

Applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) to digital trade practices in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

16 October 2023 (Lunch time, EAT)

Draft Agenda

This session is organised by the [B-Tech Africa project](#) as part of the [B-Tech project](#) in the UN Human Rights Office.

During the session we aim to:

- 1) explore the policy gaps in regional digital trade practices and human rights in Africa and how the UNGPs can play a role in filling these gaps;
- 2) identify the role of critical stakeholders such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, civil society in the application of the UNGPs to rights-respecting digital trade practices;
- 3) use the session to prepare a guidance note for critical stakeholders on how to best align the UNGPs with regulatory efforts on digital trade practices.

Welcome and information about the B-Tech Africa project (5 mins)

Dr Tomiwa Illori, Advisor, B-Tech Africa project

Exploring the policy gaps in regional digital trade practices and human rights in Africa (25 mins)

- AfCFTA's regional digital trade policies and their alignment with the UNGPs in Africa
AfCFTA expert
- Exploring policy gaps for regional digital trade and the role of civil society in maximizing the UNGPs in Africa
Ashnah Kalemera, Programme Manager, Collaboration on International ICT in Eastern and Southern Africa (CIPEA)
- Regional digital trade and the UNGPs in the African Union
Dr John Ikubaje, Senior Political Officer, African Union Commission
- The nexus between regional digital trade policy and human rights in Africa: The role of African regional human rights institutions
Expert in African human rights system

Guiding question:

What are the current policy gaps in the application of the UNGPs to regional digital trade practices in African contexts?

Identifying the role of critical stakeholders in the application of the UNGPs to regional digital trade practices in Africa (25 mins)

- The role of AfCFTA in the application of the UNGPs to regional digital trade policies in Africa
- *AfCFTA expert*
- Catalysing civil society participation for regional digital trade policy in Africa through the UNGPs
Asbnah Kalemera, Programme Manager, Collaboration on International ICT in Eastern and Southern Africa (CIPEA)
- Ensuring policy harmonisation and alignment of the UNGPs with the African Union efforts on regional digital trade
Dr John Ikubaje, Senior Political Officer, African Union Commission
- Identifying the strategic role of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in rights-respecting regional digital trade practices through the UNGPs in Africa
- *Expert in African human rights system*

Guiding question:

How can critical stakeholders address policy gaps in regional digital trade and human rights? How can the UNGPs be applied to address these gaps?

Closing remarks (5 mins)

Dr Tomiwa Ilori, Advisor, B-Tech Africa project

Background publications

- [Five practices to improve stakeholder engagement in Tech Company Due Diligence](#)
- [Digital trade in Africa: Implications for inclusion and human rights](#)
- [Digital trade is the next big thing in Africa](#)

Past events in this workstream:

- [B-Tech Africa Launch Event \(Summary Report\)](#) – Applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to Digital Technologies in Africa, Cape Town, 29-30 March 2023
- [B-Tech Africa Stakeholder Engagement \(Concept note and agenda\)](#) – Developing the framework for responsible tech in Africa, Nairobi, 17th February 2023
- [African Business and Human Rights Forum](#), Accra, 11-13 October 2022
- [UN Human Rights Business and Human Rights in Technology Project](#), Southern Africa Multistakeholder Consultation, 6 September 2019

Zoom link: To be provided