

Digital Transformation and Governance Implications in Africa Conference (DTGIAC)

Theme: Governing Africa's Digital Future: Transformation, Inclusion, and Resilient Institutions

Africa's rapid digital transformation is a critical enabler of the continent's long-term development vision as articulated in Agenda 2063, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Digital technologies are reshaping economies, governance, trade, public service delivery, citizen engagement, political participation, and social relations, offering new pathways for inclusive growth, institutional effectiveness, and regional integration. From e-government platforms and digital IDs to fintech, artificial intelligence, and data-driven decision-making, digital technologies present unprecedented opportunities for inclusive growth, transparency, and efficiency. However, these developments also raise critical governance challenges, including regulatory capacity gaps, digital inequality, data protection, cybersecurity risks, algorithmic bias, and questions of accountability and sovereignty.

Agenda 2063 identifies science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of a prosperous, integrated, and people-centred Africa. Similarly, AfCFTA recognizes digital trade, e-commerce, and digital services as essential to unlocking intra-African trade and industrialization. The SDGs emphasize the role of digital technologies in achieving inclusive institutions (SDG 16), reducing inequality (SDG 10), promoting decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), and building resilient infrastructure and innovation (SDG 9). Despite these opportunities, Africa's digital transformation raises profound governance challenges, including uneven digital inclusion, regulatory fragmentation, data governance concerns, cybersecurity risks, and capacity constraints within public institutions. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensuring that digital transformation advances—not undermines—Africa's development goals.

This conference provides a platform for policymakers, academics, technologists, regional institutions, civil society, and private sector actors to generate policy-relevant insights, share best practices across countries, and strengthen regional and continental cooperation on digital governance frameworks, examine how digital transformation can be effectively governed to support **Agenda 2063 aspirations**, **AfCFTA implementation**, and **SDG attainment**. It will foster dialogue on policy coherence, institutional innovation, and cross-border cooperation to build a trusted, inclusive, and development-oriented digital ecosystem for Africa.

The urgency to foster digital inclusion and advance effective data governance has never been greater, especially on the African continent. Millions remain excluded from digital opportunities due to gaps in access, skills, affordability, and infrastructure-barriers that widen existing inequalities. The main objective of the conference is to develop strategies for leveraging digital technologies to enhance governance, address the challenges posed by emerging technologies, and create inclusive systems that empower marginalized communities. It also highlights the importance of regional cooperation, public-private partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives in establishing a robust governance framework for the digital era. The conference will explore how African institutions can harness digital innovation while safeguarding democratic values, human rights, and sustainable development.

Conference Objectives

- To examine the governance implications of digital transformation for Africa's long-term development agenda
- To align digital governance frameworks with **Agenda 2063, AfCFTA protocols, and the SDGs**
- To share best practices and lessons from national, regional, and continental initiatives
- To strengthen policy coordination and institutional capacity for digital governance in Africa

Conference Topics and Discussion Areas

- Digital Governance and Public Sector Transformation (*Agenda 2063 Aspirations 1 & 3 | SDGs 9, 16*): E-government, GovTech, and digital public infrastructure | Transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption technologies.
- Policy, Regulation, and Institutional Capacity: Digital policy coherence and regulatory harmonization in Africa.
- Digital Trade, AfCFTA, and Regional Integration (*Agenda 2063 Aspiration 2 | AfCFTA | SDGs 8, 9, 17*): Digital trade, e-commerce, and cross-border services | AfCFTA digital trade protocols and regulatory harmonization
- Digital Inclusion and Social Equity (*Agenda 2063 Aspirations 1 & 6 | SDGs 4, 5, 10*): Bridging the digital divide (gender, rural–urban, youth, disability).
- Data Governance, Privacy, Cybersecurity and Digital Sovereignty (*Agenda 2063 Aspiration 3 | SDGs 16, 17*): Data protection laws and enforcement challenges | Cybersecurity strategies and critical infrastructure protection | Digital sovereignty and Africa's position in the global data economy
- Emerging Technologies and Ethical Governance (*Agenda 2063 Aspiration 1 | SDGs 9, 12*): Artificial intelligence, algorithmic governance and public decision making in Africa | Blockchain applications in public administration | Ethical frameworks for emerging technologies and Automation, future of work, and public policy.
- Democracy, Civic Space, and Digital Participation (*Agenda 2063 Aspirations 3 & 4 | SDGs 16*): Digital technologies and electoral integrity | social media, misinformation, and political communication
- Digital Economy, Innovation, and Sustainable Development (*Agenda 2063 Aspirations 1 & 7 | SDGs 8, 9, 13*): Fintech, mobile money, and financial governance/inclusion | Digital solutions for climate action and sustainability.
- Comparative and Country Case Studies (*Agenda 2063 | AfCFTA | SDGs*): Lessons from African digital transformation experiences (National digital strategies and governance outcomes) | Success stories and implementation failures.

Who Should Attend?

- Government and Public Sector Leaders
- Regulatory and Policy Experts
- Technology and Digital Transformation Leaders
- Private Sector and Industry Innovators
- Academia and Research Institutions
- Development Partners and Multilateral Organizations
- Civil Society and Advocacy Groups
- Media and Communications Professionals

Expected Outcomes

- Policy-relevant recommendations aligned with **Agenda 2063, AfCFTA**, and the **SDGs**
- Strengthened regional dialogue on digital governance
- Comparative insights, evidence and best practice frameworks
- Academic publications, policy briefs, and stakeholder networks
- Policy recommendations for strengthening digital governance in Africa
- Networks and partnerships among stakeholders

Prices Include:

- Conference Materials
- Lunch and Refreshments during Conference
- Delegate Tablet
- Access to Learning Resources
- ½ Day Tour to Tourist Attraction Sites
- Airport Pickup and Drop off for International Delegates

Prices Exclude:

- VAT
- Dinner and Accommodation.