

TOP: Speaking Notes

Occasion: Burundi National Data Strategy Validation Workshop

Organised by: UNECA, Ministry of ...

Topic: Closing of the Tanzania Data Governance Inception Workshop

Logistics: Friday, 7th November 2025 0900-1300 Burundi Time

Location: Royal Palace, Burundi

Contribution: 5 Minutes by Paul Kithinji, Data Policy Advisor – DataCipation GIZ African Union.

I. Objectives of the opening remarks:

- Acknowledge the efforts made by Burundi locally, regionally and continentally in advancing digital policy development and, in particular, data governance.
- Affirm the GIZ African Union as a committed partner to the EAC and Burundi in particular, in promoting inclusive, secure and rights-based digital and data policies.
- Present the GIZ's commitment to supporting fair, inclusive and rights-based digital transformation in Africa under the AU vision 2063, the African Union Data Framework and the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy.

II. Opening Remarks

Your excellency,

Madame Francine INARUKUNDO – Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Digital Economy

Dr. Mactar Seck – Chief of Emerging and Frontier Technologies, Innovation and Digital Transformation Section United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Madam Christelle Onana – Senior Policy Analyst, AUDA-NEPAD

Representatives from the Public and Private Sectors, Civil Society Organisations and Academia

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my distinguished honor for me to join you today at Burundi's National Data Strategy Validation Workshop and in particular in my capacity on behalf of the German Government and the GIZ African Union.
- I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the leadership of Burundi and in particular, the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Digital Economy for the phenomenal coordination and collaboration that has led us to this point. You have made considerable effort to bring together all stakeholders necessary to develop this strategy, a feat not to be taken lightly.
- We would also like to give a special thanks to our key implementation partners, the AUC as lead by Madam. Souhila Amazouz, the AUDA-NEPAD and UNECA as lead by Dr. Mactar Seck, for making this implementation exercise a great success. This would not be possible without you.
- On the continent and within the region, Burundi remains an integral player in shaping digital realities, as evidenced by the considerable contribution and consistent participation in the development of the EAC Data Governance Policy Framework, which was validated in

Kigali, Rwanda in October 2024 and is set to be adopted at the next EAC Heads of State Summit.

- Locally, we are delighted to hear the efforts being made to enact a Data Protection and Privacy Law. This development is highly anticipated as it will mean regionally and continentally Burundi will now further the principles espoused under the African Union Data Policy Framework and most importantly move closer to implementing the Malabo Convention.
- As GIZ African Union we firmly believe in a future where the use of data is done fairly, inclusively and securely. We remain committed to Burundi in its efforts to build a resilient and prosperous data governance ecosystem harmonised with the African Union Data Policy Framework.
- Through the Data Governance in Africa Initiative, the EU, alongside Germany, Belgium, Estonia, Finland and France, has committed a total of 59 million EUR to this cause. The initiative supports the harmonisation of data policies on the continent and strengthens the foundation for data-driven societies and economies. The initiative is implemented through three key focus areas:
 - i. Data Policy – which supports the development of harmonised data governance policy frameworks;
 - ii. Data value Creation – which unlocks the potential for data-driven value creation;
 - iii. Data Infrastructure – which supports investments in green and secure data infrastructure.
- Through this initiative, we seek to maximise secure cross-border data flows through strengthened coordination, which will enable a more vibrant and equitable data economy across Africa.
- At the same time, we recognise the importance of strong and diverse partnerships. Public, private, civil society, and academic institutions all have a role to play. The co-creation of

data policy must reflect this diversity and actively work to include divergent voices and opinion on matters data and digital governance in Burundi. I would like to congratulate the leadership of Burundi for making this particularly possible as evidenced today.

- This validation exercise marks the start of a new phase, a new dawn further pushing Burundi forward in realizing its vision of a connected, sovereign and inclusive country, where data becomes a strategic public good for innovation and sustainable development. A vision Kenya GIZ remains committed to.
- Together let us build a digital economy based on inclusivity, security and rights based digital transformation.
- Merci beaucoup