MINUTES OF THE AFRICAN ALLIANCE FOR ACCESS TO DATA HELD ON 17TH JULY VIA ZOOM AT 11:30 AM SAST

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/No.	NAME
1.	Guy Berger
2.	Ivy Gikonyo
3.	Marystella Simiyu
4.	Angela Minayo
5.	Alison Gillwald
6.	Bulanda Nkhowani
7.	Kehinde Adegboyega
8.	Liz Orembo
9.	Mukelani Dimba
10.	Ompha Tshamano
11.	Peace Oliver Amuge
12.	Stephen Moore
13.	William Bird
14.	Tshiamo Motshegwa
15.	Nnenna Nwakanma
16.	Edetaen Ojo
17.	Vusumuzi Sifile
18.	Janet Gbam

AGENDA

Chair: Guy Berger, Convener

1. Welcome, new participants introduction, adoption of minutes

2. Fundraising update – Guy Berger, Edet Ojo (tbc)

3. Data and elections reports: a. Guidelines on data access for key stakeholders in African elections (supported byCipesa); b Data deficits and democratic processes (supported by IDRC) – Kwami Ahiabenu, (tbc)

4. Input made on the AU implementation document for the Africa Continental AI Strategy – Nnenna Nwakanma (tbc)

5. Call for Alliance members to urgently input onthe 7 questions in the online form about developing Guidelines for ATD as per ACHPR Resolution 620 (French version here).

6. Update on consultations to date and other possibilities

7. Alliance participation in plans for [International Day for Universal Access to Information](#)

8. Process to draft [text for Guidelines](#)

9. [Formalising the Alliance](#) steering committee : vote [here](#)!

10. AOB and Closure

MIN 1/JULY: WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by Guy who welcomed new members and went through the previous minutes (May meeting) which were approved as a true record. Apologies from Izak, Zoe and Mukelani. News items flagged were: 1. Generative AI being a tool to analyse unstructured data; 2. UN CSTD working group on data revising its approach – possibly to be invited to speak at next AAAD meeting. New members: MaryStella, Ompha, Kehinde.

MIN 2/JULY: FUNDRAISING UP DATE

Edetaen explained he had been having conversations with APC who are willing to support the Alliance with $20,000. A proposal was put together by Guy for their consideration. Peace said that feedback is expected soon. It is expected to be a 4-month project from now to December towards the guidelines, covering research on mapping access to information and privacy laws in Africa to inform the guidelines; and drafting of legal text for the guidelines.

Implementation of project: research aspect will be in August, drafting of text for 620 Guidelines in September. The first round of drafting is scheduled for 3 September in Johannesburg, with the Rapporteur in attendance, and the day after the M20 conference. After circulating the draft for comment, a final drafting session is proposed in Windhoek at the end of September during FIFA.

Guy has obtained support from UNESCO to support some Alliance members participation at Windhoek FifAfrica, and the Africa Fact-Checkers Conference in Dakar.

Action points:

(1) Guy and Stephen to work on [an online form](#).

(2). Members to fill in the form to motivate to be part of APC opportunities for Resolution 620 and the Alliance at the Fact-Checkers Conference..

MIN 3/JULY: DATA AND ELECTION REPORTS

   a. [Guidelines on data access for key stakeholders in African elections](#) (supported by Cipesa)

   b. [Data deficits and democratic processes](#) (supported by IDRC) – Kwami Ahiabenu,

Liz explained that they will present on these at the next meeting.

Action point: (1) Liz to liaise with Kwami. (2) Liz to get links (and news item) to these on the AAAD website.

MIN 4/JULY: INPUT MADE ON THE AU IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENT FOR THE AFRICA CONTINENTAL AI STRATEGY

Guy noted that the AU has a continental AI strategy which the Alliance made comments on. It is available on the website.

Action point: Members to see input on website.

MIN 5/JULY: CALL FOR ALLIANCE MEMBERS TO URGENTLY INPUT ON THE 7 QUESTIONS IN THE ONLINE FORM ABOUT DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR ATD AS PER ACHPR RESOLUTION 620.

Guy said it was urgent for Alliance members themselves to input on the online survey (7 questions) on 620, since there were only 3 responses to date.

Action points: (1) Members urged to fill out the online form to provide input for the development of the guidelines for Resolution 620.

MIN 6/JULY: UPDATE ON CONSULTATIONS TO DATE AND OTHER POSSIBILITIES

Guy noted that 8 engagements have taken place so far, with at least 4 or 5 more planned. These efforts are important for informing the upcoming drafting sessions scheduled for 3 September and 24 September. Guy reported that 8 engagements had occurred in person and online on 620. He invited members to help organize further ones, particularly in Francophone speaking regions. Tshiamo explained they were hoping for fruitful deliberations with the upcoming consultation meeting by African Open Science Platform. MaryStella would explore a consultation under IPI auspices.

Action points: (1) Encourage network members to complete the online form on guideline development (currently only three contributions received; links shared in chat, including French version). (2) Guy to liaise with Alfred to organise a consultation on Resolution 620 in West Africa. (3) Guy to share the French translation of Resolution 620 and the PowerPoint presentation with Alfred.

MIN 7/JULY: ALLIANCE PARTICIPATION IN PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Guy shared that UNESCO had agreed to support some Alliance members to attend the event in the Philippines. Selected nominees: Priya, Hlengiwe, Stephen and Izak. They will represent the Alliance, focusing on access to data and reforms in right to information laws.

Action point: Manila delegates' need to confirm their travel and speaking roles; contribution needed for AAAD website.

MIN 8/JULY: PROCESS TO DRAFT TEXT FOR GUIDELINES

The first drafting session is scheduled for 3 September in Johannesburg, immediately after the Media 20 Conference, which the Alliance is linked to through the G20.

Action points: (1) Alliance to issue a call for interest via the mailing list, encouraging people to complete the online form developed by Guy and Stephen. (3) Preparations for 3 September guideline drafting session to proceed.

MIN 9/JULY: FORMALISING THE ALLIANCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Guy explained that there seems to not be much interest in this and maybe the way forward is to have a general meeting to have systems in place.

Action point: Members to vote for steering committee members

MIN 10/JULY: AOB AND CLOSURE

Guy mentioned that Code for Africa requested that anyone working on compensation for African newsrooms for use of their data to reach out to them. He reiterated his appeal for members to fill the survey on Resolution 620.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM and Guy thanked members for their participation.