



November 8, 2023

9.00 DCNverse Introduction

9:15 Opening Remarks

Mathew McMahon, Deputy Director for Citizen Exchanges, U.S. Department of State, U.S.

Nikos Panagiotou, President, DCN Global, Greece

9:45 Global panel on threats and opportunities with new technologies

10:00 Africa in the Digital Age. Where Geopolitics and Technologies Meet

Panel moderated by Aurra Kawanzaruwa, DCN Global team member, Zimbabwe

Speakers

Dr. Sam Kamau, Media & Communications Scholar Consultant, Kenya

Maha Bashri, Media, Gender Policy Analyst | Researcher | Educator | Global South, Minorities Focused, United Arabs University, Sudan

Cameron Evers, Senior Analyst, Sub-Saharan Africa, Emergent Risk International, U.S.

10:30 The Influence of Digital Communication Tools on Civic Participation and Democracy Patience

Mumbi Chanda, Online content producer, BBC Media Action, Zambia

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Challenges and Opportunities for Big Legacy Media

Emma Lacey Bordaux, Senior Director Standards and Practices, CNN, U.S.

10:50 Use of Generative AI in Newsrooms: Pros and Cons

Amanda Strydom, Senior Programme Manager, Code for Africa, Cape Town

12:10 Investigative Journalism in the Digital Age

Pascalinah Kabi, Published Author, Podcaster, and Investigative Journalist, MNN Center for Investigative Journalism, Lesotho

12:30 Foreign Digital Influence Operations to Spread Disinformation in Africa (Digital Tools, Gen-AI)

Athandiwe Saba, iLAB Managing Editor, Code for Africa, South Africa

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Workshops

Traditional and Innovation: Influencing African Storytelling in the Digital Age

Hannington Osodo, Consultant, Kenya

Ballots & Bytes: Media, Gender, and Youth in African Elections

Maha Bashri, Media, Gender Policy Analyst | Researcher | Educator | Global South, Minorities Focused, United Arabs University, Sudan

ICT Enabled Entrepreneurship & Youth Economic Participation

Bongekile Filana, National Youth ICT Council Chairperson, South Africa

AI Workshop

Dimitris Dimitriadis, Futurist, Advisor to the Special Secretary for Strategic Foresight, Presidency of Government Hellenic Republic, DCN Europe, Greece

16:00 Media Literacy in Africa

Panel moderated by Alexandre Le Voci Sayad, CEO of ZeitGeist (Education, Culture and Media), Brazil

- **Wallace Gichunge**, Director and Coordinator, CMIL, Kenya
- **Prossy Sheila Kawala**, Director, Media Initiatives at Centre for Media Literacy and Community Development (CEMCO), Uganda
- **Blaise Pascal Andzongo**, Africa Representative at UNESCO MIL Alliance; Peace Builder; Media educator; founder of @edukmedia, Central Africa Coordinator of YouVerify! Project
- **Joan Chirwa**, Founder and Coordinator Free Press Initiative Zambia, Zambia

16:30 PechaKucha presentations

November 9, 2023

9:00 Intro

9:10 Multidisciplinary, and Decolonial Perspectives Between Technology and Society

Admire Mare, Lecturer and digital researcher, University of Johannesburg, Zimbabwe

9:30 Digital Rights and Inclusion Advocacy in Africa

Judith Ogutu, Communications Manager, Paradigm Initiative, Nigeria

10:00 How Tradition and Innovation Influence African Storytelling in the Digital Age

- **Sallu Kamuskay**, CEO & Founder, SME Media Centre, Sierra Leone
- **Stephanie Kapfunde**, Digital Storyteller, Enthuse Afrika, Zimbabwe
- **Hannington Osodo**, Consultant, Kenya

Dexter Fundire, Head of Film Fellowship project, Magamba

10:30 Ethics in the Digital Age

Rachel Fischer, Parliamentary Engagement & Research Manager, OUTA - Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse, Cape Town

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Panel: Fact-checking

- **Rehobot Ayalew**, Fact-checker/ Consultant, Niqu Ethiopia, Ethiopia
- **Silas Jonathan**, Researcher, Fact checker, OSINT expert, Nigeria

Tracy Aminu, FactSpace West Africa, Ghana

- **Lee Mwiti**, Leader of Editorial team, Africa Check, South Africa
- **Bilal Mofolorunsho TAIROU**, Science & Data Journalist, Fact-Checker, Senegal
- **Sisanda Ntshinga**, Programme Manager for Engagement at Code For Africa, South Africa

12:00 Digipreneurship in Africa

Larry Kwirirayi, Writer, Podcaster, Broadcaster & Digipreneur, Three Men on a Boat, Zimbabwe

12:20 Monitoring Digital Disinformation During Elections in Africa: Insights and Strategies Silas Jonathan, Researcher, Fact checker, OSINT expert, Nigeria

12:40 Digital Surveillance and Privacy

Jimmy Kainja, Senior Lecturer Media, Communication and Cultural Studies at University, Malawi

13:00 Lunch

14.00 Effective Public Communication in the Era of Declining Public Trust in Governments and Information

Dr. Sam Kamau, Lecturer, Aga Khan University, Kenya

14.30 Panel: Digital Transformation in Africa

Ayanda Ngcebetsa, Chief Data Officer, Microsoft South Africa, South Africa Director for Data and AI at Microsoft South Africa

- **Kuda Musasiwa**, Director/Vendor in Chief, AfricAi, Zimbabwe

Gideon Maina, IoT Engineer, Code for Africa, Kenya

15:00 Coffee Break

15.30 Workshops

Establishing Trustworthy Data Providers for Africa: Combating Fake News Hannington Osodo, Consultant, Kenya

Gender Disinformation Campaigns: Building Digital Resilience

Admire Mare, Lecturer and digital researcher, University of Johannesburg, Zimbabwe

Integrating MIL Competencies and ethics Awareness into Civil Society Discourses

Rachel Fischer, Parliamentary Engagement & Research Manager, OUTA - Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse, Cape Town

Mental health for fact-checkers and journalists

Rehobot Ayalew, Fact-checker/ Consultant, Niqu Ethiopia, Ethiopia

17:00 DCN Closing Session