

**MINUTES OF THE AFRICAN ALLIANCE FOR ACCESS TO DATA HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY 2025 VIA ZOOM AT 12:00 PM SAST**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>NAME</b>
1.	Guy Berger
2.	Hlengiwe Dube
3.	Ivy Gikonyo
4.	Rosemary Okello-Orlale
5.	Christopher Musodza
6.	John Tshinseki
7.	Aurelia Ayisi
8.	Jerry Sam
9.	Anriette Esterhusen
10.	Bulanda Nkhowani
11.	Churchill Otieno
12.	Edetaen Ojo
13.	Francis Crawley
14.	Gilbert Sendugwa
15.	Izak Minnaar
16.	Janet Gbam
17.	Joshua Olufemi
18.	Kwami Ahiabenu
19.	Miriam Wanjiru
20.	NMT Media Foundation
21.	Mukelani Dimba
22.	Taryn De Vega
23.	Viola Ochola
24.	Vusumuzi Sifile
25.	George Sapon
26.	Thobekile Matimbe

**AGENDA**

**Chair:** Hlengiwe Dube, Centre for Human Rights

1. Welcome and new participant introductions.
2. Approval of previous minutes.  
Concrete follow-up issues:
  - a. Article 19 engagements on the upcoming joint statement of the Rapporteurs (Alfred)
  - b. Result of online survey on publicising IDUAI Accra statement (Guy)
  - c. Taking forward data literacy research (Rosemary).
3. Fundraising and Website update.

4. Events.
5. Formalising the Alliance.
6. Online form for taking forward the ATD instrument as per ACHPR resolution, and volunteers to help develop a position paper
7. AOB

### **MIN 1/JAN: WELCOME AND NEW PARTNERS INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM. Hlengiwe then welcomed new members to introduce themselves. The new members were: John Tshinseki a cybersecurity, AI and Ethical Hacking expert, Aurelia Ayisi a lecturer at the University of Ghana and Christopher Musodza the Executive Director of FungAI Africa.

There was no response to the agenda request for contacts at [Data For Governance Alliance](#) via Afrobarometer? [Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation](#))

### **MIN 2/JAN: APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as accurate.

The report on Article 19's engagements on the upcoming joint statement of the Rapporteurs on the issue of AtD was postponed to a future date when Alfred would be available.

Guy directed participants [to the report](#) of the online survey about members publicising the IDUAI Accra statement. He explained that there were 14 respondents so far and [reshared the link](#) for more responses.

Rosemary explained that the reports on data literacy (focusing on media and citizen empowerment) was done but still in need of input from members. [Data Literacy: Africa transformation drivers in a digital world](#) and [Data Literacy and its impact on media performance](#).

Joshua Olufemi explained that they are involved in a project looking at the impact of AI on data governance and that conversations were ongoing on how to bring the conversation to the regional level.

### **MIN 3/JAN: FUNDRAISING AND WEBSITE UPDATE**

Guy noted that the Alliance was seeking support for an in-person workshop to develop the 2025 workplan. He had reached [out to various organisations](#) but no funding commitments had been made yet. Liz has done a proposal for a joint meeting with the Carnegie Endowment's African Policy Tracker. Anyone who can share contacts with Ford Foundation and with World Bank are asked to be in touch.

Joshua Olufemi explained that he had reached out to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) who had shown interest in the Alliance's work and promised to introduce Guy to them. Edetaen raised concern regarding the impact of the new executive order by US President Donald

Trump regarding freezing of funding and requested that Joshua finds out more about the same. Rosemary urged members to think through the executive order and come up with ways to navigate it.

Also highlighted was the importance of repositioning the Alliance in line with current donor interests, including climate change and data transformation.

Guy pointed out that the [website had been designed](#) and that there had been a training on how to update the website with him, Hlengiwe, Izak and Liz. He requested members to suggest speakers for its launch. Izak took members through the website's features and pointed out that they were open to feedback and suggestions.

#### **MIN 4/JAN: UPCOMING EVENTS**

The [calendar of relevant known events](#) was referred to.

John explained that he was part of the team hosting DRIF25 (Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum) and that it would be great to have the Alliance at the forum in Zambia, but he cautioned that the deadline for proposals was a few hours away, a point that was echoed by Thobekile from Paradigm initiative. Izak asked that members indicate in the chat whether they were planning to go so that a panel could be constituted. A number said it depended on funding. Hlengiwe offered to put together a proposal. The meeting could serve to consult on the ACHPR resolution about exploring an African instrument for AtD.

Churchill suggested proposing a session at the African Media Convention coming up in Marakesh, Morocco, 29-31 May. Guy asked members working on media issues to team up and draft a proposal. Churchill agreed to lead the team.

John suggested participating at the Cybertech conference in Zambia from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May which brings together media, civil society and tech organisations to discuss matters AI, data and tech. The call for proposals is yet to be made.

The Africa IGF is for last week in May in Tanzania.

Guy asked members to suggest speakers for the Open Data Day which will be in the week of March 1-7 and also help to publicise the event.

Edetaen suggested using the ACHPR statement action points (on an African ATD instrument) as a basis for the Alliance's engagements.

Francis brought to the attention of members the UNESCO-CODATA Project on Data Policies for Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science (DPTC). He noted that it is possible to find synergies. (See the 'UNESCO's global consultation to the deliverables of the [UNESCO-CODATA DPTC Project](#).)

Anriette noted that there will be a meeting in February in Johannesburg of the Global Digital Justice Forum. Izak and Hlengiwe are set to attend and data governance is one of the focus areas

of the meeting. She asked if any member had jointed the UN's CSTD Working Group on Data Governance at UNCTAD (arising from the Global Digital Compact). Anriette was asked to keep an eye on developments there for the Alliance.

Gilbert pointed out that there will be a regional meeting (Africa and Middle East) in Nairobi March 25-27, for Open Government Partnership (OGP) members. Edetaen explained that there would be another meeting in October which gives the Alliance more time to prepare.

Thobekile asked anyone at RightsCon and engaging in the WSIS process to let her know, explaining that there is a committed session they would be hosting on WSIS.

#### **MIN 5/JAN: FORMALISING THE ALLIANCE**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not addressed and will be included in the next meeting's agenda.

#### **MIN 6/JAN: ONLINE FORM FOR TAKING FORWARD THE ACHPR DECISION AND ATD INSTRUMENT**

Guy highlighted the [link](#), and requested people to indicate how they could publicise the Decision and what kind of Instrument they thought would be viable.

#### **MIN 7/JAN: AOB**

Noting that discussions were running over an hour, Izak proposed that we schedule the monthly meetings for 90 mins.

Edetaen noted that the Alliance needed engaged the Commission for the development of an instrument and asked that a plan be developed to work together with the special rapporteur. A small group in this regard will comprise members familiar with the Commission.

#### **MIN 8/JAN: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 1:18 pm.