

LONDA 2025

DIGITAL RIGHTS & INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT

Central African Republic

Country Report



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Report produced and published by Paradigm Initiative
April 2026

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ISBN: 978-978-68-6631-4



Central African Republic

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Executive Summary

This report assesses thematic areas including internet access and disruptions, online freedom of expression and access to information with a look at gendered disinformation, data protection and cybersecurity, privacy and surveillance, a section on developments in ICT and emerging technologies as well as one on digital inclusion that also looks at the Universal Service Fund in the Central African Republic (CAR) for the year 2025.

In addition to desk research and interviews conducted, this report assessed the country's compliance with the African Charter on Human and People's Rights Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information (the Declaration) in the covered areas, using Paradigm Initiative's TheScore Index rate of 30 out of 60. The report ends with a set of recommendations on ways to improve the state of digital rights and inclusion in the country, drawing on some of last year's report recommendations that are yet to be implemented.

Introduction

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a French-speaking country in the central region of Africa, with Bangui as its capital. It has a surface area of 622,980 km² and a population estimated by the Worldometer (using UN estimates) at 5.5 million in 2025. Independent since 1960, the country is currently led by Faustin Archange Touadéra, since his first election in 2016. Citizens were called for general elections on December 28 2025 which saw the incumbent win and start his third term after the 2023 change of the Constitution that scrapped the presidential term limit.

On the legislative front, this report speaks of the laws adopted in 2024 (on privacy and on cybersecurity) that are still lagging in terms of their implementation measures. It also speaks of one contentious bill, on freedom of the press, passed by the Parliament in 2025 but is yet to be signed into law by the President. This could bring the country behind by reintroducing the penalisation of press offenses which were already depenalised, constituting

a threat to the freedom of journalists to do their job. This report will also highlight some improvements such as in the active use of the optic fiber deployed in 2024 and the entry of at least one new operator in the commercialisation of this fiber capacity; efforts that join those towards the operationalisation of the Universal Service Fund whose initial steps were taken in 2025.

In terms of methodology, a multifaceted approach will be considered consisting of combining empirical and desk-research methods to assess both quantitative and qualitative aspects of digital rights and inclusion in the Central African Republic. For this report, compliance with the African Charter on Human and People's Rights' Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information¹ will be assessed for every issue discussed, using all the key indicators of Paradigm Initiative's TheScore Index², that determines the scope of the report.

1. The ACHPR's Declaration: <https://achpr.au.int/en/node/902> (accessed on November 14, 2024)

2. TheScore Index: TheScore is a digital rights index developed by Paradigm Initiative that evaluates compliance of the country about key human rights elements and is inspired by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.

Internet Access and Disruptions

In terms of connectivity, Data Reportal³ shares that there were 839,000 individuals using the internet in CAR at the start of 2025 (compared to 616,600 in 2024), when internet penetration stood at 15.5% (compared to 10.6% in 2024). A total of 2.07 million cellular mobile connections were active (compared to 1.86 million in 2024), with this figure equivalent to 38.1% of the total population (compared to 32% in 2024). Unfortunately, there is no up-to-date data from the Regulatory Agency's online platforms and the website⁴ remains obsolete.

The progress presented above is a positive sign that draws from 2024 that we called "the year of connectivity", in the 2024 Londa report⁵ because citizens of CAR witnessed the deployment and start of the operationalisation of the 900 km optic fiber cable (part of the the Central

African Backbone project), linking the country to its neighbors, the Republic of Congo and Cameroon, and to the Atlantic Ocean, providing affordable and high-speed connectivity for the region. This EUR33 million project was jointly funded by the African Development Bank and the European Union.

As of 2024, the country still has three main operators (offering both internet and voice), which are Telecel Centrafrique, Orange Centrafrique and Moov Africa Centrafrique. Like in the majority of African countries, citizens in CAR access the Internet mainly through their mobile phones. With an operator like Moov, 1000XAF (US\$ nearly 1.8) gives 2Gb of data with a 24h validity while, according to the World Bank, daily income in the country is extremely low. The minimum wage, set at CFA35,000 per month in 2025, equivalent to US\$1.15 per day. However, a large part of the population lives below the international poverty line, often on less than US\$2.15 per day. This speaks to the internet affordability in CAR.

3. Digital 2025 : The Central African Republic: <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2025-central-african-republic> (accessed on December 4, 2025)
4. <https://arcep.cf/fr/#>
5. Londa 2024 Central African Republic: <https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Londa-24-CAR.pdf> (accessed on February 5, 2026)

In terms of network disruptions, there are no reports of state-imposed disruptions in the year 2025. However, like in the year before, many news outlets reported the low quality of internet connectivity or some network disruptions such as with Telecel, one of the local operators. In August 2025, students complained about how the low speed was affecting their productivity for their school related activities. Business owners who do business with foreign countries and are having issues connecting with them⁶. In October 2025, inhabitants of Maka 3, a village in the south west of Bangui were complaining about the inability to even get a telephone signal in order to interact with the rest of the country, let alone internet connectivity⁷. This situation is present in various other African villages that are less economically attractive to operators, with users having to travel miles away or to locate hills or mountains to find a signal. This calls for the State to find alternative ways, including activating initiatives such

as the Universal Service Fund to serve these citizens.

With the deployment of fiber optics with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Union (EU), a highlight of Londa 2024 report, CAR has shown positive signs in ensuring the cable reaches the countryside. The Council of Ministers on April 17 2025, revealed an agreement with SOS Telecom for that deployment in the regions of Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï, Ouham-Pendé as well as on the axis Bangui-Bambari. “This project aims to improve connectivity in often isolated areas, supporting access to digital services and economic development”, stated the Council of ministers after their meeting.”⁸ A strategic diagnosis on the digital ID ecosystem and civil state was also validated, opening the way to the modernisation of public services across the country.

In practice, when the government, through its international partners, has secured the

6. Centrafrique : Telecel confirme des perturbations sur son réseau :Ministers <https://www.radiondekeluka.org/89872-centrafrique-telecel-confirme-des-perturbations-sur-son-reseau>

7. Centrafrique : Maka 3 plongé dans l'isolement, faute de réseau téléphonique : <https://oubanguimedias.com/2025/10/22/centrafrique-maka-3-plonge-dans-lisolement-faute-de-reseau-telephonique/> (accessed on December 4, 2025)

8. Développement numérique et infrastructures en Centrafrique : avancées et défis : <https://corbeaunews-centrafrique.org/developpement-numerique-et-infrastructures-en-centrafrique-avancees-et-defis/> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

connection to an infrastructure such as optic fiber, the next step is for the private sector to enter the market, request and obtain the necessary license to deploy and commercialise the capacity provided by the optic fiber. It is in that line that the Brazilian entity SOS Telecom secured one in April 2025 to deploy and commercialize fiber in the remote regions.⁹

The Brazilian entity acquired a first of its kind license, the passive infrastructure management license with authorisation “to build and lease passive mobile radio network infrastructure—including towers, antennas, and electrical installations—and to contribute to the deployment of fiber optics.” As a passive infrastructure manager, the company positions itself as a technical partner rather than a commercial rival to the three existing telecom operators. It will provide operators with key infrastructure that they can lease to deploy or expand their networks, particularly in low-profitability areas.¹⁰

With the 33 million in funding from the AfDB and the EU that helped deploy 900km of fiber connecting CAR to Cameroon and Congo Brazzaville in 2024, success stories have started to be shared. In this video shared on AfDB website,¹¹ Junior Thierry was able to create a humanoid robot he named Mama Africa and make her function using the broadband connectivity that he now has access to. Students claim to be able to easily stream videos, create and deploy mobile apps made in CAR. From the Digital Incubator built at the University of Bangui, they can learn how to deploy or repair optic fiber as well as 3D printing, etc.

Online Freedom of

Expression and Access

to Information

Freedom of expression is recognised

9. La Centrafrique octroie une licence d'exploitation a SOS Telecoms : <https://www.agenceecofin.com/actualites-numerique/1804-127674-la-centrafrique-octroie-une-licence-d-exploitation-au-bresilien-sos-telecom> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

10. Ce que change l'arrivée de SOS Télécoms sur le marché télécoms centrafricain : <https://www.agenceecofin.com/actualites-numerique/2407-130361-ce-que-change-l-arrivee-de-sos-telecoms-sur-le-marche-telecoms-centrafricain> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

11. Succes Story: Avec l'arrivée de la fibre optique, la Centrafrique entre de plain-pied dans l'ère numérique : <https://www.afdb.org/fr/news-and-events/multimedia/video/success-story-avec-larrivee-de-la-fibre-optique-la-centrafrique-entre-de-plain-pied-dans-lere-du-numerique-82970> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

and guaranteed by the Central African Republic's Constitution, 2023¹² under Article 23¹³ and access to information as well as freedom of the press are guaranteed under Article 24. However in 2025, there is a set back from what was a highlight in 2024: the fact that Law No 20-027 of December 21 2020, related to freedom of communication in Central African Republic¹⁵, was labeled as a progressive one in the sense that it depenalises press offences, making sure journalists are technically not prosecuted for what they say while doing their job. The National Assembly adopted by acclamation, on May 26 2025 a new bill on freedom of the press and of communication, that brings the country back in terms of press offenses which will now be penalised, if the legislation is passed into a law. "This

is considered as a strategy to muzzle the press... This bill gives legislators the power, in cases of press offenses, to hold responsible the journalist who committed the offense, their editor-in-chief, and even the publisher", claimed press professionals.¹⁶ As per the law, the president had to assent to it within 15 days after it had been adopted by legislators but this was not done. This Bill has therefore not yet been passed into a law.

CAR's Freedom House's Freedom In the World 2025 report ranking hasn't changed from last year's 5/100, presenting the country as "not free" and listed among the category of "worst of the worst". The Freedom House report states that the Central African Republic "suffers from pervasive insecurity in

12. The Constitution de la 7e République (enacted on August 30, 2023) : <https://mjp.univ-perp.fr/constit/cf2023.htm> (accessed on November 12, 2024)
13. Article 23 of the 2023 Constitution: "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right implies the freedom to express one's opinions or beliefs, in particular through speech, writing and images, subject to respect for the law, public order and morality.
14. Article 24 of the 2023 Constitution: "Everyone has the right to information. Freedom of the press, of information and of broadcasting by radio and television, the written press or any other means of communication shall be guaranteed, subject to respect for the law, public order and morality..."
15. Law on Freedom of Communication: https://drive.google.com/file/d/19UeGtAbU00TQ9UWN_rs-hsypa-6xRLzq/view (accessed on January 10, 2025)
16. Centrafrique : vives protestations contre la nouvelle loi sur la liberté de la presse : <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20250529-rca-vives-protestations-contre-la-nouvelle-loi-sur-la-libert%C3%A9-de-la-presse> (accessed on december 5, 2025)

much of the country; the Government forces have disbanded most rebel groups, but militias continue to operate in the country's hinterland, particularly around mining sites".¹⁷

The Central African Republic ranked 72nd in Reporters Without Borders (RSF) 2025 World Press Freedom Index, moving up four places from its 2024 position (76th) and from 92nd in 2023, which is a sign of improvement on how the country is perceived globally in terms of press freedom. The report notes "This annual index evaluates nations based on their commitment to free, independent, and safe journalism. It considers several criteria: political context, legal environment, economic pressures, sociocultural influence, and the safety of journalists."¹⁸

2025 was a year of general elections and as such the online space has been full of campaigns and signs of disinformation practices from various

political stakeholders across the country. Victims could suffer invasion of their privacy, damage to their reputation and even emotional harm. This practice has been exacerbated by social media supported by the rise of artificial intelligence tools being used, including altering the truth. Groups of fact-checkers are operating across the country to help create a safe place in the online environment with the objective of helping the general public not to fall into the trap of misinformation and hate speech. "Disinformation is a real danger because it tears apart the social tissue, can create tension within the country", stated Loic, one of the fact-checkers.¹⁹

As mentioned in the Londa 2024 report, nothing has changed on these fronts; the current law on freedom of communications still has provisions on "fake news", with no clear definition of what "fake" is or what type of content could be considered as disturbing public peace. Similarly, the Penal Code still

17. Freedom in the World 2025 (Central African Republic): <https://freedomhouse.org/country/central-african-republic/freedom-world/2025> (accessed on December 4, 2025)

18. Top African countries with the best and worst press freedom in 2025: <https://africaviewfacts.com/stories/top-african-countries-with-the-best-and-worst-press-freedom-in-2025/> (accessed on December 4, 2025)

19. Zoom sur deux figures de la lutte contre les discours de haine et la désinformation en Centrafrique : <https://minusca.unmissions.org/zoom-sur-deux-figures-de-la-lutte-contre-les-discours-de-haine-et-la-d%C3%A9sinformation-en-centrafrique> (accessed on december 5, 2025)

has provisions on “defamation” as well as “insulting speech against a public authority” which are punishable under the law. Seditious practices (language or behavior that is intended to persuade other people to oppose their government) and their criminalisation in African contexts are linked to defamation.

Access to information

The Central African Republic has no specific law on access to information, other than the 2020 Law on Freedom of Communication, that obliges the Government to be open and transparent in its processes and to be open to journalists’ requests for information. Like we mentioned in 2024, government online platforms (such as websites) are not up to date which should be used to inform the public on governmental activities and ongoing projects as well as their vision for the development of the country. Although the domain “gouv.cf” is available and websites of various

government related entities such as Ministries have websites hosted under that domain, most of these read “website under construction” while others have expired domain names.

Since websites are not up to date, some entities use social media platforms such as Facebook where they publish regular updates on their activities. For example the Ministry of Communications’ website has content dated as far back as 2018, however more regularly posts on its Facebook page. This is the same for the ARCEP (Regulator of Electronic Communications) making it hard to gain access to specific data and statistics on the evolution of the telecoms sector in the country. The Communication Ministry does however run weekly press briefings²⁰ touching on burning topics and initiatives that are in line with Principle 29 of the Declaration on Proactive disclosure, especially in Section 3.²¹

20. Ministère de la Communication et médias de la RCA : <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1495740901478049> (accessed on December 5, 2025)

21. ACHPR’s Declaration, P29(3): “Information required to be proactively disclosed shall be disseminated through all available mediums, including digital technologies. In particular, States shall proactively publish information in accordance with internationally accepted open data principles.”

Data Protection and

Cybersecurity

The Central African Republic has operating laws in this area: Law No 24-001 on the Protection of personal data that was signed into law by the President on January 25 2024²² as well as Law No 24-002 on Cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime that was signed into law by the President on February 21 2024²³. With the ratification of both these pieces of legislation, the CAR joined the list of African states with similar critical instruments in place.

While the law exists, the National Agency on Cybersecurity (ANCy) is not yet operational in the country which, as per the law, has the mission of “ensuring the security of information systems, handling alerts and regulating the sector, among other things”. There is however an Agency, linked to the Presidency of the

Republic, called “Cellule Centrafricaine de l’Internet et de la Sécurité (CCIS) that “protects citizens against cyber threats, preserves the stability of digital infrastructure, and defends the nation's image in the face of cyber-attacks and personal data breaches.”²⁴

Despite the passing of the law on Cybersecurity in 2024, the CAR is still working internally at accelerating its organisational measures (including reinforcing infrastructures, developing human capital through training and capacity building), with support from regional and international institutions in order to align with the African Union’s Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection, known as the Malabo Convention, which is yet to be ratified by the country.

Despite the enactment of Law No 24-002 on Cybersecurity and the Fight Against Cybercrime in 2024, a highlight of Londa 2024 report²⁵, the CAR’s capacity to

22. Loi No 24-001 portant protection des données personnelles : https://arcep.cf/fr/images/documents/reglementation/lois/Loi_24_001_portant_protection_des_donnes_a_caractere_personnel.PDF (accessed on November 14, 2024)

23. Loi No 24-002 sur la cybersécurité et la lutte contre la cybercriminalité : https://arcep.cf/fr/images/documents/reglementation/lois/Loi_24_002_relative_a_la_cyber_securite.pdf (accessed on November 14, 2024)

24. Cellule Centrafricaine de l’Internet et de la Sécurité: <https://www.ccis-rca.org/MessageDuGnral> (accessed on December 8, 2025)

25. Londa 2024

address cyberattacks is low and the country is lagging behind on the ITU's 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) which focuses its analysis on five criteria, namely the legal framework, technical measures, organization, capacity building, and cooperation. CAR is listed at Tier 5, the lowest level in Africa alongside countries such as Guinea Bissau and Burundi.²⁶

Privacy and Surveillance

Privacy of communications is protected by law in the Central African Republic. However, there are no readily available reports on instances where the government was actively breaching or interfering in citizens' privacy of communications. Even during the general elections year, there were no reports of opposition leaders being subjected to surveillance, despite their pleas and declared intent to boycott the elections.

Similar to 2024, research shows government requests for content take-down sent to intermediaries did not occur. It is a good sign that the state seems to be

fully compliant with this requirement of the Declaration.

Developments in ICT and Emerging Technologies

The Central African Republic has been taking advantage of its connection to optic fiber cables to take on the journey of development of its ICT sector. This is mostly evident through its citizens, including students, developers and other users of digital technologies. Best practices in the world have shown that the role of the government is to set the tone by working, among others, on the legal framework as well as ensuring the necessary investments are made in this sector allowing for users to take advantage of these to support development.

An important initiative is the World Bank support for CAR's Communication Regulator (ARCEP) to strengthen its mission to better control and regulate the electronic communications sector. The core of its mandate is to track

26. Cybersecurite en Afrique : le dernier rapport revele les défis et les progrès : <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/cybersecurite-en-afrique-le-dernier-rapport-revele-les-defis-et-les-progres-161422> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

trends over time, detect anomalies, and better understand the actual state of connectivity across the entire territory. With this support in equipment and capacity building, “the regulator now has the ability to analyse detailed data on mobile network performance in real time, without relying solely on information provided by operators.”²⁷

The country had no strategy for artificial intelligence (AI) by the time of writing this report. The African Union, when releasing the continental strategy on AI in 2024, set an ambitious goal of “putting AI to work for Africa's development and prosperity” underlying the fact that “AI can stimulate economic growth, create new industries, drive innovation, generate employment opportunities, develop new economic niches for

women and young people, support the preservation of Africa's cultural heritage, and help solve some challenges.”²⁸

The CAR should use this model to align itself to the spirit of this continental framework. On August 22 2025 while CAR president was attending a summit in Japan, the Japanese Prime Minister announced²⁹ “the launch of a large-scale training program for more than 30,000 Central African experts in artificial intelligence”. As of November 2025, citizens were still waiting to hear more on the “practicability of such a program”³⁰. When the Communication Minister addressed the press, he did not provide a specific agenda for such an important program.

Another important move was the validation³¹ of the National Strategy for scientific

27. Créer un régulateur telecom moderne et performant en RCA : <https://blogs.worldbank.org/fr/africacan/creer-un-regulateur-telecom-moderne-et-performant-en-republique-centrafricaine> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

28. Stratégie continentale sur l'intelligence artificielle : https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-FR_Strategie_Continentale_sur_lIntelligence_Artificielle_3.pdf?ref=fakt-afrique.org (accessed on December 8, 2025)

29. Centrafrique – Japon : Un partenariat stratégique pour former 30.000 experts en intelligence artificielle : <https://tribuneechos.com/centrafrique-japon-un-partenariat-strategique-pour-former-30-000-experts-en-intelligence-artificielle/> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

30. Formation en intelligence artificielle au Japon : Quand Touadera vend fu nouveau reve pour son troisième mandat : <https://corbeaunews-centrafrique.org/formation-en-intelligence-artificielle-au-japon-quand-touadera-vend-du-reve-pour-son-troisieme-mandat/> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

31. Stratégie nationale de recherche en RCA : vers une gouvernance scientifique rénovée au service du développement durable : <https://www.lecames.org/strategie-nationale-de-recherche-en-republique-centrafricaine-2025-2029-vers-une-gouvernance-scientifique-renovee-au-service-du-developpement-durable/>

research and technology innovation (2025 – 2029) by the scientific and university community in the Central African Republic on June 29, 2025, in Bangui, the capital city. Its vision for 2033 is for Central African research to be firmly rooted in innovation, structured around consistent management, sustainable funding, and enhanced multisectoral coordination.

Digital Inclusion

Protecting children online

In the Central African Republic, initiatives to protect children online are part of a broader child protection framework led by UN agencies (such as UNICEF and the ITU) and the government, focusing on awareness-raising, strengthening the legal framework (such as the Child Protection Code adopted in 2020), and assisting victims of violations. Although the initiatives are mainly focused on protection from armed conflicts, efforts are being made to promote digital access for young girls (such as UNFPA’s training

on digital technologies in October 2024³²) and the application of ITU global guidelines (such as their Child Online Protection guidelines³³ to create a safe online environment for children).

The Universal Service Fund

The Universal Service Fund (USF) is an initiative of CAR’s Electronic Communications Law of 2018, Articles 77 to 81. It is defined as “a minimum set of defined services of specified quality that is accessible to the whole population under affordable tariff conditions throughout the territory” (Article 77). It is established with contributions from each operator at a rate of “2% of the previous year’s turnover of each operator” (Article 79).

The 2024 Londa Report stated that nothing was done to operationalise this fund because the Committee to oversee it, as per the 2018 law, was yet to be formed. On July 9 2025, it was reported that the Ministry of Digital Economy and Telecoms launched the activities of the Electronic Communications Development Committee (CDCE) to

32. L’UNFPA s’engage pour l’accès des jeunes filles centrafricaines au numérique : <https://car.unfpa.org/fr/news/lunfpa-sengage-pour-lacc%C3%A8s-des-jeunes-filles-centrafricaines-au-num%C3%A9rique> (accessed on December 8, 2025)

33. Child Online Protection Guidelines: <https://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com/>(accessed on December 8, 2025)

operationalise the Fund.³⁴ The Regulator's Facebook Page announced³⁵ that experts from nine Ministries were convened including from the Ministries of National Education, Finances and Budget, Plan and Cooperation, Higher Education, Small and Medium Enterprises, Administration of the Territory, Public Health, Digital Economy and Telecommunications, as well as experts from the Governor of Bas-Oubangui and Telecoms Operators.

Although not much has been seen onsite after that meeting, it is a positive move in the effective implementation of the Universal Service Fund (USF) in the country. The Fund is set to be managed under ARCEP that supervises all projects on infrastructure and services deployment.

Rights of persons living with disabilities

As of 2025, persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Central African Republic

remain severely digitally excluded, facing high costs, limited device access, poor infrastructure, and low digital literacy. Despite rising awareness, they are less likely to use mobile internet or assistive tech, worsening inequality due to scarce data and weak regulations.³⁶ Although citizens in CAR face similar issues, PWDs situation is worse. In CAR, a general absence of regulations, binding technical standards, and inclusive design knowledge among developers limits accessible options.

34. Centrafrique : vers la mise en œuvre du fonds du service universel : <https://www.agenceecofin.com/actualites-numerique/1107-130013-centrafrique-vers-la-mise-en-uvre-du-fonds-du-service-universel> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

35. ARCEP Centrafrique : <https://www.facebook.com/ArcepCentrafrique/posts/pfbid0vuhvjaHcuSLqFjovXvpck3L-w9hdqBPw6v3rRqBXBAjEVaW15GMR5x25tCpkBxFZel> (accessed on December 3, 2025)

36. Digital Transformation and Social Inclusion in Public Services: A Qualitative Analysis of E-Government Adoption for Marginalized Communities in Sustainable Governance: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/17/7/2908> (accessed on February 5, 2026)

Conclusion

The Central African Republic has improved on many fronts since last year's report such as with efforts in operationalising optic fiber for better connectivity as well as efforts in the legislative front with the new Press

Freedom Bill that was passed by Parliament. However, the State needs to take urgent action in some other sectors that could support the nation's growth, hence our specific recommendations.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are therefore presented to the various stakeholders for action:

The Government should :

- Leverage the availability of optic fiber and work with telecom operators to provide competitive connectivity offers to customers.
- Work at empowering the Committee set to manage the Universal Service Fund, an important mechanism as per national laws, to support the deployment of technology infrastructures and connectivity to remote areas.
- Consider adopting implementation measures (such as the creation of the National Cybersecurity Agency) and join the Malabo Convention.
- Aim at considering targeted actions for Persons With Disabilities in order to be more inclusive through initiatives such as public-private partnerships with entities specialised in service providing for this category of internet users.

The Regulator should:

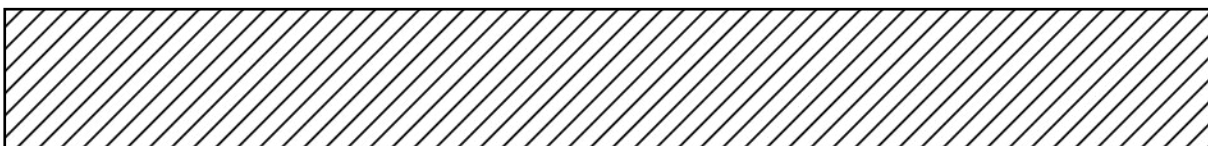


- Ensure the interests of end-users prevail against commercial interests of operators when deploying their services.
- Consider updating its public sources of information (such as its website) to allow researchers to access data on the evolution of the telecommunications market as it used to be the practice. The available data is outdated.
- Work with the Government in promoting innovative and attractive measures that will attract investors in support of connectivity growth.

Civil Society Organisations should:



- Play the role of watchdog, ensuring the various government-led or announced projects in the digital area are implemented, especially those directed by available national laws and regulations.
- Consider funding opportunities such as through international donors and partnering with the government to develop digital literacy programs that will increase technology uptake in the country and therefore digital inclusion.
- Increase activities such as those related to digital literacy programs, with a special focus on people living with disabilities who are often left behind.
- Keep pressuring the Government for the review of the Press Freedom Bill before this is signed into law by the President.



Citizens should:

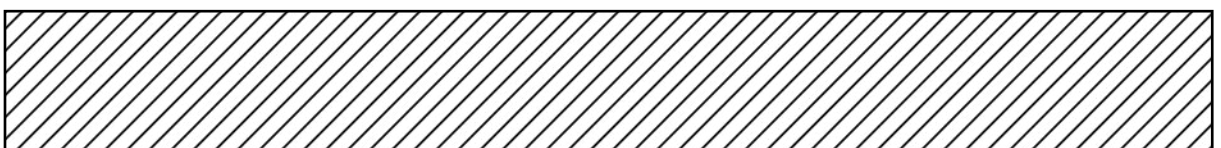


- Be creative and active in leveraging the current developments in the ICT sector (such as the optic fiber) to launch innovation, test entrepreneurship opportunities, etc.

Private sector:









- Telecommunications companies should support the government in its efforts to develop and operationalise the Universal Service Fund to help deploy connectivity to underserved and unserved areas.
- Private entities operating in the technology space should comply with the law and international standards to protect the private communications and personal data of their users.
- Telecommunications operators should leverage on the deployed optic fiber to increase capacity and provide broadband connectivity to citizens by considering tariffs that are affordable for the low-income users.
- Business actors should leverage the availability of the fiber connection to request and use the various licenses to provide digital services to CAR citizens.











The Score Index



Central African Republic, 2025

1 = Totally non-compliant; 2 = Mildly compliant; 3 = Moderately compliant;
4 = Considerably compliant; 5 = Fully compliant

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2025 Score	2025 Justification
Internet outages	P38(2)			The state has not condoned any network disruptions (such as internet shutdowns)
Inexistent laws, policies and other measures to promote universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet	P37			The State has shown efforts and good practices to ensure the availability of meaningful access to the Internet for marginalized groups (such as the operationalisation of the fiber) but efforts need to be made, especially by making sure there are laws to back government efforts in support for meaningful connectivity.
False News Criminalization	P22 (2)			On sanctions, the law on Freedom of Communication refers to the Penal Code and speaks of a fine and jail for anyone who is found guilty of having authored or spread fake news and defamation. But there are no reports of this being applied in 2025. The State needs to look at this and stop criminalisation of fake news to be fully compliant.

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2025 Score	2025 Justification
Sedition Legislation	P22 (2)	 3	 2	Sedition (or similar actions such as defamation or rebellion) is somewhat mentioned in CAR's legislation. Specifically, authors are sentenced under the Penal Code. Like in 2024, there were no reports of these penalties being applied in 2025. Yet, such provisions in the law should be repealed to ensure they are not hanging as a threat to freedom of expression.
Arbitrary Arrests and Harassments of the Media, HRDs and Citizens	P20 (1) & (2)	 4	 3	The same score remains as 2024 but the new controversial bill, passed in Parliament on freedom of communication could lead to a drop, if the president happens to pass it into a law.
Data Protection Legislation.	P42	 3	 3	The law has been in place since 2024, but no implementing measures have been recorded in 2025 (such as the appointment of a DPA). The score drops by one point.
States interfere and require the removal of online content by internet intermediaries	P38 and P39 (4)	 4	 3	As in 2024, data on this indicator is not readily accessible from the government but according to the various transparency reports such as with Meta platforms or Google, CAR has made no such request for the last few years. It is, however, important that the Government be proactive in disclosing compliance with due process to be fully compliant.

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
Invasion of Privacy of Communications	P41			The 2018 Electronic Communication law provides for judicial oversight with provisions on how best practices should be enforced. No readily available data presents evidence of acts of invasion on people's communication privacy.
AI and Emerging Technologies national strategies	P39 (6)			There is no national strategy on AI, but the government announced to train at least 30000 citizens on the use of AI, in partnership with Japan.
Failure by the government to disclose or proactively disclose and disseminate information through digital technologies.	P29 (3)			There is no law on access to information in CAR, there is no up-to-date data on government-related websites platforms that disclose information, other than the mentioned Facebook page of the Ministry of communication and media for which this score is given as a starting point. But there is a lot that needs to be done for CAR to be fully compliant.
Adoption of specific child laws, policies and measures promoting children's digital safety and privacy online	P37(5)			There is no improvement on this point from last year, we keep the same score.

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
Digital Inclusion	P37 (3)			<p>Positive steps to implement the USF have been seen in 2025. The 2024 fiber has increased connectivity, and young people can now deploy their creativity. A new operator has been mentioned to connect remote regions.</p>
Total (out of 60):	2024: 31	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <p>2025</p> <p>30</p> </div>		



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