

# FORUM ON INTERNET FREEDOM IN AFRICA



**28-30 September, 2021**

Two online sessions organised by the EU Cyber Direct in cooperation with CIPESA.

## Context

On September 28-30, 2021, the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) will host the eighth edition of the annual Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica). The Forum is a landmark event that convenes a wide spectrum of stakeholders from across the internet governance and digital rights arenas to deliberate on gaps, concerns and opportunities for advancing privacy, free expression, non-discrimination and the free flow of information online.

Taking on a hybrid approach (virtual and physical), FIFAfrica responds to rising challenges to the enjoyment of internet freedom in various African countries, including arrests and intimidation of online users, internet disruptions, digital taxes, and a proliferation of laws and regulations that undermine the potential of digital technology to drive the continent's socio-economic and political development.

FIFAfrica, therefore, puts internet freedom on the agenda of key actors including African policymakers, regulators, human rights defenders, academia, law enforcement representatives, and the media, paving the way for broader work on advancing digital rights in Africa and promoting the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance.

EU Cyber Direct will host two sessions in the forum:



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# Agenda

29 September 2021

14:30-16:00 EAT / Africa and the Future of International Cybercrime  
13:30-15:00 CEST Cooperation

Cybercrime in Africa comes at an economic cost of \$3.5 Billion, and affects the livelihoods and well-being of millions of people, businesses and communities annually. It is also a global phenomenon, a shared responsibility and a transnational challenge that requires international cooperation and coordination. While the United Nations Third Committee has initiated a process mandated with elaborating an international convention on cybercrime, many states are still struggling to understand how this new process fits within the ongoing efforts and what their position should be.

The participation of African stakeholders in these global cybercrime negotiations will play an important role given their commitment to a human-centric approach that advances transparency, accountability, and human rights online.

*This session asks:* What should be the priorities of African countries for the upcoming negotiations? How can the African stakeholders contribute to the planned negotiation process? What role can the African civil society organisations play?

*Chair* **Nayia BARPALIOU**  
Non-resident Expert, EU Institute for Security Studies

*Speakers* **Tatiana TROPINA**  
Leiden University

**Katherine GETAO**  
Information and Communication Technology Authority of Kenya

**George-Maria TYENDEZWA**  
Federal Ministry of Justice, Nigeria

**Klara JORDAN**  
Cyber Peace Institute

**Michael ILISHEBO**  
Zambia Police Service & AUC

30 September 2021

10:00-11:30 EAT / Open Standards: Cooperating on Meaningful Internet  
09:00 – 10:30 CEST Access in Africa

Digitalisation and the expansion of telecom and internet infrastructure is a key driver of socio-economic development in Africa, but these alone do not ensure access to information and the Open Internet. In addition to challenges like low coverage, connection speeds, and service quality, meaningful connectivity has also been inhibited by challenges like internet shutdowns, the criminalisation or censoring of content, and threats to user privacy and security.

Bridging digital inequalities and safeguarding digital rights requires a connectivity policy that supports the development of technologies, standards, and infrastructures, while also providing regulatory support towards building dynamic, trustful, and democratic Internet ecosystems that can ensure secure and stable access to the Open Internet through both local and global partnerships.

*This session asks:* How do we overcome the challenges to meaningful connectivity in Africa? What can local actors (government, civil society, providers and entrepreneurs) do to advance universal and open standards? How can we leverage international partnerships and digital cooperation mechanisms to promote an accessible and open Internet globally in the age of increasingly competitive international environment?

*Chair* **Patryk PAWLAK**

EU Institute for Security Studies

*Speakers* **Esteve SANZ**

European Commission

**Cedrick MBEYET**

AFRINIC

**Dawit BEKELE**

Internet Society, Africa team

**Daniel MWESIGWA**

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