

18 December 2024

<p>16.15 – 16.30</p>	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome remarks by H.E. Selma Bakhta Mansouri, Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria and Chairperson of the APR Committee of Focal Points.</p> <p>Remarks by Amb. Nasir Aminu, Nigerian Ambassador to the African Union</p> <p>Keynote address by H.E. Amara Kallon, Minister of Political and Public Affairs, Republic of Sierra Leone.</p> <p>Statement by Mrs Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa.</p> <p>Opening Remarks by H.E. Amb. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre, Chief Executive Officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism.</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:15</p>	<p>Session One: The Role of Digital Transformation in Shaping the Future of Democracy and Political Governance in Africa.</p> <p>Objective 1: To explore and analyse the future of governance in Africa by examining the impact of digital transformation on democratic engagement, political pluralism, peace and security, and financial integrity. This includes assessing the challenges posed by fake news, deepfakes, propaganda dissemination, and illicit financial flows, while discussing strategies to leverage digital technology for enhancing conflict prevention, response, sustainable peace, and combating illicit financial activities.</p> <p>Panel Discussion Exploring the transformative impacts of emerging digital technologies—such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, automation, and social media platforms—on political pluralism in Africa. The discussion will also address the potential of these technologies, including generative AI, cybersecurity, and cyber diplomacy, to enhance early warning systems for peace and security, while considering the challenges posed by technologically backed illicit financial flows and the role of emerging technologies in curbing such activities to support development, governance, and economic stability in Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Transformative Impact of Emerging Digital Technology Platforms (such as social media, AI) on Political Pluralism in Africa: Reflection on the Nigerian Experience by H.E. Dr Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications, Digital Economy and Innovation, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

FUTURE OF GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

EXPLORING THE NEXUS BETWEEN GOVERNANCE AND TECHNOLOGY: Assessing the Impact of Rapid Technological Advancements on Governance and Forecasting the future of Governance in Africa

18 December 2024, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- **How Africa is leveraging technology for conflict prevention and the early warning system by Amb. Salah Siddig Hammad**, Head of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat at the African Union (AU).
- **Transforming the Digital Media Landscape and the Impact of Technology on Democracy, Political Governance and Peace & Security by Mr Nduka Obaigbena**, Chairman & Editor-in-Chief, THISDAY Media Group and ARISE News Channel, Nigeria.
- **Advancing Cyber Diplomacy as a Pathway to Peace and Constructive Dispute Resolution in Africa by Dr. Vasu Gounden**, Executive Director, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

Panellists:

[Democratic engagement and Pluralism]

- **Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi**, Director-General, National Information Technology Development Agency, Nigeria.
- **Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro**, Chief of Digital Government at United Nation, DESA - Public Institutions and Digital Government, United Nations
- **Amb. Ashraf Rashed**, Chair of the APRM Continental Coordinating Committee of the National Governing Council (NGC), Arab Republic of Egypt
- **Prof Erika Kraemer-Mbula**, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

[Peace and Security]

- **Mr Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola**, Member AU Cybersecurity Experts Group and Strategic Road Map Action Plan Committee of the Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB), Nigeria.
- **Ms Mercy Ndegwa**, Director Public Policy, East & Horn of Africa | Economic Policy Lead, Meta / Facebook, Africa
- **Dr Vincent Olatunji**, Commissioner, Nigeria Data Protection Commission, Nigeria.
- **Dr Nomalanga Mashinini**, Senior Lecturer, Witz University

[Illicit Financial Flow]

- **Dr. Jean Phillipo**, Director General, Financial Intelligence Authority, Malawi

Moderator: Prof. Desmond Oriakhogba, Associate Professor, Department of Private Law at the UWC

Session Two: **Impact of digital transformation on economic governance and resource management In Africa.**

17:15 – 17:30

Objective: To examine the influence of digital transformation on economic governance, efficiency of SOEs and its implications for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and discuss strategies to harness the potential benefits and address the challenges arising from this technological transformation.

Panel Discussion | Enhance financial inclusion, facilitate macroeconomic growth, and integrate Africa's economy to the world leading economies through innovation and cutting-edge emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, automation, blockchain, and central bank digital currency.

- Reflections on the benefit of adopting digital payment systems to ensure efficient payment system to address financial trade, currency manipulation and economic challenges by **Mike Ogbalu III**, CEO of PAPSS.

Panellists:

- **Uyoyo Edosio**, Principal Innovation and Digital Expert, AfDB, South Africa.
- **Prof Elvis Avenyo**, Associate Professor, Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg
- **Arushi Goel**, Policy Lead, Middle East and Africa, Chainalysis, United Arab Emirates.

Moderator: Dr Nomalanga Mashinini, Senior Lecturer, Witz University

Discussion

Session Three: Evolution of digital transformation on corporate governance

Objective: To discuss and evaluate the impact of the digital transformation on corporate and public sector governance in Africa, understanding its implications for private and public organizations, and identify strategies to adapt to the changing landscape of works and value delivery.

Panel Discussion | Challenges and opportunities organizations / member states face in adapting their corporate governance practices to support agile decision-making, corporate culture, ethical practices, social responsibility, risk management, promote innovation, enhance transparency, accountability issues [associated with AI implementation], build trust with stakeholders while adapting corporate governance frameworks to comply with evolving regulations in the digital landscape.

Panellists:

- **Prof. Desmond Oriakhogba**, Associate Professor, Department of Private Law at the UWC
- **Mr Adeyinka Adeyemi**, Director General, Africa eGovernance Conference Initiative, Rwanda
- **Jon Foster-Pedley**, Vice President, British Chamber of Business in Southern Africa and Dean and Director, Henley Business School Africa

Moderator: Prof Chris Gibbons and Alicia Clark, Centre for Global Africa

17h30 – 17:45

17:45 – 18:00

Session Four: Implication of technology on Socio-Economic Development in Africa

Objective: To discuss and evaluate the impact of the digital transformation on socio-economic development, identify opportunities and challenges, and explore strategies to harness technological advancements for inclusive and sustainable economic growth/prosperity for Africans.

Panel Discussion | The role of advanced technologies in driving inclusive socio-economic growth, stimulating job creation, eradicating poverty, and transforming key high-value sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, energy, finance, and education.

- **Post-Pandemic Sierra Leone: Leveraging Technology to Forge a Resilient Health System by H.E. Amara Kallon**, Minister of Political and Public Affairs, Sierra Leone.
- **Leveraging advanced technologies to propel sectoral development and innovation in Africa by Prof Chris Gibbons**, Board Member at the Centre for Global Africa and Chief Health Innovation Adviser for Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Connect2Health Task Force
- **Prof. Prof Ezraah Aharone**, Center for Global Africa.

Moderator: Alicia Clark, Centre for Global Africa

Discussion

Closing Session

Closing remarks and vote of thanks

H.E. Amb. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre, Chief Executive Officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Ambassador Lineekela J. Mboti, APRM National Governing Council (NGC), Republic of Namibia.

H.E. Amara Kallon, Minister of Political and Public Affairs, Sierra Leone.

End of Conference