

Africa to Leverage Artificial Intelligence for Climate Action



Russia and Ukraine fight for control of Port City of Mariupol



## THIS WEEK AT THE LAWYERS HUB

**AFRICA'S STARTUP POLICY PRIORITY SURVEY**

**Get Your Voice Heard**

The Lawyers Hub, in partnership with Mozilla, invites you to take the Africa Innovation Mradi Survey for Startups in Africa that will provide valuable insight concerning the policy priorities for the Startup Ecosystem in Africa.

TAKE THE SURVEY <https://lawyershub.typeform.com/startups>

The Lawyers Hub is pleased to request your participation in the Africa Innovation Mradi Survey for Startups in Africa.

The survey is being run as part of the Powering Local Innovation in the Global South initiative by Mozilla, the Omidyar Network and the Lawyers Hub.

It will be useful in mapping out the Start Up Innovation Policy Ecosystem across Africa.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you may opt out of any question in the survey. All of your responses will be kept confidential, they will only be used for statistical purposes and will be reported only in aggregated form.

This survey will take an estimated 5 minutes to complete.

**TAKE THE SURVEY**

## Join the Boost Africa Legal Capacity Workshop for Startup Funders and Founders in Africa

Lawyers Hub is excited to invite you to participate in a free legal training workshop that we will be hosting with the European Investment Bank and Adam Smith International, for early-stage startup funders and founders in Africa titled **Boost Africa Legal Capacity Workshop** from 5th April to 13th May. Themed 'Building the legal capacity of startup funders and founders in Africa', the **Boost Africa Legal Capacity Workshop** is a virtual workshop that brings together early-stage startup funders and startup founders from Anglophone and Francophone Africa to learn about legal aspects to setting up start-ups and first-time investment funds as well as build their legal knowledge and capacity to run legally sound ventures.

The virtual workshop will cover the following training modules:

- I. Workshop 1: Company Formation and Structuring | Intellectual Property
- II. Workshop 2: Capital Structuring, Valuation and Fundraising | Fund management
- III. Workshop 3: Taxation | Contracting | Internal Organization Policies

The workshop is a great chance to connect with other startup funders and founders from the African continent while building your legal knowledge and capacity on aspects of running a legally sound startup or fund through customized training delivered by experienced industry experts.

**Sign up**

**BOOST AFRICA LEGAL CAPACITY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

'Building the legal capacity of startup funders and founders in Africa'

Dates: 5th April - 13th May  
Registration Deadline: 1st April 2022

Commitment Period: 6 weeks

To sign up, visit: <http://www.lawyershub.org/Startups>  
[www.lawyershub.org](http://www.lawyershub.org)



**LAWYERS HUB** **adpi**  
AFRICA DIGITAL POLICY INSTITUTE

## DATA PROTECTION TRAINING

Data Protection, Data Security & Compliance

12th & 13th April 2022  
**DURATION:** 2 Days

**Price:** Ksh 15000 Inclusive VAT  
**EVENT TYPE:** In-person // Nairobi, Kenya.

**SIGN UP** [hello@lawyershub.ke](mailto:hello@lawyershub.ke)  
or Call +254784840228  
[www.lawyershub.org](http://www.lawyershub.org)

### Twitter Space : Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) Framework to Regulate Video on Demand Platforms

This week, the Lawyers Hub held its first Public Policy Discussion of the year. The session on the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) Framework to Regulate Video on Demand Platforms was attended by over 100 participants. Thank you to our guests, Entertainment and IP Lawyer - Liz Lenjo, KFCB Legal Manager - Loice Munialo and KFCB Licensing and Compliance Manager - Joel Wamalwa. ICYMI: Recap the Conversation [here](#). The Board invites submissions on the proposed framework email to [coregulationframework@kfcg.go.ke](mailto:coregulationframework@kfcg.go.ke) on or before **4th April 2022**.



**Public Policy Discussion:**  
Proposed Co-Regulation Framework For Broadcast And Video on Demand Platforms

**LAWYERS HUB**

@lawyer shubkenya

March 28th 2022

8:00pm EAT

VENUE **Twitter Space**

### Data Protection Compliance Training

The Lawyers Hub and the Africa Digital Policy Institute invites you to attend the Data Protection Compliance Training targeting all persons handling Data, including Officers working in Legal, ICT, Human Resource, Records Management, and Finance Departments.

This 2 day In-person training will be held on 12th and 13th April 2022 at the Lawyers Hub.

in Nairobi, Kenya.

To sign up email [hello@lawyershub.ke](mailto:hello@lawyershub.ke) or call +254784840228

## STARTUP NEWS

### South African Ride-Hailing Platform drivers go on Strike over Fuel Prices

■ South African ride-hailing platforms drivers including Bolt, Uber, and In-Driver went on strike this past week in protest of increased fuel prices. The drivers further called for sector-specific regulation to protect their rights during the three-day strike. Bolt has responded to the high fuel prices by increasing customer fares by 20% to cushion drivers.



Photo: taarifa.rw

### AfricaNenda and The Smart Africa Alliance Sign MOU to Support Capacity Building on Digital Payments and Financial Inclusion

■ AfricaNenda & Smart Africa Alliance have signed an MOU to support capacity building for policy and decision-makers on digital payments and financial inclusion for the creation of a single digital market in Africa. Through the MoU, the two organizations will carry out strategic interventions around the development & adoption of open standards for interoperable & inclusive payment systems in line with existing mechanisms on the continent. They will engage in joint advocacy for policy harmonization and host high-level convening events targeting public and private stakeholders to accelerate financial inclusion across Africa.

**Katapult Partners with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change for African Accelerator**

Katapult is launching the Katapult Africa Accelerator Program in partnership with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, Norrskan, and Smart Africa and with the support of Norad. The accelerator aims to invest in 15 impact-driven startups within agrifood and climate-tech across the continent. The hybrid program will take place over a 3 month period where participants will join the program both digitally and on location in Kigali.

## Nigeria's Federal Government Shuts Down 7 Digital Credit Providers

■ At least seven digital loan companies operating in Lagos, Nigeria were raided by the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC). The Commission cited “possible violation” of consumer rights. Reports indicate that the 7 providers have resorted to harassment, cyberbullying, and breach of data privacy when collecting loans from customers who may have defaulted. The Commission cited “possible violation” of consumer rights.

The 7 providers are GoCash, Okash, EasyCredit, Kashkash, Speedy Choice, and Easy Moni.

The Commission has announced plans to regulate the sector in consultation with key stakeholders.

## 8 more African startups confirmed for Y Combinator W22 batch

■ 8 African startups have been added to Y Combinators W22 cohort bringing the tally to 23. The 8 companies, Nigerian companies, Payourse, Simplifyd, Sendme, Vendy, Convoy, Curacel, Plumter, and Sudanese fintech platform Bloom.

Y Combinator is one of the largest seed accelerators in the world. Startups will have access to seed funding and other investment opportunities at the close of the programme.

## DATA PROTECTION NEWS

### Data Processors and Controllers Operating in Kenya to Register with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner

■ Data processors and controllers operating in Kenya will soon be required to register with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner as the Data Protection Regulations take effect. The Data Protection (General) Regulations, 2021, and the Complaints Handling Procedure and Enforcement Regulations took effect on March 14, while the registration of data controllers and processors will take effect on July 14, 2022.

The Regulations set out fines for breach and non-compliance, a win for data subjects in the country.

### EU, India, 8 other countries call for international cooperation on personal data protection

■ The EU and nine other countries said they intend to foster international cooperation to promote high data protection and privacy standards. The Joint Declaration on Privacy and the Protection of Personal Data: Strengthening trust in the digital environment, emphasizes the shared vision of a human-centric approach to such transformation, where the adequate protection of personal data plays a crucial role and is a key enabler for cross-border cooperation. The Statement calls for international cooperation to promote high data protection and privacy standards based on certain core elements increasingly shared across the Indo-Pacific region, Europe, and beyond, such as:

- Comprehensive legal frameworks and policies covering both the private and public sectors;
- Core principles such as lawfulness, fairness, transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, limited data retention, data security, and accountability;
- Enforceable rights of individuals, such as access, rectification, deletion, and safeguards with respect to automated decision-making such as transparency and the possibility to challenge the outcome;
- Safeguards for international transfers to enable cross-border data flows by ensuring that the protection travels with the data;
- Independent oversight by a dedicated supervisory authority and effective redress.

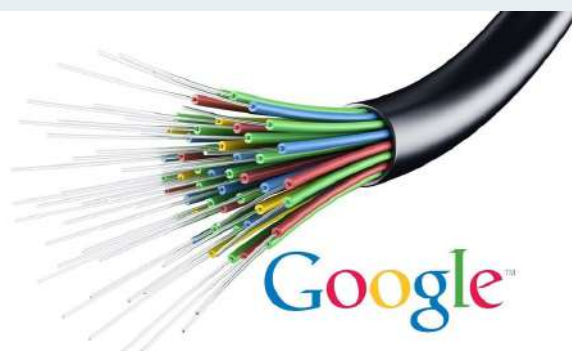
### UK ICO Issues New Post-Brexit Guidance on International Transfers

■ The International Data Transfer Agreement (IDTA) and Addendum replacing the current standard contractual clauses for international transfers have come into force in the U.K. The personal data of citizens will now be subject to the UK transfer rules and not the GDPR. Like the GDPR, the guidance makes a provision for adequacy decisions with respect to transferring data to other countries and international organizations.

## DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### Google internet cable lands in Africa, promising fast connection

A subset cable owned by Google has arrived in Togo. The cable is expected to double internet speeds and reduce internet prices by 14% by 2025, according to an Africa Practice and Genesis Analytics assessment commissioned by Google. The new line will also make land in Nigeria, Namibia, and South Africa, with possible branches offering connections to nearby countries. It is expected to start operating by the end of the year.



## LEGAL TECH NEWS

## The Legal Innovation Hub hosts Global Legal Hackathon Pre-Event in Kampala

■ The Legal Innovation Hub partnered with KTA Advocates for a Global Legal Hackathon 2022 Pre-event in Kampala, Uganda. Participants included Law students at the Business Law Clinic, Makerere University, School of Law. The session was led by Bonita Mulelengi, Senior Associate at KTA Advocates. This year's Global Legal Hackathon ran from the 25th - 27th of March 2022.



Photo: The Legal Innovation Hub

## Aiming to Enable Lawyers to Do More with AI, Contract Review Startup Della Raises \$2.5M Seed Funding

■ Frèrebeau, the co-founder and CEO of [Della](#), a two-year-old legal technology startup in the U.K announced on Thursday 24th March 2022 that it had raised \$2.5 million in seed funding to move it even closer. Based in London and Paris, Della says its technology focuses on the questions lawyers really want answered in contracts, whether the technology is used for reviews of large volumes of contracts or a single complex contract. Lawyers can create checklists to ask their own questions about contracts or use Della's preconfigured checklists. The company says its product is already being used by small and large law firms across multiple countries, including Mishcon de Reya LLP, Eversheds Sutherland, Fidal, and several large multinational, enterprise organizations. Della recently completed a 12-week program in Mishcon de Reya's London-based legal tech incubator [MDR Lab](#).

## DIGITAL ID NEWS

## Zambian Government Begins Biometric ID Implementation

■ Zambia's government has begun implementation for its K1 billion Integrated National Registration Information System (INRIS) and has so far captured over 15,000 people. The INRIS is the country's new biometric ID. Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security Jack Mwiimbu said that the INRIS is intended to provide biometric-enabled national registration cards (NRCs) and issuance of birth and death certificates. "The INRIS will assign a national identity number at birth as opposed to when a citizen is 16 years old. This will make it very difficult for any ineligible person to register as a Zambian citizen," Mwiimbu said in the statement.

## AI NEWS



## Africa to Leverage Artificial Intelligence for Climate Action

The West African Science Services Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) has partnered with two international organisations to promote the deployment of responsible Artificial intelligence (AI) targeted at climate actions in Africa. The Hub will strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, and build capacity in a range of climate change aspects, including data collection and contributing to climate change policy development.

## Israel's OurCrowd set to open AI R&amp;D centre in Abu Dhabi

■ OurCrowd, one of Israel's largest venture firms, plans to open an artificial intelligence-based research and development centre in Abu Dhabi. The company expects to set up the centre by June with hopes that it will help with investment decision making. OurCrowd in November received a license to operate in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which followed the normalization of relations between Israel and the UAE in 2020. According to a Reuters interview with Sabah al-Binali, a partner at OurCrowd, The Global AI Innovation Centre will employ about 50 engineers and OurCrowd will be the first client, although the service will be open to anyone.



Photo: reuter.com

## BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL CURRENCIES NEWS

### Mercy Corps introduces Crypto For Good Fund

Mercy Corps Ventures has launched a fund to drive financial inclusion through blockchain. The Fund's aim is to drive global financial inclusion through a series of pilots in partnership with up to ten startups, building an evidence base to prove the scalability of blockchain-enabled solutions in emerging markets. Startups building solutions for financially underserved populations in frontier economies in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Pacific Islands, and Western Balkans are encouraged to apply.

### Nigerian Producer launches NFT Platform for African Creatives

■ Nigerian producer, Leriq, has launched his non-fungible token (NFT) platform, African Valuables Collective (AVC), to enable African creators to earn from their work. "AVC aims to assist content creators making and selling digital assets by providing a seamless and frictionless platform. In addition, we also want to educate content creators on the opportunity to sell digital assets like NFTs." Leriq told Disrupt Africa. The startup recently raised an undisclosed amount of funding to enable growth in onboarding creators.

### Naijacrypto Expands to 5 new African Markets

Naijacrypto, a cryptocurrency exchange platform, has announced expansion into 5 new African markets. The African markets added are; Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Cameroun, and Burundi. The platform will also establish a presence in Great Britain.

### El Salvador Postpones Issuing of Bitcoin-backed Bond

■ El Salvador has postponed the issue of a bitcoin-backed bond planned for last week, as the government decided to wait for favorable conditions in the financial market. The Central American government had scheduled the launch of the \$1 billion bond between 15-20 March, but the war between Russia and Ukraine and volatility of the cryptocurrency prompted authorities to change the date. El Salvador became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender last year.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY NEWS

### South African Government Cracks Down on Pirated Content

■ South Africa's Justice and Constitutional Development Minister, Ronald Lamola says the government plans to crack down on pirated content in a move to bolster investment and protect jobs.

"While digital technologies enable great advantages to the cultural industries such as opening up of new markets, easier and more efficient distribution, and direct communication with the consumers of goods and services, piracy is a risk with a great potential to collapse the industry," he said.

"Piracy has a serious negative effect on our economy and on the ability of our creative professionals to earn a living. It harms investor confidence and tax revenue collection, and can also affect trade opportunities. If we are not seen as a country where intellectual property is respected and protected, we run the risk of reversing gains the industry could exploit further and create jobs."

The government intends to deploy sophisticated technology, matching that used by perpetrators in executing their crimes.

*Piracy has a serious negative effect on our economy and on the ability of our creative professionals to earn a living.*

**Justice and Constitutional Development Minister, South Africa, Ronald Lamola**



### More than 30 Companies to Start Making Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

■ Over 30 companies worldwide will soon start making generic versions of Pfizer's coronavirus pill according to the U.N.-backed Medicines Patent Pool. The Medicines Patent Pool said in a statement that agreements signed with 35 companies should help make Pfizer's antiviral nirmatrelvir, or Paxlovid, available to more than half of the world's population.

It is estimated that some of the generic companies might be ready to submit their drugs for regulatory approval later this year, with supplies available in 2023. None of the companies that currently make COVID-19 vaccines have so far agreed to work with the group to allow other manufacturers to make their shots.

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE NEWS

### Russia and Ukraine fight for control of Port City of Mariupol

The European Union's foreign policy chief has called Russia's attack on the Ukrainian port city Mariupol "a massive war crime", as member states pushed for sanctions on Moscow's key energy sector.

Russian and Ukrainian forces have been fighting for the Port City of Mariupol with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealing for help from Israel. Thousands of residents remain trapped in the city with limited access to food or water.



Photo: Alexander Ermochenko

## CONTENT MODERATION

### Facebook to Verify Ads Ahead of Kenyan General Elections

Meta has shared tools and resources that provide more information about political advertising on Facebook and Instagram ahead of the Kenya 2022 general elections. The move is made as part of the company's efforts towards election integrity.

The company intends to put political ads that run in Kenya on its Ads Library so that everyone can see what ads are running, information about targeting, and how much was spent through an online archive available for seven years.

Meta's Public Policy Director, East & Horn of Africa Mercy Ndegwa, said, "Meta has continued to invest in technology towards election integrity. We believe political discussion and debate should be transparent to every voter, which is why over the past few years we've introduced a number of tools that provide more information about political ads on Facebook and Instagram."

### Front Line Defenders Calls for Urgent Action from Social Media Companies to Protect Libyan Human Rights Defenders

Front Line Defenders, an international human rights organisation that works to provide hands-on practical support to human rights defenders at risk through its digital protection program, has urged Facebook, Twitter, and Telegram to take immediate action to help end an ongoing online defamation campaign targeting human rights defenders in Libya. The organisation called for the removal of videos and all the hate speech and other defamatory content and proper human rights due diligence to ensure that platforms are operating in line with their human rights duties and commitment.

This comes after the arrest of at least seven human rights defenders who had been active online discussing human rights concerns between 2020 and 2022.

## PRODUCT HUNT



Photo: wsj.com

### Apple Is Working on a Hardware Subscription Service for iPhones

Apple is working on a subscription service for the iPhone and other hardware products, a move that could make device ownership similar to paying a monthly app fee, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The service would be Apple's biggest push yet into automatically recurring sales, allowing users to subscribe to hardware for the first time -- rather than just digital services. But the project is still in development, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the initiative hasn't been announced. Adopting hardware subscriptions, akin to an auto-leasing program, would be a major strategy shift for a company that has generally sold devices at full cost outright, sometimes through installments or with carrier subsidies. It could help Apple generate more revenue and make it easier for consumers to stomach spending thousands of dollars on new devices. Already, the iPhone is Apple's biggest source of sales, generating nearly \$192 billion last year -- more than half the company's revenue.

## POLICY WATCH

## Public Consultation on Industry Guidelines for Child Online Protection and Safety in Kenya

The Communications Authority of Kenya has developed “Industry guidelines for child online protection and safety in Kenya”. The Authority wishes to submit the above guidelines for public consultation.

Stakeholders, including the general public and all interested parties, are invited to review the proposed industry guidelines for child online protection and safety in Kenya and provide any suggestion(s) with justification(s), views, and inputs in enhancing its implementation.

Stakeholders, interested parties, and the public have until **22nd April 2022** to submit their inputs and comments which will inform any changes to the final industry guidelines for child online protection and safety in Kenya.

**Written submissions can be forwarded to the Authority through [cop@ca.go.ke](mailto:cop@ca.go.ke) or the address below on or before the stated deadline**

## Kenya's Central Bank of Kenya (Digital Credit Providers) Regulations, 2021 Come into Force

Kenya's Central Bank this week gazetted the (Digital Credit Providers) Regulations, 2021 accompanied by licensing requirements and procedures. The Regulations will apply to digital lenders operating in Kenya.

“The regulations provide for inter alia the licensing, governance, and lending practices of DCPs. They also provide for consumer protection, credit information sharing, and outline the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) obligations of DCPs,” Central Bank Governor Partick Njoroje said.

## Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) Publishes Framework to Regulate Video on Demand Platforms

On 14th March 2022, the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) published the Proposed Co-Regulation Framework For Broadcast And Over The Top (OTT)/Video On Demand (VOD).

The Policy seeks to oversee the regulation of exhibition, and broadcasting of programmable content by VODs, OTTs, & digital content creators, with a significant number of followers/subscribers/viewership and output of content in Kenya. The proposed policy draws its principles from the Film Classification Guidelines set out in the Schedule of the Films and Stage Plays Act.

The Board invites submissions on the proposed framework on or before **4th April 2022**.

## Kenya's Office of the Data Protection Commissioner Calls for Comments on its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Framework

Kenya's Data Protection Commissioner has shared a call for comments on the draft Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) framework to be adopted by the Data Commissioner pursuant to her powers under section 9(c) of the Data Protection Act.

The Office invites comments on or before **4th April 2022** via the email, [dataprotection@odpc.go.ke](mailto:dataprotection@odpc.go.ke).

## EVENTS

## High-Level Engagement on Oil &amp; Gas; 1st April 2022

The EALS is bringing to you a one-of-a-kind, tell-all conference that will unravel the massive opportunities available to the legal profession in Tanzania's oil & gas sector.

CodeX FutureLaw 2022  
7th April

On April 7, 2022, CodeX – The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics, hosts its tenth annual conference focusing on the way technology is changing the legal profession and the law itself, and the way these changes affect us all. CodeX FutureLaw 2022 brings together the academics, entrepreneurs, lawyers, investors, policymakers, and engineers spearheading the tech-driven transformation of our legal system. Join us for a unique educational event and an opportunity to connect and exchange ideas with legal tech innovators from around the world.

ICTA Connected Summit 2022  
11th - 14th April

Connected Kenya Summit is the leading ICT thought leadership forum in the region that brings together industry players from the private sector, public sector, and academia. It offers a great platform to engage other stakeholders and partners on how frontier digital technology such as 5G, IoT, and Artificial Intelligence can transform lives, power inclusion, and create sustainable livelihoods,” said Peter Ndegwa, Chief Executive Officer, Safaricom PLC.

ICC Digital Trade Conference  
6th to 8th April 2022

The conference will focus on pillar three of the roadmap and will begin the process of preparing industry to capitalize on these developments with specific attention on establishing an interoperable digital trade environment. Sessions will be aligned to particular sectors and will look at systems, operations, processes, and use of interoperable standards. Each session will help identify barriers and opportunities to the creation of a modern fully digitalised trade ecosystem.

## Africa Energies Summit and Exhibition 2022; 17th -19th May

The Africa Energies Summit brings together Africa's energy industry for a unique event shaped for companies active in Africa's energy game and provides unrivaled insight into the Continent's fast-changing energy landscape. The Africa Energies Summit will be a hybrid event, encompassing an in-person conference in London in which an online audience also participates.