



The 2nd Pan African Media Councils' Summit 2025 & Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the **Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA)**

Theme: Advancing Media and Communication Regulations for Journalism Excellence in Africa

Venue: Arusha International Conference Centre,
Lush Gardens Hotel, Arusha

Dates: 14th – 17th, July, 2025



Tanzania Anthem

God bless Africa
Bless its leaders
Wisdom, unity and peace
These are our shields
Africa and its people

Chorus I:
Bless Africa, Bless Africa
Bless us, the children of Africa

II
God bless Tanzania
Grant eternal freedom and unity
To its women, men and children
God bless
Tanzania and its people

Chorus II:
Bless Tanzania, Bless Tanzania
Bless us, the children of Tanzania

Africa Union Anthem

I

Let us all unite and celebrate together
The victories won for our liberation
Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together
To defend our liberty and unity

Chorus:

O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life

II

Let us all unite and sing together
To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny
Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together
For lasting peace and justice on earth

Chorus

III

Let us all unite and toil together
To give the best we have to Africa
The cradle of mankind and fount of culture
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.

Chorus

WELCOMING MESSAGE



Mr. Ernest Sungura, **Chairperson, Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA)** **Executive Secretary, Media Council of Tanzania**

It is with great honour and enthusiasm that I welcome all delegates from across the World to the 2nd Pan African Media Councils Summit 2025, under the theme “Advancing Media and Communication Regulations for Journalism Excellence in Africa.”

This summit offers a unique opportunity for media and communication regulators, practitioners, and thought leaders to collectively reflect, reimagine, and reinforce the role of effective regulation in safeguarding professionalism and public trust in journalism.

It is time that professionals and thought leaders from media and communication ecosystem came together to reflect and develop approaches that will align Africa's growth with the rest of the world with specific focus on content moderation and media regulation.

Your voice, your ideas, and your presence matter.

Karibuni Sana!



Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA)

The Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA) is a continental initiative founded to unite independent media content regulatory bodies across Africa. This network emerged following a consultative meeting hosted by the Press Council of South Africa, which brought together independent statutory and non-statutory media regulatory bodies. These bodies operate autonomously, without government interference in their decision-making processes.

NIMCA is envisioned as a collaborative platform through which African media councils can advance shared values, exchange expertise, and collectively uphold professional standards in journalism and content regulation. The establishment of the network is guided by the principles of solidarity, editorial independence, and freedom of expression.

Vision

Media freedom, accountability, and credible journalism as a public good.

Mission

To strengthen independent media content regulatory bodies in Africa and promote self- or co-regulation models that support professional journalism standards, media credibility, and the principles of media freedom and freedom of expression.

Core Values

NIMCA is committed to:

- Freedom of expression
- Credible and accountable media
- Adherence to the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 2019)

Goal

To promote and protect the mutual interests of independent media regulatory bodies across Africa for the benefit of the media sector and to ensure universal access to accurate, ethical, and credible information by the public.

Specific Objectives

1. Share lessons and experiences on media self- or co-regulation among member councils.
2. Promote and safeguard the collective interests of members.
3. Engage with international media development agencies to secure financial and technical support.
4. Advocate for press freedom, democracy, and good governance in Africa.
5. Address fragmentation in the media space and amplify a united voice on issues such as editorial independence and journalist safety.
6. Promote ethical journalism while combating misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech.
7. Formulate collective positions in international multilateral forums and negotiations within the communications ecosystem.
8. Advocate for gender equality and inclusivity in media regulation practices.
9. Explore the role of media councils in governing digital platforms and managing platform-media relations.

Governance Structure

- **Annual Assembly:** The supreme decision-making body of NIMCA.
- **Executive Board:** Composed of representatives (at least one of whom must be a woman) from the regional blocs – Southern, Eastern, Western, and Northern Africa. The Board is chaired by an elected Chairperson.
- **Sub-Board Committees:** Tasked with contemporary issues such as:
 - o Artificial Intelligence and media
 - o Gender inclusivity
 - o Climate change
 - o Media sustainability



INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Inaugural Executive Board



Mr. Ernest Sungura,
Chairperson, NIMCA Executive
Secretary, Media Council of Tanzania



Phathiswa Magopeni,
Executive Director, Press Council of
South Africa



George Sarpong
Chief Executive Officer National
Media Commission of Ghana



Latiefa Mobara
Former Executive Director Press
Council of South Africa



Kennedy Mambwe
Chairperson, Media Self-Regulation
Council of Zambia



Co-opted member: Izak Minnaar, -
South Africa



Ziada Kilobo,
Board Secretary: Tanzania



NIMCA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



BRYAN TOSHI BWANA – LEAD TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

BRYAN TOSHI BWANA IS A RENOWNED CORPORATE STRATEGIST AND AN ADVOCATE FOR SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES UTILIZATION AND IN AFRICA.

Toshi developed a passion for communications, environmental conservation and sustainability from a young age, inspired by his late mother Nyegyerieze Tumusiime. He grew up in a family of modest means, but his parents emphasized the importance of education and encouraged him to pursue interests in Citizen Science Environmental Diplomacy.

Bryan Toshi is the Founding Trustees for Umoja Conservation Trust, a pan African boy charged with Natural Resources And Wildlife Research where he contributed to several projects focused on conservation biology and sustainable natural resources management.

Umoja Conservation Trust also focuses on minimising the impact of climate change on health, forest ecosystems and sustainable development.

He is a Citizen Science and Advocacy expert with experience working with local communities and witnessing devastations



Victor Bwire, OGW – Director Media Training and Development, Media Council of Kenya

VICTOR BWIRE, OGW – DIRECTOR MEDIA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, MEDIA COUNCIL OF KENYA

He is a trained and practicing journalists and communication expert, currently serving as the Director, Media Training and Development at the Media Council of Kenya. He is a director at the East African Press Councils (EAPC), member of the technical committee for the Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA).

He is a communication and media consultant and trainer, media development strategist, trainer, curriculum development specialist, content moderation and freedom of expression specialist, and experienced in organization management. His current interests on training, panel discussions and writing in media and communications include Ethics and use of Artificial Intelligence in journalism, data journalism, media information and digital literacy, constructive journalism, safety and protection of journalists, Information integrity and media practice, media regulation and content moderation.

He has served as a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Media Policy Review in Kenya, Media Council Act 2013 review and development of the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication draft Bill. He has served on the Kenya National Commission on UNESCO on the expert committee on Information and Communication and currently a member of the National Coalition on content moderation and platform regulation in Kenya.

He was a technical lead on the Media Council of Kenya working group on the development of Media Guidelines on reporting Elections, Media Guidelines on media Use of Artificial Intelligence, Guidelines on use of social media, and Data protection for media in Kenya, Safety and Protection of journalists training manual, Trauma Counselling for Kenya journalist's guidelines and Media Guidelines for reporting COVID 19 guidelines.

He worked as a journalist and writer for the Daily Nation, the Standard, People Daily and currently writes for Citizen TV blog, People Daily and the Star newspapers.



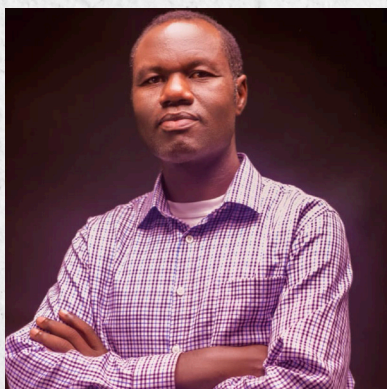
NIMCA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



ZIADA KILOBO,

INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST, MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA

Institutional Sustainability Specialist - Ms. Ziada A. Kilobo is responsible for Integrating sustainability into the core operations and culture of an organization, ensuring comprehensive transformative strategies and framework for monitoring, evaluation and learning are designed and executed aimed at sustaining the optimal economic value of MCT. She heads Media Council of Tanzania Zanzibar Office, and responsible for the Council Monitoring and Evaluation of its activities. She is the Board Secretary of NIMCA Board. For over 15 yrs she has been managing the utilization of human and material resources and providing effective logistical support to programme units so that MCT objectives are realized efficiently and with quality. She has been a key person in supporting the MCT Governance and Institutional monitoring and strengthening for the past nine years. She is versed in Strategic planning and budgeting, Strategic HR Planning, Recruitment and Talent Acquisition, Performance Management, Training and Development, Contract Management, Advocacy, Mediation and Arbitration and Project Management. She has Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Human Resource Management from Washington International University-U.S.A, Masters in Business Administration, from Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), and Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication from University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).



JOSEPHAT MWANZI (PROGRAM MANAGER AT THE MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA (MCT))

Josephat Mwanzi is a Program Manager at the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), where he spearheads transformative media initiatives. With over 20 years of extensive experience both locally and internationally, he has made significant contributions to the field. Notably, he served as a special reporter for USA Today and The Guardian during President Barack Obama's visits to Africa. His career encompasses varied positions, including Executive Editor at BBC Media Action and Reporter for the BBC Swahili Service. Josephat has also played a remarkable role in mentoring community radio stations in Tanzania and across Africa through the Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF) and Farm Radio International (FRI), advocating for high-quality content and amplifying rural voices. In addition to his professional accomplishments, he has contributed to the development of future media professionals as a part-time lecturer at different journalism institutions such as the University of Dar es Salaam's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



ELIZABETH HELLEN WACHUKA

BUSINESS STRATEGY CONSULTANT | PROCESS IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST | ISO 9001:2015 LEAD AUDITOR

Elizabeth Hellen Wachuka is a seasoned Business Management Consultant with over 25 years of experience in business strategy, process engineering and re-engineering, and institutional development across the public and private sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing, is a certified Lead Auditor for ISO 9001:2015, and a Kaizen Trainer, with a strong focus on systems strengthening and continuous improvement.

As Director of Zillic East Africa Ltd, Liz supports organizations in aligning their strategic goals with operational processes, embedding quality control systems, and driving results through tailored Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) frameworks. Her approach emphasizes not just compliance but performance, learning, and sustainability, making her a trusted advisor to boards, leadership teams, and development partners alike.

For the 2nd Pan African Media Councils' Summit 2025, Liz brings her expertise to the forefront in the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) function – ensuring that the Summit's proceedings, resolutions, and outcomes are tracked, assessed, and translated into actionable insights for strategic learning.

Notably, Liz was also part of the technical team involved in the early design of NIMCA, contributing to the foundation that shaped the very vision this Summit now builds upon.



NIMCA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



Ethiopia



Tanzania



Namibia



Zambia



Kenya



Uganda



Rwanda



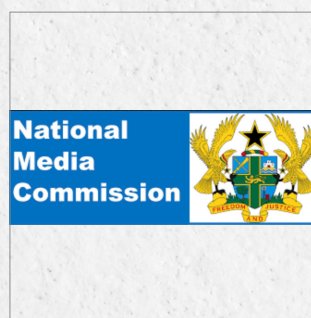
Malawi



Zimbabwe



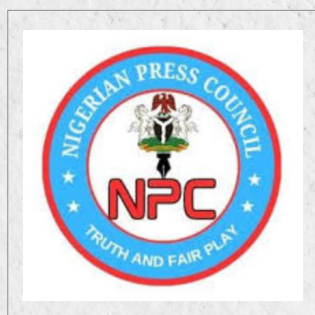
South Africa



Ghana



Zimbabwe



Nigeria

East Africa Press Councils (EAPC)

Introduction



The East Africa Press Councils (EAPC) is a registered body bringing together media regulatory and development organizations from the East African region embracing the spirit and aspirations of the East African community.

Among other things, EAPC aims to promote and protect free, independent, professional and accountable media in East Africa as well as promote media pluralism and diversity. The association's responsibility is to strengthen and promote the institution of independent media regulatory bodies in East Africa, to create awareness and promote the concept of self-regulation through Press/Media Councils as a viable option of holding the media accountable in the region.

EAPC also creates a forum through which media regulatory bodies in the region share experiences and exchange information on emerging issues in media regulation and undertake all activities as may be determined from time to time key among them being media freedom and advocacy, media sustainability, journalism excellence and professionalism, media advisory and media research.

Vision

Promoting regional media pluralism, diversity, independence and professionalism

Mission

To strengthen regional media integration through sustainable approaches, strategic coherence, competitive advantage while leveraging on strategic partnerships

Membership

EAPC embraces the spirit and aspirations of East African Community and therefore derives members from across the East African Community region. Currently there are 6 partner media regulatory bodies and media development agencies drawn from Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. These media regulatory bodies and media development agencies are:

1. Media Council of Kenya
2. Media Council of Uganda
3. Media Council of Tanzania
4. Rwanda Media Commission

5. Union Nationale de la Presse du Congo

6. Federation of Somali Journalists

Mandate and Functions

EAPC's constitution outlines its broad mandate, which includes:

- Defending freedom of expression and press freedom.
- Advancing media pluralism and content diversity.
- Strengthening independent media regulation in East Africa.
- Promoting the concept and practice of self-regulation via national press councils.
- Facilitating experience sharing on emerging issues in media governance.
- Harmonizing journalism codes of ethics within the region.
- Mobilizing resources to support its activities and objectives.

Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** An East Africa with a robust media demonstrating media pluralism, diversity, independence, and professionalism.
- **Mission:** To strengthen regional media integration through sustainable approaches, strategic coherence, and competitive advantage while leveraging strategic partnerships.

Strategic Focus Areas

EAPC's initial strategic blueprint identifies five key result areas to steer media growth and regional collaboration:

- 1. Viable Media Environment** – Creating policies and frameworks that ensure sustainability and freedom for media operations.
- 2. Technological Adoption** – Encouraging the integration of new media technologies in newsrooms and media enterprises.
- 3. Media Innovation and Growth** – Supporting startups, digital platforms, and media ventures that adapt to changing media consumption patterns.
- 4. Content Development and Collaboration** – Facilitating partnerships to improve content diversity, quality, and reach.
- 5. Institutional Sustainability** – Strengthening EAPC's internal capacity and long-term operational effectiveness.

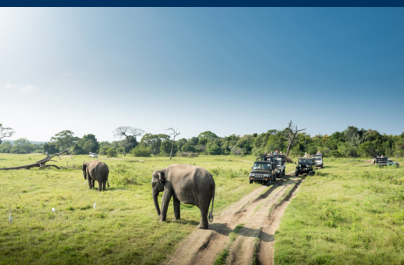


The 2nd Pan African Media Councils' Summit 2025 & Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA) - Programme

Theme: Advancing Media and Communication Regulations for Journalism Excellence in Africa

Venue: Arusha International Conference Centre,
Lush Gardens Hotel, Arusha

Dates: 14th – 17th, July, 2025



Auditorium: Lush Garden Hotel, Obama hall

**Room: Lush Garden Hotel,
Kenyatta & Boardroom**

Sunday, 13 July 2025

- Arrival and transfer of delegates to the respective hotels in Arusha
- NIMCA Board Meeting at Lush Garden Hotel at 16.00 hours
- Registration at Lush Garden hotel from 14.00 to 18.00 hours



Auditorium: Lush Garden Hotel, Obama hall		Room: Lush Garden Hotel, Kenyatta & Boardroom
Monday, 14 July 2025		
08.00	Arrival and registration at Lush garden hotel, Obama hall	
09.00	Who is in the room and welcome remarks by NIMCA Chairperson, Ernest Sungura.	
09.30	Address on Emerging Issues in Regional Integration: The place of East Africa media and digital platform protocol by Secretary General, HE Veronica Nduva.	
09.40	Keynote Address on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa by African Commission on Human and People' Rights (ACHPR) of the African Union, Special Rapporteur, Hon. Ourveena Geereesha Topsy – Sonoo.	
9.50	Keynote Address "How to support an enabling environment to reinforce media professionalism in Africa and beyond-Assistant Director General for Communications and Information, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France, Dr. Tawfik Jelassi	
	Moderator: Innocent Mungu, Head of PR and Communication - Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC), Tanzania	
10.00	<p>Panel Discussion: Regulating for Resilience: African Media Councils, Independence, and the Future of Accountability Introduced by Musawenkosi Ndlovu, Associate Professor, Centre for Film & Media Studies, University of Cape Town, on mapping independent journalism: A content analysis of Academic Discourse in African Scholarship (5 minutes) And Dr. Taryn de Vega, Lecturer, School of Journalism and Media Studies Rhodes University on African media accountability research: An analysis of councils, ethical codes and accountability systems (5 minutes)</p> <p>In the face of political pressure, digital disruption, and public trust deficits, the role of media regulatory bodies has come under renewed scrutiny. This panel offers a timely and in-depth reflection on the diverse models of media and communications regulation across Africa spanning both self-regulatory councils and statutory bodies.</p> <p>The session will therefore more specifically explore Independent Media and Communications Regulation Models, Functions, Powers, Funding, Codes, media independence and other challenges: Reflections and experience from African media councils both self-regulatory and statutory regulatory bodies</p> <p>Panellists: 1) Mr. Emmanuel Mugisha – Executive Secretary Rwanda Media Commission 2) Mr. David Omwoyo, Chief Executive Officer of the Media Council of Kenya. 3) Ms. Phathiswa Magopeni, Executive Director of the Press Council of South Africa 4) Mr. Ernest Sungura, Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania. Moderator: Zoé Titus, NMT Media Foundation</p>	
11.00	Health Break	



Auditorium: Lush Garden Hotel, Obama hall		Room: Lush Garden Hotel, Kenyatta & Boardroom
11:30	<p>Reflections and experience from Asia and Europe on Media and Communication models, powers, funding, codes and challenges of the media regulatory bodies. Moderator: Mr. Maina Muiruri, Veteran Journalist and Accredited Media Trainer, Kenya</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Qais Jumaa Al – Radwani, President, Writers Without Borders in the Middle East, Iraq – Baghdad • Sudhir Panda, Member, Designate, Press Council of India, Editor • Ognian Zlatev, Senior Expert Communications for the EU Commission, Brussels, Belgium. 	<p>NIMCA AGM, session 1</p> <p>BRIEFING: From Cape Town to Arusha</p> <p>Report-back from the inaugural board tasked to set up the organization with the objective “to protect and promote the mutual interests of independent media councils in Africa in order to promote media freedom and universal access to credible news and information by the public,” as resolved at the May 2024 Africa Media Councils meeting in Cape Town.</p> <p>12:00 NIMCA Assembly AGM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening 2. Deliberations on the proposed constitution
13:00	Lunch Break	
14:00	<p>Journalism in the Age of Data and Digital Rights: Global Approaches from Africa, Asia, and Europe</p> <p>Description: Journalism approaches on use of data under the emerging technologies, privacy, digital rights and personal data protection regulations: Building Trust in the Digital Information Age, the experience from Africa, Asia and Europe.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immaculate Kassait, Data Commissioner Office of Data Protection Commission, Kenya 2. Aye Chan, General Secretary, Myanmar Press Council 3. C.K. Nayak, President, Press Association, India 4. Peter Okello Jabweli, Vice Chairperson, Media Council of Uganda 5. Innocent Mungu, Head of PR and Communication - Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC), Tanzania 6. Tamar Atabarut, Member, Turkey Press Council, Turkey 7. Ognian Zlatev, Senior Expert Communication for EU Commission <p>Moderator: Dr Emilyy Comfort Maraccho - Associate Professor of Media Studies, Chair Media, Democracy and Development Research Group (Uganda Christian University).</p>	<p>NIMCA Assembly AGM, session 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Adoption of the constitution 4. Election of the President of the Assembly 5. 2026 NIMCA AGM host 6. Appointment of the Board members 7. Adoption of constitutional resolutions 8. Endorsement of transitional arrangements 9. Appointment of auditors 10. Membership and admission 11. Code of ethics and conduct 12. Appointment of committees
16:00	Excursion 1: Visit to African Arts Gallery	



Auditorium: Lush Garden Hotel, Obama hall		Room: Lush Garden Hotel, Kenyatta & Boardroom
18.00	<p>Cocktail Party: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment and refreshments <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome remarks <input type="checkbox"/> MCT Journey documentary <input type="checkbox"/> Celebration: Launch speeches <input type="checkbox"/> Launch of EAPC Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027 <p>Special Guests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EAC Secretary General, H.E Veronica Nduva. 2. Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports of the United Republic of Tanzania, Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi 	
20.00	Transfer back to the hotels	



Auditorium: Simba Conference Hall, AICC		Room: Twiga Hall, 7th Floor, AICC
Tuesday, 15 July 2025		
8.00	Arrival and registration	
9.00	Arrival of the Guest of Honor and Exhibition visits by H.E Dr Philip Isdor Mpango, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania	
1.30	National Anthem; East Africa Anthem; African Union Anthem Who is in the room and Welcome remarks by MCT Executive Secretary and NIMCA Chairperson, Ernest Sungura	
9.35	Remarks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kenan Kihongosi, Arusha Regional Commissioner, Susan Ngongi Namondo, UN Resident Coordinator, Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director General for Communications and Information (UNESCO), 	
9.45	Recognition and Remarks <ol style="list-style-type: none"> MCT @30 Special Awards Recognition Statement by MCT Executive Secretary, Ernest Sungura Remarks by the Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports of the United Republic of Tanzania, Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi (also inviting for greetings the Minister of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Tabia Maulid) Awarding ceremony led by the MCT Executive Secretary, Ernest Sungura and the Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports of the United Republic of Tanzania, Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi who will invite the Guest of Honor to give the special awards. Appreciation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of the Private Media <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of the late Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere family <input type="checkbox"/> President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi 	
10.15	Address by Chief Guest H.E Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania	
	Moderator: Innocent Mungu, Head of PR and Communication - Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC), Tanzania	
11.00	Health Break	



Auditorium: Simba Conference Hall, AICC	Room: Twiga Hall, 7th Floor, AICC
<p>11.30</p> <p>Policy and Power Ministers' Roundtable: The Roles of African Governments in Shaping the Future of Media: Policy, Investment, and Innovation in a Changing Digital Landscape</p> <p>Description: As Africa experiences rapid digital transformation, the role of governments in shaping the future of media has never been more critical. This high-level session brings together key policymakers from across the continent to explore how policy, investment, and innovation can be leveraged to build resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking media ecosystems. It is a session to help reflect on fostering digital infrastructure, funding public interest journalism, and nurturing local content industries as African governments continue to grapple with the complex balance between regulation and rights, control and creativity.</p> <p>Roundtable members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi – Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Tanzania Hon. Jerry Silaa, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Tanzania Hon. Cornelius Mweetwa (MP) – Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Zambia <p>Moderator: Prof. Nancy Booker, Professor and the Dean at the Graduate School of Media and Communications Aga Khan University, Kenya</p>	<p>NIMCA workshop on combating misinformation and disinformation in the digital sphere</p> <p>African digital rights instruments for freedom of expression, access to information and information integrity - Hon Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, the African Special Rapporteur</p> <p>UNESCO guidelines on platform governance: the role of media councils - UNESCO Assistant Director General for Communications and Information, Dr. Tawfik Jelassi</p> <p>Case study: Algeria - Combating Misinformation and Fake News by Prof Laeed Zaghlami (10 mins)</p> <p>Canvassing media council views on ACHPR resolutions on public service content; fact checking, platform accountability and information integrity; and access to data.</p> <p>Facilitators: Izak Minnaar and Lister Namumba-Rikhotso</p>



Auditorium: Simba Conference Hall, AICC		Room: Twiga Hall, 7th Floor, AICC
13.00	Lunch Break	<p>NIMCA working lunch: group discussions on NIMCA priorities, resolutions and programme of action</p> <p>Group 1: NIMCA priorities for the next year and how best to advocate for freedom of the media, democracy, and good governance and influence leadership in African countries to promote freedom of expression</p> <p>Group 2: Funding sources and fundraising for independent media regulation in Africa – how to engage international media development agencies and other donors on securing financial and other support for Independent Media Councils and NIMCA</p> <p>Group 3: Member services and recruitment criteria for new councils to join NIMCA</p>



Auditorium: Simba Conference Hall, AICC		Room: Twiga Hall, 7th Floor, AICC
14.30	<p>Media diversity and Inclusivity: Embedding Disability Equality in the Media Policy and Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Case study 3: UNESCO – Equality in media content and operations for persons with disabilities by Al Amin Yusuph, Unesco CI Regional advisor, Zimbabwe (10 minutes) <p>Panel Discussion topic 2: Media diversity and Inclusivity: Embedding Disability Equality in the Media Policy and Practice</p> <p>Description: Media has the power to shape perceptions, challenge stigma, and amplify voices—but for persons with disabilities, media spaces often remain inaccessible, under-representative, or stereotypical. This session dives into how media policy, regulation, and newsroom practices can be reimagined to embed disability equality as a core value, not an afterthought.</p> <p>The discussions will explore Gaps and opportunities in current media policies and regulatory frameworks regarding disability inclusion; Best practices for promoting accessible content, inclusive storytelling, and fair representation across platforms; How media houses can integrate universal design, assistive technologies, and inclusive newsroom cultures; Strategies to mainstream disability voices in editorial leadership, content creation, and audience engagement</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Al Amin Yusuph, UNESCO, Unesco CI Regional advisor – Harare 2. Juddie Kaberia – Senior Project Manager at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Kenya 3. Dr Mzuri Issa – Executive Director, TAMWA-Zanzibar 4. Fausta Musokwa, IMS Programme Manager, Tanzania 5. Paulo Ekocho - Chairperson, Media Council of Uganda <p>Moderator: Rosemary Mwakitwange, Media Consultant, Tanzania</p>	<p>NIMCA workshop on research brief for African media accountability research: An analysis of councils, ethical codes, and accountability systems: Dr Taryn de Vega</p> <p>The study seeks to conduct in-depth research of councils, their functionality, and the ethical standards espoused in their codes of conduct, with the goal of improving self-regulation and professional standards across the continent. The presentation will introduce the proposed research project, the rationale, the countries selected for the project, and initial findings on the information present and omitted from the codes of conduct included in the study.</p> <p>Facilitator: Zoé Titus, NMT Media Foundation</p> <p>Case study: Rwanda self-regulation - Effectiveness and challenges of the Rwanda Media Commission, by Jean-Pierre Uwimana (10 mins)</p> <p>Case study: Zambia – the fight for voluntary independent self-regulation, by Kennedy Mambwe (10 mins)</p> <p>Discussions, questions and proposals</p>
16.30	Excursion 2: Visit to Snake Park and Maasai Culture	East African Press Councils Annual General meeting
18.00	Transfer to respective hotels from Excursion	



Auditorium: Lush Garden Hotel, Obama hall		Room: Lush Garden Hotel, Kenyatta & Boardroom
Wednesday, 16 July 2025		
8.00	Arrival and registration	
9.00	Reflection on Day 1 & 2 Sessions and expectations for Day 3 by Ernest Sungura, MCT Executive Secretary	
9:30	<p>Guardrails for the Digital Era: Ethics, Accountability and AI in Media</p> <p>Panel Description: As artificial intelligence rapidly integrates into media and communication systems, it introduces complex ethical dilemmas from algorithmic bias and content manipulation to the erosion of accountability. This panel will critically examine how legal, regulatory, and industry frameworks can evolve to ensure the ethical use of AI in content generation, news filtering, and audience targeting. The discussion will also address the importance of transparency, explainability, and human oversight in AI – driven media.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Phathiswa Magopeni, Executive Director, Press Council of South Africa – South Africa Asha Abinallah – Tanzania Executive Director, Tech and Media Convergence (TMC), Tanzania Susan Ngongi Namondo, UN Resident Coordinator, Tanzania Dr. Elisha Magolana, Lecturer, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director General for Communications and Information (UNESCO) <p>Moderator: Mr. Victor Bwire, OGW – Director Media Council of Kenya</p>	10:00 World Association Press Councils (WAPC) Annual General Meeting.



Auditorium: Lush Garden Hotel, Obama hall		Room: Lush Garden Hotel, Kenyatta & Boardroom
11.00	Health Break	
11:30	<p>News and Content Management in the era of AI - Special Reflections by Editors</p> <p>Panel Description: As artificial intelligence reshapes the newsroom, editors are on the frontlines of a rapidly evolving media landscape. This high-level panel brings together seasoned editors to share practical insights, emerging dilemmas, and editorial strategies in managing news and content in the AI era.</p> <p>How are editors integrating AI into newsroom workflows without compromising journalistic standards? What ethical lines are being drawn when machines assist with content creation? How are editors safeguarding editorial independence, fact-checking rigor, and the human voice in an increasingly automated environment?</p> <p>This is a timely conversation for newsroom leaders, media innovators, and journalism advocates who are redefining editorial responsibility in the age of automation.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Deodatus Balile – Chairperson, Tanzania Editors Forum, Tanzania Zubeida Kananu – President, Kenya Editors Guild Ali Mohammed – Secretary of the Training Department, FESoj, Somalia Churchil Otieno – President, The Africa Editors Forum Zouhra Malisa – Managing Editor, MCL Digital, Tanzania <p>Moderator: Dr Ayoub Rioba, Managing Director, Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC), Tanzania</p>	
13.00	Lunch Break	
14.00	<p>Closing session:</p> <p>Conference overview and outcomes by the hosts, Media Council Tanzania and the NIMCA president</p>	<p>14:30 NIMCA Assembly AGM, session 3</p> <p>Report back from working groups and tabling of resolutions, for consideration and adoption. NIMCA leadership statement</p> <p>Closure of AGM</p>
<p>Thursday, 17 July, 2025</p> <p>Departure to different excursion sites and stakeholder networking (Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Zanzibar, Arusha National Park, Snake Park, etc.)</p>		





PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion topic 1: Regulating for Resilience: African Media Councils, Independence, and the Future of Accountability



EMMANUEL MUGISHA

Emmanuel MUGISHA is currently the Executive Secretary of Rwanda Media Commission (RMC) and the Treasurer of East Africa Press Councils. In the past he served as the Legal Advisor and later a Director of Professionalism and Media Development as a Cabinet appointee at The Media High Council (MHC), on 7th December, 2011), he was later appointed as the Ag. Executive Secretary of the Media High Council subject to The Prime Minister's order on 06/01/2012. He holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and a Bachelor's Degree in Legal Laws (LLB). He has a strong background in the Media Sector mainly the media regulation governance aspects of the media sector. He has initiated, coordinated and implemented several projects meant to develop the media sector in his official capacities. Specifically, he has initiated and coordinated the implementation of projects meant to promote the relevance and role of the media in promoting environmental policies as a matter of public interest.



MR. DAVID OMWOYO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MEDIA COUNCIL OF KENYA

Mr David Omwoyo Omwoyo, MBS is the current Chief Executive Officer and the Secretary of the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Kenya's independent national media regulator and media development institution. Mr Omwoyo is a journalist, writer, editor and team leader up to CEO level in a career spanning the religious sector, educational institutions and public sector leadership. He was a 2021 Nation Media Group's Top 40 Under 40 winner.

Before joining the MCK, Mr Omwoyo was the Managing Director of Waumini Communications and Communications Director for the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops for 6 years, growing an enviable countrywide media network. He also worked in academia, as Fundraising and Donor Relations Manager at Egerton University, with responsibility for institutional advancement and donor relations. An advocate of devolution, Mr Omwoyo oversaw and coordinated the establishment of more than 18 community radios in different parts of the country to promote community dialogue for sustainable peace and rural development.

Mr Omwoyo who is currently pursuing his PhD in Organizational Leadership at Columbia International University, USA, holds a Master's degree in Mass Communications from the University of Leicester and a second Masters in Diplomacy from the Royal University of Malta. His Bachelor's degree is in Journalism.

In addition, Mr Omwoyo is an Alumni of the London School of Economics where he studied Public Policy Analysis, The DiploFoundation, where he graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Internet Governance, and Oxford University where he studied Artificial Intelligence. His other qualifications are in Compliance Management, Public Administration and Governance.

Mr Omwoyo's published research areas are: The role of Kenya's vernacular media in fanning ethnic animosity during the elections period and Challenges facing Kenya's content regulators in the Internet era. His ongoing PhD research is on "Merit and the Principle of Subsidiarity as an Anchor for Improving Service Delivery and Accountability in the Kenyan Public Service". His other areas of research interest include: Public interest media for sustainability in the digital era and changing consumer trends and navigating the delicate balance between press freedom and responsible journalism.

PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion topic 1: Regulating for Resilience: African Media Councils, Independence, and the Future of Accountability



MS. PHATHISWA MAGOPENI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRESS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Phathiswa Magopeni is a seasoned media executive with extensive expertise in strategy formulation, operationalisation, and implementation. She brings in-depth experience in conceptualising and managing complex organisational strategy projects from inception to completion.

With a strong background in operations management, organisational development, and qualitative digital transformation, Ms. Magopeni has led several transformative initiatives across digital and broadcast platforms within the news sector. Her leadership has been instrumental in driving strategic renewal and implementing high-impact innovations that align with evolving media landscapes.

She is known for maintaining operational excellence under pressure while ensuring alignment with broader business objectives. Her strategic leadership is complemented by a proven ability to influence thinking, forge productive alliances, and build consensus across diverse stakeholders.

Notably, Ms. Magopeni has successfully overseen two rounds of strategic realignments in both public and private sector media institutions, directly reshaping the divisions and units under her leadership. Her work continues to contribute significantly to media reform, digital innovation, and institutional effectiveness in South Africa and beyond.



MR. ERNEST SUNGURA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA.

Mr. Ernest Samson Sungura is the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and also serves as the Chairman of the Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA). With over 30 years of experience in journalism, media management, and development, he is recognized as a strategic and enterprising leader within Tanzania's media sector.

Ernest holds an MBA, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and a Diploma in Journalism from the University of Dar es Salaam. His career journey spans from being a cub reporter and investigative journalist to holding senior editorial roles, eventually leading key media development initiatives.

Between 2008 and 2017, he spearheaded the transformation of the Tanzanian media sector through the Tanzania Media Fund (TMF), focusing on economic and editorial independence for media institutions. He pioneered a Media Business Transformation Model that emphasized financial sustainability as a precursor to editorial freedom.

He also gained significant experience in grant and contract management during his tenure at Deloitte Consulting, where he managed USAID-supported programs. Internationally, he has worked with UNESCO on projects promoting public service broadcasting and strengthening community radio stations in Tanzania. Ernest has contributed to global dialogues on media freedom, investigative journalism, and governance. He has developed training manuals, lectured locally and internationally, and represented Tanzania in numerous global forums. As a SUSI Scholar (Study of the U.S. Institute), he was hosted by Ohio University and shared insights on media, governance, and political culture in Tanzania.

His career reflects a blend of practical journalism, academic insight, and visionary leadership, all geared toward promoting transparency, good governance, and a professional, sustainable media landscape in Tanzania and across Africa.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 1: Regulating for Resilience: African Media Councils, Independence, and the Future of Accountability



MODERATOR

ZOÉ TITUS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NMT MEDIA FOUNDATION

With over 25 years of experience in the media sector, the Director of the NMT Media Foundation is a respected voice in advancing media development, freedom of expression, and access to information. Currently leading strategic initiatives to drive media innovation, digital transformation, and media literacy in Namibia's dynamic media environment, the Director plays a central role in shaping a resilient and independent media landscape.

Regionally and globally, the Director holds key leadership roles in influential media networks. As Chairperson and Steering Committee Member of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), and Chairperson and Working Group Member of the African Platform on Access to Information (APAI), they have led efforts to advocate for independent media and promote the adoption of access to information policies across the continent.

A seasoned advocate with strong policy and analytical skills, their work is grounded in data-driven insights, media monitoring, and evidence-based evaluation. Their contributions continue to support the growth of democratic media ecosystems in Africa and beyond.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 2: Reflections and experience from Asia and Europe on Media and Communication models, powers, funding, codes and challenges of the media regulatory bodies.



DR. QAIS JUMAA AL – RADWANI, PRESIDENT, WRITERS WITHOUT BORDERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IRAQ – BAGHDAD

Dr. Qaes Al-Ridwani is a distinguished Iraqi media figure, producer, and academic, renowned for his impactful contributions to the Arab media landscape and cultural diplomacy. With a PhD in Media from Ain Shams University, Dr. Al-Ridwani has become a prominent voice in the fight against misinformation and extremist ideologies through responsible and strategic media production.

He currently serves as the President of Writers Without Borders – Middle East, leading cultural and intellectual initiatives across Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and Morocco. He is also the founder and chairman of the Economy News Media Foundation in Egypt, which operates a magazine, a newspaper, and a digital news platform focusing on Arab development and economic transformation.

One of his most significant productions is the high-profile television drama “Laylat Al-Suqoot” (The Night of the Fall) – a \$5 million series that powerfully portrays the occupation of Mosul by ISIS and the heroic resistance that followed. The series was praised for its bold narrative, production quality, and its aim to document and expose the reality of terrorism without seeking commercial profit.

Dr. Al-Ridwani is also the Director of the Arab Center for Studies, Research, and Training affiliated with the Arab League in Iraq and Kurdistan, and a strategic advisor to national institutions in Iraq, including the National Security Advisory.

Through his media ventures, articles, and public engagements, Dr. Qaes Al-Ridwani continues to champion a new vision for Arab media – one rooted in truth, cultural resilience, and strategic national messaging.



SUDHIR PANDA, MEMBER, DESIGNATE, PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA, EDITOR

Sudhir Panda is a designated member of the Press Council of India and also serves as an editor. The Press Council of India is a statutory, quasi-judicial body in India that acts as a self-regulatory mechanism for the press. Mr. Panda's role as an editor involves the oversight and management of editorial content in a fast paced media environment.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 2: Reflections and experience from Asia and Europe on Media and Communication models, powers, funding, codes and challenges of the media regulatory bodies.



OGNIAN ZLATEV, SENIOR EXPERT COMMUNICATION FOR EU COMMISSION, BELGIUM

Ognian Zlatev is a senior communication and public diplomacy expert with over 30 years of experience spanning international relations, media development, public administration, and NGO leadership. He currently serves as Senior Expert in the International Relations Department at the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the European Commission.

Zlatev has played key roles in advancing EU policy and communication initiatives across Europe. He previously served as Head of the European Commission Representation in Croatia (2019–2023) and Bulgaria (2013–2019), where he coordinated high-level engagement with political leadership, diplomatic corps, media, and civil society. He contributed to the success of Bulgaria's 2018 and Croatia's 2020 Presidencies of the Council of the EU.

Before these diplomatic roles, he headed the Communications Unit at DG EMPL. Earlier in his career, he was a member of the Management Board of Bulgarian National Television and founder of the Media Development Center in Sofia. His work includes collaboration with international institutions such as UNESCO, the World Bank, and the OSCE.

Zlatev is a strong advocate for media freedom and ethical communication. He has authored multiple publications on press freedom, media self-regulation, and strategic communication. He is currently the Chair of SEECOM – the South East Europe Public Service Communication Association – and an Associated Member of the Club of Venice. He is also affiliated with SEEMO and the EACD.



MODERATOR

JOSEPH MAINA MUIRURI

Maina Muiruri is a career journalist and communications expert, with specialisation in political science and international studies. He has over twenty-five years' experience working in the mainstream media in Kenya. Maina held a national position as the Chairman of the Media Council of Kenya (2019–2022), the statutory independent media regulator in Kenya, established under the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy.

Maina's journalism career started in The Standard Group where he worked for 18 years, rising through the ranks, before moving to become the Managing Editor of The People Daily, for eight years, transforming the publication into Kenya's first free-distribution newspaper.

Beyond the newsroom, he now lectures part-time in two university journalism schools and works as a private media consultant.

He holds a Masters in International Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, both from the University of Nairobi and a Diploma in Mass Communication from the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication, as well as a Certificate in Leadership from School of Leaders of Nairobi Lighthouse Church.

PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 3: Journalism in the Age of Data and Digital Rights: Global Approaches from Africa, Asia, and Europe



AYE CHAN, GENERAL SECRETARY, MYANMAR PRESS COUNCIL

Aye Chan is a seasoned leader at the intersection of media, digital transformation, and economic development in Myanmar. With over a decade of high-level experience in both public and private sectors, he has played a pivotal role in shaping Myanmar's media landscape, digital economy, and investment climate. Currently, he serves as:

- General Secretary of the Myanmar Press Council, where he champions media independence, professionalism, and regulatory development.
- Chairman of the E-Commerce Association of Myanmar, steering the country's digital trade ecosystem.
- Deputy Chairman of the Myanmar Digital Economy Association under the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), focusing on policy advocacy and sectoral growth.
- Director at the Global New Light of Myanmar, the country's government-owned newspaper, contributing to strategic media management and editorial oversight.

In addition to his leadership roles, U Aye Chan is a prominent television anchor with a strong presence across Myanmar's national broadcasters:

- Host of Global Affairs on Myawaddy (MWD)
- Anchor of Economics Review on MRTV
- Presenter of Perspectives on Myanmar International Television (mitv), the English-language national channel

He also serves as an appointed member of the Media Development Department under the Ministry of Information, where he advises on national media reforms and development initiatives.

From 2013 to 2020, Aye Chan served as Chairman and CEO of IMA Group, a diversified conglomerate engaged in media, finance, digital innovation, and real estate development. His leadership transformed the company into a competitive player in Myanmar's emerging private sector.



C.K. NAYAK, PRESIDENT, PRESS ASSOCIATION, INDIA

Chhayakanta Nayak is a veteran journalist with over four decades of experience in mainstream media, media governance, and regional reporting in India. He currently serves as the Special Correspondent and Bureau Chief of The Shillong Times in New Delhi, a position he has held since 1996. He is also a contributor to Thomson Reuters, providing international coverage on Indian affairs.

Mr. Nayak's earlier career includes a 15-year tenure with the Press Trust of India (PTI), where he served in various editorial roles across New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Agartala, and Guwahati. His contributions extended to PTI Features, PTI Mag, and PTI TV, and he has covered several high-profile national events.

An alumnus of the University of Delhi (M.A. Political Science) and Berhampur University (B.J.M.C.), Mr. Nayak has also been deeply involved in media policy and professional development. He is the International Coordinator of the World Association of Press Councils (WAPC), former member of the Press Council of India, and General Secretary of the Press Association. His advisory roles include appointments to the Planning Board of the Government of Meghalaya, the Media Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha, and the Central Press Accreditation Committee of the Government of India.

Mr. Nayak has also served as a visiting professor and external examiner for journalism at Gauhati University. Widely respected for his commitment to ethical journalism and regional representation, he continues to play a key role in shaping the media landscape in South Asia.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 3: Journalism in the Age of Data and Digital Rights: Global Approaches from Africa, Asia, and Europe



IMMACULATE KASSAIT, MBS - DATA COMMISSIONER

Ms. Immaculate Kassait, MBS is the first Kenya Data Commissioner with 12 years working experience in the Public Sector managing complex project in governance, training, compliance and strategy. She was the Chair of the taskforce that developed the three sets of regulations that operationalized the Data Protection Act Kenya 2019. Under her leadership, ODPC developed its inaugural strategic plan 2022-2025 and set up a fully functional office.

She has further been instrumental in positioning Kenya in the Data Protection Map through membership to various international organization on data protection, and now serves as the 1st Vicechair to the Board of the Network of African Data Protection Authorities (NADPA). Ms Kassait also serves as an Editorial Board Member of the Global Privacy Law Review.

Ms Kassait is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya of 14 years standing, a Building Resource in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) facilitator, and was awarded the Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS), Presidential Award, 2017 for her outstanding work in public service and continuous to take part in several philanthropy activities as part of her community work

Ms Kassait, holds a Masters in Business Administration from USIU Africa, a post Graduate Diploma in Law from Kenya School of Law, and an Undergraduate Degree in Law from Makerere University.



INNOCENT MUNGY, HEAD OF PR AND COMMUNICATION-PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION (PDPC), TANZANIA

Innocent-Primus Michael Mungu is the Head of Public Relations and Communication Unit, Personal Data Protection Commission, United Republic of Tanzania. He is a dedicated public servant advancing Tanzania's digital transformation through strategic public relations and communication. Nationally and internationally recognized for professional excellence and trusted for integrity, he specializes in translating complex digital and regulatory issues into clear, accessible messages.

With extensive experience in public education, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement particularly in the area of data protection he works closely with policymakers, institutions, and communities to promote privacy rights and responsible digital citizenship. His communication approach emphasizes citizen empowerment, transparency, and public trust.

Committed to positioning Tanzania as a leader in inclusive digital innovation and economic growth, he contributes meaningfully to the national digital agenda through strategic, people-centered communication.



PETER OKELLO JABWELI, VICE CHAIRPERSON MEDIA COUNCIL OF UGANDA

Peter Okello Jabweli is a Lawyer/Advocate and Partner with Okua & Associates Advocates and Legal Consultants. His work with the media spans over 20 years: First as Reporter/ Parliamentary Editor with The New Vision newspaper. While reporting at Parliament he founded the Uganda Parliamentary Press Association (UPPA) and served it as its first President.

Peter Okello Jabweli later worked as Head Communication & Corporate Affairs at the Electoral Commission before joining USAID as Team Leader of its Parliamentary Assistance Program. He also taught journalism and public relations at Uganda Christian University for 8 years. Jabweli has been a member of the Media Council of Uganda since 2013 and Vice Chair since March 2023. He chairs the film classification committee of the Council and is a member of its Disciplinary Committee. In 2018 he served on the Ministerial Committee on Uganda Broadcasting Corporation. Jabweli is a Rotarian and serves on several boards.

He is currently engaged in, and at the forefront of efforts to professionalize the media in Uganda. He is also part of the UNESCO national mechanism for safety of journalists and his law firm specializes in commercial transactions; civil law; construction law, project financing, land transactions and media law.

Peter Okello Jabweli holds a master's degree in development studies from St. Mary's University Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada and a bachelor's degree in Law (LLB) from Makerere University and a Post-graduate diploma in Legal Practice from LDC. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Makerere University.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 3: Journalism in the Age of Data and Digital Rights: Global Approaches from Africa, Asia, and Europe



TAMAR ATABARUT, MEMBER, TURKEY PRESS COUNCIL, TURKEY

Dr. Atabarut is a faculty member at Boğaziçi University and serves as Vice President of the Turkish Press Council Foundation, as well as a Supreme Board Member of the Press Council of Turkey, representing readers' interests. Internationally, he is a Board Member and Treasurer of the World Association of Press Councils.

He is a Board Member of the Sustainability Academy, Co-Chair of the Sustainability Business Network (SBN), and a Board Member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) Turkey. He also serves as Vice President of the International Association of Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE) and is a Steering Committee Member of the European Universities Continuing Education Network (EUCEN).

Dr. Atabarut has led or contributed to nearly 100 national and international projects on sustainability, climate change, circular economy, and lifelong learning. His geographic experience includes Europe, Turkey, Kuwait, and Senegal, where he has also conducted training programs on sustainable development, women's empowerment and youth leadership. He has presented extensively and is the editor of 17 books on related topics.



OGNIAN ZLATEV, SENIOR EXPERT COMMUNICATION FOR EU COMMISSION, BELGIUM

Ognian Zlatev is a senior communication and public diplomacy expert with over 30 years of experience spanning international relations, media development, public administration, and NGO leadership. He currently serves as Senior Expert in the International Relations Department at the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the European Commission.

Zlatev has played key roles in advancing EU policy and communication initiatives across Europe. He previously served as Head of the European Commission Representation in Croatia (2019–2023) and Bulgaria (2013–2019), where he coordinated high-level engagement with political leadership, diplomatic corps, media, and civil society. He contributed to the success of Bulgaria's 2018 and Croatia's 2020 Presidencies of the Council of the EU.

Before these diplomatic roles, he headed the Communications Unit at DG EMPL. Earlier in his career, he was a member of the Management Board of Bulgarian National Television and founder of the Media Development Center in Sofia. His work includes collaboration with international institutions such as UNESCO, the World Bank, and the OSCE. Zlatev is a strong advocate for media freedom and ethical communication. He has authored multiple publications on press freedom, media self-regulation, and strategic communication. He is currently the Chair of SEECOM – the South East Europe Public Service Communication Association – and an Associated Member of the Club of Venice. He is also affiliated with SEEMO and the EACD.



DR EMILLY COMFORT MARACTHO - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDIA STUDIES, CHAIR MEDIA, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP (UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY).

Emilly Comfort Maractho is an Associate Professor in the school of Journalism, Media and Communication at Uganda Christian University (UCU) and honorary lecturer at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. She has extensive experience in journalism, media, communication, management and governance. She previously served as Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies and Director of the Africa Policy Centre at UCU. She has done research and published in the areas of media development (policy, regulation, freedom of expression), and media interactions with democracy and development. An advocate for fostering media participation of women in public life, Maractho has over 20 years of teaching experience at UCU, Makerere University and other institutions, a leader in several community engagements and sits on various boards. She is a columnist with Daily Monitor.

MODERATOR



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 4: The Roles of African Governments in Shaping the Future of Media: Policy, Investment, and Innovation in a Changing Digital Landscape



HON. PROF. PALAMAGAMBA KABUDI – MINISTER OF INFORMATION, CULTURE, ARTS AND SPORTS, TANZANIA

Hon. Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi is the current Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports in Tanzania. He assumed the position on December 8, 2024, succeeding Dr. Damas Daniel Ndumbaro.

Prior to his current role, he served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation from 2019 to 2021 and as the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs from 2021 to 2022.



HON. JERRY SILAA, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, TANZANIA

As the Minister for Information, Communication, and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania and Member of Parliament for Ukonga Constituency, the Hon. Minister brings a strong blend of academic, legal, and political experience to Tanzania's digital transformation agenda.

He holds dual undergraduate degrees – a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Science and Communication from the University of Dar es Salaam and a Bachelor of Laws from the Open University of Tanzania. He also possesses an MBA from Esami-Maastricht School of Management (Netherlands), a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice, and an Accountant Technician Certificate from the National Board of Accountants and Auditors. As an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania, he leverages this interdisciplinary expertise to strengthen governance and advance innovation across sectors.

With over 13 years of dedicated political service in the National Executive and Central Committee of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the Hon. Minister has worked closely with national leaders, including President Samia Suluhu Hassan, former presidents Jakaya Kikwete and John Magufuli, and other senior government officials. His leadership is shaped by this extensive experience, and his commitment remains focused on fostering national progress through ICT, innovation, and inclusive digital policies.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 4: The Roles of African Governments in Shaping the Future of Media: Policy, Investment, and Innovation in a Changing Digital Landscape



HON. CORNELIUS MWEETWA (MP) – MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, ZAMBIA



PROF. NANCY BOOKER, PROFESSOR AND THE DEAN AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY, KENYA

Prof. Nancy Booker is the Dean at The Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications. She is an accomplished academic, university administrator, researcher, and media practitioner with over 25 years of experience. She specializes in multimedia storytelling, media leadership and health and strategic communications. She has taught and published extensively in these areas. Prof. Booker has been trained in the art and practice of leadership development at Harvard University. She has served as a Commissioner in the Media Complaints Commission in Kenya, is a Certified Professional Mediator and sits on several boards, key among them, the Nation Media Group Board and is the Vice President of the African Journalism Educators Network.

MODERATOR



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 5: Media diversity and Inclusivity: Embedding Disability Equality in the Media Policy and Practice



AL AMIN YUSUPH, UNESCO CI REGIONAL ADVISOR, ZIMBABWE

Al Amin Yusuph, UNESCO Adviser for Communication and Information, Southern Africa at UNESCO. He is a Communication and Information, and Knowledge Management Expert with over 25 years of international experience in various fields, such as Knowledge and Information Management, Media Development, and New Media for Development. He has worked for several international organizations, including the British Council, CIDA (Canada), and UNESCO. He has also served as a board member in the Academia and Media NGO. He has extensive working experience in Eastern Africa, West Africa, South Asia and Southern Africa



**JUDIE KABERIA
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION**

Judie Kaberia, a multiple-award-winning journalist is passionate about public policy, human rights, gender equality, justice and accountability. She is a 2015 fellow of the prestigious Edward R. Murrow programme for Journalists (Washington DC) and a fellow of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (Geneva). She is a mentor of the U.S Embassy mentorship program for female journalists, a consultant media expert with Thomson Foundation, Media Council of Kenya, Deutsche Welle Akademie, Wayamo Foundation–Germany, UNDP and the Aga Khan Graduate School of Media and Communications. A holder of a Master's Degree in New Media, Governance and Democracy from the University of Leicester (U.K), Judie chairs the Africa Check Foundation board in Kenya. She is an author of a booklet: 'Justice and Peace in the Kenyan Eye' through the sponsorship of the German Embassy in Kenya.



DR MZURI ISSA – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TANZANIA MEDIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (TAMWA), ZANZIBAR

Dr. Mzuri Issa is the Founder and Director of the Tanzania Media Women's Association Zanzibar (TAMWA Zanzibar). A renowned journalist and passionate human rights defender, she has been at the forefront of advancing gender equality, press freedom, and social justice in Tanzania. Through her leadership at TAMWA Zanzibar, she has empowered countless women journalists and advocated for stronger protections against gender-based violence. Dr. Issa is widely respected for her unwavering commitment to ethical journalism and for amplifying the voices of marginalized communities across the region.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 5: Media diversity and Inclusivity: Embedding Disability Equality in the Media Policy and Practice



FAUSTA MUSOKWA, IMS PROGRAMME MANAGER, TANZANIA

Fausta Musokwa is a communication and development specialist, with more than 20 years of experience. She is currently managing the IMS programme in Tanzania, where her work focusses on creating an enabling environment for public interest journalism and covers issues such as gender mainstreaming in media, information integrity and access to information.



PAULO EKOCHU, CHAIRPERSON MEDIA COUNCIL OF UGANDA

Paulo Ekochu is a highly respected Advocate of the High Court of Uganda, with over 23 years of distinguished service in legal practice, media regulation, corporate governance, and public policy.

Currently serving as Chairperson of the Media Council of Uganda (since 2015), he leads the Council in promoting responsible journalism, safeguarding public interest, and upholding media freedom.

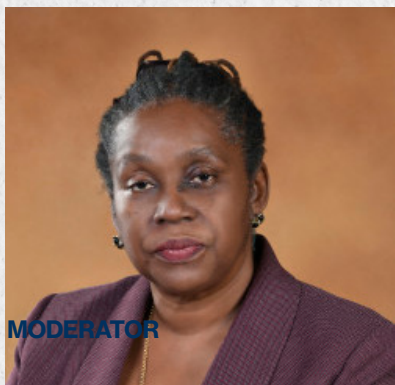
A passionate friend of the media and champion for press freedom, Paulo has been instrumental in shaping Uganda's media environment. He played a leading role as a founding executive member of the National Association of Broadcasters (Uganda) and has contributed significantly to media law reform processes since 2005.

Recently, Paulo served as a member of the Ministry of ICT Task Force responsible for drafting principles for a new media, information, and communications law, further strengthening Uganda's legal framework for the evolving media sector.

Key Highlights

- Chairperson, Media Council of Uganda (2015–Present)
- Founding Executive Member, National Association of Broadcasters of Uganda
- Lead Contributor to drafting of Uganda's media laws (since 2005)
- Member, Ministry of ICT Task Force on New Media, Information, and Communications Law (2024–2025)
- Extensive Board Leadership across broadcasting, aviation, tourism, NGO, and agri-processing sectors
- Over 25 years of legal, regulatory, and governance experience
- Advocate for independent, responsible, and professional media in Uganda

Distinguished Advocate of the High Court of Uganda | Media Regulator | Press Freedom Champion



ROSEMARY MWAKITWANGE, MEDIA CONSULTANT, TANZANIA

Rosemary Mwakitwange is a Co-Managing Partner, Rosemary M wakitwange Consulting Group. She is a Senior Capacity Development Specialist with over 15 years of experience supporting MSMEs, civil society, and media organizations across Sub-Saharan Africa. She promotes entrepreneurship, export readiness, and youth employability through accelerator incubators and applied training. She has led USAID-funded development programs in countries including Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda. Her expertise spans agribusiness, food security, social behavior change, and media financial sustainability. Rosemary is committed to empowering women and youth through skills development, mentoring, and strategic capacity building.

PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 6: Guardrails for the Digital Era: Ethics, Accountability and AI in Media



MS. PHATHISWA MAGOPENI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRESS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Phathiswa Magopeni is a seasoned media executive with extensive expertise in strategy formulation, operationalisation, and implementation. She brings in-depth experience in conceptualising and managing complex organisational strategy projects from inception to completion.

With a strong background in operations management, organisational development, and qualitative digital transformation, Ms. Magopeni has led several transformative initiatives across digital and broadcast platforms within the news sector. Her leadership has been instrumental in driving strategic renewal and implementing high-impact innovations that align with evolving media landscapes.

She is known for maintaining operational excellence under pressure while ensuring alignment with broader business objectives. Her strategic leadership is complemented by a proven ability to influence thinking, forge productive alliances, and build consensus across diverse stakeholders.

Notably, Ms. Magopeni has successfully overseen two rounds of strategic realignments in both public and private sector media institutions, directly reshaping the divisions and units under her leadership. Her work continues to contribute significantly to media reform, digital innovation, and institutional effectiveness in South Africa and beyond.



ASHA ABINALLA – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TECH AND MEDIA CONVERGENCE (TMC) TANZANIA

Asha D. Abinallah is an award-winning expert in digital rights, emerging technologies, and intersectional innovation. She is the Founder & Chief Executive of Tech & Media Convergency (TMC) and holds a Master's degree in New Media from the University of Leeds (UK). With over 15 years of experience, she operates at the intersection of Information, Innovation, Technology, Data, Internet Governance, Digital Media, and Artificial Intelligence (AI); advancing inclusive, transformative, and context-driven digital ecosystems.

She currently serves as the;

- Member of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA)
- Chair of the Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group (IGTWG)
- Advisory Member of the UN Women Regional Civil Society Advisory Group (RCSAG)
- Advisory Member of Meta's Sub-Saharan Africa Women's Rights Working Group
- Member of the Coalition for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence, launched at the Paris AI Action Summit
- Member in ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C), advocating for inclusive digital connectivity
- Member of the NDI Global Info/tegrity Network, advancing cross-regional approaches to information integrity
- Member to MKUKI, Tanzania's Gender-Based Violence Advocacy Coalition AND,



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 6: Guardrails for the Digital Era: Ethics, Accountability and AI in Media



SUSAN NGONGI NAMONDO, UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo was appointed UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania in November 2024, representing the UN Secretary-General and leading the UN Country Team in its work across 23 agencies. She coordinates the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2027), supporting Tanzania's national priorities, Sustainable Development Goals, and Africa Agenda 2063.

With over 25 years in development, including senior roles in four UN agencies, Ms. Namondo has extensive experience in policy and programme planning. She previously served as Resident Coordinator in Uganda and Eritrea and held leadership positions with UNICEF in Ghana, Comoros, and Liberia. Her early career includes roles with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Caritas Internationalis, and Catholic Relief Services.



DR. ELISHA MAGOLANA, LECTURER, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION, UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Elisha, a media consultant and academician, lectures at the University of Dar es Salaam. He has previously lectured at several universities where he taught introductory and advanced communication, development journalism, communication research, corporate communications, television production, graphics and design using Photoshop and InDesign, and online journalism courses at the graduate level in hybrid mode (combined face-to-face and online instruction).

His students have to demonstrate proficiency in writing for broadcast, print, and digital media.

He also works with institutions and donor-funded projects to improve their communications; he consults with local media to help their news departments improve news quality, storytelling, and online presence.

Elisha is an accomplished journalist who previously worked for two of Tanzania's leading dailies, Mwananchi and The Citizen, where he covered dozens of investigative stories.



DR. TAWFIK JELASSI--ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION (UNESCO)

Dr. Tawfik Jelassi was appointed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information on 1st July 2021. In this position, he is responsible for the Organization's programmes on building inclusive knowledge societies, leading digital transformation, strategizing the role of ICT in education, and fostering freedom of expression.

Dr. Jelassi holds a Ph.D. doctorate in information systems from New York University (USA) and postgraduate diplomas from the University of Paris Dauphine (France). Dr. Jelassi has extensive experience in higher education, scientific research, and information & communication technologies. He held academic, corporate and government leadership positions in Europe, the USA, and Tunisia. Among others, he was Programme Director and Professor of Strategy and Technology Management at IMD Business School in Lausanne (Switzerland, 2015 – June 2021). Prior to that, he served as Minister of Higher education, Scientific Research and Information & Communication Technologies in the democratic transition government of Tunisia (2014 – 2015). Prior appointments included being Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ooredoo Telecom in Tunisia, Dean at Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris), and Professor & Chairman of the Technology Management Department at INSEAD (Fontainebleau).



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 6: Guardrails for the Digital Era: Ethics, Accountability and AI in Media



MODERATOR

VICTOR BWIRE, OGW – DIRECTOR MEDIA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, MEDIA COUNCIL OF KENYA

He is a trained and practicing journalists and communication expert, currently serving as the Director, Media Training and Development at the Media Council of Kenya. He is a director at the East African Press Councils (EAPC), member of the technical committee for the Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA).

He is a communication and media consultant and trainer, media development strategist, trainer, curriculum development specialist, content moderation and freedom of expression specialist, and experienced in organization management. His current interests on training, panel discussions and writing in media and communications include Ethics and use of Artificial Intelligence in journalism, data journalism, media information and digital literacy, constructive journalism, safety and protection of journalists, Information integrity and media practice, media regulation and content moderation.

He has served as a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Media Policy Review in Kenya, Media Council Act 2013 review and development of the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication draft Bill. He has served on the Kenya National Commission on UNESCO on the expert committee on Information and Communication and currently a member of the National Coalition on content moderation and platform regulation in Kenya.

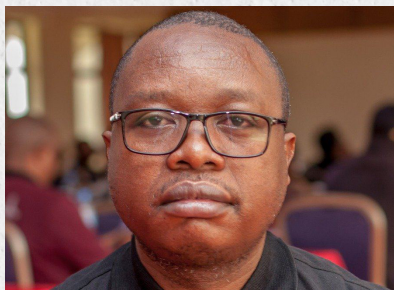
He was a technical lead on the Media Council of Kenya working group on the development of Media Guidelines on reporting Elections, Media Guidelines on media Use of Artificial Intelligence, Guidelines on use of social media, and Data protection for media in Kenya, Safety and Protection of journalists training manual, Trauma Counselling for Kenya journalist's guidelines and Media Guidelines for reporting COVID 19 guidelines.

He worked as a journalist and writer for the Daily Nation, the Standard, People Daily and currently writes for Citizen TV blog, People Daily and the Star newspapers.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Panel Discussion 7: News and Content Management in the Era of AI-Special Reflections by Editors



DEODATUS BALILE – CHAIRPERSON, TANZANIA EDITORS FORUM

Deodatus Balile is currently the Chairperson for Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF). He is a professional career journalist with numerous training in Business Management (MSc – Hull, UK), Diplomacy (PGD – Kurasini, Tanzania), Journalism (ADJ – SAUT, Tanzania), and Bachelor of Legal and Logic (LL.B – OUT, Tanzania).



ZUBEIDA KANANU

Zubeida Kananu is a seasoned broadcast journalist with over 18 years of experience in the media industry. She has built a solid reputation for excellence in communication, public relations, research, script writing, TV news anchoring, and field reporting. As Senior News Anchor and Program Editor at KTN, she plays a key role in shaping editorial direction and delivering high-impact news content to diverse audiences.

Her expertise extends to conducting influential interviews, moderating national and regional events across the public and private sectors, and leading training and mentorship initiatives for emerging journalists. Her work is characterized by professionalism, clarity, and a strong commitment to ethical journalism.

Zubeida holds a Master's degree in Governance, Peace, and Security, a Bachelor's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, a Diploma in Journalism, and a Certificate in Kenya Sign Language Interpretation, reflecting a well-rounded academic and professional foundation.

She currently serves as the President of the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG), having previously held the position of Vice President. Her leadership has been pivotal in advancing editorial independence, media accountability, and the protection of press freedoms in Kenya.



ALI MOHAMMED – SECRETARY OF THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT, FEDERATION OF SOMALI JOURNALISTS (FESOJ)

Ahmed Ali Mohamed serves as the Secretary of Education and Training at the Federation of Somali Journalists (FESOJ), based in Mogadishu, Somalia. He is also a member of the East Africa Press Councils (EAPC) Secretariat. A committed advocate for media development, Ahmed plays a vital role in designing and delivering training and capacity-building programs for journalists across Somalia. His work focuses on strengthening ethical journalism, professional standards, and press freedom. He is widely respected for his passion in empowering media practitioners through education and continuous professional development.



CHURCHIL OTIENO – PRESIDENT, THE AFRICA EDITORS FORUM

Career journalist of 21 years experience and counting, with expertise in print media, digital media, and communication strategies.

Professional Focus: Media sustainability, Editing in New Media (Internet and Mobile), newspaper writing, investigative journalism.

Training & Education: M.B.A (Strathmore), M.Sc (Communication Studies, Moi), PGCert (Journalism Leadership & Innovation, Central Lancashire), B.Sc (Communications & PR), Diploma in Journalism, Fellow in Online Journalism.

Other interests: President - The Africa Editors Forum (2024-26), President - Kenya Editors' Guild (2018-2023)

Specialties: Digital Newsrooms, Content generation and editing for internet, mobile and print media. Reporting business, politics, ICT and environment. Developing and managing communication strategies.



PANELISTS & MODERATORS

Breakout Session 9: News and Content Management in the Era of AI-Special Reflections by Editors



ZOUHRA MALISA – MANAGING EDITOR, MCL DIGITAL, TANZANIA

Zourha Malisa is a seasoned communication professional with more than six years of experience in the digital platform and currently serves as the Managing Editor of Online Content at Mwananchi Communications Limited. In this role, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and execution skills, driving the successful integration of MCL newsroom staff into the digital platform.

One of Zourha's notable achievements is her instrumental role in introducing a groundbreaking product called Mwananchi Space, which has revolutionized the way MCL delivers news and engages with its audience online.

Her innovative approach and strategic vision have played a key role in positioning MCL as a leader in the digital space. Zourha is known for her strong editorial acumen, deep understanding of digital trends, and ability to drive impactful content strategies. She is a visionary leader who is dedicated to pushing the boundaries of digital journalism and delivering high-quality, engaging content to Mwananchi Communications Limited's audience. With a proven track record of success and a passion for leveraging digital platforms to drive business objectives, Zourha Malisa is a valuable asset to Mwananchi Communications Limited and a respected leader in the digital media industry.



DR AYOUB RIOBA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TANZANIA BROADCASTING CORPORATION, TANZANIA

Dr. Ayub Rioba Chacha started his career in 1993 reporting for newspapers. He then joined the Tanzania School of Journalism as a tutor in 1994 and became Coordinator of Studies in 1998. Meanwhile, Dr. Chacha became a columnist for several newspapers and commentating as a political and social analyst for local / international media. From 2003 to 2007 he hosted a popular weekly current Affairs programme Sema Usikike on ITV, a local TV station. Before his appointment as Director General for TBC in 2016 he was Associate Dean, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Dar es Salaam. Dr. Chacha holds a PhD and Licentiate in Mass Communication (University of Tampere, Finland - 2012), Masters in Journalism (University of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom - 1997) and a B.A in Mass Communication (Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda - 1993). He has authored, co-authored books, chapters and published papers in professional journals. He is the Director General of Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation since 2016.

MODERATOR



LEAD COORDINATOR FOR PANEL DISCUSSIONS



VICTOR BWIRE, OGW – DIRECTOR MEDIA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, MEDIA COUNCIL OF KENYA

Mr Bwire is a trained and practicing journalist and communication expert, currently serving as Director of Media Training and Development at the Media Council of Kenya. He is also Head of the Secretariat of the East African Press Councils (EAPC) and a member of the Technical Committee of the Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA).

He is widely recognized for his ability to structure impactful panel conversations, guide moderators, and ensure sessions align with strategic summit goals with vast experience coordinating and moderating high-profile panel sessions both locally and internationally.

He is a media development strategist, communication consultant, trainer, and curriculum development expert with focus areas including AI in journalism, data journalism, media and digital literacy, ethics, content moderation, and journalist safety.

He has contributed to key national policy processes in Kenya, including the review of the Media Council Act, development of the KIMC Bill, and formulation of various media guidelines on elections, AI, social media, trauma counselling, and COVID-19 reporting.

His leadership and subject matter expertise make him well-suited to serve as Lead Sessions Coordinator at the NIMCA Summit.



CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS & KEY NOTE ADDRESS



HER EXCELLENCY VERONICA M. NDUVA, SECRETARY GENERAL EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY (EAC)

Her Excellency Veronica M. Nduva is the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC). She serves as the Principal Executive Officer of the Community and also as the Secretary to the Summit of the EAC Heads of State. She coordinates the EAC Council of Ministers meetings and also oversees all the Institutions of the EAC.

Before her appointment by the Summit of the EAC Heads of State on 7th June, 2024 as the EAC Secretary General, Veronica Nduva served in the senior ranks of the Executive of the Government of Kenya as the Principal Secretary (PS) for the State Department for Performance and Delivery Management. Ms. Nduva was also the Secretary to the National Development Implementation Committee (NDIC) and the Joint-Secretary to the Principal Secretaries Meeting.

Ms. Nduva also served as the Principal Secretary to the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, following her appointment by H.E. President William Ruto in December 2022.

Ms. Nduva is an accomplished governance public sector professional with 24 years of career experience spanning the Government of Kenya, the East African Community, the United States Government and the Civil Society. She possesses a concise and demonstrable understanding of all government structures and operations, as well as inter-agency collaborations, with a track record of leading the development of Kenya's Constitution and the National Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights Sessional Paper.



HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER OURVEENA GEEREESHA TOPSY-SONOO

Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, a national of Mauritius, was elected as a member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in October 2021 and sworn into office on 15 November 2021. She is the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa; Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa; Member of the Working Group on the Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings and Enforced Disappearances in Africa; and member of the Resolutions Committee.

She is a lawyer with great expertise in International Maritime Law. She currently works as a Parliamentary Counsel in the Attorney General's Office. Her areas of experience include representing the State in court cases, tendering advice to various Ministries and drafting legislation.



CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS & KEY NOTE ADDRESS



DR. TAWFIK JELASSI--ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION (UNESCO)

Dr. Tawfik Jelassi was appointed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information on 1st July 2021. In this position, he is responsible for the Organization's programmes on building inclusive knowledge societies, leading digital transformation, strategizing the role of ICT in education, and fostering freedom of expression.

Dr. Jelassi holds a Ph.D. doctorate in information systems from New York University (USA) and postgraduate diplomas from the University of Paris Dauphine (France). Dr. Jelassi has extensive experience in higher education, scientific research, and information & communication technologies. He held academic, corporate and government leadership positions in Europe, the USA, and Tunisia. Among others, he was Programme Director and Professor of Strategy and Technology Management at IMD Business School in Lausanne (Switzerland, 2015 – June 2021). Prior to that, he served as Minister of Higher education, Scientific Research and Information & Communication Technologies in the democratic transition government of Tunisia (2014 – 2015). Prior appointments included being Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ooredoo Telecom in Tunisia, Dean at Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris), and Professor & Chairman of the Technology Management Department at INSEAD (Fontainebleau).



PROF DR LAEED ZAGHLAMI ALGIERS UNIVERSITY

Prof. Dr. Laeed Zaghlami is a distinguished scholar and media expert with extensive experience in journalism, communication, and diplomacy. He holds a PhD from Algiers University 3, an MPhil from the University of Surrey (UK), and a diploma from the International Academy of Broadcasting in Montreux, Switzerland. He is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Information and Communication, Algiers University 3, and Associate Professor at the Algerian Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (2023–2025). Previously, he spent over 30 years with the Algerian Broadcasting Enterprise, serving in senior editorial and managerial roles.

Prof. Zaghlami is a member of the AUDA-NEPAD Media Network, North Africa Representative of the African Media Initiative, and an active contributor to IPRA and AFPREA. He has participated in major peace and media forums across Africa, including in Dakar, Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Addis Ababa.

His academic work appears in leading publications including The Routledge Handbook of Soft Power, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, and Rhodes University Press. He serves on editorial boards and reviews for international journals in media and communication.

Fluent in Arabic, French, and English, he has received several awards, including the AISI/UNECA ICT Prize in 2006, recognizing his leadership in media and information society development.

CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS, KEY NOTE ADDRESS AND FACILITATORS



IZAK MINNAR, CONSULTANT AND TRAINER, PRESS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Izak Minnar, Consultant and Trainer, Press Council of South Africa: Journalism, Information and digital rights, currently focusing on media regulation, sustainability of journalism, digital public goods, access to information and related causes in South Africa and around the continent



DR. TARYN ISAACS DE VEGA

Dr. Taryn Isaacs De Vega is a lecturer, researcher, curriculum chair, and programme coordinator at the Rhodes University School of Journalism and Media Studies. Taryn concluded her doctoral dissertation on media accountability with the UNISA Media Policy and Democracy Project. She advocates for public interest initiatives and collaborates with civil society movements to regulate the media. Taryn is currently involved in research projects related to media councils and citizen participation in Africa. Her research areas include digital media, press freedom, media accountability, media policy and South African media histories. Taryn has extensive experience in communications, higher education management and curriculum development.



MR. KENNEDY MAMBWE, CHAIRPERSON, MEDIA SELF-REGULATION COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

Kennedy Mambwe is a seasoned media professional and the current Chairperson of the Media Self-Regulation Council of Zambia. With a strong background in journalism and media governance, he plays a key leadership role in advancing ethical standards and accountability within Zambia's media landscape.

Under his stewardship, the Council has championed the adoption and implementation of a unified Code of Ethics for Journalists and Media Practitioners, aimed at promoting professionalism across both public and private media sectors. His recent leadership in formally presenting the Code to the Minister of Information and Media reflects his commitment to institutionalizing self-regulation as a cornerstone of press freedom and responsible journalism in Zambia.

Kennedy Mambwe is widely recognized for his dedication to media independence, stakeholder engagement, and the development of a vibrant, inclusive, and accountable media environment. His work continues to influence media policy and reform both nationally and within regional forums across the continent.



ZOÉ TITUS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NMT MEDIA FOUNDATION

With over 25 years of experience in the media sector, the Director of the NMT Media Foundation is a respected voice in advancing media development, freedom of expression, and access to information. Currently leading strategic initiatives to drive media innovation, digital transformation, and media literacy in Namibia's dynamic media environment, the Director plays a central role in shaping a resilient and independent media landscape.

Regionally and globally, the Director holds key leadership roles in influential media networks. As Chairperson and Steering Committee Member of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), and Chairperson and Working Group Member of the African Platform on Access to Information (APAI), they have led efforts to advocate for independent media and promote the adoption of access to information policies across the continent.

A seasoned advocate with strong policy and analytical skills, their work is grounded in data-driven insights, media monitoring, and evidence-based evaluation. Their contributions continue to support the growth of democratic media ecosystems in Africa and beyond.



RAPPORTEURS

LEAD RAPPORTEUR



Mr. LEO MUTISYA,
Manager Press Freedom and Advocacy,
Media Council of Kenya



BRYAN TOSHI BWANA
Lead Technical Committee, NIMCA

ASSOCIATE RAPPORTEUR



Mr. KEVIN MABONGA,
Head of Communications & Visibility,
Katiba Institute

DEPUTY RAPPORTEURS



ELIZABETH HELLEN WACHUKA
Business Strategy Consultant |
Process Improvement Specialist | ISO
9001:2015 Lead Auditor



Ms. PRUDENCE WAKESHO,
Secretariat East Africa Press
Councils (CPM)



Ms. MACKLINE NEMIGISHA,
Research & Documentation Officer,
Media Council of Uganda



Ms. STELLA GAKII,
Manager, Board Services & Manager,
Fundraising, Government Relations
& Stakeholder Engagement, Media
Council of Kenya



Ms. IMELDA BAHATI,
Administration & Communication
Officer, Rwanda Media Commission



Ziada Kilobo,
Institutional Sustainability Specialist,
Media Council of Tanzania



Betty Donatus Massanja,
Media Council of Tanzania

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The 2nd Pan African Media Councils' **Summit 2025** Programme

