MINUTES OF THE AFRICAN ALLIANCE FOR ACCESS TO DATA HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2025 VIA ZOOM AT 12:00 PM SAST

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/No.	NAME
1.	Guy Berger
2.	Hlengiwe Dube
3.	Marystella Simiyu
4.	Rania Elsayed
5.	William Bird
6.	Alison Gillwald
7.	Francis Crawley
8.	Gilbert Sendugwa
9.	Janet Gbam
10.	John
11.	Kehinde Adegboyega
12.	Kwami Ahiabenu
13.	Marystella Simiyu
14.	Mercy (AFIC)
15.	Mukelani Dimba
16.	Rosemary Okello-Orlale
17.	Nnenna Nwakanma
18.	Ompha Tshamano
19.	Pria Chetty
20.	Taryn De Vega
21.	Viola Ochola
22.	Seani Rananga

Chair: Hlengiwe Dube, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria

1. Welcome, new participants' introduction, adoption of minutes
2. Report back on Alliance participation at Manila commemoration of International Day for the Universal Access to Information Day. (Hlengiwe)
3. Report back on Alliance participation at FifAfrica in Windhoek (Zoe)
4. Report back on Alliance participation in the African Fact Check Summit in Dakar (Edet).
5. Report back on nominations for African experts to the UN's CSTD working group on data governance (Guy)
6. Report back on latest consultations on 620: Lusophone, Arabic. (Guy)
7. Timeline for 620 Guidelines text going forward and action plan (Pria, Hlengiwe)
8. Data and elections reports: AAAD Guidelines on data access for key stakeholders in African elections (supported by Cipesa); (Kwami Ahiabenu)
9. Fundraising strategy needed (Guy).
10. 9. AOB and Closure

MIN 1/OCTOBER: WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Hlengiwe, who welcomed participants and introduced new member Pria Chetty (Research ICT Africa) who has been leading the drafting of the guidelines for Resolution 620. Hlengiwe urged members to also invite other organizations to join the Alliance.

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

Action point: Members to invite and onboard additional organizations to strengthen the Alliance's membership base

MIN 2/OCTOBER: REPORT BACK ON ALLIANCE PARTICIPATION AT MANILA COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION DAY

Hlengiwe reported that the Alliance hosted a panel in Manila focusing on digital tools and big data for environmental transparency in Africa. The discussion centered on the draft guidelines under development and highlighted how digital tools and big data can be responsibly and equitably deployed to advance environmental transparency. Viola Ochola signaled that the Kenyan Ombudsman also participated on a panel discussion in Manila on Incorporating Access to Big Data onto access to Information Laws. MaryStella signaled that the African Forum on Business and

Human Rights happening this week in Lusaka would have been a good occasion to engage businesses/corporations.

Action Point: Members to review and integrate relevant insights into ongoing consultations on the guidelines, and keep an eye open for upcoming events.

MIN 3/OCTOBER: REPORT BACK ON ALLIANCE PARTICIPATION AT FIFAFRICA IN WINDHOEK

Hlengiwe explained they raised awareness on the 3 ACHPR Resolutions as there are many people still not aware of them and the ongoing processes. They also had sessions on the draft guidelines version 2 in order to get comments which RIA took note of. She noted there is need for more consultation from private sector and policy makers. There were also consultations on the other 2 resolutions. A link was posted to the analysis of the 224 online survey responses, including French responses to the survey (20, plus 3).

Action Points:

- *RIA to consolidate comments received and share a summary with members*

- *Members to support outreach to private sector and policymakers for additional input*

- *Members to consider how to address concerns raised about the public interest resolution*

MIN 4/OCTOBER: REPORT BACK ON ALLIANCE PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICAN FACT CHECK SUMMIT IN DAKAR (EDET).

As there wasn't anyone on the call who had attended the summit, Hlengiwe explained that the report would be shared at the next meeting.

Gilbert pointed out that they have a session proposal for consultation on the guidelines at Datafest. He also mentioned that the is need to identify or highlight what is emerging or contentious from the consultations, maybe where more views are needed and where there are still gaps as they would help with the focus of the consultations.

Action Points:

- *Dakar report to be shared at the next meeting*

- *Emerging issues, gaps, and priority areas from ongoing consultations to be identified*

MIN 5/OCTOBER: REPORT BACK ON NOMINATIONS FOR AFRICAN EXPERTS TO THE UN'S CSTD WORKING GROUP ON DATA GOVERNANCE (GUY)

Guy reported that no specific responses had been received yet but committed to following up. The Alliance submitted nominations across all four thematic work areas. Draft documents have been released, and questionnaires circulated, which the Alliance has shared. Continued engagement is required.

Action Point: Guy to follow up on submissions and provide an update.

MIN 6/OCTOBER: REPORT BACK ON LATEST CONSULTATIONS ON 620: LUSOPHONE, ARABIC

Guy explained that the consultations were organized by MISA with 28 people participating. They raised some issues that other groups didn't raise in other constant broad consultations, that is particularly children and the governance of what happens to children's data and governance of access to understanding what's happening to children online.

The Arabic consultation is still in the pipeline. It hasn't happened yet. Guy noted it would probably be a broad consultation rather than the specifics on the document, because we don't have the draft document, this version two of the guidelines in French or Arabic at this stage. Alfred offered to contact colleagues in Tunisia for support on the Arabic consultation, and Nnenna also offered contacts.

Action point: Anyone that can help with the Arabic consultations to reach out to Guy

MIN 7/OCTOBER: TIMELINE FOR 620 GUIDELINES TEXT GOING FORWARD AND ACTION PLAN (PRIA, HLENGIWE)

Pria advised that the key points in the 2nd draft guidelines entailed: (1) Taking forward the constructs of A2D from existing models and texts (2) Access to Private Sector Data (in public interest) (3) Stewardship: Role of Regulators, Ombuds and Ministries (4) FOI/RTI Paradigm (5) Links between 3 Resolutions. (6) Guidance for specific data categories.

On next steps, she foresaw: (1) Consolidate feedback and comments into version 3; (2) Further consultation on version 3; Financing found for consultation once the process moves to the ACHPR consultations; (4) ToR needed for experts supporting ACHPR in assessing results of the further consultations and in the final drafting.

MIN 8/OCTOBER: DATA AND ELECTIONS REPORTS: AAAD   GUIDELINES ON DATA ACCESS FOR KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN AFRICAN ELECTIONS

Kwami Ahiabenu presented on this, with participants thanking Cipesa for funding it, and extending congratulations on the report. Olunifesi suggested an effort to ensure that the survey covers other African nations for a complete view.

MIN 9/OCTOBER: FUNDRAISING STRATEGY NEEDED

This item was not discussed

MIN 10/OCTOBER: AOB AND CLOSURE

The meeting was closed by Hlengiwe, noting the need for proposals for raising awareness about the resolutions and guidelines.