Digital Dialogues 2022

Making Data Accessible: The role of government and civil society partnerships in building open and comprehensible data sources

5 May 2022

16:00 hrs. CEST / SAST

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The Civic Tech Innovation Network (CTIN), in partnership with the **International Civil Society Centre**, is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a discussion titled **'Making Data Accessible'** as part of its **#DigitalDialogues Series.** In our current digital age and what is often termed as a 'data-driven' world, civic tech organisations, civil society organisations (CSOs) and similar advocacy organisations have played and continue to play an important role in either collecting and providing the public with access to data or fighting government institutions for access to open data that is accessible and comprehensible.

Considering the evolution of the data landscape, massive amounts of digital information is created daily and when analysed, has the potential to help society understand how to perform better in the future. Civic innovations have thus been leveraged as a means to access data so that we may solve social problems.
Big data is often used as the catch-all term for large, diverse sets of information and while this concept has gained traction within the civic tech field, it has to some extent generated an unintended consequence of making data less open and accessible. Without the sophisticated knowledge in Artificial Intelligence tools used to analyse big data, the use of data in communities for social impact has been significantly limited.

In this session, **moderated by Tolulope Adeyemo** we speak to civic actors that will share insights and lessons from their experiences in making data accessible and comprehensible through partnering with the government. This session is intended to shed light on some of the victories and challenges associated with partnerships of this nature and whether they truly are able to make data open and accessible to the public.

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Guest Speakers

Shikha Shrestha, Head of Programmes, VSO in Nepal

Theo Chiviru, Regional Lead for Africa & Middle East, Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Adenike Aloba, Programme Director/Managing Editor, Dataphyte

Tolulope Adeyemo, Senior Programme Manager, Code for Africa (CfA), Moderator

Programme

16:00 - Welcome
16:03 - Introduction |
16:10 - Speaker presentation
16:30 - Speaker questions & rebuttal
16:35 - Q&A session
16:50 - Speaker closing remarks
17:00 - End

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Guest Speaker Profiles

Shikha Shrestha, Head of Programmes, VSO in Nepal

Shikha has professional experiences centred on gender equality and social inclusion promotion, strengthening social accountability and good governance. It perfectly aligns with her current responsibility in VSO Nepal as Head of Programmes – Inclusive Governance She has been engaged in development sector since 1998 based in different parts of Nepal and coordinated regional initiatives of promoting knowledge management with strategic use of Information and Communication Technology.

Theo Chiviru, Regional Lead for Africa & Middle East, Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Theo is a governance expert with experience supporting and engaging governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector and civil society to develop and implement reforms. He leads the region's strategy development, advocacy, fundraising, and establishing a wide range of partnerships. Theo has worked with organisations like ONE Campaign, leading their governance work in Africa, Save the Children Sweden, Institute for Democracy in Africa (Idasa), and Catholic Bishops' Conference.
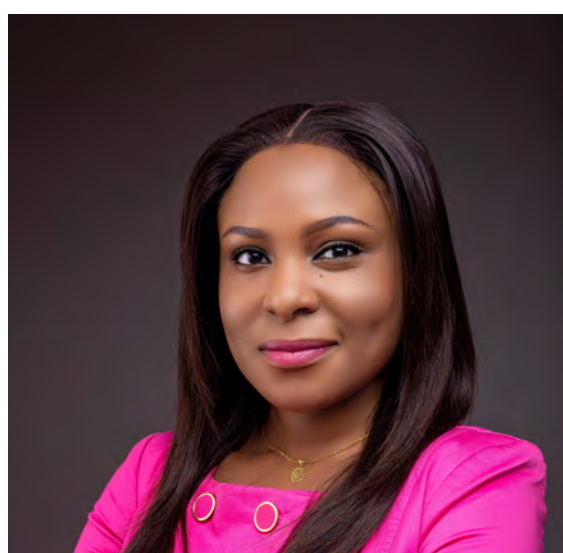
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Guest Speaker Profiles

Adenike Aloba, Programme Director/Managing Editor, Dataphyte

She oversees projects from design to implementation and ensures editorial operations align with the overall organisational strategy. Adenike has extensive knowledge and experience in media development, people management, process and project management, and strategic communications. Over the years, she has delivered technology-powered media solutions through the development and execution of cut-through-the-clutter programs/projects that yield impactful outcomes.

Tolulope Adeyemo, Senior Programme Manager, Code for Africa (CfA), Moderator

Tolulope is an international development practitioner and female education specialist with over 11 years of experience, delivering quality and inclusive gender-responsive educational programmes in low-income communities in Africa. She is leading the CfA's Knowledge multinational team and managing a world-class data-driven journalism and data literacy project portfolio, through a network of international partners. Tolulope holds a master's degree in International development management from the University of East London, United Kingdom.

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