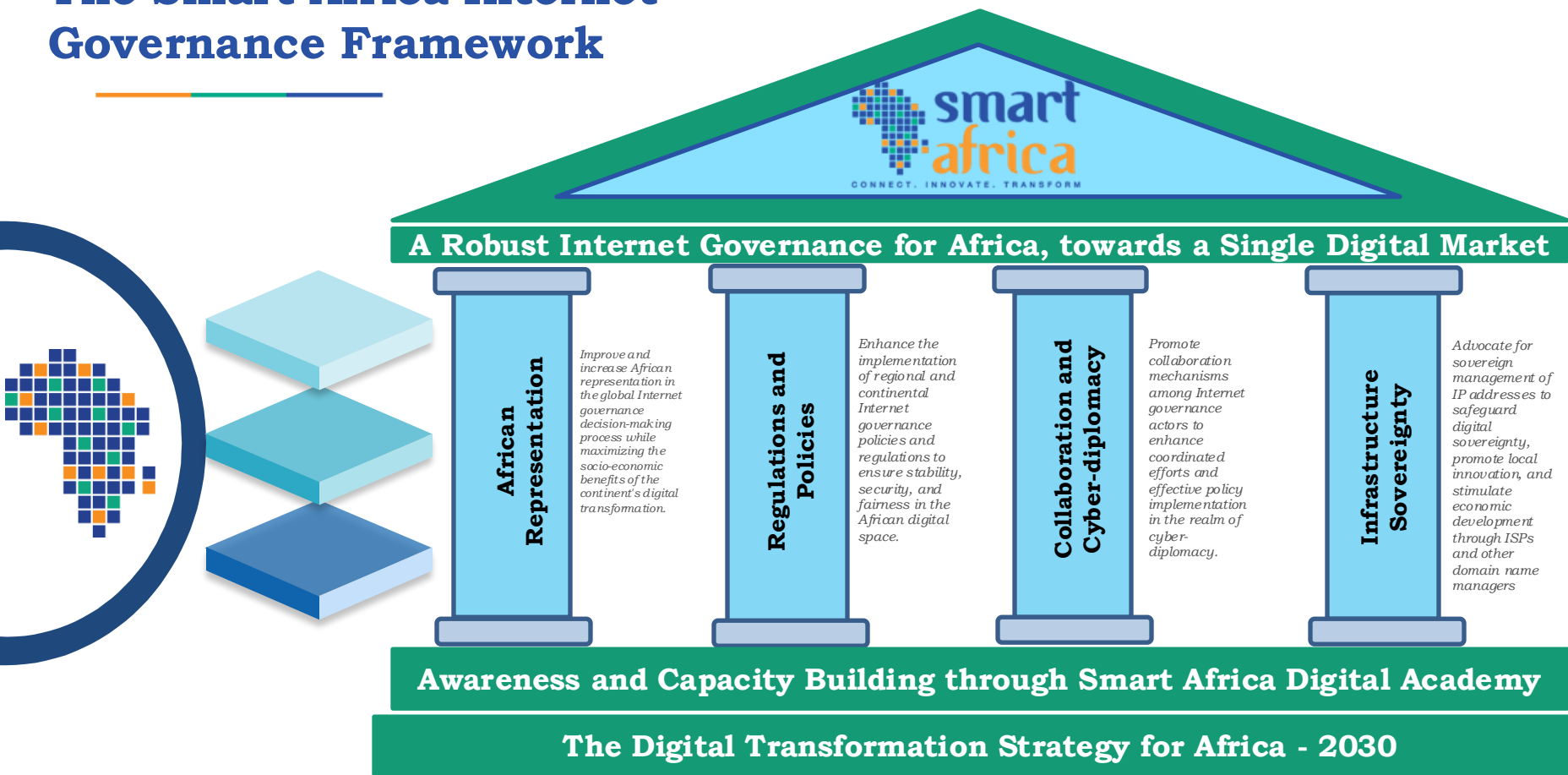




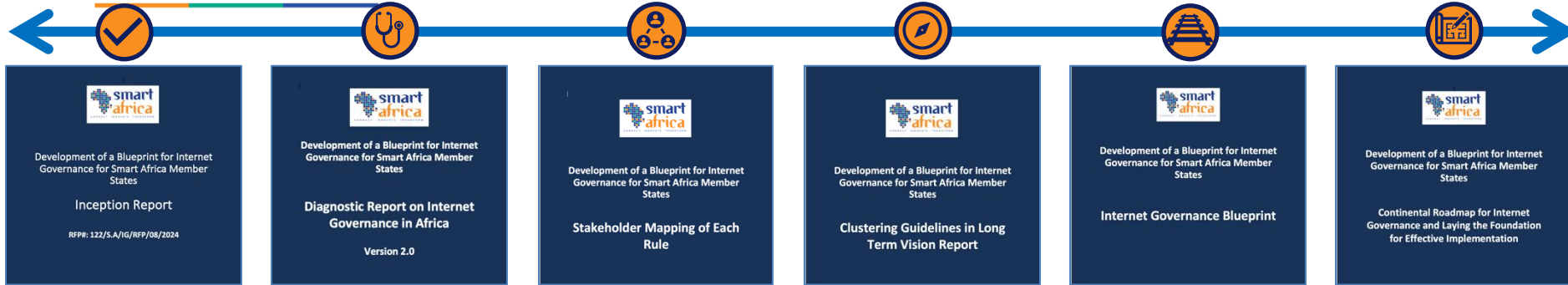
# *Presentation of the Flagship Project on Internet Governance*

# The Smart Africa Internet Governance Framework



# *Internet Governance Blueprint*

# Project Objective & Overview



The project follows a **six-phase journey**, from research and analysis to strategy and implementation ensuring that Africa's Internet Governance blueprint is **evidence-based, inclusive, and action-oriented**.

- **Inception Report** – Defined objectives, scope, and methodology to guide the project.
- **Diagnostic Report** – Analysed Africa's Internet Governance landscape using PESTEL and SWOT.
- **Stakeholder Mapping** – Identified key actors, roles, and engagement across all governance areas.
- **Clustering Guidelines** – Grouped findings into six strategic clusters and priority themes.
- **Internet Governance Blueprint** – Established a unified continental framework and six action areas.
- **Continental Roadmap** – Translates the Blueprint into concrete implementation steps and governance mechanisms.

As of today, all the deliverables are completed and in review of the Smart Africa Secretariat and other stakeholders.

# Blueprint: Strategic Framework Overview

| Action Area                                                                      |                                            | Expected Outcome                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | 1. AFRINIC Reform & Stabilisation          | Institutional trust, operational stability, and transparent governance for Africa's IP-registry system.          |
|  | 2. Unified African Voice in Global IG      | Coordinated representation and stronger influence in ICANN, ITU, IGF, and WSIS fora.                             |
|  | 3. Operationalisation of CAIGA             | Fully functional Council guiding continental IG coordination and policy coherence.                               |
|  | 4. Capacity Building & Awareness           | Skilled regulators, policymakers, women, and youth actively influencing IG debates shaping IG for the Continent. |
|  | 5. Critical Infrastructure Resilience      | Reliable connectivity and cybersecurity through routing-security norms and IXP-driven interconnection.           |
|  | 6. Continental Alignment under Agenda 2063 | Integrated and inclusive digital governance advancing the Single Digital Market.                                 |

*Presentation of the Council of African Internet Governance  
Agencies (CAIGA)*

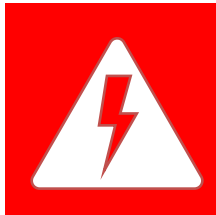
# Key Figures & Trends



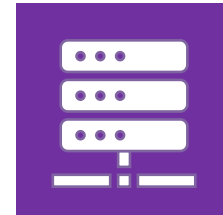
As of mid-2025, **over 30 African countries** have adopted digital laws, but less than **15% are aligned with regional frameworks**. **0% have adopted** a national IG strategy.



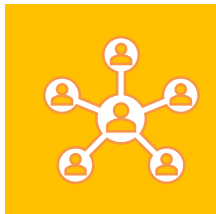
**+160% growth** in African internet traffic (2020–2024) and 570M Internet users in Africa (**42% penetration – Internet Society, 2024**)



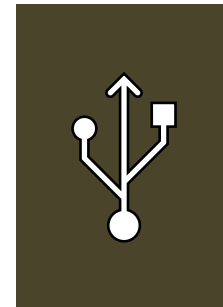
Africa is the only region where a critical internet infrastructure the RIR is stalled by governance failure threatening digital sovereignty and regional stability.



**More than 30% of critical digital services** (e.g., e-gov, payments, cloud) hosted outside the continent

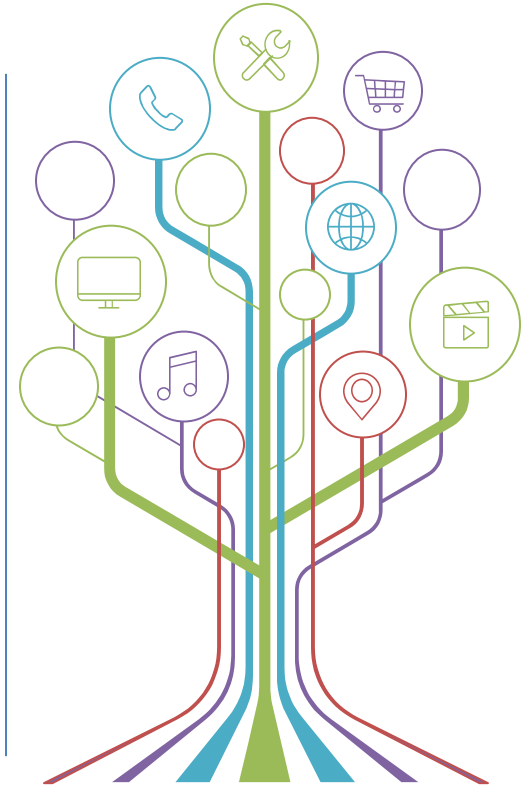


**< 10 % African** participation at ICANN and others regional and global internet governance meetings



**Few IXPs carry major traffic, many DNS roots** depend on external paths, and **60% of ccTLDs** are hosted abroad highlighting urgent need for continental coordination.

# CAIGA purposes :



The council will define Africa's strategic objectives in global Internet governance, support the creation of inclusive governance frameworks, advocate for African control over key infrastructure, foster stakeholder collaboration, and lead Africa's cyber diplomacy—measured by increased representation, strategic initiatives, infrastructure projects, and global influence.

# CAIGA is here to complement other platforms...

| Aspect                            | CAIGA                                  | IGF                                 | ICANN                                | IETF                              | ISOC                                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Institutional Nature</b>       | Coordinate African Internet governance | Global Internet policy dialogue     | Manage DNS & identifiers             | Develop Internet protocols (RFCs) | Promote open & inclusive Internet   |
| <b>Mandate / Scope</b>            | Smart Africa mechanism (AU-aligned)    | UN multistakeholder forum           | Global non-profit corporation        | Open technical community          | Global non-profit network           |
| <b>Geographic Scope</b>           | <b>Africa</b>                          | <b>Global / Regional / National</b> | <b>Global / Africa (GAC, CDA)</b>    | <b>Global</b>                     | <b>Global / Regional / National</b> |
| <b>Core Functions</b>             | Policy alignment & coordination        | Policy debate & collaboration       | DNS policy & capacity building       | Internet standardization          | Advocacy, training & awareness      |
| <b>Decision Power</b>             | <b>Advisory &amp; coordination</b>     | <b>Consultative</b>                 | <b>Binding (technical scope)</b>     | <b>Normative (voluntary)</b>      | <b>None (advocacy-based)</b>        |
| <b>Typical Outputs</b>            | Guidelines, SOPs, frameworks           | IGF reports, best practices         | Policies, GAC advice, CDA outputs    | RFCs, drafts, standards           | Briefs, training, initiatives       |
| <b>Africa's Entry Point</b>       | Smart Africa, CAR, agencies            | AFIGF, NRIs                         | GAC Africa, CDA                      | African experts & ambassadors     | ISOC Africa, national chapters      |
| <b>Complementarity With CAIGA</b> |                                        | Feeds policy discussions            | Aligns & supports technical programs | Links standards to policy         | Reinforces advocacy & capacity work |

# Governance Structure

**CAIGA Council :** All members states (ICT ministries or regulators, DNS Manager, cCTLD Manger, IXP Manager), 8 experts (AUC, AFRINIC, AFTLD, IXP Association, ISOC, ICANN, IGF, ITU, ATU), and Private Sector Members.

*Defines strategic priorities, adopts guidance, and issues non-binding resolutions on continental Internet governance matters. Council legitimacy is reinforced through equitable geographic representation, rotation of members every two years, and open calls for nominations.*



**Secretariat : Hosted by Smart Africa**

*Supports coordination, documentation, and facilitation of CAIGA activities. Ensures regular reporting, transparency mechanisms, and continuous engagement with member states and stakeholder groups.*

**Thematic Working Groups : Open-ended, multi-stakeholder groups (e.g. DNS & Sovereignty, Digital Law, Capacity Building)**

*Provide specialized policy and technical input. Participation is encouraged across linguistic and regional diversity to ensure inclusive dialogue. Each working group produces policy briefs, toolkits, and recommendations.*

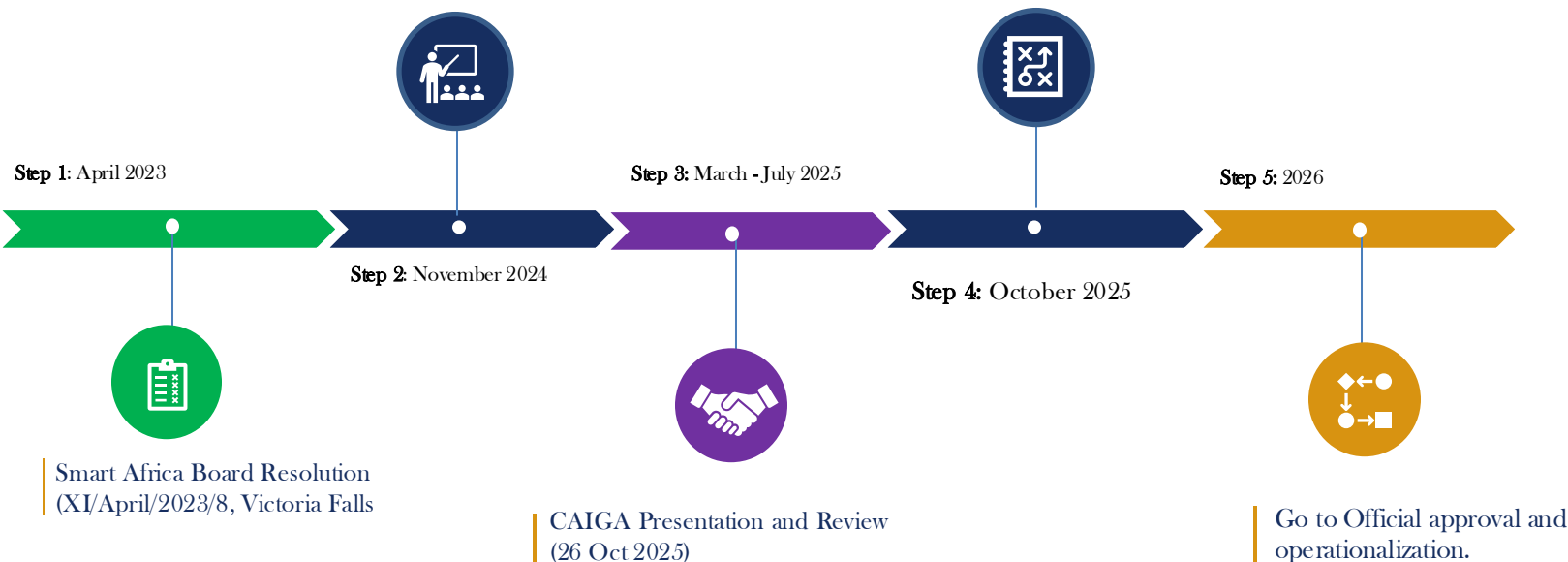
*Strengthening Inclusive Governance : (1) Rotation of responsibilities ensures balance and shared leadership (2) Focus on priority themes: DNS & sovereignty, cybersecurity, digital rights, cross-border policies (3) CAIGA is not a bureaucracy, but a flexible and inclusive coordination framework*

# Proposed Roadmap CAIGA

A central tool for digital sovereignty - A continental coordination architecture - A lever for African diplomacy - A resilience mechanism in times of crisis (e.g., AFRINIC)

Follow-up, awareness-raising, continuous documentation process, and high-level presentation.

CAIGA and Blueprint review



## *AFRINIC Current Situation : Update on Regional Coordination*

# Updates on Africa's Internet Governance

The Board Resolution /XI/April/2023/8



To re-evaluate **AFRINIC immunity privileges status** by putting it at par with similar international organizations in other continents



To engage the **Chinese government to help halting the unconventional** behavior from a Chinese company called Cloud Innovation Ltd.

## Outcomes: Reforms, Diplomacy, Governance

Coordinated with a united front for the AFRINIC board elections , with a first-time **increased** resource member engagement of **10% to 20%**.

Proposed **3 reform options** through the Smart Africa **Adhoc Committee** to be shared with the board of Afrinic for implementation.

Creation of **Council of Africa Internet Governance Agencies (CAIGA)** as a continental platform to collaborate and safeguard our Internet governance.

The development of the **African Internet Governance Blueprint** to support our Member states in developing their policy and strategies.

## Proposed reforms for AFRINIC (Process)

# Proposed Structural Solutions



## NEW LEGAL STATUS

Change from local company to special institution regulated by international law

Achieve long-term stability and international recognition.

Mitigate risks from local legal frameworks and disputes.



## DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES

Seek immunities through Host Country Agreement with Mauritius.

Protect assets and operations from local legal disputes.

Prevent governmental interference with operations.



## HQ RELOCATION

Strategic option if Host Country Agreement cannot be achieved.

Prioritize operational security and continuity.

Find environment conducive to international mission.

Ensuring AFRINIC's successful reform and long-term stability requires a shared commitment and active engagement from all stakeholders across the African Internet community

These fundamental solutions aim to provide a stable operational environment for AFRINIC

# Key Deliverables Submitted

## Governance Reform Report



- Details findings from comprehensive governance review.
- Recommendations for restructuring oversight bodies
- Proposed changes to operational mechanisms



*Focus on improving governance structure and accountability*



## Updated Draft Bylaw



- Changes to membership representation.
- Updates to electoral processes.
- Revised roles of organizational bodies.



*Comprehensive restructuring of organizational framework*



## Legal Status Report



- Analysis of current legal standing.
- Options for enhancing legal protection.
- Ways to improve international recognition.



*Addressing legal vulnerabilities and strengthening position.*

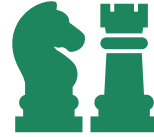
These deliverables form the foundation for AFRINIC's path forward

# Way Forward and Timeline



## Immediate Priorities

- ✓ Adopt the Updated Bylaws
- ✓ Implement suggested reforms:
  - Update voter lists.
  - Phase out proxies.
  - Redefine governance roles.



## Strategic Decision Point

- Community must approve **one** of these critical paths:
  - Finalize Host Country Agreement with Mauritius.
  - OR Authorize Headquarters Relocation.



## Projected Timeline

- ☐ Target completion within months:
  - Bylaw adoption.
  - Reform implementation.
  - Strategic decision on legal status or relocation.