

Experiences of women and gender-diverse folks in policy advocacy spaces in the CN Ecosystem

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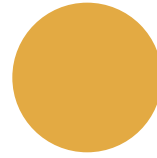
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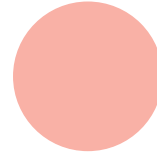
Session Introduction

The Actors in National ICT and Internet Policy and Regulation



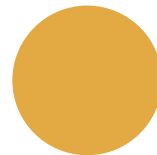
Government

Are the drivers of ICT policy development and implementation. Key players from the public sector are the Ministry responsible for communications, the national telecommunications operator and the regulator.



Civil society actors

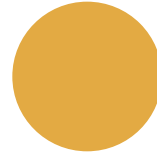
Are the links between the broad population and policy processes. They have unique experiences and values to contribute regarding the use of the tools for social objectives



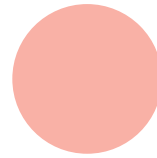
Private Sector

This includes computing, communication and media businesses. Import duties on hardware and software, the restructuring of the telecommunications sector to allow for competition by fixed line, and mobile operators are examples of the kinds of issues of concern to business as well as consumers

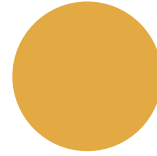
The actors in international, regional internet and ICT policy



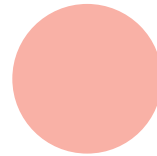
The international organisations that define the global information economy and the rules under which countries can connect to it – as well as the conditions under which support will be available for the implementation of ICT programmes.



International non-governmental organisations promote alternative visions of globalisation and work to ensure a role for civil society in shaping the information society globally, regionally and nationally.



Regional and national organisations which may play a promotional role and enhance collaboration



The organisations that govern the internet: The Internet Society, the Internet Engineering Task Force, the World Wide Web Consortium and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

International Regulation: ITU

Radiocommunication
ITU-R

exists to broker consensus and develop standards in the use of space and terrestrial wireless communication

Development
ITU-D

mission is to foster international cooperation on telecommunication and ICT development issues as well as to build human and institutional capacity

Standards
ITU-T

works to broker consensus in non-wireless telecommunications standards which range from video and audio compression standards to fibre optic infrastructure protocols

National and Regional Regulation

National Regulators

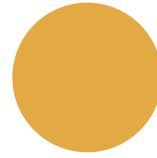
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Regional Regulatory Bodies

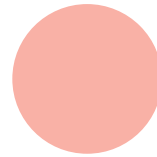
Exist to facilitate knowledge sharing a locally-relevant regulation development.



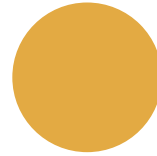
National Telecommunications Regulators Roles



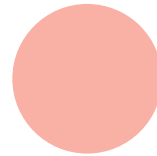
Licensing – granting of rights to telecommunication networks and services and establishing their responsibilities to contribute to national policy objectives, for example universal service



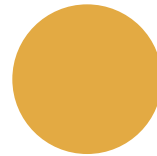
Management and licensing of the radio spectrum in a way that maximises the value of this limited national resource



Competition policy – creating an environment conducive to competitive entry and managing mergers and acquisitions in the telecommunications sector to head off anti-competitive practices

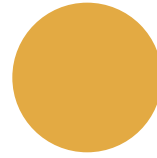


Numbering – developing a national numbering plan, allocating numbers, and managing numbering resources, are as important to voice and data communications as physical addresses are to the postal system, and are key to ensuring easy access to networks and services

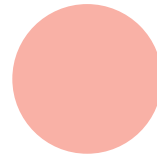


Equipment type approval – developing and monitoring technical standards for equipment that connects to the networks

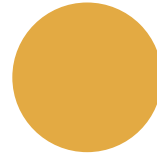
National Telecommunications Regulators Roles



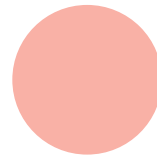
Interconnection – to ensure that new entrants are not handicapped by restrictive interconnection policies of incumbent operators, such as inflated interconnection charges



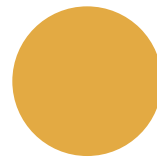
Price regulation – particularly for non-competitive services provided by dominant providers, such as basic local telephony



Quality of Service is the level of performance (or ‘quality’) that a service provider provides to its subscribers. In telecommunications, this relates to the ability of a service provider to give reliable, accessible and easy to use services.

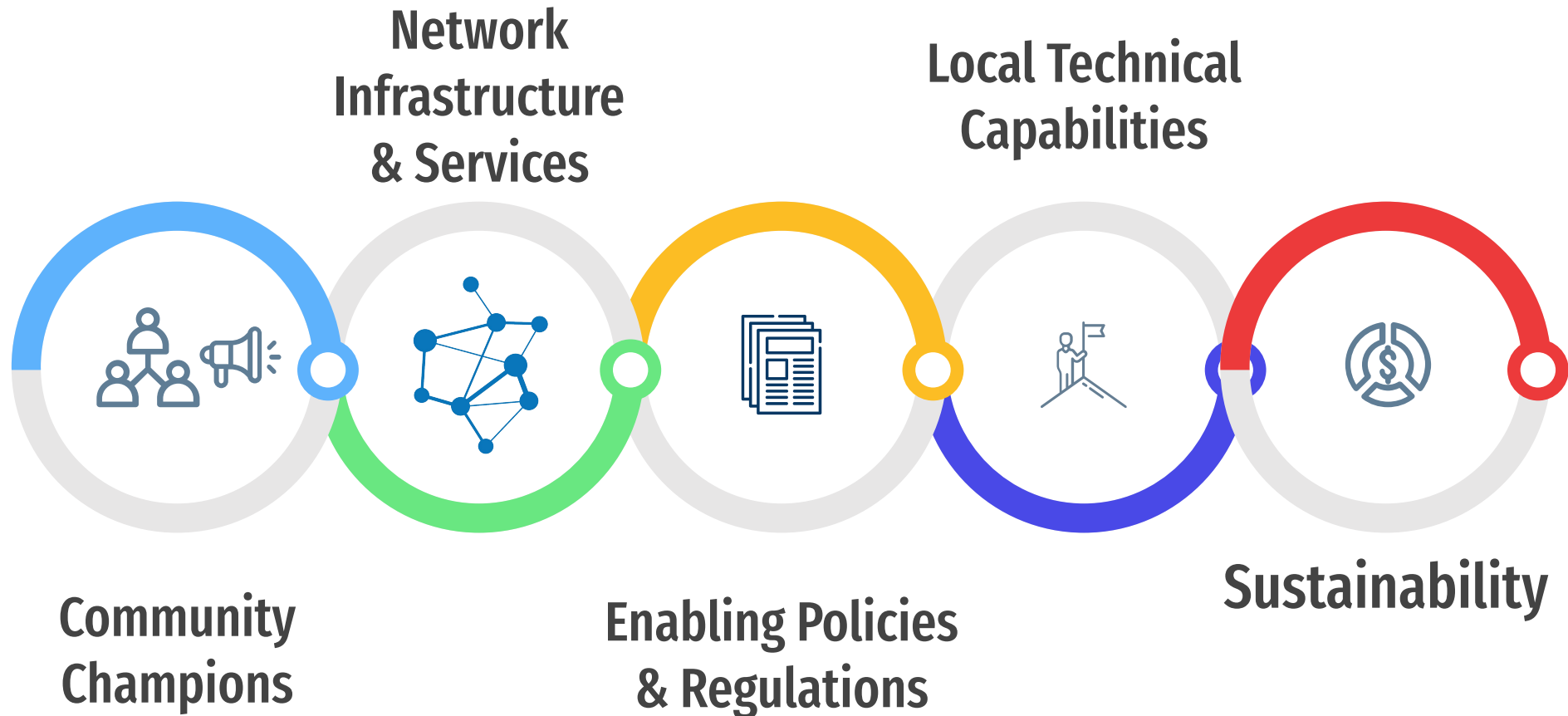


Consumer protection – defining consumer rights, drafting appropriate legislation, education and communication programmes



Universal service/universal access – extending networks and connections to households and communities, which are handicapped by distance or poverty

Pillars of Community Networks



Governance Models

- NGOs, CBOs
- Cooperatives
- Member associations

Infrastructure

- WiFi only
- WiFi + Fiber
- GSM

Community Network Models in Africa



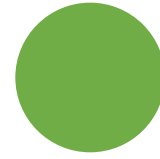
Value Proposition

- Affordable internet access
- Access to digital content
- Self determination
- Building local digital capacities
- Employment opportunities
- Boost local economies

Seed Funding

- Grants
- Donations
- In kind contributions

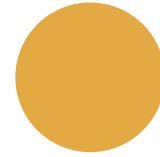
What Issues do We Advocate for?



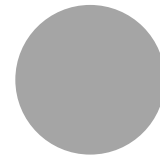
Enabling licensing, fees and taxation frameworks



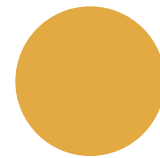
Access to affordable spectrum & dynamic spectrum allocations



Access to financing mechanisms such as Universal Service Funds



Access to passive infrastructure and backhaul



Access to capacity building opportunities

Realistic picture of the spaces of policy

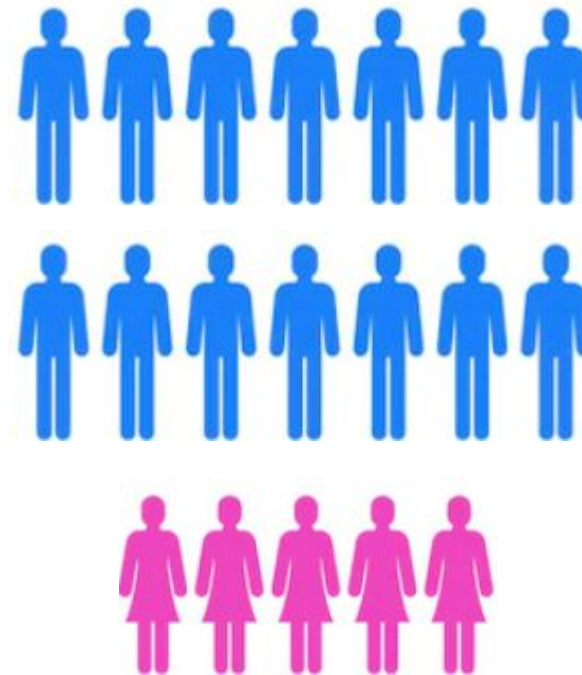
- Espaces fortement masculins
- Espaces de combat et de violences
- Espaces dévoreurs de ressources



Pourquoi?

Espaces fortement masculins

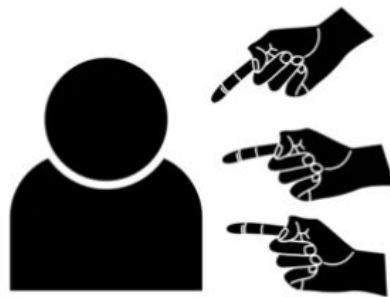
- Exigeants sur le niveau d'éducation et d'information
- Nécessitant d'importantes ressources (matérielles et immatérielles)
- Très portés par les préjugés sociaux et culturels



Pourquoi?

Espaces de combat, de violences

- Compétition pour s'approprier les avantages qui suivent le fait d'être autour de la table de décisions (opportunités, espaces productifs, gains de pouvoir et de ressources);
- Tentative de préserver leurs privilèges.



caractérisés par:

- brutalité, violences, ruses;
- menaces, agressions au sein de la famille ou en public;
- intimidations



Pourquoi?

Espaces dévoreurs de moyens financiers

- Mobilisation sociale autour du projet;
- Démarches administratives souvent onéreuses;
- Mais aussi malheureusement corruption pour réussir.



- la peur induite est un obstacle sérieux à la participation politique des femmes
- la violence crée l'insécurité et limite la capacité des femmes à s'engager
- la violence et les menaces compromettent leur confiance en elles
- la faiblesse des ressources financière limite leur capacité d'action et les contraint à se placer au 2nd plan

Conséquences sur les femmes désireuses de s'impliquer dans ces espaces





CHALLENGES ET OPPORTUNITES



Les challenges sont nombreux, viennent souvent de l'intérieur, mais aussi résultent de l'environnement externe

Les préjugés socio-culturels et les stéréotypes négatifs qui nient toute possibilité de participation politique aux femmes

Les pressions familiales que les femmes subissent les conduisent à abandonner leurs ambitions politiques pour laisser la place aux hommes

Le fardeau des tâches domestiques et des soins aux jeunes enfants et aux personnes nécessitant une assistance ne laissent pas assez de temps libre



Le spectre des compétences nécessaires au travail politique est très large : savoir communiquer, écouter, observer, construire et entretenir des réseaux, être disponible, in/formée, travailleuse, avoir du bon sens, aimer la communauté, connaître son entourage, avoir le sens de la justice, une bonne capacité de travail et savoir prendre des décisions

L'acceptation d'une femme mariée comme leader dans l'aire culturelle de son époux, où elle est perçue comme une étrangère si elle vient d'ailleurs

L'accès aux ressources financières généralement entravé par le fait que les sources de production (propriété foncière, héritage, ...) ne sont pas également réparties

La réticence, la paresse ou le manque de temps (fardeau des tâches domestiques) à se former et à s'informer



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Thank you