

# EU- AFRICA

# CYBER CONSULTATIONS



**30 November 2020**

Online consultation organised by the EU Cyber Direct in cooperation with Research ICT Africa, CIPESA and Paradigm Initiative

## Rationale

The importance of digitalisation for social and economic development has increased the focus of policymakers around the world on providing connectivity and stimulating digital transitions. However, there are threats and vulnerabilities in cyberspace that affect both African and European economies and societies.

Cooperation between different regions and the involvement of non-state actors are essential to foster a stable, open, free and secure internet. To unleash the full potential of the African continent, policymakers need to secure a digital future in which all citizens can access the opportunities of the internet age, without compromising their rights and safety. The EU has expressed its commitment to upholding and upgrading the rules-based global order in a more focused, open and proactive way, including its global engagements on cyber and digital issues. Engagement with non-governmental stakeholder groups like civil society organisations and the private sector is essential to foster sustainable results.

The purpose of the EU-Africa Cyber Consultations is to discuss priorities and challenges for the African and European cyber diplomacy efforts and ultimately the opportunities for a closer cooperation between the two continents.

This event is  
co-organised with



Implementing  
organisations

This project is  
funded by the  
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# Agenda

13:00-14:30 CET Multilateralism and the future of digital and cyber cooperation: roundtable with policymakers and civil society

International cooperation on digital and cyber policy issues has gradually occupied space across the whole range of multilateral organisations (i.e. United Nations) and the regional groupings (i.e. the African Union, BRICS or G20). However, as states focus on the use of digital, cyber and technology policies to pursue their interests or defend their values, multilateral institutions also become spaces for a growing competition between the states. The purpose of this session is to answer a number of questions: How do we preserve the value of multilateral institutions as fully representative and legitimate venues for international negotiations and global governance? How to best ensure that multilateralism remains open to inputs from non-governmental actors such as non-state actors? What is the role of regional and subregional organisations in these processes?

*Chair* **Patryk PAWLAK**  
EU Institute for Security Studies

*Speakers* **Elizabeth KOLADE**  
Cyber Security Experts Association of Nigeria (CSEAN)  
**Moliehi MAKUMANE**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Africa  
**Folake OLAGUNJU**  
ECOWAS  
**Agnieszka WIERZBICKA**  
Policy Officer, European External Action Service

15:00-16:00 CET Digital sovereignty: comparing European and African experiences

Digital sovereignty has become an important concept in international conversations over the past year. Some states use it to increase the control over their own security, to improve the protection of their citizens, or increase accountability in cyberspace. Others instrumentalise digital sovereignty to decrease citizen's access to the internet, reduce operability, or obtain surveillance capacities. Developing a better understanding of what digital sovereignty means and how different actors invoke it is therefore essential. During this session participants will work in smaller groups to explore European and African perspectives on three different dimensions of digital sovereignty: data, technology and infrastructure, cybersecurity.

*BREAKOUT ROOM 1:*

**Data**

The term 'data sovereignty' is used to make digital information subject to the laws of the country in which such data is shared, processed and stored. How can the EU and Africa work together to shape this environment?

*Chair* **Teki AKUETTEH FALCONER**

Africa Digital Rights' Hub

*Speakers* **Alice MUNYUA**

Mozilla

**Eneken TIKK**

Cyber Policy Institute

*BREAKOUT ROOM 2:*

**Tech and infrastructure**

Access and control over to internet infrastructure and new technologies is important for states sovereignty. Private sector largely shapes these developments. How can the EU and Africa better navigate this space dominated by tech rivalries?

*Chair* **Steve SONG**

Association for Progressive Communications

*Speakers* **Cedrick MBEYET**

AfriNIC

**Maarit PALOVIRTA**

ETNO

*BREAKOUT ROOM 3:*

**Cybersecurity**

Ensuring the proper functioning of the critical infrastructure or protecting safe and secure cyberspace for citizens relies on the state capacity to deliver cyber resilient systems. With the conversation about threats and solutions – both at national and global level – being shaped by a small group of advanced countries, how can the EU and Africa work together to strengthen their cyber resilience?

*Chair* **Anna Maria OSULA**

Tallinn University of Technology

*Speakers* **Kenneth ADU-AMANFOH**

African Cybersecurity & Digital Rights Organisation

**Paul TIMMERS**

Oxford University

## 16:30-17:30 CET Towards an effective EU-Africa partnership (track 2.0)

Building on the earlier discussions, the purpose of this session will be for representatives from the EU and African non-governmental organisations and institutions to discuss concrete objectives, priorities and methods for the two continents to work together on a whole range of issues such as cyber diplomacy, cybersecurity, cybercrime and digital cooperation. What are the potential challenges for such cooperation? And which are the factors that might accelerate these efforts?

*Chair* **Enrico CALANDRO**

Research ICT Africa

*Speakers* **Nayia BARMPALIOU**

EU Institute for Security Studies

**Anriette ESTERHUYSEN**

African School on Internet Governance

**Gbenga SESAN**

Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative

**Wakabi WAIRAGALA**

CIPESA

## Organisers

### CIPESA

The Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) is the leading centre for research and analysis of information aimed at enabling policy makers in east and southern Africa to understand international ICT policy issues.

### EU Cyber Direct

The EU Cyber Direct project supports EU cyber diplomacy efforts and consequently contributes to the development of a secure, stable and rules-based international order in cyberspace through dialogues with strategic partner countries and regional/international organisations.

### Paradigm Initiative

Paradigm Initiative is a social enterprise that builds an ICT-enabled support system and advocates digital rights in order to improve livelihoods for under-served youth, through our digital inclusion and digital rights programs.

### Research ICT Africa

Research ICT Africa is a non-profit think tank that conducts public-interest research on ICT policy and regulation. It provides African governmental and non-governmental actors with the information and analysis required to develop innovative and appropriate policies, effective implementation and successful network operations that can contribute to sustainable development.