# Kenyan-German Digital Dialogue

Kenyan Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MICDE)

German Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV)

The Ministry of Information, Communications and The Digital Economy (MICDE) of the Republic of Kenya, and the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV) of the Federal Republic of Germany signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November 2023, establishing a bilateral Digital Dialogue. The cooperation focuses on topics related to digital transformation, including digital policy and strategy, internet governance processes and policies, digital economy, digital technologies and use cases, connectivity and access, cyber and data security, and digital inclusion. Based on the MoU, both sides agreed to engage in a bilateral dialogue to promote stronger economic relations in the field of digitalisation and information and communication technology. Furthermore, both sides agree to facilitate the exchange on strategies and best practices for digitalisation, to make a sustained effort to promote the digital sectors and innovation capabilities, encourage the cooperation between relevant institutions, industries and civil society organisations in both countries, and explore common initiatives and joint contributions in international fora and organisations.

The dialogue covers high level and expert exchanges between representatives from the respective ministries and public authorities. It engages stakeholders, including experts from civil society organisations, from business associations and companies, as well as technical and scientific institutions.

At the first Annual Meeting of the Kenyan-German Digital Dialogue in 2023, both sides agreed on developing a Work Plan with input from a variety of stakeholders. This Work Plan was signed on 13 February 2024 as part of a first Stakeholder Meeting that gathered Kenyan and German stakeholders from government, business, civil society and academia.

The Work Plan includes three key cooperation areas: 1.) Internet Governance, Data Policy and Cybersecurity, 2.) Digital Innovation and Sustainable Growth, 3.) Digital Public Infrastructure and Services. It considers specific cooperation topics as well as objectives and activities in each of these topics. The Work Plan gives an orientation towards priorities in the Digital Dialogue for the year 2024 but will stay valid until a new Work Plan is agreed upon by both sides. It can be changed or updated at any given time in agreement by both sides. A review of the Work Plan and its reiteration for 2025 is foreseen for the final quarter of 2024.

BMDV has commissioned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to support the dialogue, including the organisation of Annual Meetings, to be hosted alternately in Kenya and Germany, and the coordination between governments and stakeholders to implement the Work Plan. Activities under this Work Plan can include high-level officials' meetings, conferences, expert exchanges, workshops, and written elaborations.

## Work Plan

### 1. Internet Governance, Data Policy and Cybersecurity

**1.1 Internet governance and multilateral fora**

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| Objective | Both countries support international governance initiatives and promote joint positions in multilateral fora to ensure an accessible, stable, and open Internet. |
| Activities | • Develop a common understanding of priorities and positions concerning current issues of internet governance in debate at international fora, e.g. by submitting a joint workshop proposal to the Internet Governance Forum 2024.<br>• Expert exchange on approaches to open internet governance, e.g. the Kenyan model of open internet governance.<br>• Foster multi-stakeholder involvement in national policy and regulatory development in internet governance. |

**1.2 Data policy**

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| Objective | Both countries promote data ecosystems that enable a free and secure flow of data in support of economic activities. |
| Activities | • Identify common characteristics and differences in data protection regulation through expert exchanges and discuss opportunities for private sector cooperation based on similar levels of data protection between both countries. |

**1.3 Cybersecurity**

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| Objective | Both countries learn from each other to ensure a safe and secure cyberspace. |

| Activities | • Expert exchange on capacity building for businesses and individuals regarding cyber security.<br><br>• Pilot an innovation challenge or hackathon on cyber security with students from Kenya and Germany.<br><br>• Cooperation and exchange on awareness raising and advocacy regarding the dimension of gender in regard to cyber threats and online violence. |
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## 2. Digital Innovation and Sustainable Growth

### 2.1 Emerging Technologies, e.g. AI

| Objective | Both countries strengthen their shared understanding of the application of emerging technologies, e.g. human-centric AI solutions in Kenya and Germany. |
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| Activities | • Expert exchange on policy and regulatory approaches to strengthen artificial intelligence ecosystems.<br><br>• Assess the potential for joint international initiatives and coordinate joint positions on AI, e.g. in multilateral fora. |

### 2.2 Future business and working models

| Objective | Both countries advance innovation and appropriate regulation of digital technology in selected sectors of the economy (e.g. agriculture, financial and banking sector, urban development).<br><br>Both countries seize opportunities to promote sustainable investment and decent employment in the digital economy and tech industry. |
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| Activities | • Support the cooperation between companies and industry associations on both sides.<br><br>• Industry workshop on successful approaches to startup and investment promotion.<br><br>• Hold an international conference on data-driven urban development where stakeholders exchange information, best practices and successful cases in this field.<br><br>• Expert and industry workshops on regulation and promotion of innovation (e.g. sandboxing) in specific sectors, e.g. the financial and banking sector.<br><br>• Civil society and expert exchanges (incl. state actors) to assess and improve working conditions in the tech industry. |

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| | • Expert exchange on successful approaches to up- and reskilling students and workers for employment in the digital economy that are aligned with international standards. |

**3. Digital Public Infrastructure and Services**

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| Objective | Foster a common understanding on the scope and approaches to digital public infrastructure and digital public services. |
| Activities | • Expert exchange on designing and implementing digital public infrastructure and/or digital public services, such as government-to-citizen payment systems, national identification schemes, etc. <br><br> • Expert exchange on the integration of government databases. |