

Programme

AFRISIG 2025: Internet Governance and the role of Data in Africa's Digital Future, 23 to 28 May 2025, Dar es Salaam

Time	Session
DAY 0: Friday 23 May - Getting to know one another and overview of AfriSIG 2024 - Venue: Southern Sun Hotel, Dar es Salaam	
All day	Arrivals and registration
18:00-19:30	Dinner
19:30-21:30	Opening, introductions and orientation Overview of the programme, ground rules and guidelines on communications, social media and taking photographs. Getting to know one another and practicum role assignment.
DAY 1: Saturday 24 May – Internet and data governance basics; Introduction to the AfriSIG2025 practicum; How the internet works – Venue: Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre	
8:00-8:30	Opening and welcome from the host and partners
8:30-9:45	SESSION 1: What is internet governance? History, principles, concepts and institutions <u>Format</u> : Presentation followed by interactive discussion <u>Scope</u> : From ICT for development to internet governance to digitalisation and data governance - what are the processes, why do they matter and where are they heading?
9:45-10:45	SESSION 2: Data governance: Concepts, issues, challenges and opportunities <u>Format</u> : Spectrogram exercise followed interactive discussion. <u>Scope</u> : Different approaches to data governance. How can policy makers approach data governance in a manner that maintains the benefit of an

	open, interconnected internet, protects the rights of individuals and promotes national and regional economic development. The session will introduce the African Union Data Policy Framework as an example of an innovative and balanced approach to data governance.
10:45-11:15	BREAK
11:30-12:45	<p>SESSION 3: The Global Digital Compact and the CSTD Working Group on Data Governance At All Levels: Introduction to the AfriSIG 2025 Practicum</p> <p><u>Format</u>: Presentations followed by discussion.</p> <p><u>Scope</u>: Key concepts and opportunities for African participation and influence as well as general challenges, risks and potential gains for the global South.</p>
12:45-13:00	1 st Practicum session: Assignment for lunch discussions
13:00-14:30	LUNCH – Stakeholder group discussions to come up with initial questions
14:30-15:45	<p>SESSION 4: How the internet works: Internet architecture and core protocols</p> <p><u>Format</u>: Presentation followed by interactive discussion.</p> <p><u>Scope</u>: How the internet works, who develops internet protocols and standards, and a general overview of internet architecture and how this relates to internet governance and the institutions involved: IETF, IRTF, and ISOC. The session will cover undersea cables; backhaul; backbone; IXPs; IPV4 (Internet Protocol version 4) and IPV6; routing; and interoperability.</p>
15:45-16:15	BREAK
16:15 -17:15	2 nd Practicum session: Informal plenary working session – stakeholder groups present initial questions and concerns at an informal chaired session
18:30	DINNER
19:30-20:00	3 rd Practicum session: Self-organised informal working sessions in stakeholder groups – goal is to produce written submissions to be sent to the secretariat the following day

DAY 2, Sunday, 25 May – Data governance processes in Africa, internet architecture, names, numbers and core protocols, and the current state of infrastructure and access in Africa	
8:30-9:00	Review of day one: Questions and answers <u>Format:</u> Open discussion of questions submitted by participants to get clarity on discussions during Day 1.
9:00-10:45	SESSION 5: Data and AI governance in Africa: Key frameworks and initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malabo Convention • AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa • AU Data Policy Framework • ACHPR/Res.620 (LXXXI) 2024 – Promoting and Harnessing Data Access as a Tool for Advancing Human Rights and Sustainable Development in the Digital Age • African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) • The Continental AI Strategy – governing data for AI • Data governance in Africa initiative (GIZ/EU) <u>Format:</u> Presentation followed by discussion <u>Scope:</u> Purpose and status of implementation of these processes.
10:45-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:00	SESSION 6: Access and after access: Facing facts and understanding digital inequality in Africa <u>Format:</u> Exercise followed by presentation and interactive discussion <u>Scope:</u> Participants will present the data we asked them to collect before leaving home on the state of access in their countries. Members of the faculty will comment on the presentations.
12:00-13:00	SESSION 6 continued Presentation of the findings of the RIA After Access surveys with a special focus on Nigeria.
13:00-14:15	LUNCH

14:15-15:30	SESSION 7: Meaningful connectivity and community-driven connectivity solutions <u>Format:</u> Presentation and interactive discussion <u>Scope:</u> What is meaningful connectivity and why does it matter? What can be done to respond to the fact that growth in internet penetration has slowed down? Can the unconnected connect themselves? What is community-centred connectivity, and what is its potential? What do parliamentarians, governments and regulators need to do to enable community-centred connectivity? What role for other stakeholders? Can we trust internet penetration data? What else is needed? The session will be introduced by Dr. Amos Nungu and Stephen Fosu will share how this approach is having an impact in Ghana.	
15:30-16:00	BREAK	
16:00-17:00	SESSION 8: Internet names and numbers and the institutions that look after them <u>Format:</u> Presentation followed by interactive discussion. <u>Scope:</u> ICANN, IANA and the RIRs. The session will include an overview of internet names and numbers and how they are managed globally, regionally and nationally, focusing on ICANN and AfriNIC.	
17:00-17:30	4th Practicum session: Working session for stakeholder groups to prepare for formal session after dinner – all written inputs to be shared with the secretariat by 18:00.	
18:30	DINNER	
20:00-21:00	3rd Practicum session: Formal practicum plenary - stakeholder groups will present their text contributions to the outcome document at a formal chaired session.	
Time	Session	Presenters/moderators
DAY 3: Monday, 26 May - Internet governance and social issues: Human rights, gender, the media and corporate accountability		
8:30-9:00	Review of day two: Questions and answers <u>Format:</u> Open discussion of questions submitted by participants.	

9:00-10:00	<p>SESSION 9: Human rights and digital rights: A global perspective</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Presentation followed by discussion</p> <p><u>Scope:</u> Global institutions, treaties, resolutions and processes relevant to stakeholders in internet governance. The session will focus in particular on the obligations of states and the responsibilities and roles of members of parliament, business entities, the media, and civil society. It will also provide guidance on which processes these role players should pay most attention to.</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>SESSION 10: Human rights and digital rights: A regional perspective</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Presentation followed by interactive discussion.</p> <p><u>Scope:</u> The African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression This session will look at why human rights from an 'everyday' perspective. Why do we need them. Why are they so important in internet governance. The session reflect on the principles in the African Declaration and the linked ACHPR Declaration of Principles and demonstrate why they provide a helpful guide for policy makers, regulators, and others involved in internet policy and regulation.</p>
11:00-11:30	BREAK
11:30-12:30	<p>SESSION 11: Corporate accountability</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Presentation followed by interactive discussion.</p> <p><u>Scope:</u> The session will cover the challenges of corporate accountability in IG. It will explore mis/disinformation, platform regulation and approaches to artificial intelligence (AI). It will outline the challenges, current trends in responding to them and the risks to watch out for in doing so. It will also propose ways in which African stakeholders can contribute creatively to the global debate.</p>
12:30-14:00	LUNCH – Working lunch for stakeholder groups
14:00-15:00	<p>SESSION 12: Gender inequality and harmful speech: Governing safe digital spaces</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Presentation followed by interactive discussion.</p> <p><u>Scope:</u> Gender and internet governance and gendered misinformation online.</p>

15:00-15:30	SESSION 13: Internet governance and media development diversity and freedom in Africa <u>Format:</u> Interactive discussion <u>Scope:</u> Internet governance and the media.
15:30-16:00	BREAK
16:00-16:30	SESSION 13 continued
16:30-16:45	BREAK
16:45-18:30	4th Practicum session: Formal plenary and negotiations - groups discuss draft output document based on compiled inputs from stakeholder groups.
18:30	Dinner followed by continuation of the pre-dinner plenary if needed
DAY 4: Tuesday, 27 May - Key ongoing global digital governance processes and spaces	
8:30-9:00	Review of day three: Questions and answers <u>Format:</u> Open discussion of questions submitted by participants.
9:00-10:30	SESSION 14: Cybersecurity and cybercrime in Africa: Challenges and opportunities <u>Format:</u> Presentation followed by interactive discussion <u>Scope:</u> Overview of primary global and regional processes, and the primary challenges and opportunities facing different stakeholders in Africa. Kate Getao will provide a historical overview of African engagement in international cybersecurity and talk about the Diplo Foundation's Geneva Dialogue project. Sorene Assefa will provide an overview of current UN and AU-led cybersecurity processes on the continent.
10:30-11:00	BREAK
11:00-13:00	SESSION 15: The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 20 year review <u>Format:</u> Workshop session

	<p><u>Scope</u>: WSIS has been a key internet governance process. It has been instrumental in forging connections between digital technologies and development. Should the World Summit on Information Society continue to play this role in the future? Can it bring stakeholders together to deliberate and collaborate on how the digital can support development and the achievement of the SDGs? As we approach the 2025 WSIS+20 review, there is a critical need to raise awareness of the WSIS+20 process and articulate a vision for how the Forum can promote a multistakeholder approach to internet governance and support human rights, development, and achievement of the SDGs and ensure this flows from a vision at the international level to implementation at the national level.</p> <p>This multistakeholder workshop session will provide a brief recap of what the WSIS process has been, why it has been so important, and how the WSIS 20-year review is taking place. Working in groups, participants will explore how stakeholders can leverage the WSIS Forum to advance a commitment to the open, global, and interoperable Internet and the SDGs. In particular, the session will explore.</p>
13:00-14:15	LUNCH
14:15-15:15	<p>SESSION 16: Governing the digital for safeguarding the environment</p> <p><u>Format</u>: Presentation followed by interactive discussion.</p> <p><u>Scope</u>: Key challenges and opportunities in the region related to climate change, sustainable development and digital development and governance.</p>
15:15-16:15	BREAK
16:15-17:30	5th Practicum session: Final plenary - negotiations on final text of the output document – to continue after dinner if needed.
18:30	DINNER
19:30	Practicum plenary continues at the hotel if needed
DAY 5: Wednesday, 28 May: Multistakeholder internet governance in practice, the IGF and AfriSIG closing	
08:30-9:00	<p>Review of day four: Questions and answers</p> <p><u>Format</u>: Open discussion of questions submitted by participants.</p>
9:00-11:00	<p>SESSION 17: A day in the life of an internet governance practitioner</p> <p><u>Scope</u>: Digital and internet governance involves many different institutions and people: parliamentarians, technical organisations, regulators, journalists, educators, human rights defenders, engineers, diplomats, government officials, researchers, law enforcement officers and more. The</p>

	<p>different stakeholders will talk about their goals and dreams and their daily work and challenges. They will be asked to talk about what they found most annoying and enriching about having to work with multiple stakeholders and what needs to be done to strengthen our multistakeholder processes.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Talk show style interactive session.</p>
11:00-11:30	BREAK
11:30-13:00	<p>SESSION 18: The IGF – A critical space for building knowledge, connections and policies - What to expect, how it works and how to participate</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Panel presentation and discussion</p> <p>Scope: This session will cover the IGF ecosystem including the MAG, the Leadership Panel, MAG working Groups, Dynamic Coalitions, Best Practice Forums, Policy Networks, National and Regional IGFs, Youth IGFs and the IGF Parliamentary Track. It will give AfriSIG participants a taste of what to expect at the African IGF and the global IGF.</p>
13:00-14:15	LUNCH
14:15-15:30	CLOSING SESSION: Presentation of the practicum output document followed by AfriSIG evaluation closure
15:30-16:00	BREAK
16:00-17:00	Awarding of certificates
19:00	AfriSIG closing dinner and party