

AFRICA DATA LEADERSHIP Initiative

Overall Peer-Learning Objectives:

- Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the principles of data governance, emphasizing the balance between leveraging data opportunities and mitigating potential harms, as well as applying best practices of data architecture to their respective contexts.
- Facilitating cross-border engagement among participants to foster collaboration and exchange of ideas.
- Providing a platform for sharing experiences and solutions related to addressing challenges in aligning the data economy with African aspirations.
- Establish a "safe space" for open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving among participants.
- Offering exposure to data governance expertise and thought leaders from various regions across the continent to enhance understanding and identification of best practices.
- Encouraging the discovery and showcasing of local expertise and facilitating the dissemination of data policy knowledge and news.
- Establishing connections with peers and relevant institutions involved in data governance implementation
- Advocating for a people-first approach to data governance in national governments, analyzing the strategic significance of prioritizing people in data governance initiatives, and preparing participants to inform decision-making at a policy or senior practitioner level.

PART ONE

(DIAL Internal Consultation: Priya & Diana)

Session	Module	Topical Focus	Potential Kick-off Speakers & First discussants
ONE	Continental Data Governance Frameworks	Africa's Opportunity in the Global Data Governance/Sharing Context: Introduction to Key Frameworks • AU Data Policy Framework • AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol (maybe) • Smart Africa Vision: to Transform Africa into a Single Digital Market by 2030 OR Data Governance Blueprint	• Priya: Global Data Trends & Africa's opportunity. • Hanani Hlomani/RIA: AU Data Policy Framework & regional instruments <u>First Discussants:</u> • Smart Africa (Thelma): Smart Africa Data Governance Blueprint preview. • Sierra Leone data governance strategy

Learning Objectives:

- 1.1) Strengthening understanding of essential regional frameworks, their foundational principles, and staying informed about the progress of implementation and adaptation at the national level.
- 1.2) Familiarization with key figures and institutions shaping data governance at the continental level.
- 1.3) Offering insights into prevailing global data governance trends and exploring Africa's potential role in shaping global data flows.
- 1.4) Deepening insight into the pivotal role national governments occupy within the broader landscape of data governance.

Recommended Reading:

- [Unpacking digital sovereignty through data governance](#) (Musoni, 2023)
- [Leveraging the African Union Data Policy Framework to Bolster National Data Governance Practices](#) (CIPESA, 2022)

- *Benchmarking Africa against global best-practice on data policy and data governance. (AERC Upcoming)*
- [Data Regulation in Africa: Free Flow of Data, Open Data Regimes and Cybersecurity](#) (Hanani Hlomani and Caroline B. Ncube, 2023).

PART TWO

(DIAL Internal Consultation: Steve & Chrissy)

Session	Module	Topical Focus	Potential Kick-off Speakers & First discussants
Two	Foundational Data Infrastructure	Deep dive into the physical and technical aspects of a data governance <i>ecosystem with an overview of the digital public infrastructure required for success in the data economy.</i> • Digital and Data (technical and physical) Infrastructure • Digital ID Infrastructure • Enterprise Architecture Overview.	• DIAL (Tech and Tools) – Steve Conrad ** • UNECA (Mactar Seck): Infrastructure in Africa Overview <u>First Discussants:</u> • Rep from Zambia: Data Centre infrastructure/ Smart Zambia DPI • Rosemary - Uganda Digital ID rollout.

Learning Objectives

- 2.1) Develop a deeper comprehension of the diverse technical infrastructure essential for robust data governance practices.
- 2.2) Explore the concept of Digital Public Infrastructure and its potential to unleash value for governments on a national scale.
- 2.3) Highlighting the impactful advancements made by African nations in deploying data centres and digital identification infrastructure, showcasing successful case studies.

Recommended Reading:

- [DPI Playbook - UNDP \(2021\)](#)
- [Building Zambia's Digital Economy Foundations through Digital Public Infrastructure \(DPI\)](#) (2024)
- [UNECA: Digital Infrastructure in Africa](#) (2024)

PART THREE

(DIAL Internal Consultation: Jonathan & Ritul)

Session	Module	Topical Focus	Potential Kick-Off Speakers & First Discussants
Three	Trustworthy and Legitimate Data Systems	Providing an overview of the policy, laws and institutional safeguards required to ensure that the opportunities of data are harnessed whilst mitigating harms. Components of a trustworthy data environment requires: • Privacy by design – data minimization in practice • Digital Safety - Trusted and trustworthy • DPA Laws – statutory characteristics (budgetary independence; legal authorities, etc.) • Effective protection of personal data laws and regulations • Transparency • Redressal systems	• Teki Akuetteh • Venkatesh Hariharan First Discussants: • DPA from Uganda (Stella Alibateese) • DPA from Zambia (Commissioner Likando Lyuwa).

Learning Objectives

- 3.1) Raising awareness of the institutional resources necessary to guarantee robust Data Protection measures.
- 3.2) Deepening comprehension of the cyber-security protocols essential for ensuring secure data utilization.
- 3.3) Investigating the nuanced aspects of Data Justice within specific contexts and delineating its components for effective implementation.

Recommended Reading:

- [Responsible Data Governance in Africa: Institutional Gaps and Capacity Needs. Centre for the Study of African Economies \(CSEA.2022\)](#)
- [Africa Agenda for Cyber Capacity Building – AUDA/GFCE](#)
- [Security and Trust in Africa's Digital Financial Inclusion Landscape](#)
- [Chapter Three: African Approach\(es\) to Data Protection Law by Lukman Abdulrauf](#)

PART FOUR

(DIAL Internal Consultation: Kay & Sarah)

Session	Module	Topical Focus	Potential Kick-off Speakers & First Discussants
Four	Digital Markets and data value	Demonstrating the socio-economic benefits of data use and enablers required for governments to deliver more effective public services. - Maximizing Public Value - Demonstrating Data-Driven Policy use cases.	- Ushahidi, Angela Lunganti - Sarah: Anticipatory Cash Payments/Give Directly? - Evidence-based Regulations: Cenfri? First Discussants: - ONDC - Gambia (Fide) - Start Ups/Innovation Hub (BongoHive) or The Hub (Gambia).

			- Insist Global (Dr Jorjoh: Afrijula)
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Learning Objectives

- 4.1) Showcasing practical examples that illustrate the potential and benefits of leveraging data for informed decision-making processes.
- 4.2) Clarifying the path toward implementing evidence-based regulations, emphasizing the importance of empirical data in policy formulation.
- 4.3) Increasing awareness of the transformative process involved in fostering a digital culture within government institutions, including necessary change management strategies.
- 4.4) Highlighting the necessary legislative updates essential for maximizing digital and data-driven advantages, emphasizing the need for legal frameworks to keep pace with technological advancements.

Recommended Reading:

- [The Digital Era and Data: Considerations for National Statistical Office \(NSOs\) in the Digital Data Ecosystem](#) (CIPIT)
- [Unlocking stronger institutions, policies and citizen participation in Africa for a more effective data driven public sector](#) (CSEA 2023)

PART FIVE

(DIAL Internal Consultation: Steve & Sarthak)

Session	Module	Topical Focus	Potential Kick-off Speakers/Demonstration
Five	Integrated National Data Systems	Setting data standards and categorising data to enable the foundations for an integrated data system through interoperability of data systems, including access to and quality of data. - Data Management and Data Strategies - Open Data	- <i>Mauritius: InfoHighway</i> - <i>DIAL Data Exchange Use Case - Research</i> <i>First Discussants:</i> - <i>Gilbert - IGR (Data portal)</i> - <i>Uganda: UGHub</i> - <i>Toro Dev: Data Cities Project</i>

		- Data Exchange	
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Learning Objectives

- 5.1) Deepened comprehension of the diverse components integral to a comprehensive data strategy.
- 5.2) Expanded exposure to exemplar data strategy models from African contexts, providing valuable insights for consideration by other African countries.
- 5.3) Heightened awareness of the potential applications and practical instances of Open Data initiatives.
- 5.4) Introduction to the concept of Data Exchange and its transformative potential in shaping governance practices.

Recommended Reading:

- DIAL data exchange case studies (upcoming)
- Exploring data interoperability platforms in Africa, and related policy making opportunities and risks (AERC upcoming)
- [Enhancing Data-Sharing Practices Between Government Agencies](#) (CSEA, 2024)

PART SIX

(DIAL Internal Consultation: Kay & Priya)

Session	Module	Topical Focus	Potential Kick-Off Speakers
Six	Data Governance (Innovations)	Exploring the multiple ways in which data is controlled through law, regulatory action, technological control and through the policies of enterprises that use data. - Data Protection	- CGD: Data Localization Impact – David Medine - CSEA: Digital Preparedness Index/Data Governance Snapshots

		- Data Sharing - Data Sovereignty - Data Portability (tools and rights)	- Jack Hardinges or Astha Kapoor, Aapti Institute First Discussants: - CIPESA (Data Justice) - Pollicy (Afrofeminist Principles)
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Learning Objectives

- 6.1) Enhanced understanding of how effective (and enforced) data governance is achieved.
- 6.2) Increased exposure to data governance tools and innovations.
- 6.3) Deepening an understanding of a people-centered/people-first approach to data governance.

Key Literature

- Data Protection Legal Regime and Data Governance in Africa: An Overview (Olumide Babalola, 2023)
- Center For Global Development: [David Medine on the impacts of data localization on the poor.](#)
- [Great Opportunities Lie Ahead for Data Governance in Africa. So Do Great Challenges. \(ACET, 2024\)](#)
- [Data Justice in Practice: A Guide for Policymakers \(GPAI, 2022\)](#)
- [Behind the Work of Digital Justice](#) (Pollicy, 2022)