

Call for Experts: African Union Cyber Security Expert Group

The African Union is calling for ICT Experts to join the **African Union Cyber Security Expert Group**. This is an exciting opportunity to advise the AUC on matters related to Cyber security, Cybercrime, Cyber-legislations, Online privacy and Data protection among other digital policy related issues. The AUCSEG will have up to 15 members and will serve in a voluntary, independent, personal, and individual capacity. Members of the AUCSEG must represent the 5 African regions namely Northern, Southern, Central, Eastern and Western. Two seats will be reserved for each region. The Head of the Information Society division of the African Union Commission will serve as a permanent member and a secretariat of the group.

Background

The African community is increasingly embracing ICTs in general and the Internet in particular as key enablers for social and economic development. Member states of the African Union recognize the untapped potential of the digital transformation and its power to further the prosperity and wellbeing of their citizens. However, the rapid growth of the Internet has also created new opportunities for perpetrating cyber-attacks and cybercrime on a global scale. Therefore, ICTs and Internet cannot be fully used for the benefit of Africans unless they can be trusted. This is why the African Union recognizes that cyber security must be an integral and indivisible part of technological and digital revolution

In January 2018, the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council endorsed the decision of the Specialized Technical Committee on ICTs, EX.CL/Dec.987(XXXII) to create an Africa Cyber Security Collaboration and Coordination Committee to advise the AUC and policy makers on the Cyber strategies. This committee shall be called the African Union Cyber Security Expert Group (AUCSEG) and will advise the AUC in matters related to Cyber security, Cybercrime, Cyber-legislations, Online privacy and data protection as well as digital policy related issues. The expert group will help facilitate coordination and information sharing among African countries & regions and different stakeholders, help identify cyber security areas where resources are needed, and advise African Union policymakers on national, regional and continental strategies and initiatives that should be prioritized. The Committee would be an evolving, compact, and trusted network of experts formed by the AUC in collaboration with the African Internet community.

General Objective of the AUCSEG

To provide guidance and recommendations on Cyber policies and strategies to AU with the aim to adopt, monitor, prevent, mitigate and address current and emerging cyber threats and data misuse.

Roles

The AUCSEG will be established by and reports to the African Union Commission, Department of infrastructure and Energy - Information Society Division. The responsibilities of the AUCSEG will be to provide advice to AU on technical, policy, legal and other related Cyber security matters at a national, regional and continental levels; this includes but is not limited to:

- a) Strategies for collecting, synthesizing, and disseminating information on cyber security for member states;
- b) Guidance on Cyber security programs for Member States, such as:
 - i. Establishing systems and mitigating programs e.g. CERTs/CIRTs or CSIRTs to counter criminal activities committed over the Internet
 - ii. Evaluating the impact of cyber security interventions and programs;

- iii. Assisting member states to develop cyber security national strategies and legislations;
 - iv. Assisting with the planning of content and structure of the AUC yearly cybersecurity conference;
 - v. Establishing the cyber security month in all Members States;
 - vi. Enhancing the capacities of criminal justice authorities, such as law enforcement, Prosecutors and Judges, in order to enable them to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of cybercrime and other offences involving electronic evidence and computer forensic;
 - vii. Ensuring the dissemination of best practices in the fight against existing and emerging cybercrime through the cyber security Month and the yearly cybersecurity conference institutions.
- c) Promoting accuracy and integrity of ICT data at the national, regional and continental levels and identifying gaps in evidence and suggesting priority research areas in the field of cyber security.
 - d) Design a model for cybersecurity capacity building which takes in consideration all aspects (policy, technology, skills development...) and can be easily adapted to Member State's needs;
 - e) Providing guidance and advice on the online privacy and personal data protection issues raised by Member States;
- f) Develop comprehensive and detailed national sensitization programs including public awareness campaigns and preventives measures at all levels to mitigate Cyber risks for Internet users, small businesses, schools and children;

Terms of Service

Members of the AUCSEG shall be appointed to serve for an initial term of up to **two years**, renewable once, for a period of up to an additional two years.

Operating Procedures

- The AUCSEG will meet at least once a year in face-to-face meetings and have additional meetings and/or teleconferences at least once a month as needed.
- AUC will organize the AUCSEG meetings (provide support for travel and accommodation for the members).
- Additional experts might be invited to participate in meetings, also as appropriate, to ensure that a sufficiently broad base of expertise is available for the specific agenda items at each meeting.
- Recommendations from the AUCSEG will be used to reinforce the work and support the strategies of AUC.

Eligibility Criteria

- i. Citizen of the African Union Member States
- ii. 8 Years' experience in the field of ICT and cybersecurity
The Experts must have excellent technical knowledge, expertise in the subject area and proven evidence of work in similar roles such as scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, and more than 8 years' experience in at least one of the cyber related areas listed below:
 - Online Privacy
 - Cybersecurity policy
 - ICT technology, capacity building and training
 - Internet Governance
 - Data protection

- Emerging issues, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence
- Cyber-Crime investigations & legislations
- Critical Infrastructure protection (CIP)
- Internet and jurisdiction

The AUCSEG shall include diverse members who have worked or are currently working for the following, Academic, Technical Community, Civil Society, Law Enforcement, Policy, Private corporates, National security and personal data protection agencies, Private companies in the technology space with experience in cyber security issues, as well as ICTs in general.

Application Process

Send your CV and a cover letter of not more than a page to [E-mail](#)

Important Dates

Evaluation Criteria