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.

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.
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.

CIPESA is the coordinator of the OpenNet Africa project (www.opennetafrika.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.
- 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:

Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)
156-158 Mutesa II Road, Ntinda, P.O Box 4365 Kampala-Uganda.
Tel: +256 414 289 502; Mobile: +256 790 860 084, +256 712 204 335.
Email: programmes@cipesa.org
Twitter: @cipesaug  Facebook: facebook.com/cipesaug
www.cipesa.org