



## **Apply for CSO Support Fund to Undertake Sensitisation and Advocacy for Digital Rights in the Business Context**

The Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa ([CIPESA](#)) works to defend and expand the digital civic space to enable the protection and promotion of human rights and to enhance innovation and sustainable development. With support from Enabel and the European Union, CIPESA is implementing “*The Advancing Respect for Human Rights by Business in Uganda (ARBHR) project*” which among others seeks to reduce human rights abuses connected to business activities in Uganda, particularly those impacting women and children.

In the digital age, the protection and promotion of digital rights - such as data privacy, freedom of expression, and cybersecurity - are critical to fostering a safe and inclusive digital environment. As businesses increasingly rely on digital technologies to operate and innovate, their role in upholding digital rights becomes paramount.

Despite the growing importance of digital rights, businesses in Uganda face [significant obstacles](#) in promoting and safeguarding these rights. These challenges are multifaceted, encompassing legal, infrastructural, economic, cultural, political, and educational dimensions. Addressing these issues is crucial to ensuring that businesses can effectively contribute to the protection of digital rights and foster a secure and inclusive digital environment for all Ugandans.

Moreover, limited digital literacy skills among some user groups can make them more susceptible to online threats like manipulation and exploitation. Limited access to resources like training, tools, and expert guidance further hinder the ability of SMEs to implement responsible digital practices. Without robust interventions, many [Ugandan businesses](#) will continue to face cyber security threats that compromise data privacy and other digital rights.

Premised on the above and anchoring on the ARBHR project, CIPESA is seeking to support select CSOs to promote awareness and advocacy on digital rights in the business context. The selected CSOs will receive capacity building and funding for their awareness raising action plans.

CIPESA will therefore, through a competitive selection process, identify six (6) CSOs to be supported in undertaking sensitisation and advocacy for digital rights in the business context.

### **Call for Applications**

CIPESA invites eligible CSOs to submit innovative applications to undertake sensitisation and advocacy for digital rights in the business context. The selected CSOs will first undergo mentorship training and later co-creation with CIPESA to agree on the scope of work for their action plans to be considered for support.

## **Application Guidelines**

### **Funding priorities**

- **Sensitisation activities:** *Depending on the context, this may include but not limited to conducting community awareness sessions, online media campaigns through leveraging social and traditional media to create digital rights awareness.*
- **Advocacy related activities:** *This may involve CSOs documenting advocacy-related issues arising from the intersection between business and digital rights, for further dissemination among policy makers, media, and business umbrella bodies, among others. Platforms for such advocacy initiatives may take the form of advocacy campaigns, dialogues, position papers and press statements, among others.*

### **Eligibility criteria**

#### **The CSOs will be selected based on the following eligibility criteria:**

- *The mandate of the organisation including the scope or nature (whether business member, umbrella or network organisations);*
- *Innovative approaches in conducting sensitisation and advocacy on digital rights in the business context;*
- *Focus on human rights issues in the agricultural sector, natural resource governance, and the digital space; and*
- *Inclusivity (e.g. youth-led/focused, women-led/focused, persons with disability led/focused or refugees focused).*

### **Geographic Coverage**

*The support fund is open to organisations/networks based or operational in Uganda and with interventions covering any of the following regions: Busoga (Iganga, Mayuge, Bugiri, and Bugweri); Albertine (Hoima, Kikuube, Masindi, Buliisa, and Kiryandongo); and Kampala Metropolitan (Kampala, Mukono, and Wakiso).*

### **Grant size and duration**

*Support funds are up to Euro 10,000 subject to demonstrated need.*

*The timeline for implementation of supported Action Plans shall be for a period not exceeding eight (08) months.*

### **Governance and decision making on the selection process**

*Funds are managed by CIPESA. Applications will be reviewed by CIPESA, Enabel and external experts.*

### **Assessment criteria**

- *If the proposed intervention fits within the funding priorities*
- *Relevance to the given context/project-specific regional area*
- *Track record and experience of the CSO*
- *Potential impact of the intervention on the ARBHR project.*

***Deadline for submission of applications***

*Applications should be submitted not later than January 24, 2025. The application form can be accessed [here](#).*

**Only shortlisted** applicants will be contacted directly. Feedback on unsuccessful applications will be available upon request.

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