



West Africa Digital Governance Forum

Abuja, 3 - 4 November 2025

OBJECTIVES & AGENDA

The *United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance* (UNU-EGOV), in collaboration with the *Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs* (UN DESA), and further supported by GIZ, is organizing the 2025 meeting of the WADGov Forum - *West Africa Digital Governance Forum*.

This initiative aims to join formal representatives of each West African country for the Digital Governance area and facilitate a very urgent dialogue among the different national experiences, as well as identifying opportunities and fostering new synergies at bilateral and regional levels.

It is envisaged that the Forum will increasingly play a relevant role in articulating digital governance development initiatives at different levels and voicing this cause at the international arena.

AGENDA

Day 1 | 3 November 2025

10:00-10:30	Opening Session Welcome and Introductions: • Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, Director General of NITDA - National Information Technology Development Agency, Nigeria (WADGov Forum host) • Ms. Arpine Korekryan, Governance and Public Administration Officer, Digital Government Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) • Ms. Eva Scholtes, GIZ • Prof. Delfina Soares, Director of the United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) Moderator: Prof. Luís Soares Barbosa, UNU-EGOV
10:30-11:30	Session 1: Where does the digital journey stand for West African countries? The key findings of the UN E-government Survey at global and regional level. • Ms. Arpine Korekryan, Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA: Introduction to the E-government development index (EGDI) methodology and presentation of the key findings specifically for Africa region • Mr. Junho Lee, Associate Expert, DPIDG, UN DESA: AI in the Public Sector: Introduction to the “Addendum on AI and Digital Government” of the E-government Survey • Dr. Saleem Zoughbi, UNU-EGOV: Presentation of the WADGov Report on Development of Digital Governance in Western Africa Moderator: Prof. Luís Soares Barbosa, UNU-EGOV

11:30-12:00	Coffee Break
12:00-13:30	Session 2: The Digital Frontier: West Africa's journey towards Inclusive growth Introductory Presentation: • Mr. Calvin Nangue, Strategic Advisor – ICT Skills and SADA Sustainability and Digital Infrastructure, Skills and Empowerment Directorate, Smart Africa Secretariat. Discussion Panel • Prof. Adegboyega Ojo, Carleton University, Canada • Dr. Vincent O. Olatunji, National Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Data Protection Commission • Ms. Eva Scholtes, GIZ • Ms. Arpine Korekyan, UN DESA • Dr. Saleem Zoughbi, UNU-EGOV, WADGov Coordinator Moderator: Dr. Tupokigwe Isagah, UNU-EGOV
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Session 3: Harnessing data for climate resilience and agricultural innovation in West Africa Introductory words by Ms. Eva Scholtes, GIZ Presentations of data use cases • Data Spaces, Mr. Jason Fox • Data 354, Mr. Gabriel Fonlladosa, Data & AI Project Manager • agriBORA Kenya, Mr. Kizito Odhiambo Discussion panel

	• Mr. Jason Fox, Fireware • Mr. Gabriel Fonlladosa, data354 • Mr. Kizito Odhiambo, agriBORA Kenya Moderator: Ms. Eva Scholtes, GIZ
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-18:00	Session 4: Digital government and the information space: Policy responses to misinformation and disinformation in the African context Video presentation of a WADGov Study on Digital Government and the Information Space by Dr. Mariana Lameiras (UNU-EGOV) Discussion Panel • Dr. Noella Edelmann, Principal Investigator, University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria • Dr. Mercy Makpor, Junior Research Associate, United Nations University (UNU-EGOV), Portugal • Ms. Abra Dangnan, Associate Director, Advocacy for Policy and Innovation (API), Nigeria Moderator: Prof. Luís Soares Barbosa, UNU-EGOV

Day 2 4 November 2025	
09:30-10:00	Welcome and Day 1 Summary

10:00-12:00	Session 5: Digital governance infrastructure and institutional framework as key enablers of AI adoption and public services delivery UN DESA Workshop – Part of ICEGOV Programme • Ms. Arpine Korekyan, Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA: 2024 E-government Survey Highlights: Global and Regional Highlights at national and local level • Mr. Junho Lee, Associate Expert, DPIDG, UN DESA: 2025 Trends in AI governance and implications on E-government. • Ms. Laura Dospinescu, Senior Advisor Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt. Q&A and Panel Discussion Moderator: Dr. Imen Ghedhioui, UNU-EGOV
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Session 6: Digital governance in Western Africa: Challenges and opportunities on the ground Roundtable where representatives of countries will discuss the issues of: • internet connectivity and digital infrastructure • digital literacy • public services delivery • governance mechanisms for digitalisation • cross-border digital cooperation Moderator: Prof. Elsa Estevez, UNU-EGOV

15:00-16:00	Session 7: Digital governance in Western Africa: Sustainability and cooperation Roundtable • Mr. Calvin Nangue, Strategic Advisor – ICT Skills and SADA Sustainability and Digital Infrastructure, Skills and Empowerment Directorate, Smart Africa Secretariat • Mr. YoungSik Kim, KOICA/KDS Project Manager, South Korea • Ms. Arpine Korekryan, UN DESA • Prof. Harekrishna Misra, Institute of Rural Management Anand, India • Dr. Tupokigwe Isagah, UNU-EGOV Moderator: Dr. Saleem Zoughbi, UNU-EGOV
16:00-16:30	WADGov Forum Second Meeting: Adoption of Key Messages and Closing Remarks • Ms. Arpine Korekryan, UNDESA closing remarks • Closing of WADGov Forum Second Meeting by Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of UNU
16:30-19:00	Break
19:00-20:00	ICEGOV Opening Ceremony
20:00-20:30	ICEGOV Keynote Lecture and Welcome Reception