

MINUTES OF THE AFRICAN ALLIANCE FOR ACCESS TO DATA HELD ON 27TH NOV VIA ZOOM AT 12:00 SAST

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/No.	NAME
1.	Hlengiwe Dube
2.	Guy Berger
3.	Marystella Simiyu
4.	Laeed Zaghlami
5.	Rania Elsayed
6.	Francis Crawley
7.	George Nyabuga
8.	Liz Orembo
9.	Gloria Ooko
10.	Izak Minnaar
11.	Peace Oliver Amuge
12.	Kwami Ahiabenu
13.	Mercy (AFIC)
14.	NMT Foundation (Zoe Titus)
15.	Nnenna Nwakanma
16.	Phillip Ayazika
17.	Vusumuzi Sifile
18.	Taryn de Vega
19.	Tshepiso
20.	Viola Ochola

AGENDA

Chair: Hlengiwe Dube

1. Welcome, new participants introduction, adoption of minutes
2. Reportback on Alliance issues at Datafest (Gilbert)
3. Reportback on nominations for African experts to the UN's CSTD working group on data governance (Guy)
4. Reportback on 620 Guidelines text v.3, going forwards, and action plan (Pria, Tshepiso)
5. Ideas for the Alliance in 2026 (general discussion)

6. Volunteers to help fundraising
7. AOB and Closure

MIN 1/NOV: WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12.00 by Hlengiwe who welcomed new members and went through the previous minutes which were approved as a true record. Apologies from Churchill and Alfred. New members introducing themselves: Phillip

MIN 3/NOV: Report back on Alliance issues at Datafest Oct 29–30, Kampala (Gilbert)

Philip gave a report, highlighting consultations on three key resolutions.

Resolution 630 (Disinformation): Media Monitoring Africa led a session on co-creating guidelines.

Resolution 631: SOS (Wayanda), SIPESA, and Women of Uganda Network led a session.

Resolution 620 (Access to Data): Gilbert, Mercy, and Lakeul Maria led an exploratory session.

Key Insight: Consultations highlighted the critical need for localization, with input from countries like South Sudan rebuilding digital resilience.

MIN 4/NOV: Report back on nominations for African experts to the UN's CSTD working group on data governance (Guy)

The UN Committee on Science and Technology Development (CSTD) had failed to respond to expert nominations; this lack of engagement is discouraging for civil society participation.. Guy would ask Anriette to help chase them up. Laeed expressed interest in offering expertise in data governance. Liz said in the chat that the Working Group are having a meeting in Feb. Most likely in Geneva.

MIN 5/NOV: Report back on 620 Guidelines text v.3, going forwards, and action plan (Pria, Tshepiso)

Tshepiso explained that the Guidelines were now in version 3, following the workshops in Johannesburg and Windhoek, and substantive submissions from quarters like the Information Regulator and, separately, the LRC. [Version 3 and an explanatory memo were now on the Alliance website](#). The responder link is [here](#).

Guy explained outlined three steps in the short-term:

Publicity: Promote the Version 3 feedback form (deadline: Dec 14).

Aggregation: Analyze responses to inform Version 4.

Drafting: Create Version 4.

He elaborated that it was important to revert to those consulted in the direct engagements during the year, as well as to the 250 respondents of the online survey form. A new online response form had been developed to capture feedback on Version 3 by 14 December. He noted that the APC budget was now used up, and that volunteers would be needed to assess the results of the upcoming consultations and work on Version 4 of the Guidelines. Taryn and Francis offered to assist in aggregating the inputs, and Guy volunteered to contact data scientist Stephen Moore to join the initiative. Using these results, Guy and Hlengiwe would work with Pria and Hlengiwe to produce

Version 4. This would be presented to the Rapporteur in time to be tabled formally at the ACHPR meeting in February.

Hlengiwe raised the challenge of translation: The African Commission lacks internal capacity for translation. The Alliance must find support for French and Arabic versions to ensure accessibility for all commissioners.

MIN 6/NOV: Ideas for the Alliance in 2026 (general discussion)

Guy explained that he envisioned that the ACHPR would embark on a further consultation after February, which the Alliance could consider engaging with. This could be an opportunity to get inputs from key government actors like Statistics Commission and Research Councils, as well as big tech, and the Arabic-speaking consultation that had not materialised in 2025. Hlengiwe offered to ask the IEC to help in engaging the African Association of Election Authorities.

Guy said that subsequent to the eventual adoption of Guidelines by the ACHPR, the Alliance would have a role to play in popularising and pushing for implementation at country level.

Member Mapping: Peace proposed mapping member activities and resources to identify collaboration opportunities (e.g., funding, speaking slots).

Hlengiwe said she foresaw the Alliance evolving into a multi-pronged strategy for 2026, covering advocacy, research and member mapping to build on its momentum. The Alliance could also host public webinars to increase visibility and share its work.

Research:

Marystella recommended submitting research papers to the Africa Journal on Privacy and Data Protection.

Liz advised on a call for abstracts for papers in the RIA “Just AI” conference for 2026, on 30th-31st March in Johannesburg.

On opportunities for activities:

Liz said she would explore a side event at the UNESCO IT for Knowledge (Feb, Johannesburg).

Vusimuzi flagged Rightscon in Lusaka in early May was identified as an opportunity, although the window for formal proposals had closed. Marystella flagged DRIF which would be in Cote D’Ivoire 14-16 April. Nnenna noted in the chat that: the DRIF call for proposals is here:

<https://drif.paradigmhq.org/press-release-paradigm-initiative-announces-call-for-session-proposals-for-the-2026-digital-rights-and-inclusion-forum/> However, she is not in a position to propose a session, so it is up to other Alliance members to step forward.

Francis advised of an opportunity for Alliance members to input on an AI governance principles paper. The ENVISAGE Principles & PILOT Principles: A Layered Framework for Ethical and Operational AI Governance. *Grounding AI governance in shared human values and implementing them through robust policy and engineering*

See [ENVISAGE Principles & PILOT Principles Framing Paper 25-09-10_12.0 oa - Google Docs](#)

He also called for a volunteer to speak at the Center of Excellence Launch Workshop on 4 December, as part of the [VizAfrica 2025](#).

Also signalled was: OHCHR | Call for input for EMRTD study "Artificial Intelligence, Cultural Rights, and the Right to Development", contact Professor Alexander.A.Kriebitz@lmu.de

Izak and Marystella will liaise to proposals for a session at the 2026 Africa Editors' Congress, 23-24 Feb; Africa Media Festival 26-27 Feb, Nairobi.

Marystella said she would find out about the AU Summit civil society participation possibilities

MIN 7/NOV: Volunteers to help fundraising

MIN 8/NOV: AOB and Closure