internet. Before directing the Open Technology Fund, Dan was a senior producer and technologist for the Al Jazeera Network based in Doha, Qatar. Leading up to and during the Arab Spring, he modernized traditional investigative journalist toolkits with safe communication technology to protect field reporters and their sources from surveillance, created a privacy-protecting global whistle-blowing and news gathering platform, and produced technology-centric stories for global television broadcast.Before his time at Al Jazeera, Dan was a senior technology fellow at New America Foundation in Washington, D.C. While there, he worked with the Open Technology Initiative and Media Policy Initiative to operationalize new "code-as-policy" technology projects with global communities of policy makers, journalists, and technologists. His focus was to create, educate, demystify, and evangelize open, distributed, and decentralized technologies that increased democratic participation, fought censorship, and disrupted authoritarianism globally.

Mohammed Ndifuna is the CEO of Human Rights Network-Uganda (HURINET-U). HURINET-U is a national network of human rights organizations in Uganda with a current membership of 53 organizations and hosts 7 national coalitions. Mohammed joined HURINET-U in August 2005 and has offered leadership to the network variably as the National Coordinator and the Chief Executive Officer. Mohammed is a passionate believer and a fervent advocate of collective voice and actions in the promotion of human rights. Mohammed has played an instrumental role in the formation of a number of coalitions on a range of issues including international criminal justice, freedom of information, police accountability and security sector reform, protection of human rights defenders, human rights education, and citizens' engagement with the regional and international human rights mechanisms.

Panelist Bios

Ebele Okobi is the Head of Public Policy, Africa at Facebook, where she leads on engaging with government, civil society and other policy influencers and shaping Facebook's policy agenda across sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to Facebook, Ebele was the founding Global Head and Senior Legal Director for Human Rights at Yahoo, where she led Yahoo's efforts to address the legal and policy issues related to privacy, free expression and access.Ebele previously worked as a corporate lawyer at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York, Paris and London, a consumer rights policy fellow at Consumers Union in San Francisco, a senior director of Advisory Services at Catalyst (an NGO with the mission of advancing women in business) in San Jose and Amsterdam and in the Management Development Program at Nike's EMEA headquarters in Amsterdam, where she created marketing, corporate responsibility and business development strategy for sub-Saharan Africa, for NikeWomen and Nike Digital. In 2001, she took a sabbatical to volunteer for human rights organizations in the US and Senegal. Ebele was a founding member of the Global Network Initiative Board from 2008 to 2014, is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the advisory boards of Women in Technology in Nigeria and TipHub. She earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Southern California, a JD from Columbia Law School and an MBA Certificat des Études from HEC-Paris. She is married and has four children.

Crystal Simeoni is the Programme Development Manager at Hivos East Africa.Based in Nairobi, Kenya, she scans, identifies and creates new projects and programmes that are in line with Hivos's strategy and profile.

Paul Kimumwe has over 10 years experience in media and communication, with particular interest in media policy and legislation; freedom of expression; access to information; ICT, and communication for social change. Paul has previously worked with ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa as a Senior Program Officer for Freedom of Expression; Panos Eastern Africa as Regional Program Coordinator and most recently volunteered with ActionAid International Denmark/Kenya as an Inspirator under the People for Change Programme.He holds a post graduate and bachelors degrees in Communication Studies from the University of Nairobi and Makerere University respectively. Paulcurrently works with the African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME) as Program Officer for Reporting Grants and Journalism Fellowships.

James Wamathai is a Director at the Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE). Formed in 2011, BAKE is a community organization that represents Kenyan online content creators.BAKE seeks to empower online content creation and improve the quality of content created on the web.

Alexandre Niyungeko is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), sits on the steering Committee of the African Federation of Journalists (FAJ) and is vice president of the Journalists' Association of East Africa (EAJA-EAJA). Alexandre is the president of the Burundian Union of Journalists.

Hellen Mwale is the chairperson of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia chapter. MISA Zambia worksto; promote Zambian media rights and responsibilities, as well as tolerance, freedom and pluralism. MISA Zambia monitors the media environment through a variety of avenues, including efforts to decrease the number of defamation cases against the media, combating challenges of media freedom and maintaining a proactive engagement with civil society and government.

Gaïus Kowene is a proactive multimedia journalist and Pan-African Web activist based in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.Gaïus is a Founder of the Goma Web Activism Summit, he volunteers as Media Relations and Communications Director for Yole!Africa and the African Youth Movement.

Davide Del Vecchio is the Founding and Board Member, Treasurer of the Hermes Centre for Transparency and Digital Human Rights. Davide has always been passionate about computer security, he collaborates with many universities on online security, and presents at various professional scientific and hacking speaking engagements. He publishesworks and advisories on topical subject matters related to security tools.He is an active member of several associations, conducts routine media interviews, and has published various articles for notable publications such as WIRED, and ICT Security, amongst many others.David works as a manager for a telecommunications company based in Italy andserves as a volunteer for Greenpeace.

Edward Ronald Sekyewa is the Executive Director, Hub for Investigative Media (HIM). HIM promotes investigative media with a specific focus on national good governance and accountability measures.

Jan Moolman is a feminist activist working on the intersections of violence against women and technology. Jan is working with the Association for Progressive Communications Women's Programme (APC WNSP) where she manages a 12-country project on ICTs and Violence against Women. Jan is a former editor of the South African feminist journal Agenda, and also serves on the boards of the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) in Harare, as well as NISAA - Institute for Women's Development in Johannesburg.

Stella Chege works with Hivos East Africa. She describes herself as a theater artist, doubling as a community development worker, who loves children to bits, good food, great company,and a hearty laugh.

Simon Mayende – Director, Information and National Guidance, Office of the Prime Minister Uganda.

Gilbert Ssendugwais the Coordinator & Head of Secretariat at the Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC), a Pan-African network whose secretariat is based in Kampala, Uganda. AFIC is a 35 member organisation consisting of 22 African countries working towards access to information issues at the national level.

Imelda Namagga heads the Governance and Rights Programme at the Uganda Debt Network (UDN), and works closely with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Parliament of Uganda and other UDN stakeholders to help establish and operate an open and prudent budget management system at national and local government level. She holds a Master of Arts in Economic Policy Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Quantitative Economics, both from Makerere University. Imelda also holds a certificate in Poverty Reduction Appraisal (PRIA) and another in Resource mobilization and fundraising.

Hon. Nalule Safia Juuko is a Member of Parliament (MP) Uganda and Chairperson, Committee on Human Rights Affairs.

Hon. Keneth Lubogo is a Member of Parliament (MP) Uganda and sits on the Committee on Human Rights Affairs.

Patrick Tumwine is the Advocacy, Research & Information Officer at Human Rights Network (HURINET) Uganda.

Sylvia Musalagani is a Programme Officer at Hivos East Africa and works on issues surrounding freedom of expression.

Lydia Gachungi is the Communication and Information Specialist UNESCO Juba Office.

Grace Githaiga is an Associate of the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) where she coordinates various Network debates and events that touch on policy and regulation in Internet governance matters. Grace has been involved in organizing the Kenya Internet Governance Forum (IGF), East Africa IGF, Africa IGF and the global IGF that took place in Kenya in 2011. Grace currently serves on the Executive Committee of ICANN's Non Commercial Users Constituency (NCUC), is a member of the Civil Society Participation Advisory Board Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS) 2015, and was the Africa's civil society representative on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) in 2014.

Henry Omusundi Maina is the Director of ARTICLE 19 East & Horn of Africa. Henry worked in the human rights sector for 10 years before coming to ARTICLE 19 in 2008, specialising in criminal justice and human rights education at the Legal Resources Foundation. Henry also has expertise in advocacy and governance, is skilled in programme management and fundraising. Henry has a masters degree in international development, law and human rights from Warwick University in the UK.

Jean Claude Niyibizi is a Rwandan independent researcher.

Panelist Bios

Ambrose Ruyooka is the Deputy Coordinator at the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) at the Uganda Teacher and School Effectiveness Program (UTSEP). Ambrose joined the organization in April 2015 to help support the Government of Uganda in improving efficacy in the public primary education system.He is the former Acting Commissioner for Information Technology at the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in Uganda, where he worked on policy development frameworks to address Internet-related issues.He is the President for the Kampala Chapter of ISACA and also serves as the Vice President of the Internet Society Uganda Chapter.

Irene Kaggwa heads the research and development function at Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), whose mandates covers the broadcasting, postal and telecommunications services. Irene possesses extensive experience in sector planning, policy development, and implementation of related initiatives such as quality of services regulation, numbering resource management, conducting usage studies, as well as processes for set up of universal fund. In her current role, Irene has enhanced the Commission's collaborations towards enhancement of ICT research and innovation as well as programs geared to development of ICT for environmental sustainability. In addition to research and development, Irene is the Corporate Coordinator for UCC. She holds an MSc in Communications Systems and Signal Processing from University of Bristol, a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering from Makerere University and is completing an MSc in Economic Management and Policy.

Emma Were Tinka is a journalist who works as the Public Affairs Officer at Uganda Media Centre. She has a degree in Mass Communication from Makerere University and is a Graduate student of International Relations and Diplomatic studies. Emma is a regular contributor in Uganda's daily news publications.

Eric Chinje has served as the CEO of the African Media Institute since 2014. Before taking up his position at AMI, Eric served as Senior Advisor at the KRL International LLC, a Washington-based consultancy specializing in the emerging markets. Prior to that, he was the Director for Strategic Communications at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. He also worked as the World Bank's Communications Manager for Africa and led the Global Development Program at the World Bank Institute (WBI), and, in that capacity, launched theIndependent Media for Accountability, Governance and Empowerment (IMAGE) capacity building program for development journalists in the Bank's client countries. Eric has also worked at the Africa Development Bank in Tunis as head of that institution's External Affairs and Communications Unit. Eric is an Officer of the Cameroon Order of Merit and an Officer of the Dutch Order of Orange Nassau. He studied at the Universities of Yaounde (Cameroon), Syracuse (New York) and Harvard (Cambridge, Massachusetts).

Naamala Brighton Samson is the Programme Officer-Innovations at the Tanzania based Culture and Development East Africa (CDEA). Naamala is also a member of the Global Shapers Community Dar Es Salaam Hub, and is the founder of Miiko Leadership Foundation which focuses on grooming leaders from local communities. He has a fine and performing arts educational background and has worked with youth-led Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), theatre groups and advertising companies. He is also engaged in different programmes and projects including civic awareness and youth participation, ICT for social change, social entrepreneurship initiatives, gender mainstreaming, artists' rights, leadership capacity building, community mobilization, East African Community(EAC) regional integration, environmental activism and many others.

Richard Lusimbo is a Ugandan native and has been recognized as an influential human rights defender. His background and focus on community collaboration has led him to a number of volunteer opportunities and community leadership roles. He is the Research and documentation officer at Sexual Minorities Uganda. Richard is also a trainer and has offered training for MARTUS a Human rights monitoring and documentation system and digital security for 3 years. He has also featured in the production of various human rights documentaries. Richard holds a Bachelors of Science in Information technology from Uganda Christian University (UCU).

Hon. Vincent Waiswa Bagiire has worked extensively in the ICT-for-Development sector, having served as CIPESA's inaugural Executive Director and having headed the African programmes for Bellanet International, a Canada-based initiative that sought to leverage the power of ICT in knowledge creation and sharing to enable development. He is the holder of a B.A. from Makerere University (Uganda), an M.B.A. (with honors) from Glasgow Caledonian University (Scotland) and MSc. Macroeconomics (Bradford, UK). Vincent has also been the Executive Director of Bridges.org, a not-for-profit ICT initiative that had offices in Kampala, Cape Town (South Africa) and Washington D.C., which together with departments at Harvard University (U.S.) and Makerere University (Uganda) co-founded CIPESA. He is currently serving as a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, where he chairs the Committee on ICTs.

Ephraim Percy Kenyanito is a Policy Fellow at AccessNow.Org. Based in Kenya, Ephraim works on the connection between Internet policy and human rights and is also an affiliate at the Internet Policy Observatory (IPO) at the Center for Global Communication Studies- Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.Ephraim is also a member of the UN Secretary General's 2015 Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance and currently serves as a member of the interim steering committee for the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (a Dynamic Coalition of the UN IGF). He also served as an Independent Expert of the Implementation Advisory Group for Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice (IAG-CCT) at ICANN among other working groups.

Faisal Kiwewa is the founding director of the Bayimba Cultural Foundation and is also the artistic director of the annual Bayimba International Festival. He currently works as the   programmes director of the East African Performing Arts Market - DOADOA and also co-directs the Kampala International Theatre Festival, and director of the Amakula International Film Festival in Uganda.

Olga Tsafack is a Cameroonian ICT4D volunteer and Digital security consultant. Olga has been a volunteer for Protege QV for the past 10 years. Protege QV stands for the promotion of Technologies that Guarantee Environment and a better Quality of Life. As an activist, Olga's interests are in human rights as well as in women empowerment. Olga uses her bilingual skills in French and English as a translator and is also a skilled social network and website Manager. Olga is a graduate of the African School of Internet Governance, Addis Ababa 2015.

Roland Niwagaba is a Ugandan IT professional and serial entrepreneur driven by curiosity and passion. Roland is the communications person at the Centre for African Excellence (CACE) – an organization which distributes African Literature fiction, and oversees the African Short Story Award for young writers program, the Writivism Festival, Ubuntu Conversations, African Dialogue of Tongues (ADOT) and a Schools Pre-text Program.Over the years Roland has founded various companies including Elyt Magazine (lifestyle magazine), Tailored Technologies (website design and other IT solutions), Agency AgriBizz (agriculture magazine) and Muwado (social network). His interests include writing, photography, acting and travel.

Moses Owiny has an 8 year history in ICT4D practice wherein he has aligned his passion for ICT with youth development, gender equality and agricultural sustainability. Moses is the recipient of the 2011 US State Department's Community Solutions Program, based at the Young Women Association (YWCA) of Batavia, New York, USA. It is here where Moses honed his skills in building capacity of low-income women using ICT. Moses works with the Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) where he heads the Information Sharing Network.

Kelly Daniel Mukwano is the Executive Director for ifreedom Uganda Network and the Secretary for gender and disability at the Internet Society Uganda Chapter. He played a role in the development of the evolving feminist principals on the Net, an initiative driven by the Association for Progressive Communications. Further to this, he has led digital security trainings for over 500 sexual and gender minorities in Uganda since the year 2013. Kelly was part of the team that won the OpenNet Africa tools testing Challenge (2015) which,in partnership with Outbox Uganda explored the localization of digital safety tools. Kelly graduated with a degree in Business Administration from Kampala University.

Panelist Bios

Nanjira Sambuli is a Research Manager at iHub, Nairobi, where she leads the Governance and Technology research pillar. Nanjira is trained as a mathematician and has worked as a new media strategist for international organizations on their pan-African and international campaigns.With iHub Research, Nanjira has developed a framework for assessing the Viability, Verification, and Validity of Crowdsourcing, an online dangerous speech monitoring project, Umati, currently running in Kenya and Nigeria, and a publication on ICT and Governance (Civic Tech Landscape) in East Africa. Nanjira is also the editor of Innovative Africa: The new face of Africa, a series of essays on the emerging African tech landscape.Nanjira has a keen interest in understanding the unfolding impacts of ICT adoption and how those impact governance, innovation, entrepreneurship and societal culture, in her native Kenya, and also across the African continent.

Jean Claude Kavumbagu is a Burundi journalist and director of the online newspaper, Net Press which has been in existence since 1996. Jean Claude graduated with a degree inHistory from the University of Burundi in 1993. He went on to train in journalism and conflict resolution in the United States of America, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda. He has pursued environmental journalism at Makerere University (Uganda) and human rights issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2011, Jean Claude received the Percy Qoboza award from the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), an association of African American journalists in Philadelphia, USA and,an award for the best journalist in France.

Kevin Chege works as the Internet Development Manager for Africa under the Africa Regional Bureau having joined the Internet Society in 2012. He engages in technical capacity building, ccTLD engagement, and IETF and IPv6 advocacy in Africa. Kevin has facilitated several technical workshops in the region and organized a number of forums and events. Kevin previously worked as the Senior Network Manager for the second largest National Research and Education Network (NREN) in Africa -Kenya Education Network(KENET). He was responsible for IP network design, Network Operations and Network Services and oversaw the dramatic expansion of the KENET network from a VSAT network serving 12 links to a large NREN with over 100 active links on optical fibre, multiple Points of Presence (PoPs), and with undersea connectivity.Kevin is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

David Kaiza is a Ugandan writer and journalist, who joined the media in 1994. David has worked for a number of years at the former Uganda Television and for an extensive period at The East African newspaper, as a reporter at large, but also as an arts and literary critic.He has worked in Kenya as literary editor for Kwani, as well as editor of the online arts magazine, African colours. He is currently involved in arts and cultural development.

Colin Akim Lasu currently serves as the manager at the Media Development Institute, based at the Association for Media Development for South Sudan (AMDISS) in Juba, South Sudan.He previously served as the Public Relations Advisor to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the South Sudan Office. Colin served as the Chief Editor of the former Daily Mentor (established in 2012). In 2013, Colin was elected General Secretary of the Union of Journalists of South Sudan. He writes a daily column in the Juba Monitor (formerly Khartoum Monitor) and also contributes articles to The National, a monthly Magazine.He holds a Master of Arts in International Communication at Ohio University (Athens, Ohio, USA) and Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Bluffton University (Bluffton, Ohio, USA).

Tom Odhiambo is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Literature at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He graduated with a PhD in African Literature from the University of the Witwatersrand in 2004. Tom is also an amateur journalist who has been writing art, culture and literature reviews in the Kenyan and African media for the past 15 years.

Anteneh Abraham is the president of the Ethiopian National Journalists Union (ENJU) and the president of the Eastern Africa Journalists Association (EAJA). Antenah has over 14 years of journalistic experience and has worked for public and private media houses in Ethiopia.

Emilar Vushe leads the policy work in Africa for the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), an international network of organizations working with Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to support social justice and development. She is devoted to ICT policy development and has over the years been engaged in expanding it from a multistake holder approach at national and regional levels in Africa including management and engagement in the West African Internet Governance Forum (2010), the first Southern African Internet Governance Forum (2011), the African schools on Internet Governance, the launch of the first African Internet Governance Forum (2012), and the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms.

Jimmy Haguma is the Acting Commissioner of the Police Information Technology and Information Management Systems (Ag. CP/IT&IMS) Uganda. Jimmy holds a Bachelor of Information Technology & Computing (BITC), and certifications including Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer(MCSE) , Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), Certified Hacker Forensic Investigator, (CHFI)& Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), Certified Hacker Forensic Investigator (CHFI), Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) and Certified Fraud Examiner(CFE). Jimmy has played a very active role in the IT&IMS.He recently completed training in 2015 Advanced IT in Law Enforcement in New Delhi (India) and is a member of the International Association of Police Academies, the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative forum and L' alliance franchise

Michael Niyitegeka is one of Uganda's thought leaders in Information Communication Technoloy (ICT). Michael is a Ugandan expert in Leadership Development, and Business Technology Strategy. He holds an MBA from MsM/ESAMI Business School and is a Franklin Covey Certified Facilitator with over 17 years of experience in both the private and public sectors. Michael worked with Makerere University for 12 years in varied capacities as a researcher, trainer and head of Corporate Relations. Michael is a member of the ICT Technical Working Group of the Presidential Investor Round Table and is also a member of several technology innovation review panels both locally and internationally.

Prudence Nyamishana is a communications specialist focusing on strategic communications for women's rights, governance and sustainable development. She is a Ugandan netizen that makes her voice heard through her blog titled Pru's Notebook and through her twitter account @nyapru1.Prudence is Uganda's Global Voices contributor where her articles are geared at amplifying human rights, gender, governance, and development issues that are trending on social media. She is currently a communications consultant with Centre for Public Interest Law Uganda.

Neil Blazevic is the Manager of the ICT and Human Rights Defenders Program at the East and Horn of African Human Rights Defender's Porject (EHAHRDP) and dedicates his time to making technology work for the purposes of human rights defenders. When not planning and giving digital safety trainings for regionally based human rights defenders, Neil can be found tinkering with or implementing documentation systems, tweaking internal security practices, and enabling web presence for civil society organizations. Neil additionally has a research background with several publication credits to his name available in the EHAHRDP library.

Nicholas Opiyo is a leading human rights lawyer and founder of the human rights organization Chapter Four Uganda. Nicholas has worked on a broad range of critical human rights issues in Uganda, and was a key leader in drafting and advocating for Uganda's law criminalizing torture.In his practice, he has a diverse clientele, including anti-corruption and pro-democracy activists, the former LRA Commander Thomas Kwoyelo, and social media activists charged with offending the president. He has successfully argued several high-level constitutional challenges, including the fight against the notorious Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2013, which was declared null and void in August 2014. Opiyo has faced verbal attacks and even death threats for defending LGBT rights in Uganda.

Solana Larsen, is a Danish-Puerto Rican based in Berlin. She is the former Managing Editor of Global Voices. She is currently involved in activism work with Web We Want at the Web Foundation.