



#FIFAfrica16

Forum on
Internet Freedom
in Africa **2016**

27 - 29 September, 2016 | Kampala, Uganda

Draft Agenda



27 September

Invite only/closed activities

🕒 All day



28 September



Opening Remarks

🕒 09.00-09.15 AM

Keynote

🕒 09.15 – 9.30 AM

Session 1: Transparency and Accountability of Intermediaries

🕒 9.30-10.30 AM

Service providers including global corporations hold the personal information of millions of citizens but how secure is this data? Intermediaries discuss their relationships with governments and users, including data protection mechanisms, requests of user information and reporting abuse, harassment and infringements.

Q&A

🕒 10.30-11.00 AM

Tea break

🕒 11.00-11.30 AM

Session 2: Internet Shutdowns and Internet Rights- Where do we draw the line?

🕒 11.30-12.30 PM

Since early 2015, we have witnessed internet shutdowns not only in Africa but in India, Turkey and China. Is this practice becoming a norm particularly during elections or times of social unrest? What are the desired outcomes a State seeks when it authorises a shutdown of online communications and related platforms? Is a shutdown ever warranted?

Government Communication Regulation authorities and civil society share a space to discuss this trend.

Q&A

🕒 12.30-13.00 PM

Lunch

🕒 13.00-14.00 PM

Session 3a: Working against the normalisation of online violence against women

🕒 14.00-15.00 PM

↔ parallel sessions

Unequal access to finance, education and tech devices are some of the obstacles many African women face to getting online. For many of those who go online, gender marginalization is common, perpetuating inequalities established offline but amplifying them through online anonymity of the perpetrators who could be located anywhere and without physical contact with the victim.

This session seeks to understand the intersection between women's rights, internet freedom and governance and will also highlight recent innovations for women's safety @Facebook.

Session 3b. Using tech to defend the defenders

🕒 14.00-15.00 PM

↔ parallel sessions

There is a growing appreciation of digital security tools among online users. However, many individuals and organisations involved in human rights work remain at risk of information and communications security breaches which may compromise the effectiveness of their work and service efficacy to the communities they work with.

This session therefore seeks to enable digital security trainers share their experiences in the use of digital security tech to promote internet freedom and human rights in Africa, including challenges faced in meeting community needs.

(Re) Connecting online and Offline – navigating the gap between creative social commentary and tech

🕒 14.00-17.30 PM

☕ with tea break

Technology is influencing the path and content that creative producers are taking. Across Africa, expression that challenges established social and political zones is often met with back lash. However, more artists are utilising online spaces to source ideas and to also share their work. As more comment and express perceptions on political, social and “taboo topics” we discuss whether some creators in a bid to get work online are succumbing to censorship including self-censorship of content and expression? Also, is tech enabling the dilution of legitimate creative expression?

Q&A

🕒 15.00-15.30 PM

Tea break

🕒 15.30-16.00 PM

Session 4a: Clickbait Journalism: Experiences in African media?

🕒 16.00-17.00 PM

↔ parallel sessions

Online, information is being produced every second by ordinary users, citizen journalists and indeed traditional media houses, amongst a plethora of other content creators. This has prompted some media houses to develop various strategies to maintain a relevant and competitive edge.

The challenge of attracting and maintaining an audience through catchy, sometimes misleading headlines, relative to streaming social media and a perpetually hungry audience seems to threaten the core of journalism. In particular, maintaining ethics and verification practices have repeatedly fallen into question at many media houses.

Session 4b: African frameworks on Internet Freedom - What are the provisions? What are the conflicts?

🕒 16.00-17.00 PM

↔ parallel sessions

Various African frameworks are being developed with the aim of having a cohesive internet governance framework emerging from the continent, such as the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms and African Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection. In addition to larger frameworks there are regional frameworks such as the East Africa Community Electronic Transaction Bill and even national frameworks pertaining specifically to internet freedom, for example the proposed Digital Rights and Freedom Bill (Nigeria). This discussion will look at these works and how they are being received at a government and civic level.

Session 4c: Using data to track rights

🕒 16.00-17.00 PM

↔ parallel sessions

The availability of data online is enabling deeper levels of analysis in governance and human rights. However, there remain many gaps in the data available for use, particularly data released by the State. Access to information laws are non-existent in many African countries and where they exist, they are not properly implemented. Social media platforms can enhance access to information as they provide avenues for generation of data as the conversations, behaviours and reactions of netizens can be assessed using simple algorithms which present unique patterns of online behavior habits. As such, these insights on intra-citizen and government-to-citizen interactions have paved the way to understand and to advance transparency and accountability in government, rights reporting, and campaign and elections monitoring. This session explores examples from various African countries, including what the gaps, opportunities and challenges are for increased use of data for tracking rights violations and government transparency.

Q&A

🕒 17.00-17.30 PM

Celebrating the Right to Know (RTK) Cocktail

🕒 18.30-20.00 PM

Access to information laws and initiatives



Recap of day one and objectives of day 2

🕒 9.00-9.30 AM

Session 5: Human rights in connectivity

🕒 9.30-10.30 AM

Various initiatives are underway to increase connectivity in Africa. These range from multi-country efforts such as Global Connect and Internet for All, to regional ones including the Northern Corridor Internet for All in east Africa as well as national efforts driven by Universal Access Funds, national infrastructure plans and fibre connectivity by multinational actors.

Amidst these efforts, there is a need to understand the relationship between human rights and connectivity and also explore the opportunities and challenges in achieving affordable and fast internet in Africa. We bring different players with the shared vision of seeing more people gaining access to the net and growing the online knowledge society, but also respecting the various human rights principles that connectivity should uphold.

Q&A

🕒 10.30-11.00 AM

Tea break

🕒 11.00-11.30 AM

Session 6a: Presentation - Launch of State of Internet Freedom in Africa 2016 report

🕒 11.30-12.15 PM

Launch of regional and country reports

Session 6b: Researching Internet rights: Challenges & lessons

🕒 12.15-13.00 PM

What goes into understanding the state of internet freedom in a country? Is information easily available? Can it be verified? Are people at liberty to talk about the gaps they see?

Researchers of the 2016 State of Internet Freedom in Africa report narrate their experiences

Lunch

🕒 13.00-14.00 PM

Session 7: Counting the cost of shutdowns

🕒 14.00-15.00 PM

More African users are taking to social media and various other online tools to promote and sustain their Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) including mobile money vendors, social media based enterprises as well as larger players like telecommunications companies and others for their daily communication needs.

This group often goes unnoticed and unheard during social media shutdowns. Do we ever get to know the true economic cost of an internet shutdown? Do we ever get to understand the social impact it has in a community, SME and even at a national economic level?

This is a candid discussion by representative of global social media, telecommunications agencies and private sector actors on the economics of internet shutdowns and measures undertaken to protect operations.

Q&A

🕒 15.00-15.30 PM

Tea break

🕒 15.30-16.00 PM

Session 8: Towards Cyber security Strategies for African Countries

🕒 16.00-17.00 PM

The threat of mass surveillance, infringement of public and media free speech by the state, and the excessive power granted to law enforcement agencies are amongst many of the concerns presented by cyber security related laws. This begs one to question whether online rights will be repeatedly trumped under the guise of cyber security.

Through a series of thought provoking questions, this gray area of internet freedom will be explored by players involved in the development and monitoring of cyber security strategies at a national and international level.

Closing remarks

🕒 17.00-17.30 PM

Issues arising/report back and closing remarks