

AfIGF 2026 — SESSION SUBMISSION FORM

Africa Internet Governance Forum | Accra, Ghana | 2–5 November 2026

SESSION 1 — MINISTERIAL / HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE

A. BASIC SESSION INFORMATION

Session Title *

Launching CAIGA: Africa's Coordinated Voice on Internet Governance, Digital Sovereignty and Critical Internet Infrastructure

Session Format / Type *

High-Level Policy Dialogue (Ministerial Session)

Proposed Duration *

90 minutes (full session, with possibility of a 30-minute side reception)

Preferred Date *

3, 4 or 5 November 2026 (main programme days) — preference for Day 1 or Day 2

Language(s) *

English and French (simultaneous interpretation requested)

B. THEMATIC ALIGNMENT

Overarching Forum Theme

Advancing Africa's Digital Future Through Innovation, Inclusion, and Trust

Primary Sub-Theme *

Digital Sovereignty

Secondary Sub-Theme(s)

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emerging Technologies

C. SESSION DESCRIPTION

Session Abstract (max. 500 words) *

Africa's participation in global Internet governance has historically been fragmented, with individual Member States engaging in isolation and the continent struggling to speak with a unified voice on issues of digital sovereignty, critical Internet infrastructure, and Internet governance policy. This ministerial session marks a historic turning point: the official launch of the Continental African Internet Governance Alliance (CAIGA), an initiative led by Smart Africa to give the African continent a coordinated, coherent and authoritative voice on Internet governance.

CAIGA is designed as a continental coordination mechanism bringing together governments, regulators, national Internet governance authorities, ccTLD managers, the technical community, and regional economic communities under a shared framework for policy alignment and collective action. Its founding principles are anchored in digital sovereignty, equitable access to critical Internet infrastructure, and Africa's meaningful participation in the global Internet governance ecosystem.

This high-level policy dialogue will convene Ministers responsible for digital affairs, senior regulators, technical community leaders, and representatives of pan-African institutions to formally proclaim CAIGA and adopt its founding declaration. Participants will engage in substantive debate

on the policy architecture underpinning CAIGA, its relationship with existing African Union and REC frameworks, and its operational roadmap for 2026–2028.

The session will create a rare opportunity for cross-institutional consensus-building at the highest political level, with concrete outcomes expected including a ministerial declaration, the formal endorsement of CAIGA's mandate, and early commitments from founding Member States. It will also serve as a rallying moment for the African Internet ecosystem — uniting the technical community, policymakers and civil society behind a shared governance vision.

Note: The CAIGA launch is contingent on formal approval by the Smart Africa Steering Committee (SteerCo), expected in September 2026.

Key Questions / Issues to be Addressed *

- How can Africa build a unified, credible and sustained voice in global Internet governance forums?
- What policy framework should underpin CAIGA's mandate on digital sovereignty and critical Internet infrastructure?
- How should CAIGA relate to and complement existing AU, REC and UNECA digital governance structures?
- What commitments are Member States and technical community actors prepared to make at launch?
- How can CAIGA accelerate policy coordination among national regulators, ccTLD managers and IGAs?

Expected Outcomes *

- CAIGA formally proclaimed through a ministerial founding declaration.
- Political consensus achieved among participating Ministers on a continental Internet governance framework.
- Joint communiqué or declaration issued by ministerial participants.
- Commitments made by key partner organisations (ICANN, AFRINIC, AFNOG, ISOC, AFNIC, AFTLD, ATU, AUC).
- Signed or initiated Memorandum of Understanding between Smart Africa and the AfIGF Secretariat.

D. TARGET AUDIENCE

Primary Audience *

- Ministers and Senior Government Officials responsible for digital affairs
- National Internet Governance Authorities (IGAs) and regulators
- ccTLD managers and domain name industry representatives
- Technical community: ICANN, AFRINIC, AFNOG, ISOC, AFNIC, AFTLD
- Regional Economic Community (REC) officials
- Parliamentarians (via the AfIGF Parliamentary Track)
- African Union Commission and ATU representatives

Estimated Number of Participants

50 participants