

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

     @ParadigmHQ

July - September 2021



PIN Festival Senegal: A New Dawn for Digital Rights and Inclusion in Senegal

The country of the Terangas recently hosted Paradigm Initiative (PIN) in a four-day active digital rights and inclusion festival at Fleur de Lys hotel Plateau, Dakar, and Thies. The PIN festival Senegal characterized by a mix of insightful activities such as the official opening of PIN's office in Thies, the launching of box sets, an exclusive premiere of the French version of Focus – a short film and a two-day intensive digital rights academy workshop impacting Senegalese digital rights actors with the necessary knowledge and elements needed to actively face the challenges within the digital rights ecosystem, was a complete success.

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- Pollicy and Paradigm Initiative Working to Change the way African Women access Digital Security Training



PIN's Second Motion Picture highlighting Digital Rights and Inclusion issues in Africa set to Premiere

DRIMF: Second Cohort Begins

We welcomed the 2nd cohort of our Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellows (DRIMF) for the year in a virtual opening ceremony put together by PIN and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.



**This Quarter
at PIN**

Community Updates:



Kenya's Post-DRIF21 Session

The last session of DRIF21 was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 15 July. Titled '**Digital Rights, vis-a-vis Chaotic Elections in Eastern Africa**', the session was interactive and featured conversations that centred around the government circumventing better measures to combat misinformation, disinformation while avoiding internet shutdowns ahead of Kenya's general election next year.



PIN Winds-up 4th Edition of the Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellowship

On Thursday, July 1, 2021, Paradigm Initiative bade farewell to the Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellowship (DRIMF) fellows after 4 months of intensive and active training. The virtual ceremony was organized to applaud the fellows on a job well done during the four months of the fellowship with PIN and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria and to wish them well in their future endeavours.

Four fellows were opportune to be part of the 4th edition of DRIMF; Patience Shawarira a Communications and Research Specialist from Zimbabwe, Lukman Mahami Adams an emerging media and development communications personnel from Ghana, Molly Wasonga a trained and practising journalist from Kenya, and Emsie Erastus an ICT researcher and communications personnel from Namibia. Together, the fellows published a total of [14 articles](#), worked on a research project each, and took classes and recorded podcasts with the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.

DRIF22 Call for Session Proposals



With the theme, *Towards a digitally inclusive and rights-respecting Africa*, the 9th edition of the Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) will be held virtually from 12 - 14 April 2022 and thereafter followed by a series of in-person DRIF22 sessions until the 12th of June 2021 hosted in collaboration with partners across Africa. DRIF22 will end with a closing ceremony on 13 June 2022. In offering a multi-sectoral forum, sessions will be hosted by diverse stakeholders including civil society organizations, policymakers, legal/policy experts, technology companies, academia, advocates, researchers and national human rights institutions. The objectives for DRIF22 are to create platforms for discussing key issues, to develop action plans for enhancing digital rights and inclusion in Africa and to increase networks and collaborations.

We sent out a call for Virtual Session Proposals which seek to unearth the challenges faced

in Africa and proffer solutions to a digitally inclusive and digital rights-respecting continent. Sessions may embrace a multi-sectoral approach, showcase any new developments or tools, be innovative in format and seek to address the issues faced.

DRIMF: Second Cohort Begins

This September, we welcomed the 2nd cohort, for 2021, of our Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellows (DRIMF) in a virtual opening ceremony put together by PIN and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. Over the next four months, the four media professionals will work with Paradigm Initiative on various projects and contribute to improving public understanding of digital rights and inclusion issues in Africa.



The fellows are; [Ruth Atim, a Journalist and Co-founder of The Gender Tech Initiative, Uganda](#), [Jean Pierre, a Journalist and part-time researcher from Rwanda](#), [Laida K. Chongo, a Communicator and Women's Rights Advocate from Zambia](#) and [Imani Henrick Luvanga, a Media Personality and Digital Rights Advocate from Tanzania](#).

PIN Festival Senegal: A New Dawn for Digital Rights and Inclusion in Senegal



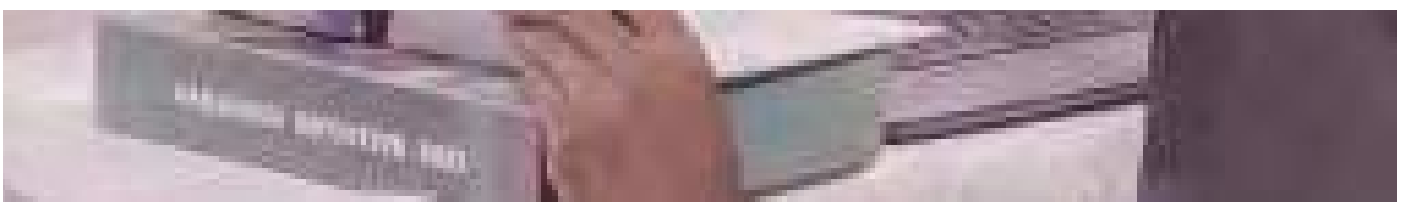
The country of the Terangas recently hosted Paradigm Initiative (PIN) in a 4-day active digital rights and inclusion festival at Fleur de Lys hotel Plateau, Dakar, and Thies. The PIN festival Senegal, characterized by a mix of insightful activities such as the official opening of PIN's office in Thies, the launching of box sets, an exclusive premiere of the French version of Focus – a short film and a two-day intensive digital rights academy workshop impacting Senegalese digital rights actors with the necessary knowledge and elements needed to actively face the challenges within the digital rights ecosystem, was a complete success.

Day one of the festival at Thies, saw the local community benefiting from an ultra-modern office with up-to-date ICT equipment making it PIN's first training centre outside Nigeria. As an organization working to better the livelihood of underserved youth by impacting them with digital skills while protecting their rights, the training centre will play a great role in ICT capacity building amongst the youth and it will also go a long way to instil PIN's digital inclusion programs within the country and the region.

Day two of the festival was exhilarating with the participation of over 20 delegates and digital rights actors from all over Senegal merged at hotel Fleur de Lys Plateau, Dakar, in an interactive session. The major highlights of the day were the launching

of the PIN boxset and the projection of FOCUS. The boxset contains research outputs, reports, and tool kits of PIN's work between the periods 2020/2021, such as the Londa Report, PIN's 2020 Digital Rights and Inclusion annual report, The DPA Report, The Ayeta Tool Kit, A compendium of health surveillance report, Ripoti information pack, and a Digital Inclusion information pack. On the other hand, Focus is a short film drawn from PIN's 2020 annual digital rights and inclusion report dubbed Londa. The report depicts the state of digital rights and inclusion in twenty African countries.

Day three and four during the festival was set aside for the Digital Rights Academy, an intensive training workshop with over 20 local delegates in attendance who received hands-on training and coaching from key leaders and actors in the digital field. The workshop served as an eye-opener for the delegates to have a clear understanding of digital rights issues such as internet shutdowns, digital rights violations, the ecosystem, and how to best handle and take action. Group assignments, presentations, interactive questions and answer sessions characterized the two-day workshop. Delegates expressed their utmost satisfaction and promised to use the knowledge acquired for the betterment of their digital rights activism in their respective areas.



PIN Festival Senegal In Pictures:



Virtual Training



Six LIFE alumni acquired post-training engagements this quarter. Four as volunteer facilitators for Women in technology (Wtec), one as an intern at Mentor an African Child

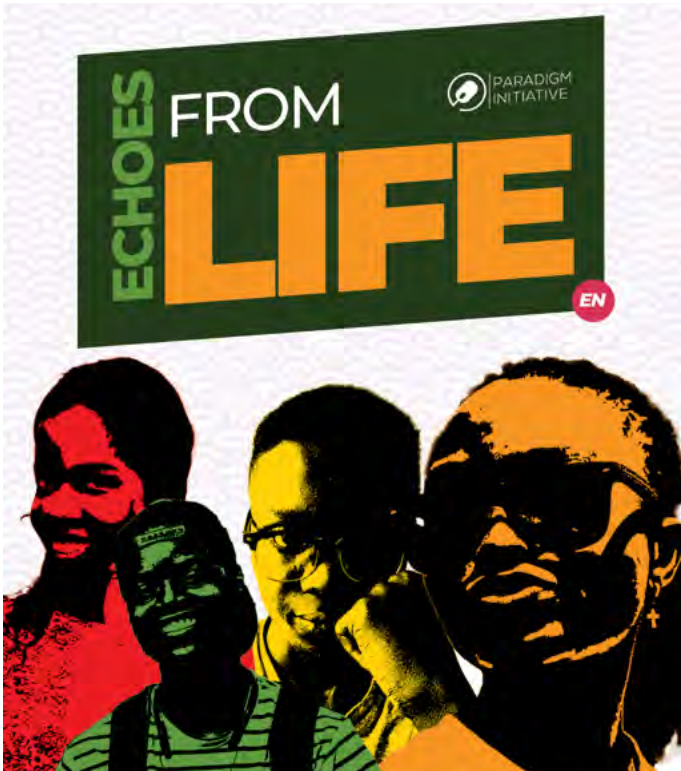
Workshops and collaborations



Expansion

PIN collaborated with SmartAid and the department of International studies to hold a 2-day Digital Awareness workshop at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria campus. Participants were shown how to use Google productivity and collaboration tools, and their importance. They learnt how to protect their internet activities which include social media and their finances online. Participants also learnt about data protection and the challenges towards data protection advocacy in Nigeria. Finally, they had a session on financial literacy where they got to learn how to manage their finances. The workshop was a success with participants requesting a follow-up session within the year.

Echoes from LIFE Magazine



The Digital Inclusion team published the Echoes from LIFE magazine containing impact stories of alumni of the LIFE program, and how they are applying the skills and knowledge learnt from the community to better their communities. The magazine is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

Rivers Expansion

Following our partnership with Youth and Women Empowerment Centre (YOWEC) in Rivers State, we successfully organised a 2-day digital readiness workshop in the state with the 10-week LIFE training commencing in October. As of reporting time, we have received over 80 applications.

Kebbi Expansion

We have partnered with Startup Kebbi to commence the 10-week LIFE program in Kebbi state. This comes on the heels of a successful 2-day Digital readiness workshop held in the state.



Digital Rights

Anglophone West Africa



Digital ID Engagement

As the world leans into adopting Legal identities for all to ensure that no one is left behind, Nigeria, too, has undertaken the challenge to register all her residents, citizens and non-citizens alike. These legal identities Nigeria is implementing are to be digital as well.

On the road to implementation, a lot of issues have surfaced and it is with this in mind that Paradigm Initiative has been around Nigeria to engage citizens on what challenges come up with registering their identities. Port-Harcourt being the 4th state on Paradigm Initiative's radar brought together 45 individuals cutting across media, academia, religious institutions and private organizations physically present and 19 on YouTube and Zoom. We also had in attendance Seven people with disabilities,



Two sign language interpreters and One chaperone.

Paradigm Initiative held this Digital Identity stakeholder engagement in Visa Karena hotel, Port Harcourt on July 27, 2021. This engagement had 3 representatives of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) present. The stakeholders presented some of their issues with the identity management of the commission, they expressed their concerns around data protection, fraud, convenience, inclusion and more. Some notable questions were *"What are the plans of reaching rural areas?" "Who is the enrollment mandatory for?" "Where people are blocked from using sim cards because of not registering will that be illegal?"*

Suggestions were also given by those present to assist the



commission to get better at their work. One of such suggestions was to use the iris for biometrics instead of fingerprints to avoid fraud. The commission noted that they were already in the process of implementing this. The engagement was not aimed entirely at getting immediate answers but also providing feedback for the commission to get better at their processes.

Digital Rights Academy - Abuja

Ten journalists from different parts of Nigeria were selected to attend the Africa-China Reporting Project's Digital Identity Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria from 23 to 26 August 2021, which also included participating in sessions at Paradigm Initiative's annual Digital Rights Academy.

The Academy featured a selected set of 40 other delegates who were lawyers, government



officials, members of civil society, human rights defenders and academia. The Academy is aimed at building the capacity of African civil society organisations, journalists, advocates and others to understand, advocate and defend digital rights on the continent. The Academy is seen as necessary because, now more than ever, the subject of human rights online has become more important with digitalization shaping the majority of today's economic and social activities. With incessant digital rights violations that manifest in form of social media bans, internet shutdowns, cyberbullying, arrests of activists and data privacy invasions amongst others, the subject is not only relevant to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and civil society organizations who work around the theme of human rights online and ICTs for Development but also individuals who are interested in and rely heavily on the use of the internet for activism, advocacy or civic engagement.

The objective of the Academy was to create awareness of the key digital rights issues in Africa and equip participants with the requisite knowledge required to actively participate in digital rights advocacy through their various means of expertise.

Topics at the academy were centred around; digital rights



violations, business and human rights, women's rights, freedom of expression and internet shutdowns, privacy rights, digital inclusion for disadvantaged groups, freedom of expression, and a litigation clinic.

100-Days Twitter Ban Press Conference

A Press Conference to mark the 100th Day of the Twitter Ban in Nigeria was organised in partnership with, Enough is Enough (EiE) Nigeria, Media Rights Agenda (MRA), and Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP).

The press conference featured a panel that comprised, 'Gbenga Sesan, PIN's Executive Director, 'Yemi Adamolekun, EiE Nigeria's Executive Director, and Ayode Longe, MRA's Program Director. They unanimously called on the Federal Government to refrain from actions that put Nigeria among the nations that constantly violate human rights and infringe on its citizens' fundamental and socio-economic rights guaranteed by their constitution.

Journalist Digital Identity Workshop

The media plays a huge role in advocacy and one of the biggest challenges in advocacy is an informed media. As such, Paradigm Initiative in partnership with Wits journalism Africa-China Reporting Project undertook



the training of ten journalists from different parts of Nigeria on digital rights and digital Identity issues in Nigeria. The Journalists attended the Nigeria Digital Rights Academy and one day of specialised training for Journalists. After the training, each journalist received a reporting grant to undertake a Digital Identity investigation within the country to provide more robust material on the subject to the public.

Eastern Africa



Virtual AI Stakeholder Consultative Forum

As part of Paradigm Initiative's plan to understand the full impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its technologies on human rights, we organised a virtual stakeholder consultative forum to discuss human rights and AI in the Kenyan context. The forum was well attended by over 60 stakeholders who contributed their knowledge on how AI can be understood and how certain policies should be in place to ensure privacy rights and human rights generally are respected.

2021 Somalia Stakeholders Convening on Digital Rights Legislation

Together with [Digital Shelter](#), a Somalia-based Digital Rights organisation, we successfully organised the 2021 Somalia

Stakeholders Convening on Digital Rights Legislation. The virtual event was held to discuss matters around digital rights laws in Somalia and to assess the current state of digital rights and digital inclusion in the country as well as international best practices and to make prescriptions for law reform so that Somalia can catch up with the rest of the world.

Review of amended Tanzania Regulations

Tanzania recently amended the Electronic and Postal Communications Regulations. The regulations amended included the following:

- *The Electronic and Postal Communications (Digital and other Broadcasting Networks and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021*
- *The Electronic and Postal*

Communications (Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021

- *The Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021*
- *The Electronic and Postal Communications (Radio And Television Broadcasting Content) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021*

Paradigm Initiative is currently in the process of reviewing these regulations to identify any legal loopholes that may be injurious to the citizens. If we identify any legal loopholes, we will not hesitate to intervene and challenge the same through any possible legal means including court action.

South Sudan Internet Shutdown

Paradigm Initiative responded to a 15-hr internet shutdown that



was imposed by the government of South Sudan. On the night of Sunday, 29 August 2021, South Sudan experienced an internet disruption. Through their social media postings on Facebook, many internet users in the country reported their inability to access the internet and some had to resort to using Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). Notably, users specifically said they were unable to access the most common social media sites namely Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and other online applications and sites. This points to a direction that the shutdown was targeted and well-orchestrated. The internet shutdown coincided with a day that activists had called for protests against President Salva Kiir's



government due to accusations of underperformance and failure to meet the needs of the citizens. The activists, including civil society organizations, demanded President Kiir's resignation. Despite acknowledging the internet shutdown that the country experienced an internet blackout for more than 15 hours, the government described the matter as a technical issue and that experts were working to resolve the glitch.

President Museveni's Social media crackdown order

Paradigm Initiative developed tweets and other social media content with the aim of responding to President Museveni's order to security officials to crack down on



social media abuse. The tweets had the objective of calling for caution in Uganda's fight against fake news

Arusha Women School of Internet Governance

The Arusha Women School of Internet Governance is an annual event organized in Arusha, Tanzania to discuss the state of digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania. As Paradigm Initiative has done before, we proudly supported this year's edition. Our Program Officer for Eastern Africa, Mr. Ekai Nabenyio, spoke on the topic Online Security: Unpacking Paradigm Initiative's AYETA Digital Security Toolkit.



Francophone Africa

In Q3 2021, activities in the region were marked by major projects including GIF, DRL, OSIWA, AI. Digital rights projects have improved the image of digital rights and internet freedoms in the region. The projects are focused on Chad, DRC, CAR, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire. The monitoring and documentation activities in these countries made it possible to note a real impact of the work of PIN. Authorities in most of these countries know that research is being done on how digital rights are managed, which influences the actions of policymakers and government on actions that may lead to digital rights violations.

Digital Rights Academy - CAR and DRC

In the Central African Republic, we coordinated a two-day workshop on digital rights from August 23 to 24. The session with 10 participants was facilitated by the Paradigm Initiative team, including Rigobert Kenmogne and Thobekile Matimbe and two other experts appointed by the local partner.

The Democratic Republic of Congo workshop was organized

from August 24 to 25, 2021 by Paradigm Initiative with the support of ICDH, a local partner of the project. The activities were led by Rigobert Kenmogne and Thobekile Matimbe. The online session brought together 18 participants around various topics on digital rights and Internet freedoms.

Digital Rights Academy in Senegal

From September 22 to 23, 2021, Paradigm Initiative with the support of OSIWA organized a two-day workshop on digital rights and freedoms on the Internet. These activities were part of the annual digital rights workshops called the Digital Rights Academy. The two-day workshop was held at the Fleur de Lys hotel in Dakar, Senegal and brought together 20 participants from regions of Senegal and several experts. The workshop topics included Digital Security, Digital Rights 101, Press Freedoms and Internet Freedom, Digital Rights in Times of Crisis, Coalition Building and many more. The workshop also provided participants with practical exercises on how to

build a program of rights and freedoms on the internet in Senegal.

Press statement on OONI alert for Cameroon, DRC, and Tanzania

A press statement was released following OONI alerts on network disruption in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania in French and English.

Civic Tech Innovation Forum

The Civic Tech Forum is an event organized in partnership with Paradigm Initiative and was held from September 13 to 17, 2021.

Southern Africa



Partial Internet Shutdown in Zambia during General Elections

Paradigm Initiative deployed its elections toolkit and addressed a partial Internet Shutdown in Zambia which occurred during polling day on August 12th 2021. The partial internet shutdown lasted from August 12 - August 14 2021 and Internet users witnessed blocked social media messaging apps- Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Messenger. According to Netblocks and OONI, network measurements confirm that social media was blocked during this period while the three mobile networks showed a significant drop in service, indicating that they had been throttled. The partial internet shutdown followed a statement by the then chief government spokesperson warning that the internet would be shut if citizens failed to use cyberspace correctly during the election period. This was the second internet shutdown witnessed in the region in the last 2 months, following an internet shutdown in Swaziland in June/ July 2021.

Lesotho Communications Regulations- Subscriber Identity Module and Mobile Device Registration- 2021

Paradigm Initiative reviewed and provided comments on the draft Communications (Subscriber Identity Module and Mobile Device Registration) Regulations of 2021 which seek to provide a regulatory framework for the mandatory registration of SIM Cards and mobile devices in Lesotho. The framework further seeks to document and provide a database of subscriber information.

Policy Brief

Paradigm Initiative through the Greater Internet Freedom project authored a policy brief titled 'Advancing Digital Rights in Angola'. The publication highlights measures for enhancing digital rights and internet freedoms in Angola and is available in English and Portuguese.

Ranking Digital Rights in Angola

With the support of [Ranking Digital Rights](#), we conducted research that assesses telecommunications companies

compliance with human rights. The research ranks human rights compliance of Unitel and Movitel of Angola under three categories namely, Governance, Freedom of Expression and Privacy. The report will be launched at a media event this quarter.

Angola Digital Rights Academy

Following the completion of the Ranking Digital Rights Report and [Policy brief on Advancing Digital Rights in Angola](#), we began planning the Digital Rights Academy to be held in Angola in October. The Academy which will be informed by the two publications, local facilitators and other key topics is a capacity building workshop that Paradigm Initiative organises annually to raise awareness and increase knowledge of digital rights and internet policy, and enhance the capacity of stakeholders to foster human rights-respecting legislation in their respective countries. The Academy which targets civil society actors, media and academia will hold for the first time in Angola and will be presented both in English and Portuguese.

Publications. Launches. Announcements. Commemorations

Policy Brief: Towards an Inclusive National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in Nigeria



Human rights violations cut across all business activities including tech businesses; therefore, limiting the scope of the Nigeria National Action Plan to exclude the tech sector would be detrimental and counterproductive to the implementation of the UNGPs. With the current global digital transformation and an unprecedented pandemic, guaranteeing human rights for everyone is of great importance now and in the future.

This policy brief '[Towards an Inclusive National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in Nigeria](#)' discusses Nigeria ICT Sector and Human Rights, including the tech sector in the National Action Plan and how in doing so, the government offers an opportunity for the state to work in partnership with non-state actors and stakeholders in promoting protection and respect for human rights.

Pollicy and Paradigm Initiative Want To Change the way African Women access Digital Security Training



On Monday, July 19th 2021, Pollicy and Paradigm Initiative announced the launch of a new platform 'Digital SafeTea.' Digital SafeTea is an interactive fiction game that was built on information from the [Ayeta toolkit](#), a proactive toolkit for African digital rights actors.

Digital SafeTea, whose name is a portmanteau of 'digital safety' and 'tea', is based on the storyline of three characters: Aisha, Goitse and Dami, who are based on different archetypes of African women. As players step into the world of these three characters, they are faced with digital threats like [zoom bombing](#), impersonation, and even Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images (NCII) which is often referred to as 'revenge porn'. Once presented with a scenario, players are nudged to pick their response to the threat from available choices, as a way for them to get to the next stage of the game. As players weave through the maze of threats, they are presented with lessons on how to navigate such threats in real life. Players are also directed to sites and toolkits where they can get further learning on their desired topic.

Digital SafeTea comes at an opportune time as conversations on women's safety in digital spaces are being held worldwide. In 2020, as more people get online for work and studies, [women and girls worldwide experienced a surge of violence and abuse online](#). In addition, women and girls often do not know where to turn to for information on how to keep themselves safe from such attacks and more.

Paradigm Initiative and the Global Disinformation Index (GDI) Launch Media Market Ratings (Nigeria) Report



Since the invention of the web, how we live our lives online—and off— has changed in countless ways. This includes how news is funded, produced, consumed and shared. The infodemic laid bare by COVID-19 conspiracy theories clearly shows that disinformation costs peoples' lives. Websites masquerading as news outlets are driving and profiting financially from the situation.

The findings in this report '[Media Market Risk Ratings: Nigeria](#)' are based on the three pillars that were manually reviewed: Content, Operations, and Context. More than four-fifths of the sites in the sample assessed had a medium risk rating, five domains were classified with a high disinformation-risk rating, and most sites in the Nigerian sample provide neutral and unbiased content.

PIN's Financial Statement for 2020



PIN announced to the public its annual audited Financial Statement for 2020. The report depicts the transparent, consistent and appropriate application of our Financial Policies and Procedures, in line with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. It can be found [here](#).

PIN's Second Motion Picture highlighting Digital Rights and Inclusion issues in Africa set to Premiere



Focus is a short film that portrays the real-life cost of apathy shown by African citizens towards the actions of elected officials who are exploiting policies and other underhand and illegal tools to constrict civic spaces and crackdown on free speech. The short film dramatized Paradigm Initiative's Digital Rights Africa 2020 report which documented the subversive actions undertaken by governments across Africa limiting speech and suspending access to digital platforms central to citizen mobilization and expression. It is set to premiere in Nigeria on the 14th of October 2021, with impact screenings across Kenya, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

