

LONDA 2023

DIGITAL RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT



SENEGAL

Published in April 2024

Report produced by Paradigm Initiative

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Senegal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Republic of Senegal is undergoing a digitalisation reform with the introduction of 5G mobile network technology, which allows mobile internet access speeds to be developed with complete reliability. This technology guarantees users a speed of 100 Mbits/s, an incredible improvement compared to 4G/LTE. This report analyses some of the measures taken by the government in the Information and Communications Technology sector (ICT). These measures are part of the program for digitising civil status documents initiated by the National Civil Status Agency (ANEC) “NEKKAL” running under the slogan “My civil status my citizenship”. The digitisation of civil status services will allow for better traceability of births and data reliability. In a pre-electoral context, Senegal’s report on digital rights and inclusion will review several key elements, including access to the Internet and social networks, Internet shutdowns, freedom of expression online, privacy, disinformation, and emerging technologies for 2023. The report ends with recommendations made to Senegalese stakeholders that work to strengthen human rights in the digital age. The methodology adopted for this report includes documentary research and data available from libraries, documentation centers, and information sites.

Introduction

Senegal is a country located in West Africa. The country is bordered by Mauritania to the North, Mali to the East, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau to the South, with the Atlantic Ocean being to the West on a coastline of 500 kilometers and Gambia being right in the center of it. The capital, Dakar, is located on the Cape Verde peninsula facing the islands of the same name¹. With an area of 196,710 Km², the national coverage rate of the fifth general population and housing census is 96.2%. This results in a resident population of 18,032,473 inhabitants. This census is carried out following article 18 (new) of statistical law 2004-21 of July 21, 2004, amended and supplemented by law 2012-03 of January 3, 2012, to the third national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS-III, 2019-2023) and the recommendations reiterated in United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/10².

Senegal has adopted a strategy called “Digital Senegal (2016-2025)”³. In this strategy, several sectors whose development is essential to achieving a united society and the rule of law have been identified, including the digital economy. As such, ICT undoubtedly constitutes a pivotal role in the modernisation of public services. This modernisation of administration through the use of technologies constitutes an important pillar in the process of economic and social development in Senegal. It is an essential aspect for multiplying productivity gains and increasing the competitiveness of all sectors of the economy, through the supply of digital goods and services⁴.

“Promote the development and modernisation of electronic communications networks and services in Senegal through the creation of an effective, flexible, and transparent legal framework”⁵, this is what emerges from law 2018-28 of December 12 establishing the new Code on electronic communications⁶.

It was deduced that Senegal has taken a big step in terms of digital rights and inclusion in its ambitions to make the digital sector a lever in the creation of wealth and growth. This rule is justified by the innovations brought by the Electronic Communications Code⁷, in particular through the relaxation of the conditions for providing access to the Internet.

In addition, the State plans to better connect the administration by dematerialising procedures, reducing costs and delays in transactions and administrative operations to bring the administration closer to users in their respective localities.

¹ History of the Internet in Senegal from 1989 to 2004, by Olivier Sagna, Christophe Brun and Steven Huter, available on: https://nsrc.org/sites/default/files/archives/case-studies/SenegalBook_French_Final.pdf, (Accessed December 10, 2023).

² Preliminary report of the fifth General Population and Housing Census (RGPH-5), October 2023, available on: https://www.ansd.sn/sites/default/files/2023-10/RAPPORT-PRELIMINAIRE-RGPH-5_2023-.pdf, (Accessed November 23, 2023).

³ In 2016, Senegal launched its “Digital Senegal 2025” strategy.

⁴ https://www.adie.sn/sites/default/files/lois/Numerique%202025_0.pdf.

⁵ Article 5 of the Electronic Communications Code.

⁶ <https://www.sec.gouv.sn/publications/lois-et-reglements/code-des-communications-electroniques>.

¹² New internet restriction in Senegal: AfricTivistes calls on the government! <https://www.africtivistes.com/fr/nouvelle-restriction-de-linternet-au-senegal-africtivistes-interpelle-le-gouvernement>.

▶ Country Analysis

According to the third quarterly report 2022 on the electronic communications market from the Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority (ARTP)⁸, the internet penetration rate in Senegal is estimated at 99.03%, compared to 95.28% in the previous quarter, an increase of 3.75 points. The broadband internet penetration rate is 79.30%. In 2023, the internet penetration rate in Senegal exceeded the 100% mark and is estimated to be at 101.69%, an increase of 3.66 points mainly attributed to the rapid growth of the mobile internet base. The high-speed internet penetration rate (3G/4G) is 83.44%.⁹

Furthermore, it should be noted that access to the Internet remains a challenge. According to the annual Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL) study, Senegal ranked 92nd in the world in terms of Internet connectivity. Senegal is ahead of only a few countries concerned by this ranking, ranking 110. As per this study, in Africa, Senegal is ninth out of 19 countries.¹⁰ Conversely, access to the Internet is limited in Senegal due to internet shutdowns and the absence of a law on access to information. Internet shutdowns have become a norm in Senegal. Internet disruptions occurred in 2021¹¹ and 2023 in response to protests against the arrest of the most popular opponent, Ousmane Sonko.

On the 1st of June 2023, restrictions on access to certain instant messaging platforms or social networks such as WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, were noted after the conviction of the opposition leader.

Conversely, in a press release published on t July 31, 2023, the Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications, and the Digital Economy announced the temporary suspension of the mobile data internet. The reason given was to stop “the dissemination of hateful and subversive messages relayed on social networks”¹².

Also, Senegal chose to temporarily suspend the TikTok application instead of deleting illegal content. According to the Minister of Communication, Telecommunications, and the Digital Economy, “the TikTok application is the social network favoured by people with ill intentions to spread hateful and subversive messages threatening the stability of the country”.¹³

In this case, the government could have explored alternative and less restrictive means to prevent the broadcast of speech identified as violent. Companies operating in the information and communication technology sector (RESTIC) estimated that internet cuts in Senegal caused losses of \$12 billion per day for the formal and informal economy, yet the digital sector contributes up to 12% of Senegalese GDP.¹⁴

6 The enforced internet shutdowns do not meet regional and international standards for freedom of expression. Principle 37 entitled ¹⁵ “Access to the Internet” of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa indicates that: “States shall promote the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression and access to online information and the means necessary to exercise these rights. States recognise that universal, equitable access, affordable and meaningful access to the Internet is necessary for the realisation of freedom of expression

¹³ Press release from the Minister of Communication, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy, August 2, 2023.

¹⁴ <https://www.socialnetlink.org/2023/06/06/restriction-de-linternet-au-senegal-le-restic-depose-une-plainte-contre-les-op-erateurs-de-telecommunications/>.

¹⁵ Adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights during its 65th Ordinary Session held from October 21 to November 10, 2019 in Banjul, Gambia, file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/Declaration%20of%20Principles%20on%20Freedom%20of%20Expression_FRE_2019.pdf .

and access to information and the exercise of other human rights.” Internet shutdowns have an impact on digital rights including the right to access the Internet, the right to information, freedom of expression, the right to privacy, etc.

Freedom of Expression Online

Freedom of expression is guaranteed by article 10 of the Constitution of Senegal of 2001¹⁶. The article states that “Everyone has the right to freely express and disseminate their opinions by word, pen, image, peaceful march, provided that the exercise of these rights does not harm the honour and the consideration of others, nor public order.” Moreover, article 5 paragraph 2 of Law No. 2008-10 of January 25, 2008, on the Information Society Orientation Law goes on to say that¹⁷ “the principle of freedom carries with it the fundamental right of every person to communicate, the right of every citizen to participate effectively in the information society, the right to free expression and the right to carry out electronic commerce actions and to receive information across borders following the laws and regulations in force”.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right for any democratic society. Several instruments that guarantee the right to freedom of expression have been ratified by Senegal, such as article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 9 of the African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples, and the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa¹⁸. However, given the string of incidents that occurred between 2021 and 2023, it is evident this right is not fully protected in Senegal. For example: out of a total of 180 countries, Senegal was ranked 49th in 2021, 73rd in 2022, and 104th in 2023. This is Senegal’s rank in the 21st edition of the World Press Freedom Index established by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)¹⁹.

In the space of two years, Senegal fell 31 places down in terms of press freedom. This democratic decline is justified, among other things, by the affairs of journalists Pape Ndiaye, Pape Alé Niang and Babacar Touré.

The journalist Pape Ndiaye, legal columnist at Walf TV, was prosecuted for broadcasting false news, provoking a crowd, contempt of court, endangering the lives of others, speech bringing discredit to a judicial act, intimidation and reprisals against a member of the justice system.

Pape Alé Niang, publishing director of Dakar Matin, was arrested on November 6, 2022 for disseminating false news and endangering national security after publishing an article in which he cited military sources. The journalist referred to a document indicating that a military investigation had exonerated a prominent politician who was on trial for rape.²⁰

As for Babacar Touré, boss of the Kewoulo information site, he was charged with defamation, dissemination of false news, and endangering the lives of others; above all, he was placed under judicial supervision²¹.

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¹⁶ LAW N° 2001-03 OF JANUARY 22, 2001 ON THE CONSTITUTION, AMENDED: (JORS, special number 5963 of January 22, 2001, p. 27): <https://www.sec.gouv.sn/publications/lois-et-reglements/loi-ndeg-2001-03-du-22-janvier-2001-portant-constitution-modifiee>

¹⁷ JORS, n°6406 of May 3, 2008, p. 419 et seq.

¹⁸ Adopted during the 32nd Ordinary Session, from October 17 to 23, 2002 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights: <https://www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/igo-documents/declaration-of-principles-ua-french.pdf>.

¹⁹ 104th in the 2023 world press freedom ranking: Senegal in the red, available on: <https://www.sudquotidien.sn/104e-au-classement-mondial-de-liberte-de-la-presse-2023-le-senegal-dans-le-rouge/>

²⁰ Imprisoned Senegalese journalist passes 100 days behind bars <https://www.mfwa.org/fr/issues-in-focus/un-journaliste-senegalais-emprisonne-franchit-la-barre-des-100-jours-derriere-les-barreaux/>, (Accessed February 26, 2024).

²¹ In Senegal, one more journalist charged with “spreading false news”, https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2023/05/04/au-senegal-un-journaliste-de-plus-inculpe-de-diffusion-de-fausse-nouvelles_6172040_3212.html#:~:text=Babacar%20Tour%C3%A9%2C%20patron%20du%20site%20d'informations%20Kewoulo%2C%20%C3%A9tait,selon%20l'avocat%20

Privacy and Surveillance

The right to privacy is guaranteed by Article 13 of the Constitution of Senegal. According to this article, “the secrecy of correspondence, postal, telegraphic, telephone and electronic communications is inviolable. Restrictions on this inviolability may only be ordered by the law.” In the age of information and communication technologies, protecting privacy is much more important. In this sense, law 2008-12 of January 25, 2008 on the protection of personal data protects the private lives of individuals.²² It is a fight against attacks on privacy likely to be caused by the collection, processing, transmission, and storage of personal data, as well as mass surveillance.

Following Law No. 2020-28 of July 7, 2020, there was the introduction of wearing electronic bracelets, amending the Penal Code²³ and establishing placement under electronic surveillance as a means of reducing sentences. In addition to this, Law No. 2020-29 of July 7, 2020 was added to the Code of Criminal Procedure,²⁴ introducing house arrest with electronic surveillance as an alternative to pre-trial detention.

Only three years later, in 2023, the law became applicable by establishing a monitoring center for people wearing electronic bracelets. The electronic bracelet is a wearable electronic device around the wrist or ankle. The bracelet is equipped with a GPS tracking system or a radio frequency monitoring system to monitor the person’s movements and activities in real-time and report any violation of the conditions imposed by the Court.²⁵ It is important to note that people with such a technological device may be exposed to the processing of their personal data through geolocation, surveillance, and mass data collection.

More precisely, concerning surveillance, article 10 of law no. 2016-33 of December 14th, 2016 relating to intelligence services,²⁶ provides that special intelligence services when they have clues relating to one of the threats provided in Article 2²⁷ and in the absence of any other means, may use technical, intrusive, surveillance or localisation processes to collect information useful for neutralising the threat. This text gives these special services the possibility of practising new methods of surveillance, such as geolocation, in the absence of consent of the person targeted in the implementation of this process. In this sense, surveillance may appear disproportionate, illegitimate, or even unethical concerning the principles that guarantee privacy.

The collection and processing of personal data within the meaning of Article 35 paragraph 2 of the Personal Data Act “must be adequate, relevant and not excessive about the purposes for which they are collected and subsequently processed”.²⁸ Furthermore, in its public service mission, the administration is increasingly considered a collector of personal data through the introduction of sponsorship of candidates in the presidential election.²⁹ To this end, political parties, coalitions of parties and independent movements wishing to present candidates for the presidential election of February 25, 2024, have officially started collecting sponsorships^{30 31}.

Law No. 22/2018 of February 4, 2018 revising the Electoral Code³² establishing sponsorship,

Moussa%20Sarr, (Accessed February 26, 2024).

²² Law No. 2008-12 of January 25, 2008, on the protection of personal data (JORS, No. 6406, of May 3, 2008, p.434).

²³ <https://justice.sec.gouv.sn/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/J.O-7342-special-du-lundi-27-juillet-2020-publiant-lois-relatives-modification-code-penal-et-aux-bracelets-electroniques.pdf> .

²⁴ Idem.

²⁵ Introduction of the electronic bracelet in Senegal:

<https://legal-doctrine.com/edition/Instauration-du-bracelet-%C3%A9lectronique-au-S%C3%A9n%C3%A9gal/#:~:text=Loi%20n%C2%B02020%2D29,mode%20d'am%C3%A9nagement%20des%20peines>.

²⁶ Law No. 2016-33 of December 14, 2016, relating to Intelligence Services, OJ No. 6984 of Saturday, January 7, 2017, p.

²⁷ Law No. 2016-33 of December 14, 2016, relating to intelligence services, cited above, Art. 2: “The intelligence services are also responsible for implementing specific means intended to hinder the threats referred to in Article 1 or to prevent or thwart interference activities directed against national interests.”

²⁸ Law No. 2008 – 12 on the Protection of Personal Data.

provides in its article L 57 that: “Any candidacy for an election, presented by a legally constituted political party, by a coalition of legally constituted political parties or an entity bringing together independent persons is required to sponsor by a list of voters. The arrangements for organising the collection of signatures are determined by this Code.”

However, this sponsorship system can infringe on the digital rights of voters. Progressively, the ECOWAS Court of Justice in a judgment rendered on April 28, 2021³³ stated that “the Senegalese Electoral Code, as amended by Law No. 2018-22 of February 4, 2018, violates the right to free participation in elections.” Consequently, it ordered the State of Senegal to “remove all obstacles to free participation in the elections resulting from this modification by removing the electoral sponsorship system”.³⁴

Gendered Misinformation

Access to digital technologies strengthens women’s economic empowerment. But digital platforms can be a source of violence against women. For example, direct or indirect threats, physical or sexual violence, harassment, invasion of privacy and disinformation are also types of violence that women experience online. These abuses aim to create a hostile cyber environment for women to be humiliated, degraded, demeaned and ultimately silenced. In addition to low digital literacy rates, Senegalese women are victims of different forms of online violence, such as cyberbullying and misinformation.

To this end, Senegalese positive law sanctions the dissemination of false news through article 255 of Law No. 77-87 of August 10, 1977 amending the Penal Code of 1965³⁵ in these terms: “The publication, dissemination, disclosure or reproduction, by any means whatsoever, of false news, fabricated, falsified or falsely attributed documents to third parties, will be punished by imprisonment of three (3) years and a fine of 100,000 to 1,500 000 FCFA when the publication, dissemination, disclosure, reproduction, whether or not made in bad faith, will have resulted in disobedience to the laws of the country or harmed the morale of the population, or brought discredit on public institutions or their functioning”.

However, this provision does not clearly define “fake news” or specify the threshold required to determine whether public institutions have been discredited. This article is contrary to international standards for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Also, article 13 of the Press Code helps combat the spread of false news.³⁶ Journalists and media technicians must not “distort the facts; publish information, documents, images, and sounds whose origin is not known to them; distort a text, a document, an image, and a sound, or the opinion of others; give the unconfirmed news very precisely as such. They must report image edits, sound edits and archive images.”

Sexist or gendered disinformation is a form of identity-based disinformation that threatens people’s digital, political rights, safety and security. It is used to justify human rights violations and reinforce repression of women and minorities³⁷.

Sexist disinformation is also a means of redirecting the debates of women politicians, activists and human rights defenders by reducing their space for expression. This online violence has a negative social, economic and political impact on women. For example, it may discourage women from

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²⁹ Constitutional Law No. 2018-14 of May 11, 2018, revising the Constitution established the system of sponsorship of the candidate in the presidential election by voters.

³⁰ Decree No. 2023-339 of February 16, 2023, setting the date of the next presidential election.

³¹ PRESIDENTIAL 2024 | SPONSORSHIP COLLECTION STARTED: [HTTPS://WWW.RTS.SN/ACTUALITE/DETAIL/A-LA-UNE/PRESIDENTIELLE-2024-LA-COLLECTE-DES-PARRAINAGES-ENTAMEE](https://www.rts.sn/actualite/detail/a-la-une/presidentielle-2024-la-collecte-des-parrainages-entamee).

³² <https://www.juriafrica.com/lex/loi-2018-22-04-juillet-2018-48979.htm>

³³ <http://www.courtecowas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ARRET-ECW-CCJ-JUD-10-21-LUnion-Sociale-Liberale-USL-c->

participating in public and political affairs online as Senegalese prepare for the 2024 presidential election.

Developments In Ict And Emerging Technologies

In 2023, the Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy (MCTEN) initiated a process of formulating two strategies.³⁸ These are the national strategy for artificial intelligence (AI) and the national strategy for data in perfect alignment with the “Digital Senegal 2025” strategy and the Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE), the only repository for public policies in Senegal, through the three strategic pillars: inclusive growth, human development and good governance.

Senegal’s vision on AI is “For an AI of ethics and trust, a catalyst for the Emerging Senegal Plan, youth employment, economic performance, public transformation, sovereignty and of the attractiveness of Senegal.”³⁹

As for data, Senegal wants to “Make data a driver of socio-economic growth, inclusiveness, innovation and international openness, by 2028 in Senegal.”⁴⁰

Moreover, the launch of the Single Port Window constitutes a major innovation in the ecommerce sector⁴¹. It is a digital platform that will facilitate and secure international trade operations for the competitiveness of the Autonomous Port of Dakar.

According to the Director of Customs Information Systems⁴², “This platform complements the already existing system concerning firstly pre-customs clearance with Obus, the actual customs clearance through the GAINDE system. Today with the single port window, we can complete the missing links.”

Emerging technologies like AI, robotics and other internet aspects are evolving in Senegal. This is the case in agriculture, education, health and the environment.

Universal Service Fund

The State of Senegal in its policy of territorial equity and digital inclusion, uses the universal service fund to reduce the digital divide. Law No. 2018-28 of December 12th, 2018, relating to the Electronic Communications Code, introduced the concept of universal access or service defined as: “the minimum set of electronic communications and ICT services of good quality which..... accessible to the entire population under affordable pricing conditions.”

The 2018 law provides for the creation of the Universal Telecommunications Service Development Fund (UTSDF)⁴³ whose management, missions, and objectives are set by Decree No. 2019-593 of February 14, 2019. The UTSDF aims to break down social differences and create conditions of

Etat-du-SENEGAL-28_04_21.pdf

³⁴ Removal of sponsorship: The motivations of the ECOWAS Court of Justice: <https://lequotidien.sn/suppression-du-parrainage-les-motivations-de-la-cour-de-justice-de-la-cedeao/> ³⁵ JORS, n°3767 of September 6, 1965, p. 1009 et seq.

³⁶ Law No. 2017-27 of July 13, 2017, relating to the Press Code OJ No. 7036 of Saturday, August 19, 2017, <https://www.cnra.sn/do/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Code-de-la-presse-version-officielle-du-JO.pdf>

³⁷ Gendered disinformation: 6 reasons why liberal democracies must respond to this threat, <https://fr.boell.org/fr/2023/03/24/la-desinformation-genree-6-raisons-pour-lesquelles-les-democraties-liberales-doivent-1>

³⁸ Decree No. 2022-1814 of September 26, 2022, relating to the responsibilities of the Minister of Communication, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy.

³⁹ Summary of the National AI Strategy: <http://www.numerique.gouv.sn/mediatheque/documentation/la-strat%C3%A9gie-ia>

⁴⁰ Summary of Senegal’s National Data Strategy: <http://www.numerique.gouv.sn/mediatheque/documentation/synth%C3%A8se-de-la-strat%C3%A9gie-nationale-des-donn%C3%A9es-du-s%C3%A9n%C3%A9gal>

⁴¹ For greater performance and competitiveness: the Pad is equipped with a one-stop port window, official launch, Wednesday, December 6, 2023: <https://www.sudquotidien.sn/>

equity. It was launched on December 14, 2023, an ergonomic room at the Verbo Tonal Center in Dakar, dedicated to improving the learning conditions of students⁴⁴. It is important to note that the Ergonomic Room is set up as part of the FSUD “handi concept” program, equipped with LCD screens, computers and tablets for students with disabilities and teaching staff.

In total, 20 multimedia rooms are equipped per year thanks to the Fund, 300 children are introduced to STEM, 75 teachers are trained, and 200 students are trained in web development⁴⁵. Senegal benefited in 2023 from funding of 100 million USD to improve telecoms services in border areas⁴⁶ for the implementation of a program called “Universal Digital Access”. This program is part of the Senegalese government’s actions to improve the quality and coverage of telecommunications services nationwide to accelerate digital transformation. According to statistics from the Senegal Telecommunications and Postal Regulatory Authority (ARTP), the country had 21.9 million subscriptions to mobile telephone services at the end of the second quarter of 2023 (April-June)⁴⁷ Therefore, the Universal Service Fund is designed as a means of reducing the digital divide, improving the quality and coverage of telecom services, and contributing effectively to the digital development of the territory.

[pour-plus-de-performance-et-de-competitivite-le-pad-se-dote-dun-guichet-unique-portuaire/](#)

⁴² Colonel Abdourahmane Wade, Director of Customs Information Systems.

⁴³ <https://fdsut.sn/salles-multimedias/>

⁴⁴ <https://fdsut.sn/inauguration-des-salles-informatiques-du-centre-verbo-tonal-et-du-cem-blaise-diagne/>

⁴⁵ <https://fdsut.sn/#:~:text=Le%20Fonds%20de%20d%C3%A9veloppement%20du,%2C%20d%C3%A9di%C3%A9%20%C3%A0%20l'am%C3%A9lioration%E2%80%A6>

⁴⁶ <https://www.agenceecofin.com/investissement/2011-113840-senegal-100-millions-usd-pour-ameliorer-les-services-telecoms-dans-les-zones-frontalieres>

⁴⁷ <http://www.osiris.sn/Senegal-100-millions-USD-pour.html>

▶ Conclusion & Recommendations

Conclusion

This study has shown that the right to access the Internet, the right to information and freedom of expression remain fundamental principles for any democratic society. Citizens must, therefore,, be able to express themselves freely online and offline and access quality, high-speed Internet without restriction. Restrictions on the right to access the Internet come from the lack of will power by the government to promote internet access. In this sense, the State is infringing on digital rights through Internet shutdowns, arrests, and blocking of Internet access. Meanwhile, the Senegalese legal framework guarantees freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, and freedom of the press.

Furthermore, it appears from the report that protection of personal data is a fundamental right for every citizen and a state responsibility. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework to better protect citizens' privacy. The following recommendations are therefore formulated to improve access and use of the Internet, freedom of expression online, the protection of personal data and the fight against gendered disinformation.

Recommendations

Government

- » The Senegalese State must guarantee the right to Internet access. Internet restrictions or shutdowns must be done in accordance with interantional law standards.
- » Any restrictions on freedom of expression on the Internet must be done within the law and must be proportional, legitimate, and necessary in a democratic society. The State must not undermine citizens' freedom of expression online and offline.
- » The State must adopt the bill on access to information to better guarantee freedom of expression online, freedom of information, and opinion on all communication media.
- » The State must modify the Electoral Code to establish sponsorship for better protection of voters' personal data.
- » The State, in its policy of making digital a trusted, secure, and resilient cyberspace for all, must develop a specific law on artificial intelligence following data protection and international standards.
- » The government must involve more civil society players in developing laws and regulations focused on the digital ecosystem for a better guarantee of digital rights.

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- Private Sector** » The private sector, like telecommunications operators and Internet service providers, must ensure access for users and ensure that all citizens can benefit from high-speed internet connection.
- » Private companies must take into account and respect digital rights, such as the protection of privacy in collecting and processing personal data.

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- Civil Society** » Civil society must work hand in hand with stakeholders, such as the government, the private sector, the media, and the general public, to promote the right to access the Internet and information and the right to freedom of expression.
- » Civil society must lead awareness and advocacy campaigns to strengthen digital rights and inclusion in Senegal.
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