

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Journalism's New Frontier

An analysis of 188 global AI policy proposals and their impacts on journalism.



Read the full report at <https://bit.ly/4s7nVPq>.



The Center for News, Technology and Innovation reviewed 188 national and regional AI strategies, policies and laws around the world to determine how they impact journalism. We focused our analysis around how regulatory activity addresses seven policy components that are particularly likely to impact journalism.

Of the 17 AI strategies, policies and laws we reviewed in Sub-Saharan Africa, three specifically mentioned journalism; none addressed freedom of speech or expression; seven addressed manipulated or synthetic content; 11 addressed algorithmic discrimination and bias; three addressed intellectual property and copyright; 11 addressed transparency and bias; 13 addressed data protection and privacy; and eight addressed public information and awareness.

Freedom of speech and expression: None of the reviewed AI policies in Sub-Saharan Africa mention freedom of speech or expression.

Manipulated or synthetic content: While the African Union recommends that countries address AI-driven disinformation with education and new laws, Sub-Saharan African nations have so far only taken a few, often vague, steps to do so.

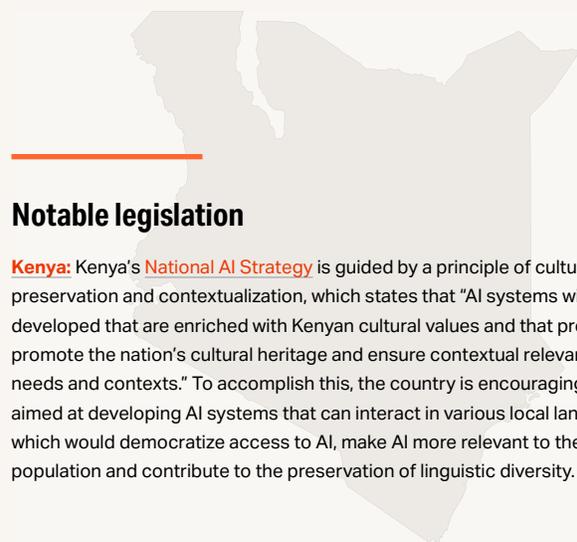
Algorithmic discrimination and bias: Sub-Saharan African countries are prioritizing AI strategies that focus on addressing bias and making AI systems more inclusive by pushing for the development of AI models in local languages and by prioritizing the representation of diverse populations.

Intellectual property and copyright: Ghana and Nigeria are the only two countries in the region that have so far focused on using existing intellectual property laws to protect the work of AI developers and promote innovation.

Transparency and accountability: Several Sub-Saharan African countries are pushing for transparency and accountability in AI by creating clear rules for its use and holding developers responsible for how their AI systems work

Data protection and privacy: A handful of AI strategies in the region acknowledge the importance of data protection and privacy in related; some attempt to apply existing data protection legislation to AI, while others seek to adopt new legislation for the AI age.

Public information and awareness: Several countries are creating plans to increase public understanding of AI through public education campaigns, identifying key people in AI management and teaching the public and workforce new AI-related skills.



Notable legislation

Kenya: Kenya's [National AI Strategy](#) is guided by a principle of cultural preservation and contextualization, which states that "AI systems will be developed that are enriched with Kenyan cultural values and that preserve and promote the nation's cultural heritage and ensure contextual relevance to local needs and contexts." To accomplish this, the country is encouraging research aimed at developing AI systems that can interact in various local languages, which would democratize access to AI, make AI more relevant to the Kenyan population and contribute to the preservation of linguistic diversity.