ID4AFRICA 2023
23-25 MAY | NAIROBI | KENYA

WORKSHOP 2
MORNING

POLICY AND REGULATORY
CHALLENGES FOR DIGITAL IDENTITY:
THE AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

CHAIRING PARTNERS

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

AIPC
African Identity Policy Cohort

POLICY & REGULATORY CHALLENGES FOR DIGITAL IDENTITY: THE AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

WORKSHOP 2 CONCEPT NOTE
25 MAY 2023: 08:30 – 12:30

MOTIVATION

One of the most notable areas of activity over the last decade worldwide has been the significant number of legal updates and reforms of laws which impact identity, civil registration, and data protection rights.

These activities have been particularly intense across the African continent where in many cases the existing laws have become incompatible and outdated in the digital context of identity. There is also a growing concern about the inherent risks associated with shifts towards an increasingly digital and data rich world, with its potential to menace personal privacy. In addition, there are unresolved matters pertaining to key fundamental questions about the definition of identity, gender issues and the legally recognized set of identifiers, and the acceptable procedures for issuing them, among other matters.

In this perfect storm of disruptive occurrences, it is necessary for countries to reform their laws holistically as they endeavor to make identity systems more inclusive, non-discriminatory, protective

of privacy and individual rights, and better adapted to the rapidly evolving digital context. However, there is no one-size-fits-all approach and individual countries have been applying different methods of reformation to their laws to suite their unique contexts. This workshop will be a *tour de force* of insights gathered from African countries that have either completed or are in the process of reforming the laws, policies and regulations that impact identity, civil registration, and digital transformation.

OBJECTIVES

This workshop aims to:

- Document and understand the lessons learned from the various processes of legal reforms in different African countries.
- Determine commonalities and principles that were adopted to guide such activities.
- Examine which stakeholders are most important in reforming laws and how they participate in the process.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

To identify some of the best practices that seem to be particularly effective in reforming laws concerning digital identity development based on the collective experiences of several African countries, and to make them available as a valuable benchmark that can be used to guide many countries going forward.

FORMAT

Discussants hand-selected in advance by ID4AFRICA as experts in their respective fields will facilitate an interactive conversation with roundtable Contributors who will be asked to share their relevant in-country experiences.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This workshop is intended for identity professionals who are involved in the policy and legal aspects of identity systems, civil registration, and digital transformation. Subject matter experts, consultants and development partners working in this field are also encouraged to participate. There is a limit of 15 seats for contributors (who will be selected based on merit and on first-come-first-served basis through a selection process in March). Beyond the core contributors, participants can attend as audience only.

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