

MINUTES OF THE AFRICAN ALLIANCE FOR ACCESS TO DATA HELD ON 15TH MAY VIA ZOOM AT 12:00 PM SAST

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/No.	NAME
1.	Guy Berger
2.	Hlengiwe Dube
3.	Ivy Gikonyo
4.	Ayobangira Safari
5.	Alphonse Shiundu
6.	Nnenna Nwakanma
7.	Izak Minnaar
8.	Rania Ibrahim
9.	Angela Minayo
10.	Churchill Otieno
11.	Laeed Zaghlami
12.	Gilbert Sendugwa
13.	Lucy Ndung'u
14.	Tshiamo Motshegwa
15.	Rosemary Okello-Orlale
16.	Viola Ochola
17.	Liz Orembo
18.	Stephen Moore
19.	Kwami
20.	Bulanda Nkhowani
21.	Angela Minayo
22.	Phillip Ayazika

AGENDA

Chair: Hlengiwe Dube, Centre for Human Rights

1. Welcome, new participants introduction, adoption of minutes (10 mins)
2. Chair's report on the [DRIF consultations](#) (5 mins)
3. Resolution 620 ATD normative standards ([Gilbert's document](#)). Can we settle on "Guidelines"? [What questions should be asked](#), including in the light of AI and ATD? (20 mins)
4. [Further consultations](#) calendar: who can do Resolution 620, when and where? Any specialised online consultations (eg. ANIC and its members) (10 mins)

5. Volunteers to respond - with data access lenses –to draft AU implementation document for the Africa Continental AI Strategy (5 mins)
6. [Formalising the Alliance](#) steering committee : vote [here](#)! (10 mins)
7. AOB and Closure

MIN 1/MAY: WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Hlengiwe. New members – Nnenna Nwakanma, Phillip Ayazika and Hon. Ayobangira Safari (African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance) were welcomed. Hon Safari said legislative work would be needed to get access to data. The DRC were working on an access to information law, which created an opportunity to include data.

Hlengiwe went through the previous minutes (March meeting) and they were approved as a true record.

MIN 2/MAY: CHAIR'S REPORT ON THE DRIF CONSULTATIONS

Izak explained there were three [consultative sessions](#) held at DRIF25 on the three different resolutions: (620 Access to Data; 630 Monitoring Big Tech and Info Integrity: 631 Public service content). There were two additional planning and consultative meetings of the Alliance, which were joined by Hon Safari (DRC) and Hon Agho (Cameroon) and the Legal Resources Centre (SA).

Action point: Colleagues are requested to visit [the planning document](#) and volunteer to help organize consultations.

MIN 3/MAY: RESOLUTION 620 ATD NORMATIVE STANDARDS ([GILBERT'S DOCUMENT](#))

Gilbert informed the group that a draft consultation note had been prepared and invited members to review. He explained that several options and associated processes had been considered, with guidelines emerging as the most appropriate format.

Izak expressed support for proceeding with guidelines on access to data, citing alignment with existing instruments such as the Model Law and the Declaration.

Nnenna emphasised the importance of demographic mapping to ensure that the consultations are inclusive and representative.

There were no objections to proceeding with the development of guidelines. Hlengiwe noted that the next step would be to engage the Special Rapporteur to further discuss on the way forward.

Rosemary proposed that the guidelines include a focus on data literacy. Izak supported this addition, pointing out that the relevant resolution explicitly references data literacy, reinforcing its importance.

Liz suggested that framing [consultation questions](#) around the intended beneficiaries could help mitigate bias. Nnenna added that the consultation could include both a set of basic, general questions and others tailored to specific demographic groups, such as members of parliament.

Action point: Members to go through the consultation questions and share their input by June 2025.

MIN 4/MAY: [FURTHER CONSULTATIONS](#) CALENDAR

Guy noted that there was a consultation form with the 3 resolutions and shared the link for members to indicate availability. The International Conference of Information Commissioners, which includes members of the African Network of Information Commissioners, will be held in Berlin 23-25 June.

Action point: Members to put in their names with the proposed consultation activity eg. Panels.

MIN 5/MAY: VOLUNTEERS TO RESPOND - WITH DATA ACCESS LENSES –TO DRAFT AU IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENT FOR THE AFRICA CONTINENTAL AI STRATEGY

Guy informed the group that the African Union has developed a draft AI implementation strategy and invited interested members to review the document and assess how effectively it addresses issues related to access to data. Nnenna, Stephen and Tshiamo volunteered to support this review. Tshiamo alerted that AUDA-Nepad consultations on [science and technology strategy](#), and [implementation plan](#), also contained data access issues, and he encouraged Alliance [participation in these](#).

Action point: Review of draft document

MIN 6/MAY: [FORMALISING THE ALLIANCE](#) STEERING COMMITTEE

Guy explained that there is need for formalisation of the sub-committees which would then lead to an AGM. He shared a [voting link](#).

Action point: Members to vote for steering committee members

MIN 7/ MAY: AOB AND CLOSURE

With no other business raised, the meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM. Hlengiwe thanked members for their participation.