



#FIFAfrica16

Forum on
Internet Freedom
in **Africa 2016**

27 - 29 September, 2016 | Kampala, Uganda

Agenda

Bios

Digital Security Clinics

International Day for Universal Access to Information

WiFi

Network name: **InternetFreedomAfrica**

Password: **#OurFreedom16**



27 September

Invite only/closed Sessions

🕒 All day

Human Rights and Internet Policy Workshop for Journalists and Human Rights Defenders

CIPESA, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Uganda)



28 September



Opening Remarks

🕒 09.00-09.15

Frank Tumwebaze

Ministry of Information, Communications and National Guidance

Keynote Address

🕒 09.15 – 9.30

Medi Kaggwa

Uganda Human Rights Commission

Session 1: Transparency and Accountability of Intermediaries

🕒 9.30-10.30

📍 Main Hall

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.

Tefo Mohapi

iAfrikan

(Moderator)

Ebele Okobi

Facebook

Vincent Bagire

ICT Policy Analyst

Ife Osaga Ondondo

Google

Anriette Esterhuysen

Association for Progressive Communications

Q&A

🕒 10.30-11.00

Tea break

🕒 11.00-11.30

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

🕒 11.30-12.30

📍 Main Hall

#KeptOn

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.

Arthur Gwagwa

Strathmore University

(Moderator)

Wisdom Donko

National Information

Technology Agency

(NITA) Ghana

Ephraim Percy Kenyanito

Access Now

Yosr Jouini

DSS216 Tunisia

ArseneTungali

Rudi International

DR Congo

Q&A

🕒 12.30-13.00

Lunch

🕒 13.00-14.00

Session 3a: Human Rights in Connectivity

🕒 14.00-15.00

↔ parallel sessions

📍 Main Hall

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.

Dr. Wairagala Wakabi
CIPESA
(Moderator)

Dr. Enrico Calandro
Research ICT Africa

Sylvia Musalagani
Hivos Eastern Africa

Moses Karanja
*Centre for Intellectual and
Information Technology Law*

Nanjira Sambuli
Web Foundation

Session 3b. Using Tech to Defend the Defenders

🕒 14.00-15.00

↔ parallel sessions

📍 Meeting Room 1

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.

Natasha Msoza
Digital Society of Zimbabwe
(Moderator)

Neil Blazevic
Defend Defenders

Kelly Daniel Mukwano
iFreedom Uganda

Mary Kiio
*Digital Security
Training Consultant*

Lindsay Beck
*Open Technology
Fund*

Session 3c: (Re) Connecting Online and Offline – Navigating the Gap Between Creative Social Commentary and Tech

[#ThisisFreedom](#)

🕒 14.00-15.00

↔ parallel sessions

📍 Meeting Room 2

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?

Deus Mukalazi
Hivos
(Moderator)

Angela Kilusungu
CDEA

David Kaiza
Ugandan Writer

Mildred Achoch
*ROFFEKE Rock 'n' Roll
Film Festival*

Ahmed amed
Aswat Masriya, Egypt

Violet Nantume
Artist and Curator

Q&A

🕒 15.00-15.30

Tea break

🕒 15.30-16.00

Session 4a: Clickbait Journalism: Experiences in African Media

🕒 16.00-17.00

↔ parallel sessions

📍 Main Hall

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.

Koliwe Majama
MISA Zimbabwe
(Moderator)

Daniel Kalinaki
Nation Media Group

Lydia Namubiru
*African Centre for
Media Excellence*

Thomasi Pa Louis
*International Federation
of Journalists*

Eric Chinje
*Africa Media
Initiative*

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

[#AfricanInternetRights](#)

🕒 16.00-17.00

↔ parallel sessions

📍 Meeting Room 1

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.

Tusi Fokane
*Freedom of Expression
Institute (Moderator)*

Henry Maina
Article 19

Edet Ojo
*Media Rights
Agenda*

Boye Adebode
*Paradigm
Initiative Nigeria*

Maiyin Fidler
*Berkman Klein Center for
Internet & Society at Harvard
Law School*

Session 4c: Using Data to Track Rights

[#RTK](#) [#RTI](#) [#RTIug](#) [#NetRightsNG](#)

🕒 16.00-17.00

↔ parallel sessions

📍 Meeting Room 2

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.

Juliet Nanfuka
CIPESA (Moderator)

Richard Ngamita
Outbox

Henry Muguzi
*Alliance for Campaign
Finance Monitoring*

Stanley Achonu
BudgIT

Bernard Sabiti
*Development Research
and Training*

Q&A

🕒 17.00-17.30

Celebrating International Day for Universal Access To Information (IDUAI) 2016 Cocktail

📍 Pool Side

🕒 18.30-20.00



Recap of Day 1

🕒 9.00-9.30

Session 5: Working against the normalisation of online violence against women

[#EndVAW](#) [#TakeBackTheTech](#)

🕒 9.30-10.30

📍 Main Hall

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.

Nashilongo Gervasius
Namibia Broadcasting Corporation
(Moderator)

Zawadi Nyongo
Feminist Digital Media Strategist

Martha Chilogoshi
Revolt Media Africa

Akua Gyekye
Facebook

Ray Mwareya
Freelance Journalist

Q&A

🕒 10.30-11.00

Tea break

🕒 11.00-11.30

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

[#InternetFreedomAfrica](#)

🕒 11.30-12.15

📍 Main Hall

Launch of regional and country reports

CIPESA

Session 6b: Researching Internet rights: Challenges & Lessons

🕒 12.15-13.00

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

Country researchers from **Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe**

Lunch

🕒 13.00-14.00

Session 7: Counting the Cost of Shutdowns

🕒 14.00-15.00



Main Hall

[#KeptOn](#)

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.

James Wire Lunghabo
ICT4D & SME Consultant
(Moderator)

Ebele Okobi
Facebook

Anthony Chigaazira
CRASA

Wisdom Donko
National Information Technology Agency
Ghana

Q&A

🕒 15.00-15.30

Tea break

🕒 15.30-16.00

Session 8: Towards Cyber Security Strategies for African Countries

🕒 16.00-17.00



Main Hall

[#AfricanInternetRights](#)

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.

Alexandrine Pirlot De Corbion
Privacy International (PI)
(Moderator)

Gbenga Sesan
PIN

Ife Osaga Ondondo
Google

Jimmy Haguma
Uganda Police Force

Michael ILishebo
Cyber Security
Practitioner, Zambia

Closing Remarks

🕒 17.00-17.30

Issues arising/report back



#FIFAfrica

Panelist Bios



[@adeboyeBGO](#)

Adeboye Adegoke, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN)'s Program Manager, ICT Policy holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State. In addition, he has Professional Certification from the Nigeria Institute of Public Relations as well as Certificate of Advanced proficiency in ICT systems Administration and Network Management. He was co-founder of The MonkMedia Yellow Pages; A free advert listing publication that enables businesses to list or advertise their business, where he worked as Operations coordinator. Prior to Joining PIN, he was the Head of Business Development and Client Support Service at Tawona Workspaces Ltd.



Akua Gyekye is Facebook's Public Policy Manager for Africa, where she focuses on issues relating to privacy, safety and security, freedom of expression, the impact of the Internet on economic growth, and new opportunities for democratic engagement across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Before joining Facebook, Akua was working as a project finance lawyer, qualified to practice in NY and the UK, at Clifford Chance. Akua previously worked in Nigeria and Liberia as a legal adviser and rule of law specialist at the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation and as an anti-corruption lawyer at USAID. Akua also has government experience (the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development), NGO experience (the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Lawyers Without Borders) and experience working for international think tanks (American Society for International Law, the European Institute, the Brookings Institute).

Akua holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law and Society, International Relations and Spanish from American University, a Law Degree from Cambridge University in England and a Masters of Laws in International and Comparative Law from the George Washington University Law School.



[@alexandrinepdec](#)

[@privacyint](#)

Alexandrine Pirlot de Corbion leads Privacy International's strategic programme which is centralised around building a global privacy movement and involves working with and equipping advocates worldwide to engage on fighting for the right to privacy. She is responsible for the overall delivery of the strategic programme and its development. Additionally, in her role as Advocacy Officer, she works on developing and implementing PI's advocacy strategies and in particular with its partners at the national, regional and international level and carries out related thematic research. Before joining PI, she worked as Network and Programmes Associate at the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM). Previously, she was engaged in research and advocacy on issues relating to human rights, irregular migration, Security Sector Reform (SSR), gender, conflict management, and human security. Alexandrine graduated from the University of Birmingham with an MSc in Conflict, Security and Development following an LLM in International Law at the University of Westminster and BA in Law with International Relations from Oxford Brookes University.

[@angelibrah](#)

Angela Herman Kilusungu holds a BA in Mass Communication from St. Augustine University of Tanzania majoring in Broadcasting. She currently works for Culture and Development East Africa (CDEA), a creative think tank based in Dar es Salaam, as the Audio-visual Incubator Programme Officer. Through this role, Angela provides programmatic, strategic, administrative support to incubatees who are emerging filmmakers and conscious musicians. This incubator aims to enhance creative expression through online and off-line platforms such as CDEA's film lab, Midundo Online Radio and the East African Vibes Concert (EAVC). She also hosts the Binti Longa Programme, on Midundo Online Radio that focuses on women's empowerment.



Angela's interest in promoting creative expression online has drawn her interest to the area of internet freedom legal frameworks, privacy, safety and security online.

@anriette



Anriette Esterhuysen is the Executive Director of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), an international network of organizations working with Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to support social justice and development. Prior to joining APC, Anriette was Executive Director of SANGONeT, an internet service provider and training institution for civil society, labour and community organizations. She was active in the struggle against Apartheid from 1980 onwards. From 1987 to 1992 she did information and communication work in development and human rights organizations in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Esterhuysen, with many others, helped establish email and internet connectivity in Southern Africa. SANGONeT hosted a Fidonet hub that provided universities and non governmental organizations in, among other

places, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with email links to global networks as part of a collaboration between the APC and the United Nations Development Programme. Anriette has served on the African Technical Advisory Committee of the UN's Economic Commission for Africa's African Information Society Initiative and was a member of the United Nations ICT Task Force from 2002 to 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Task Working Group on Financing Mechanisms, and the Commission for Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Improvements. She was a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the Internet Governance Forum from 2012-14. Anriette was one of five finalists for IT Personality of the Year in South Africa in 2012, an award which recognises a person who has made an outstanding impact on the South African ICT industry. She was the only female and only civil society finalist. Esterhuysen was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame as a global connector in 2013. Currently Anriette is a member of the Global Commission on Internet Governance and the Council of the NETmundial Initiative. Esterhuysen has published extensively on ICTs for development and social justice. She holds a BA in Social Sciences and postgraduate qualifications in history of music and information sciences from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

@arsenebaguma

Arsene Tungali has been working and collaborating for the past 5 years on projects related to Internet Governance, child online protection, and women's participation in ICT. He has been involved with CIPESA's OpenNet Africa initiative documenting violations and digital security training in his country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a well known Congolese online activist based in Goma (Eastern DRC), followed for his regular posts on social media and blogs on politics, social life and everything related to human rights offline or online.



Arsene has attended and contributed either as a participant or a speaker at a number of UN's annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) including as an Internet Society Ambassador (in 2015) on regional and international levels; has attended ICANN meetings as an ICANN Fellow and a number of other ICT-related events in Africa and worldwide. He is Co-founder and Executive Director of Rudi International, which, among others, works to bring ICT-related debates close to the youth in Congo and is currently serving as Co-Coordinator of the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus (IGC).

@arthurgwagwa



Arthur Gwagwa is a dually qualified lawyer in Zimbabwe where he is registered as an advocate of the Supreme Court, and as a solicitor in England and Wales. He is currently an "Information Controls" fellow with the Open Technology Fund, working from Strathmore University in Kenya. His project aims to document, and compare information controls and impacts across countries and regions, with a focus on Djibouti, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Swaziland. It also examines the aspect of norms and technological diffusion from major authoritarian states such as Iran, China and Russia to the countries of study. With a strong background in human rights and refugee law, for the past four years, Arthur has worked to inform and shape policy reforms of states laws and practices relating to internet governance, but also issues in which the Internet is central like cybersecurity, Internet governance, privacy, and surveillance.

@BernardSabiti

Bernard Sabiti is a Ugandan Governance and Transparency specialist with 10 years of experience conducting research on Governance trends in Uganda and the East African region. His current interests focus on the impact of technology on governance, specifically the intersection of data and society, Human Rights, governance and politics. Bernard is one of the pioneers of open data research in Uganda and has researched the topic extensively. He is Senior Programme Officer in charge of Governance and Transparency at Development Research and Training (DRT), a Kampala-based Research NGO.



Daniel Kalinaki is a Ugandan journalist, editor, trainer and author. He is currently Managing Editor in charge of regional projects and editorial convergence at the Nation Media Group in Nairobi, Kenya. He previously edited the Daily Monitor in Uganda where he maintains a weekly column, and ran the Kampala bureau of The East African newspaper. His most recent book, Kizza Besigye and Uganda's Unfinished Revolution, was published in November 2014.



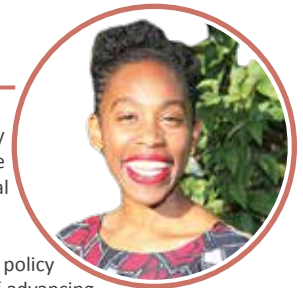
David Kaiza is a Ugandan writer and journalist, who joined the media in 1994. David has worked for a number of years at the former Uganda Television and for an extensive period at The East African newspaper, as a reporter at large, but also as an arts and literary critic. He has worked in Kenya as literary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

@EbeleOkobi

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 a member of the Alliance for an Affordable Internet's Advisory Board. 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.



@EdetOjo @MRA_Nigeria

Edetaen Ojo is Executive Director of Media Rights Agenda in Lagos, which works to promote and defend freedom of expression in Nigeria. Mr. Ojo has worked on Freedom of Information, media freedom and freedom of expression, media development, Internet freedom, human rights and democracy issues in Nigeria, regionally and internationally for over 20 years.

He currently chairs the Steering Committee of the African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX), a network of freedom of expression organizations in Africa; is a member of the governing Council of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), a global network of freedom of expression organizations with its secretariat in Toronto, Canada; and a member of the Board of Directors of International Media Support (IMS), an international media development organization based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

@RIAnetwork

@EnricoCalandro

Enrico Calandro (PhD) is a senior researcher at Research ICT Africa. Prior to joining Research ICT Africa, he worked as a technical advisor for the ICT programme of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Namibia, within the UN technical cooperation framework. He also has experience in the ICT private sector as a business developer. He worked for the European Commission, Information Society and Media DG as a trainee after completing his Master's degree. He holds a PhD in Business Administration specialising in telecommunications policy, from the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town, and a Master degree in Communications' sciences from the University of Perugia, Italy. He is a recipient of the OTF fellowship on information controls, the Amy Mahan scholarship award for the advancement of ICT policy in Africa, and the UNDESA fellowship for international cooperation.



@ekenyanito @accessnow



Ephraim Percy Kenyanito works on the connection between internet policy and human rights in African Union member countries as the Sub-Saharan Africa Policy Analyst at Access Now and as an affiliate at the Internet Policy Observatory (IPO) (at the Center for Global Communication Studies, University Pennsylvania).

He is a member of the UN Secretary General's Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance; the Freedom Online Coalition's Digital Development and Openness Working Group; the Global Internet Policy Observatory's (GIPO) Advisory Group; the Index on Censorship Youth Advisory Board; the Advisory Group for Code Red (a global initiative to accelerate reform of security organisations); and the interim steering committee for the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (a Dynamic Coalition of the UN IGF).

He holds a Bachelor of Laws- LL.B (with Honours) and has previous training in Internet Policy and Media Law from University of Oxford and University of Pennsylvania.

@eric1chinje

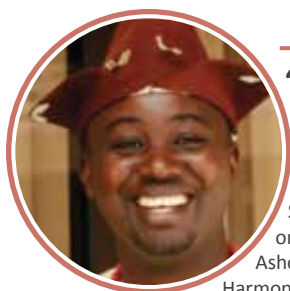
Eric Chinje is the Chief Executive Officer of the Nairobi-based African Media Initiative (AMI). Prior to moving to Kenya in July 2014, he was (and still is) a Visiting Scholar at the George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He served as an Adviser to the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia and South Sudan on their strategic, development and international communications- an extension of his role as a Senior Advisor at the Washington-based International Communications and Trade-relations firm, KRL International.



Previously, Eric has worked as Director of Strategic Communications at the London-based Mo Ibrahim Foundation, led the Global Media Development Program at the World Bank Institute (WBI) and, in that capacity, launched the IMAGE (Independent Media for Accountability, Governance and Empowerment) e-learning program and network to build media capacity to report on and analyze global development issues. Mr. Chinje moved to the WBI from his position as External Affairs and Communications Manager in the World Bank's Africa Region and the institution's spokesperson on Africa. He spent four years at the African Development Bank in Tunis as head of that institution's External Affairs and Communications Unit.

Mr. Chinje studied in the universities of Yaoundé (Cameroon), Syracuse (New York) and Harvard (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and lectured in the Yaoundé University School of Mass Communication in Cameroon. He is fluent in both English and French. Mr. Chinje is an Officer of the Cameroon Order of Merit and an Officer of the Dutch Order of Orange Nassau.

@gbengasesan



'Gbenga Sesan is the Executive Director of Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN). Originally trained as an Electronic & Electrical Engineer at Obafemi Awolowo University, 'Gbenga completed Executive Education programs at Lagos Business School, New York Group for Technology Transfer, Oxford University, Harvard University, Stanford University, Santa Clara University and University of the Pacific. His consulting experience includes assignments completed for numerous institutions, including Microsoft, Harvard University and United Nations agencies, among others, in over 30 countries. A Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year (2014) and former member of the United Nations Committee of eLeaders on Youth and ICT, he is a Cyber Stewards Fellow, Crans Montana Forum Fellow, Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow, Ashoka Fellow, Our Common Future Fellow and Cordes Fellow. 'Gbenga served as a member of the Presidential committees on Harmonization of Information Technology, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Sectors (2006) and Roadmap for the Achievement

of Accelerated Universal Broadband Infrastructure and Services Provision (2013), and was listed by CNN as one of the Top 10 African Tech Voices 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.

Henry Omusundi Maina, Regional Director, ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa since August 2009. He is a Chevening Scholar. He recently worked on African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms and has been part of critical actors engaging states and ICT companies on how to balance cybersecurity interventions and respect for freedom online. He also has expertise in media law, digital rights, access to information and governance. Henry is skilled in programme management and fundraising, and has a LLM (Master of Laws degree) in international development, law and human rights from Warwick University in the UK. He also holds degrees in journalism and education.



Ife Osaga-Ondondo as the Head of Legal, Sub-Saharan Africa at Google, Ife oversees the entire spectrum of Google's legal work in Sub Saharan Africa. Her work includes advising the regional business, product and engineering teams on relevant legal issues, negotiating and drafting a variety of commercial agreements, dispute resolution and representing Google before legal and regulatory stakeholders.

Prior to Google she was General Counsel at Innovations for Poverty Action, a US think tank where she was in charge of the organization's legal and compliance issues in the US, Asia, Latin America and Africa. Ife has an extensive background in various aspects of law having worked at the International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), UNHCR, Oxfam America, and the law firm of Mohamed and Muigai in Nairobi, Kenya. Ife has a passion for teaching and has taught at Tufts University, Boston University School of Public Health and Rutgers University in the US.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nairobi, a Masters in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, Tufts University and a Master of Laws from Columbia University Law School. She is licensed to practice law in the State of New York and Kenya.

@wirejames

James Wire Lunghabo is an African Entrepreneur and ICT professional with vast experience garnered over the last 18 years. He is a blogger at wirejames.com as well as a small business consultant and mentor for upcoming entrepreneurs. As one of the pioneer internet practitioners in Uganda, he has seen the evolution of the Internet from a time when it was considered "of no significance" by the politicians to its current state where it is looked at as a strategic resource.



He is currently the Chairman of the Free Software Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) and a member of the Board of NIC.ug, a body formed by the Government of Uganda to manage the .ug resource.



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.

@kellymukwano @ifreedomuganda

Kelly Daniel Mukwano is the Executive Director for i freedom Uganda Network and the Secretary for Gender and disability at the ISOC-UG Executive Committee. He contributed towards the development of the feminist principals on the Net with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). He has led digital security trainings for over 700 sexual and gender minorities in Uganda since the year 2013.

His past experience includes working as a program assistant for the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law. He currently serves on several Boards including for the Environmental Protection Trust Uganda where he is the current Chairperson.

He was part of the panel that launched the Keep it on Campaign at the RightsCon 2016. The campaign is an initiative driven by Access Now to push back on internet shutdowns across the globe. A highlight in 2015 was the winning of the Digital Security Tools Testing Challenge hosted by CIPESA under the OpenNet Africa initiative in partnership with Outbox.



@koliwenyoni @misazimbabwe

Koliwe Nyoni Majama is a trained journalist with over 15 years of experience as both print and broadcast journalism. Koliwe has contributed significantly to media rights lobby and advocacy in Zimbabwe – particularly within the community radio and citizen journalist movements. She currently works as the Programme Officer at the Media Institute of Southern Africa's Zimbabwe Chapter (MISA-Zimbabwe) as the Programme Officer for Broadcasting and Information Communication Technologies. Koliwe holds a BSc in Media and Society Studies.

@BeckLindsay

Lindsay Beck has been the Senior Programme Manager, Open Technology Fund (OTF) since 2014. She previously worked for the National Democratic Institute (NDI), focusing on how NDI and its partners can safeguard their data and communications in their projects to ensure government accountability as well as monitor elections and other political processes.

In addition, Lindsay also worked for Freedom House's Internet Freedom program, where she worked with human rights activists on efforts to counteract censorship and surveillance as well as strengthen Internet governance and policy. Lindsay received her Master's degree, focusing on Technology in International Affairs, from the George Washington University.



Pa Louis Thomasi is a Gambian journalist living in Senegal. He holds an MSc in Mass Communication and has been working with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) as Programmes Officer for the Africa Region for the past decade. At the IFJ he is involved in the defense and promotion of the rights of journalists in the continent, most especially in relation to freedom of expression and of the press, freedom of association, labour rights and the right to organize.

He was very instrumental in the formation of journalists' trade unions in Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland, as well as assisting other unions across the continent in their quest to sign collective agreements, most especially in West and Central Africa.

He is married and has two daughters.

@namlyd

Lydia Namubiru is a digital/data journalist who currently writes for Quartz, an international business news site, is the programme officer for data journalism & research at the African Centre for Media Excellence and the data curator for www.data.ug, the home of Uganda's open data. She also writes the eclectic blog: Of Course I Have Issues. She holds a masters degree in data journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism



@mailynfidler



Mailyn Fidler is a scholar and advocate studying the exercise of power in the Internet society. She focuses on Internet legislation in developing countries, grassroots protests against government surveillance, and international politics and law relating to surveillance technologies and practices. She is currently a Fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School.

@chilongoshiM

@RevoltForHer

Martha Chilongoshi is a Zambian Freelance Journalist with special interest in issues of governance, development, human rights and gender equality. Following her professional training, she has worked for two organizations in Zambia; first as a Publicity and Training Consultant and as a Program Officer for Governance and Development.

Recognizing the advent of the Internet and related high technology that enables community advocates to visualize greater opportunities for Africa's increasingly tech-savvy youths, Martha uses the internet and social media platforms to drive conversation and enhance access to information.

Her most recent project was that of being the Online Media Team Lead for the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) funded project, called the Zambia Elections Information Centre (ZEIC) a multi-stakeholder election monitoring and observation platform whose main objective was to connect citizens of Zambia to governance institutions and processes through sharing information in real time so that corrective measures would be implemented in order to enhance credibility and transparency.

Driven by a passion to help her community develop through information sharing, Martha has recently established a Website called Revolt Media, a creative Multi Media and ICTs for development and proactive advocacy Initiative focused on influencing the functioning of society through dissemination of information on leadership, governance, development, human rights, entrepreneurship, business and lifestyle with a special focus on women and young girls in Zambia and across the African Continent.



@roshaniafrica



Mary Kiio is the founder and lead consultant of Roshani Consultancy Services. She has worked with various media development organizations as a facilitator, moderator, and mentor for the past eight years. Mary has experience in developing training material and facilitating trainings on Democracy and Governance, Online Safety for Women, Conflict Sensitive Reporting, and Humanitarian Disaster Management (Lifeline Programming, Refugees and Migration). The trainings have targeted media, civil society, county government officials and agencies. She has facilitated training sessions for organizations like: BBC Media Action Kenya, BBC Media Action Tanzania, BBC Media Action Somalia, Internews Europe, DW Akademie, VSO Tanzania and Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET).

Mary is also a freelance journalist who is committed to telling stories on democracy & governance and climate change issues, as well as, a children's book author.

@ilishebo

Michael Ilishebo is a Law Enforcement Officer working for Zambia Police Service. He studied Information Technology at The Copperbelt University (Zambia) and Cyber Security and ICT Policy (USTTI, USA). Michael is a Cyber Crime facilitator at SARPCCO organised regional training for Law Enforcement Officers in the SADC Region. He is an alumni of the 2014 African School on Internet Governance, a two time ICANN Fellow and a regular speaker in Cyber Security at both the regional and continental IGF's. Currently he is involved in the soon to be launched Internet Society Zambia Chapter.



@roffeke



Mildred Achoch is a screenwriter, freelance online writer and founder of ROFFEKE - Rock 'n' Roll Film Festival, Kenya. In 2015, ROFFEKE - via two online platforms - received over 200 short film and music video submissions from all over the world. She regularly participates in the KICTANET email discussions and has also participated in the 2015/2016 IGF forum, Africa Women in Tech Conference (East Africa) and AITEC's Broadcast Film and Music Africa (BFMA). She has an online TV channel on the ROFFEKE blog

@mose_karanja

Moses Karanja is a political scientist working on policy processes around information communication technologies. He is currently a research fellow at the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) based at the Strathmore Law School in Nairobi, Kenya. He is also the curator of ictpolicy.org a repository aggregating ICT laws and policies in Africa and the co-founder of Jadili, a public platform powering remote participation in shaping proposed laws through aggregation of annotations and commentary by relevant public(s).

Further, Moses specialises in information controls and counter-controls, privacy, human rights in the digital ecosystem, cybersecurity, Eastern Africa, multidisciplinary research and their attendant policies. I also happen to know of good coffee from a distance, if that counts.



@NiNanjira.



Nanjira Sambulu is a researcher, policy analyst and advocacy strategist interested in and working on understanding the unfolding impacts of ICT adoption and how those impact governance, innovation, entrepreneurship and societal culture, with a keen focus on gender implications.

She is currently the Digital Equality Advocacy Manager at the Web Foundation, where she manages advocacy efforts to promote digital equality in access to and use of the Web, with a particular focus on the Foundation's Women's Rights Online work. She was previously the Research Lead at iHub, Nairobi, where she provided strategic guidance for growth of technology research in the East Africa region and supported the team to surface information useful for the emerging technology ecosystem in Africa.

Nanjira is also a Trustee at mySociety (UKCOD), sits on the Advisory Board (Africa) for Sum of Us, and is also a board member at Kenya's Media Policy Research Centre, with whom she has published a working paper on the changing media landscape in the country as impacted by social media. She is supporting the UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment by working with various leaders to demonstrate high-level leadership and renewed commitment and action towards making women's economic empowerment a reality in our lifetime.

@Nashilongo

Nashilongo Gervasius is a senior broadcast Journalist in Namibia with the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation where she is currently serving as an Assistant Executive Producer/Assistant Editor of the Television Current Affairs Department. Additionally Ms Gervasius serves on the Curriculum Board of the Namibia University of Science and Technology's department of Media and Technology. This department is one of UNESCO's 20 Schools of Excellence in Journalism in Africa, championing and mainstreaming Gender in their curricula.

She is passionate about issues of Governance, ICT, Development, HIV, Media and Women. These are also the fields that she currently researches with International Research Organisations such as the Global Integrity and Transparency International, and previously the Web Index.

She graduated with an Honours Degree in Journalism in Communication Technology in 2009 from NUST. She boasts a number of academic scholarships/fellowships awards from institutions, as well as recognition from Media Institute of Southern Africa. Ms Gervasius is in the final stretch of her Master's in Leadership Development in ICT in the Knowledge Society with the University of Mauritius. She is also a wife and mother.



@NatashaMsonza

@digisoczim

Natasha (Stash) Msonza is a Zimbabwean digital security trainer. She is co-founder of the Digital Society of Zimbabwe, a voluntary network of technologists that specialises in building the digital resilience of human rights defenders at risk. Natasha is currently an Open Technology Fund fellow, implementing a digital security elections roadmap supporting selected human rights defender organisations in the face of increasing digital threats.

@neilblazevic @EHAHRDP

Neil Blazevic is Manager of the Technology Program at DefendDefenders (the East and Horn of African Human Rights Defender's Project), a Uganda-based sub-regional organisation working to protect and support human rights defenders and journalists. He organises and implements efforts to improve digital safety practices of human rights defenders and their organisations, aids activists to have a voice online, and supports electronic documentation of human rights data. He has contributed material to Security In A Box and Level-Up, two leading digital security education resources. Neil holds a CompTIA Security+ Certification and a MA in International Development Studies. He is an honorary Muganda since 2011.





@RMwareya

Ray Mwareya is an Africa Correspondent for the Global South Development Magazine. He was also the first journalist in the world to win the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Migration Fair Reporting Prize in addition to being a nominee for the European Union Lorenzo Natali Media Award and the 2016 Digital Censorship Fellow of the Karlsruhe Institute for Media Excellence, Germany.

@Stan_Achonu @BudgITng

Stanley Achonu works for BudgIT, a civic organisation based in Lagos, Nigeria, which uses technology, social media, infographics, interactive application and videos to simplify public data; and campaigns for institutional reform and access to government through advocacy and civic engagement. Achonu leads BudgIT's engagement with government and media in Nigeria. He coordinates Open Alliance Nigeria, a coalition of civil society organisations working on the implementation of Open Government Partnership in Nigeria. He also provides data journalism training for journalists in Nigeria and Sierra Leone and supports their use of data for storytelling. Achonu is passionate about open data and advocates its use to drive transparency and accountability in the management of public resources.



@KanariSylvia

Sylvia Musalagani is a programme officer for the Freedom of Expression programme at Hivos where she works with change makers in East Africa to promote freedom of expression and access to information both online and offline.

She identifies and supports civil society organizations, creative hubs, journalists, artists, human rights defenders and bloggers to establish and develop safe spaces where they can develop their creative skills, receive mentorship and access audiences. This is to enable active citizen engagement in advocacy for their rights both online and offline. Sylvia is actively involved in policy and advocacy for internet access and privacy in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

@TefoMohapi & @iAfrikan

Tefo Mohapi is the founder & CEO of iAfrikan, a Pan-African technology company that produces content, podcasts, events, publications and other services about Afrika's burgeoning innovation and technology sector and how it affects culture, business and day to day life on the continent. iAfrikan is also the technology partner to University of the Witwatersrand on the Xenowatch.org project in partnership with UNHCR.



@tusifox

@FXISouthAfrica



Tusi Fokane is a policy analyst with experience in communications regulation. She holds a Masters in Management of Public Policy from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has previously conducted research for the Freedom of Expression Institute on "The transformation of broadcasting in South Africa: A history of the Campaign for Open Media and the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting." She is the current Executive Director of the Freedom of Expression Institute based in Johannesburg.

Violet Nantume is an artist and curator based in Uganda. She creates art works that trigger controversy and curate exhibitions based on themes and concepts that are meant to disrupt existing paradigms about a wide range of subjects, but which also encourage alternative ways of perception.

She is a co-director of both Kampala Art Auction Ltd and UNDER GROUND Contemporary Art Space. Some of the exhibitions she has curated include the Eroticism and Intimacy II at the 2016 FNB Johannesburg Art Fair, Zikunta (Gales of Humans) by Wasswa Donald currently showing at Under Ground Contemporary Art; Heart of Darkness, a photography exhibition by Congolese photographer Christian Tundula; Cast a Light on Prejudice, a photography exhibition by Papa Shabani; and Together We Can, an installation by Helen Nabukenya.



Nantume co-curated Eroticism and Intimacy I: Faces, Places and Paths, an exhibition that explored the debate around gender and sexuality and how they relate to the body.



Wisdom Donkor works with the Ghana National Information Technology Agency (NITA), with specialization in E-government and infrastructure, Internet Governance and Open Government Data initiative and policies. He holds the position of IT Manager and is the Technical Lead person for Ghana Open Data Initiative Project. He was the past Vice General Secretary of the Internet Society Ghana Chapter and currently the National Secretariat Manager of the Information Technology Association of Ghana (ITAG). He is currently a member of the UN IGF Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IGF MAG), and a Member of the Ghana IGF Planning Committee.

Wisdom is very passionate advocate for free open Internet, open government data and open source software technologies. Besides, he have been associated with ICANN as Fellow and coach (mentor) since ICANN 49 in Singapore. Wisdom is very active member of most of the community working groups on internet governance and Open Government Data at both local and global level (NCSG, Open Government Data, ICANN New gtLD working group, ICANN Cross Community working group (CCWG), IGF MAG working groups, World Bank Open Data Working Group, Internet Society (ISOC), Diplo Foundation, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), Ghana IGF Steering Committee, Linux Accra User Group) and follows several internet governance and Open government data online discussions.

He holds a master's degree in International Human Resource Planning and Development (HRP&D), a Degree in Computer Science, as well as professional certifications in various fields of ICT.

@YOoJOo_

Yosr Jouini is a young Tunisian activist and digital rights consultant who comes from a software engineering background. She is a regular contributor to regional media, advocating for internet freedom and better governance. Combining her technical experience and social change passion, her work focuses on bringing ICTs positive impact on society in fields such as transparency and elections.



@zawadin



Zawadi Nyong'o is a digital media strategist and a feminist who is passionate about harnessing the power of social media for social change. She does this by designing, implementing and supporting social media strategies that drive conversations, build movements, mobilize citizen action, and galvanize voices for change and development in Africa and around the world. She also designs and conducts workshops and training modules to build the technical capacity of other change agents, social entrepreneurs, women's rights organizations, and development institutions to use these tools. With over 16 years of experience working in the field of women's rights and 10 years using social media for change, Zawadi has spearheaded and supported several successful feminist online campaigns including #WaremboniYes, #NereasVoice, #TakeBackTheTech, #BustTheMyths and #1BillionRising. She designed and led Kenya's landmark #1MilliForJadudi crowdfunding campaign, for which she won a social media award. Her experiences occupying digital spaces as a woman and facing the challenges of cyber violence was the spark for her own blog and concept, Digital Ubuntu Africa; a platform to help cultivate responsible digital citizenship in Africa.

In the last 10 years, she has worked with organizations such as UHAI: EASHRI (The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative), Oxfam, FEMNET, Open Society Foundation, AWID, Urgent Action Fund-Africa and served as the founding CEO of the Africa Cancer Foundation.

Zawadi is currently the Director of 7th Sense Communications, a public relations and communications company. She has served as an advisor to a number of women focused initiatives including Akili Dada&Mother Health International. She has contributed to Africa's dynamic sexual rights movements through research, publications, training, movement building, and resource mobilization and is a regular speaker on these topics. She is the author of "When I Dare To Be Powerful" a first-of-its-kind collection of short stories of women engaged in sex work in East Africa. As a consultant, Zawadi leverages her non-profit experience, creativity, communication skills, and extensive global networks to advance progressive change.

MARUFU ANTONY CHIGAAZIRA, known in most professional circles simply as Tony. Presently he is the Executive Secretary of the Communications Regulators Association (CRASA), based in Gaborone Botswana. CRASA is a forum of communications regulators in Southern Africa that was set up in 1997 within the framework of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology. It pursues the goals of the SADC of regional integration and economic growth through the promotion of accelerated development of the communications sector.



Since 2013, Tony is responsible for development of model regulatory frameworks and their harmonisation for the benefit of thirteen Southern African States. He is also charged with building the region's regulatory capacity. With extensive experience in the Communication in both line function and consultancy services, Tony has project managed assignments in the private, state enterprises and multilateral institutions. He understands the need for a secure cyber space though he is a strong proponent of freedom of expression that respects other persons' rights to privacy. This is a message that he has taken to all the 5 Internet Governance fora that he has participated in as the voice of the Southern African regulators.

Previously he was the Commercial Director and mouth piece for TelOne the incumbent fixed network telecommunication operator in Zimbabwe. He holds an MBA and an BSc Economics Honours Degree and several diplomas and other professional qualifications.

@acfimuganda



Henry Muguzi is the founding National Coordinator of Alliance for Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) – a consortium of CSOs that banded together to foster transparency and accountability in financing of political and electoral processes in Uganda. He specialises in governance; accountability; project design, evaluation and reviews. His 18 year career has seen him work with the New Vision Printing and Publishing Corporation and WBS Television following which he turned to civil society activism.

He holds an MA in Public Administration and Management, a BA degree in Political Science and Public Administration, and a myriad of post graduate certificates in varied disciplines.

@ngamita

Richard Ngamita is a member of the core Outbox Hub data team and also a Senior Technical Lead at Medic. Prior to that, he worked for Google in Dublin, Ireland as a data engineer on the spam team, as well as at Google in Nairobi, Kenya, where he helped launch the first Google offices in Africa.

Richard holds a degree in Computer science from Makerere University and has lived and worked in Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana.



@almotamred

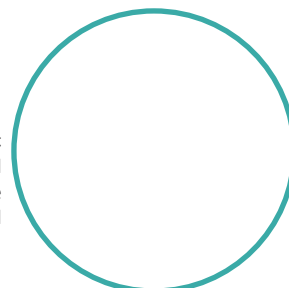


Ahmed Hamed worked as a multimedia journalist since 2012 with a focus on reports about Egyptian social and current affairs for online media. He has won international awards in the field of photography from UNESCO and UNAOC.

He studied mass media and journalism at Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt.

@cipesaug

Ashnah Kalemra is the Programmes Officer at CIPESA. She holds an MSc in Informatics with a major in Electronic Government (Örebro University, Sweden) and a BSc in Computer and Management Sciences (University of Warwick, United Kingdom). Ashnah's work experience is from a wide range of industries (in the UK, Spain and Uganda), from mobile telecommunications and engineering, to public relations and corporate relations, research, learning management, and information systems management.



@cipesaug



Wairagala Wakabi has led and coordinated ICT policy research across various countries in east and southern Africa. As Executive Director at CIPESA, he continues leading policy research and driving efforts for cohesive approaches in advocating for online rights and for the use of ICT in democratic processes and civic participation, and in promoting the right to information. He holds an MSc in Informatics (Örebro University, Sweden) and an M.A in Journalism & Media Studies (Rhodes University, South Africa) and a PhD in informatics with a specialisation in e-Government at Örebro University. Wakabi has also been involved in various collaborative researches with African, Asian and North American think tanks and NGOs.

@ChewingStones @cipesaug

Juliet Nanfuka has a background in journalism and has worked in the fields of communications strategy, publicity, branding and market research across East and Southern Africa. A lot of her work has involved the exploration of avenues for African development through the intersection of heritage, rights and digital technologies. She has utilised these skills in the advocacy of rights including for access to medication and for online rights. More recently she explores connections between online rights and social innovation in Africa.

She holds a Bjour with specialisation in Digital Media (Rhodes University, South Africa) and is currently in the Kenya cohort of the 2016



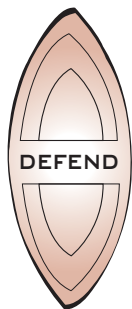
Defend Defenders Digital Security Clinics

Internet freedom is threatened by surveillance, censorship, and hacking and by an underground economy of online fraudsters and phishers. To make it in the digital era, you need digital survival skills. Stop by the DefendDefenders Digital Security Clinic table during the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2016 and bring your questions and concerns to our digital security practitioners.

- Ask a question about a digital security concern
- Pick up software that can help improve your digital security
- Get help with an existing problem and let us triage your device

Trainers welcome! Calling all digital security trainers to visit the Clinic, network with each other, support human rights defenders, and trade techniques.

DefendDefenders (the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project) is a Uganda-based sub-regional organisation strengthening the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) throughout the region by reducing their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and by enhancing their capacity to effectively defend human rights. DefendDefenders focuses its work on Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia (together with Somaliland), South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.



EAST AND
HORN OF
AFRICA
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS
PROJECT
(EHAHRDP)



#FIFAfrica16



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION (IDUAI) 2016

Wednesday 28th September 2016

Concept note

Introduction

The Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) in partnership with the Collaboration on International ICT policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) and the Office of the Prime Minister are organizing a public dialogue to commemorate the International Day for Universal Access to Information 2016 under the theme:

“Promotion of Universal Access to Information through all platforms as an essential means of achieving the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”

Background

The right to know or the right to information is a fundamental human right protected under international law. In Uganda, it is enshrined in the Constitution of 1995 under Article 41 which states that:

Every citizen has the right of access to information in the possession of the State or any other organ or agency of the State except where the release of the information is likely to prejudice the security or sovereignty of the State or interfere with the right to the privacy of any other person.

To give effect to this constitutional provision, Uganda adopted an Access to Information law in 2005 (ATIA) whose objectives are to promote an efficient, effective, transparent and accountable government.

Since the adoption of this law and the subsequent passing of the Regulation in 2011, efforts have been undertaken by government and civil society to popularize and implement this law to ensure enjoyment of the right to information by every citizen. Uganda's experience in implementing ATI has enabled her to make contributions to international campaigns such as for the adoption and promotion of the APAI Declaration¹, formal recognition of Right to Know Day and commitment to sponsor a motion for its international recognition at the UNESCO General Assembly last year.

The year 2016 is the first year of marking 28 September as the “International Day for Universal Access to Information” (IDUAI), proclaimed by UNESCO Member States in November 2015 under the resolution 38 C/70. This resolution invites all Member States, United Nations system organizations, and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to celebrate the Day.

This year also marks the first year since the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals which under Goal 16 targets to recognise citizens' access to information. This recognition is re-affirmed by the African Union which in its Agenda 2063 recognises the right to information with a target that by 2023, at least 70% of African citizens perceive themselves to have unhindered access to public information.

AFIC having been a key player in advocating for the UNESCO General conference that saw the adoption of the IDUAI, to mark the 1st official commemoration, together with its African Platform on Access to Information (APAI) Working Group as well as Freedom of Information Advocates Network (FOIANet) will implement activities across Africa and the world to mark the Day.

As part of its Secretariat role to FOIANet, AFIC will collect information on activities taking place around the world to mark IDUAI. These will be mapped according to countries and disseminated across list serves.

¹ Pan-African Platform on Access to Information Declaration adopted in Cape Town in September 2011

As part of the APAI Working Group, AFIC has contributed to the production of the video highlighting the road to IDUAI with special focus on the advocacy by APAIWG for the declaration of IDUAI. The video will be launched in different countries to celebrate the success of the campaign but also a tool to educate other advocates on engaging international mechanisms and bodies like UNESCO. In addition, advocacy letters calling for specific actions by AU member states to advance ATI at national level will be written and submitted to respective countries.

In Uganda, AFIC is collaborating with HURINET, CIPESA and Office of the Prime Minister to mark the day. Over the past year, AFIC has collaborated with HURINET and Kick Corruption Out of Uganda (in Uganda), Article 19 in Kenya and Centre for Human Rights Rehabilitation in Malawi to pilot the application of citizens' access to information to address corruption and promote good governance. In addition, AFIC has collaborated with Public and Private Development Centre to advance open contracting in Africa. In 2014, AFIC partnered with CIPESA and the Information Ministry to launch the Ask Your Government initiative to facilitate the Access to Information Act. Further, the 10th anniversary of the Act was marked at the second Forum on Internet Freedom in East Africa in 2015. Since 2014, the Forum has been set to deliberately coincide with the now declared International day for Universal Access to information on 28 September during which the relationship between access to information and the use of ICT is recognized.

In this context a set of tools and knowledge products has been produced and will be disseminated as part of IDUAI to advance the right to information in Africa. These include a baseline study of access to information in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi, case study of ATI and anticorruption in the 3 countries and APAI video on its advocacy with UNESCO for IDUAI.

Overall Objective:

The overall objective of commemoration of 2016 IDUAI by AFIC and its partners is to promote the right to information across Africa.

Specific Objectives:

1. To create awareness of International Day for Universal Access to Information as a platform to advance ATI
2. To disseminate a number of tools, online and offline knowledge products on ATI
3. To share findings and recommendations of the baseline study on "Enhancing good governance through citizens' access to information in Malawi, Uganda and Kenya"
4. To promote the relationship between internet freedom and advocacy for access to information amongst activists from various African countries.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Increased understanding of IDUAI
2. Increased awareness of existing online and offline platforms to advance ATI
3. Better understanding of status of ATI in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi.
4. Internet freedom promoters are able to use ATI in their work.

Proposed Activity(s):

1. Commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information

Agenda

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| 2.00pm-2.30pm | Arrival and registration | <i>Pamela Muganzi</i> |
| 2.30pm-2.40pm | Welcome Remarks | <i>Simon Mayende, Director of Information and National Guidance, OPM</i> |
| 2:40pm-3:00pm, | Official Opening | <i>Hon. Minister of Information Technology and Communications</i> |
| 2.50pm-3.20pm | Why IDUAI; APAI Video- the Journey to IDUAI | <i>Gilbert Sendugwa, Africa Freedom of Information Centre</i> |
| 3.20pm-3.50pm | Presentation of baseline study on ATI and anticorruption in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi | <i>Dr.Firminus Mugumya</i> |
| 3.50pm-4.20pm | Presentation of case studies on ATI in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi | <i>Henry Maina Article 19 and Patrick Tumwine, HURINET</i> |
| 4.20pm-4.40pm | Discussions | |
| 4.40pm-5.00pm | Presentation of budeshi.ug and open contracting data standards in Uganda | <i>Gloria Ninsiima & Gilbert Sendugwa</i> |
| 5.00pm | Discussions | |

WiFi

Network name: **InternetFreedomAfrica**

Password: **#OurFreedom16**

