

**MINUTES OF THE AFRICAN ALLIANCE FOR ACCESS TO DATA HELD ON 22ND
AUGUST 2025 VIA ZOOM AT 12:00 PM SAST**

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/No.	NAME
1.	Guy Berger
2.	Ivy Gikonyo
3.	Marystella Simiyu
4.	Dr. Rania Elsayed
5.	Prof. Laeed Zaghlami
6.	Edetaen Ojo
7.	Francis Crawley
8.	Gilbert Sendugwa
9.	Liz Orembo
10.	Sam Chibaya
11.	Israel Olatunji
12.	Jean LeRoux
13.	Liz Orembo
14.	Lucy Kamunye
15.	Mukelani Dimba
16.	NMT Media Foundation (Zoe)
17.	Nnenna Nwakanma
18.	Ompha Tshamano
19.	Peace Oliver Amuge
20.	Taryn De Vega
21.	Viola Ochola
22.	Churchill Otieno
23.	Prof. Okello-Orlale
24.	Olunifesi Suraj
25.	Bulanda Nkhowani
26.	Kehinde Adegboyega
27.	Janet Gbam

AGENDA

Chair: Guy Berger, Convener

1. Welcome, new participants introduction, adoption of minutes
2. Nominations for African experts to the UN's CSTD working group on data governance.

3. Participation in upcoming events M20, FifAfrica, [International Day for Universal Access to Information](#) and Africa Fact-Checking Summit
4. Data and elections 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 Orembo
5. Update and renewed call for Alliance members to input on the 7 questions in the [online form about developing Guidelines for ATD as per ACHPR Resolution 620](#) (French version [here](#)).
6. AOB and Closure

MIN 1/AUGUST: WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Prof. Guy Berger, with apologies from Hlengiwe Dube. New member Sam Chibaya (Malawi, Southern Africa Digital Inclusion Alliance) introduced himself and their work.

The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed and adopted as a true record.

MIN 2/AUGUST: NOMINATIONS FOR AFRICAN EXPERTS TO THE UN'S CSTD WORKING GROUP ON DATA GOVERNANCE

Guy informed members of the UN CSTD's call for nominations. Interested members were invited to forward their names and CVs.

Action point: Interested members to urgently forward their names and CVs to Prof. Guy.

MIN 3/AUGUST: PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING EVENTS M20, FIFAFRICA, IDUAI AND AFRICA FACT-CHECKING SUMMIT

Guy reported that he and Zoe had overseen the selection of nominees for sponsored participants for upcoming events. He also outlined the timelines for drafting and operationalizing the Access to Data Guidelines, kicking off with a drafting workshop in Johannesburg on 3 May.

Post script to the minutes: The following members could be supported to be in Johannesburg, thanks for the APC grant: Gilbert Sendugwa AFIC; Article 19 West Africa (Abdoulaye Ndiaye); Taryn de Vega (Rhodes); Lucy Ndungu (former commissioner Kenya), Henry Maina (expert Kenya). Commissioner Sono.

Second post-script: The following members could be supported to go to Fifafrica for further drafting at end September. From APC: Scott Timcke (RIA), Taryn de Vega (Rhodes). From extra

support gained from UNESCO, the following were also selected: Olunifesi Suraj (Lagos expert), Alfred Bulakali (Article 19), Hlengiwe Dube.

Third postscript: at the time of writing, there was not yet clarity on possible UNESCO support for members to raise our issues at the African Fact Checking Conference in Dakar, October.

MIN 4/AUGUST: DATA AND ELECTIONS REPORTS: A. [GUIDELINES ON DATA ACCESS FOR KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN AFRICAN ELECTIONS \(SUPPORTED BY CIPESA\)](#); B. [DATADEFICITS AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES \(SUPPORTED BY IDRC\)](#) – KWAMI AHIBENU, LIZ OREMBO

Liz presented the report [Data deficits and democratic processes](#) by her and Guy through RIA with support of IDRC. Research covered South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, and Zimbabwe. Key findings included: Centrality of data in elections; Disparities in access to data; Influence of social media and big tech; Early adoption of AI; and Need for timely and usable data.

Challenges highlighted: Unstructured data and weak management systems; Lack of transparency and risks of manipulation; Regulatory hurdles; Capacity and resource limitations; and Balancing competing rights.

Recommendations included: Adoption of open data principles; Proactive disclosure; Strengthened data management; Enhanced stakeholder collaboration; Safeguarding data integrity in the AI era; Stronger legal/regulatory frameworks; and Capacity-building initiatives.

Members welcomed the report, raised questions, and provided suggestions, which Liz addressed.

Action point: Liz to upload the report. Kwami to be asked to present at the next meeting on [Guidelines on data access for key stakeholders in African elections](#), supported by CIPESA.

MIN 5/AUGUST: UPDATE AND RENEWED CALL FOR ALLIANCE MEMBERS TO INPUT ON THE 7 QUESTIONS IN THE [ONLINE FORM ABOUT DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR ATD AS PER ACHPR RESOLUTION 620 \(FRENCH VERSION HERE\)](#).

Guy reported that 226 responses in English and 20 in French had been received through the online surveys and there had been 8 consultation events in person/online. He emphasized the importance of continued input from members. Analysing these would be added to desk-based research and interviews being done by RIA under part of the APC grant. Those other Alliance members who expressed interest in the research would be invited to comment on the planned research proposal. These included: Prof Laeed Zaglami, Dr Stephen Moore, and Dr Taryn de Vega.

Guy to give further updates on the upcoming drafting workshops.

MIN 6/AUGUST: AOB AND CLOSURE

/The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM and Guy thanked members for their participation.