

# EVENT REEPORT



**KTA ANNUAL  
SYMPOSIUM**  
23rd - 24th Oct 2025

THEME

**Digital Trade, AI & the  
Creative Economy as Drivers  
for Digital Transformation**



# KTA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

23rd - 24th Oct 2025

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## List of Acronyms

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>AfCFTA</b> | African Continental Free Trade Area                                    |
| <b>AI</b>     | Artificial Intelligence  |
| <b>CeLPiI</b> | Centre for Law, Policy and Innovation Initiative                       |
| <b>CIPESA</b> | Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa |
| <b>EAC</b>    | East African Community   |
| <b>EU</b>     | European Union   |
| <b>IP</b>     | Intellectual Property  |
| <b>MSMEs</b>  | Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises                                   |
| <b>NDP IV</b> | National Development Plan IV   |
| <b>NPA</b>    | National Planning Authority  |
| <b>NGOs</b>   | Non-Governmental Organizations   |
| <b>PAPSS</b>  | Pan-African Payment and Settlement System                              |
| <b>SB4U</b>   | Sustainable Business for Uganda  |
| <b>ITC</b>    | International Trade Center   |
| <b>TCEs</b>   | Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions                         |
| <b>ULS</b>    | Uganda Law Society   |
| <b>URSB</b>   | Uganda Registration Services Bureau                                    |
| <b>XR</b>     | Extended Reality   |

## Executive Summary

The 8th KTA Annual Law Symposium was held from the 23rd to the 24th of October, 2025, under the theme ‘Digital Trade, AI and the Creative Economy as Drivers for Digital Transformation’. The event convened a multi-sectoral audience including lawyers, policy makers, development partners, tech innovators, and people from the creative industry.

Day one comprised an online training session on the intersection between technology and the creative economy, tailored for legal practitioners and hosted in collaboration with the Uganda Law Society (ULS). Day two was an in-person session hosted at the MCI Media Hub in Kampala, comprising panel discussions, presentations, and a world café session on the thematic topics —digital trade, Artificial Intelligence, and the creative industry.

In its national policy agenda for digital transformation, the National Planning Authority (NPA) stated that the National Development Plan IV considers ICT a critical cross-cutting enabler for Uganda’s economy. Among the interventions under the Digital Transformation Program, the government plans to reduce internet costs by 2030 and to integrate high-skills training, such as Machine Learning and cybersecurity, into education curricula.

With regard to digital trade, facilitators, panelists, and speakers identified the vast opportunities it creates for lawyers, industries, and the economy at large, particularly in view of enabling frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Digital Trade and the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS). The challenges remain in effectively implementing these frameworks. This requires enabling infrastructure such as regionally interoperable and affordable payment systems, building the capacity of entrepreneurs to participate in digital trade, and reducing the cost of doing business, such as taxes that only apply to digital platforms.

In relation to AI, facilitators and panelists contended that AI presents both legal and ethical challenges to legal ownership, democracy, and personality rights. In view of the lack of laws regulating AI, when creating its own AI policy approach, Uganda can borrow lessons from other policy frameworks. This may be the risk-based approach taken by the European Union (EU) or the reliance on existing legislation, as has been adopted by the United States. However, policymakers must be cognizant of the contextual needs of Uganda and its level of development to avoid ‘ill-suited’ policies.

Furthermore, policymakers and industry players alike should address the risk of misinformation and disinformation created by AI. This may require a multi-pronged and multi-sectoral approach, spanning from the media to law enforcement agencies, to combat AI-assisted or generated misinformation and the infringement of image rights.

Lastly, for the creative economy, facilitators, speakers, and participants addressed the implications of technology in the industry, pointing out the opportunities it presents for creatives scaling their craft and businesses, as well as preserving cultural heritage. On the other hand, when it comes to AI specifically, participants warned that it can have legal implications on the ownership of creative works, therefore advising that creatives exercise caution when using AI to assist in the creative process. Critically, participants pointed to the lack of funding within the creative industry that greatly limits the ability of creatives to scale meaningfully. They identified the misalignment between the creative industry and investors, particularly in the creatives being able to articulate the value of their work in monetary terms.



# Day 1:

# Thursday, 23rd October 2025

## Training Session on the Intersection Between Technology and the Creative Economy

### Overview

Day one featured an online training aimed at equipping lawyers with practical insights into the evolving relationship between law, technology, and the creative industry. Legal experts explored how legal practitioners can leverage technology to enhance their work, understand emerging issues such as AI-generated content and digital rights, and support innovators and creatives navigating the legal issues relating to emerging technologies.

### Opening Remarks: *Muhangi Kenneth*

Mr. Muhangi Kenneth welcomed Advocates to the online Clinical Legal Education (CLE) Training organized by KTA Advocates and Centre for Law Policy and Innovation Initiative (CeLPII), in collaboration with the Uganda Law Society (ULS). He thanked the Advocates in attendance for taking the time to learn about the intersection of technology and the creative economy.



Mr. Muhangi spoke about the shrinking area of legal practice with the advancement in technology and the rise in the number of advocates enrolling daily. He called on the advocates in attendance to expand their areas of practice and expertise, to learn about modern trends such as Blockchain Technology, data protection & privacy, as well as cyber security; thus, positioning themselves to handle more clientele and fully be part of the ongoing digital transformation.





### **Welcoming Remarks: Anthony Asiimwe, Vice President, Uganda Law Society**

Mr. Asiimwe officially welcomed advocates belonging to the Uganda Law Society to the 8th KTA Annual Symposium, convened under the theme 'Digital Trade, AI and the Creative Economy as Drivers of Digital Transformation.

He reminded the audience that digital transformation is one of the core mandates of the Uganda Law Society and urged the members of the society to fully embrace it.

He expressed gratitude to KTA Advocates for organizing the Symposium, which he believed is leading advocates in the direction that the world is headed, and noted the importance of the Uganda Law Society being at the forefront of digital transformation.

## **Training Session 1: Copyright, AI, and the New Frontiers of Ownership**

**Facilitator:** *Olga Karungi, Senior Associate, Kirunda & Co. Advocates*

Ms. Olga Karungi of Kirunda & Co. Advocates delivered a presentation addressing the intersection of Copyright Law, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the evolving frontiers of ownership in creative works. Her discussion covered the ownership of content generated or enhanced by AI, legal approaches to authorship, privacy, and consent, while drawing comparative lessons from other jurisdictions to inform Uganda's digital and creative economy strategies.



### **The Challenge AI Poses to Copyright Law**

Ms. Karungi began by emphasizing that the protection of the economic rights of authors serves as the foundational basis for copyright law. The human creative process, encompassing preparation, execution, and finalization, is

what traditionally warrants protection. However, the increasing use of AI by creatives is now influencing nearly every aspect of the creative world, introducing novel challenges to this foundation.

The core legal challenge is determining authorship and ownership of AI-assisted works. Copyright law protects the expression of an idea, not the idea itself. Therefore, a claim to authorship requires originality, defined by the independent intellectual input and approach of the human creator. The difficulty arises because current AI models “learn from the greats,” leading to unimaginable outputs where human intellectual contribution can be hard to isolate. Furthermore, there is a significant risk that AI’s output is not truly original but merely a sophisticated derivation of its training data.

## Defining Human-AI Collaboration and Authorship

To address the protection of AI-assisted works, Ms. Karungi advanced two primary approaches for defining human-AI collaboration:

1. **The Prompt and Output Distinction:** This approach demands a clear separation between the human prompt and the AI output. The human collaborator’s input (the prompt) must clearly and expressively embody their mind and creative idea, on which the AI system then depends to produce the desired work. This method seeks to affirm the element of human ingenuity, creativity, and imagination as the protected core.
2. **The Separability Theory:** This approach suggests that human involvement can be clearly separated and distinguished from the AI’s involvement in the final output. Crucially, Ms. Karungi stressed that in all cases, a strong and substantial degree of human involvement remains necessary for copyright protection to apply.

She strongly cautioned legal professionals that, for the moment, co-authorship between AI and humans is not legally accepted. Lawyers, who are increasingly relying on AI for tasks such as legal drafting, must be extremely meticulous about the process of developing their creative or legal work to ensure it remains protectable under existing copyright law.

## Liability, Privacy, and Recommendations

Ms. Karungi highlighted that growth in AI-specific regulation is currently not primarily geared towards addressing data protection and privacy concerns in AI-assisted work but rather the novel issues AI itself presents. Currently,

the biggest challenge is the determination of liability in AI-generated content. Who is responsible when an AI system infringes upon existing Intellectual Property? While steps like AI watermarking are being explored to help determine the source and, subsequently, liability, a definitive framework for it is still emerging.

In conclusion, Ms. Karungi offered several recommendations for policymakers and industry practitioners:

- Prioritize creator protection within emerging AI frameworks.
- Encourage increased judicial flexibility in handling complex cases related to AI and human collaboration.
- Develop frameworks that balance creator rights with AI innovations.
- Establish robust consent and privacy frameworks for data collected to train AI models.
- Actively encourage the ethical usage of AI by creatives and legal professionals.
- Further amendment of the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Amendment Act, to ensure that creator protection is prioritized.

## Training Session 2: Legal Implications of Digitizing Cultural Expressions

**Facilitator:** *Mr. Wabugo Michael, Senior Registration Officer, Intellectual Property Department, Uganda Registration Services Bureau*



Mr. Wabugo Michael of the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) delivered a presentation on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions (TCEs) in the digital age. The session focused on the pivotal role of law, policy, and the collaborative efforts between legal firms, universities, and creative hubs in safeguarding these valuable, inter-generational assets.

### Characteristics and Defensive Protection of TCEs

Traditional Cultural Expressions, sometimes known as folklore/expressions of folklore or indigenous and cultural intellectual property (IP), are defined

by several key characteristics; they form the cultural and social identity of a community, and are passed down from one generation to the next, the authors of which are unknown (an example is the case of ancient songs or stories).

The need for legal intervention in protecting TCEs is driven by Defensive Protection, which seeks to prevent external entities from acquiring inappropriate IP rights over a community's heritage.

- **Documentation as defense:** This involves systematic documentation to protect TCEs, similar to India's creation of a digital TCE library to prevent the granting of erroneous patents, resultantly preserving traditional history.
- **Preventing external exploitation:** The ultimate goal is to protect against outside communities acquiring IP rights over cultural assets that do not belong to them.

The positives of this lie in granting rights that empower communities to promote their TCEs and also make it possible for laws, rules, and regulations that allow access and benefit sharing as far as royalties go, and to whom they go.

## Legal Implications and the Public Domain Debate

The main challenge for TCEs lies in applying modern Intellectual Property rights. Key questions include: "Who owns TCEs?" and "What is the objective of digitizing TCEs?"

- **Ownership of digitized data:** Mr. Wabugo clarified that while the creators of a digitized database own the Intellectual Property rights to the database itself, they do not own the Intellectual Property rights to the underlying TCEs.
- **Sacred knowledge:** Some TCEs are sacred and require explicit authorization for usage, emphasizing the need to uphold traditional laws and protocols on secret knowledge or objects.
- **The impact:** Digitization profoundly impacts how cultural content is created, disseminated, accessed, and consumed.

The presentation also addressed the Public Domain Debate on whether TCEs should be freely accessible to anyone. This debate is framed by three perspectives: the legal status of the content, the freedom of use permitted, and the availability and accessibility of the materials, all of which are governed

by international, regional, and national legal frameworks on TCEs. While it is important to protect and preserve TCEs, granting exclusive control over them would also potentially present the risk of stifling innovation and creativity. This is in addition to the difficulty of actually implementing the protection of TCEs. Key international, regional, and national legal frameworks on TCEs mentioned during this presentation included: the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005; The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003; and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007.

Nationally, we have the National Culture Policy, 2006, Trade Secrets Protection Act, among others.

## Risks Created by Digitizing TCEs

Digitization carries significant risks, including challenges to authenticity and integrity, the potential for misleading representations of TCEs, and the pervasive threat of commercialization without community benefit. The rise of technologies like AI, which can create videos re-telling and visualizing stories (for example, the Buganda creation story of Kintu), compounds these risks.

## Recommendations:

The Q&A session provided clarity on the recommended guidelines to safeguard TCEs:

- **Consent:** Consent for the usage of TCEs is often complex and must be obtained from the appropriate community authority, such as the clan head or the king/queen. This consent should ideally involve a written agreement detailing the rules and guidelines to be followed. TCEs must be registered with the URSB Copyrights Department in order for them to be protected under Uganda's copyright laws.
- **Creating awareness:** URSB is committed to providing technical support and awareness to educate the public about the legal aspects of AI and its impact on cultural expressions.

## Training Session 3: A Lawyer's Guide to Cross-Border Trade in East Africa



**Facilitator:** *Ms. Mable Kisaka, Managing Partner, MESA Advocates*

Ms. Mable Kisaka presented an essential guide for lawyers navigating the opportunities and legal complexities of Cross-Border Digital Trade within East Africa and the African continent. Her presentation underscored the growing relevance of this field, driven by increased internet penetration, mobile money, and improved logistics.

### The Regional and Continental Framework

Ms. Kisaka highlighted the significant institutional developments supporting digital trade, specifically taking note of the recent adoption of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Digital Trade, which is designed to regulate digital payments, e-commerce, data flows, and emerging technologies across the continent. She commended the East African Community for its efforts in achieving efficient clearance of goods within the customs union.

At the continental level, the Trade Observatory is providing real-time data on trade and establishing an online market for clients. Furthermore, the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), supported by the AfCFTA, is enabling instant fund transfers to accelerate cross-border commerce.

She emphasized that digital trade is a permanent fixture of the economy and encouraged advocates to stay updated on these trends, noting that success in this area of legal practice can only be guaranteed by upskilling in the areas of data governance, payments, consumer protection, and regional integration.

She highlighted the essential domains that legal advisors in this practice of the law must focus on, the first being electronic transactions and digital contracts, data governance and cross-border data flows, consumer protection and intermediaries, digital payments/FinTechs and cross-border settlements, and finally cybersecurity and digital identity. Key questions to consider under these are whether e-signatures are legally valid across



the region; whether cross-border digital contracts are enforceable; how online platforms are regulated, and what licenses are required for them to be legally compliant, among various other considerations.

## Key Legal Risks and Due Diligence

For lawyers advising on digital cross-border transactions, Ms. Kisaka detailed a comprehensive list of legal risks to be diligently assessed and mitigated:

- **Contractual formalities:** When contracting, lawyers must ascertain the recognition of electronic signatures in both countries, the required mode of authentication, the laws governing the contract, and the established dispute resolution system.
- **Regulatory interoperability:** It is vital to determine the interoperability of the partner country's laws with Uganda's, particularly regarding data protection laws and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- **Liability and consumer protection:** Lawyers must consider the implications for consumer protection and the determination of liability, especially in the context of digital services.
- **Taxation:** She stressed the necessity of working with tax consultants to ensure strict adherence to the taxation regulations of the partner country.
- **Intellectual property and cybersecurity:** Advising clients requires establishing whether their IP can be protected in the destination country and addressing potential cybersecurity concerns.

## Advice on client contracts and future developments

When drafting digital contracts, lawyers must clearly establish whether the client intends to deal with digital goods or commercial services, the location of supply and its governing laws, as well as the applicable rules of commerce in the chosen jurisdiction. She reminded advocates to ensure that digital contracts include explicit clauses on e-signatures, as it helps clients maintain clear evidence of compliance and accountability for their digital businesses.

In the future, lawyers in Uganda must fully implement the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade, and the evolution of technologies like AI and blockchain, which will further shape the field of cross-border trade.



## Recommendations:

Ms. Kisaka concluded by encouraging advocates to continuously learn about the law and new developments in their various practice areas. Addressing the question of how lawyers without an “Ivy League education” can succeed in this field, she stressed the importance of cross-border digital trade and how key it is to recognize that trade drives economic development and improves lives. You needn’t have the highest net worth to build a thriving business.

A focus on digital trade directly connotes a rise in accessibility. The digital space lowers barriers, allowing even small businesses to enter trade. In Ms Kisaka’s words, “You don’t have to be a big company to trade digitally and enjoy success from it”.

As an action point, she encouraged lawyers to pursue continuing education to further upskill and learn about emerging areas, especially as far as digital trade, AI, and cross-border payments in the East African Community go. She suggested courses offered by the International Trade Centre website to equip themselves with specialized knowledge, as a great starting point.

Finally, she delivered a powerful call to action: “Before everything else, we have to ensure that the laws exist.” She stressed that the lawyer’s role is not passive; lawyers must actively advocate for policies, take action, and persuade legislators to present bills relevant to these critical and emerging areas.

## Training Session 4: Cryptocurrency and the Law: Implications for Legal Practice

**Facilitator:** *Louis N. Kizito, Advocates, Pentagon Advocates*

Mr. Kizito provided an in-depth exploration of how Stablecoins and Asset Tokenization are fundamentally changing global finance, contracts, and capital markets.



### The New Money Rails and Web3

The session introduced the concept of Web3 (facilitating ownership of

assets and personalization of property) and defined “rails” as the underlying infrastructure that transmits money. The innovation lies in Crypto/Blockchain-based money rails, which offer free ledgering and finality of settlement, eliminating the need for complex, manual reconciliation. For lawyers dealing with cross-border transactions and digital assets, an understanding of stable coins, such as Tether and USDT, is crucial due to their benefit as a simultaneous store of currency.

## Implications for Legal Contracts and Capital Markets

The introduction of tokens necessitates fundamental changes to legal contracts, requiring lawyers to address issues beyond traditional compensation, such as Token Allocation, Gas Fees, Contractor Wallet Addresses, Token Registration Status, and Token Risks.

Tokenization, representing real-world assets on a distributed ledger, is disrupting capital markets by bringing immediate finality of settlement. This involves the unique blockchain account model where the private key is personal and grants ownership, while the public key is used for trading. Examples like the Tokenization of Gold in Karamoja demonstrate the creation of a secondary market for physical assets. Lawyers are essential in managing associated corporate actions, including advice on dividends, investor actions, and government bond investments.

## Regulatory Risks and Jurisdiction

In the Ugandan context, there is an abject lack of legislation surrounding this subject. The lack of domestic regulation forces local projects to rely on the Rule of Law of other countries (e.g., Mauritius’s virtual assets law). This means that when contracts drawn in Uganda are challenged, they are subject to foreign jurisdiction for arbitration, taking legal business and clients away from Uganda. He concluded that the lack of regulation leaves clients unprotected.

## Training Session 5: Bridging The Gap Between Law and Tech Innovation



**Facilitator:** *Joel Basoga, Head, Technology Media and Telecommunications Practice, H&G Advocates*

Mr. Basoga's session provided a strategic overview of the challenges and opportunities for lawyers navigating tech innovation, alongside lessons picked from the nascent field of legal-tech entrepreneurship.

His presentation mainly emphasized the fact that the legal landscape is rapidly being reshaped by technologies such as FinTech, blockchain, and digital media, leading to a surge in demand for specialized "tech lawyers" who can provide access to justice through legal tech-enabled and powered platforms. Here, just as Ms. Mable Kisaka had done, he stressed the need for cross-border collaborations and interconnectedness.

Key lessons to learn from legal tech innovations include assistance with the automation of repetitive tasks and cited the approval of the first AI law firm, Garfield AI, by the Solicitors' Regulatory Authority in the United Kingdom. However, in noting such a key milestone, he also made mention of the fact that while AI can automate repetitive work, it currently cannot handle cases due to the risk of "hallucinations."

The key risks involved in adapting tech innovations into legal innovations, according to Mr. Basoga, lie in the fact that tech innovations may be based on outdated information, resulting in inaccuracies. Fact-checking work done by AI then becomes key.

In his presentation, he challenged lawyers to adopt a more entrepreneurial perspective, citing the example of MTN rebranding itself as a "tech company" and noting that subsidiary businesses are often outearning the parent entity.

He noted that there are significant opportunities in investing in data and data centers. This will create significant business opportunities for lawyers in Uganda to advise growing tech entities on issues like Data Privacy and Intellectual Property, especially given the questions AI raises in this area.

## Traditional vs. Tech-Savvy Lawyering

Mr. Basoga outlined the traditional roles of a lawyer, including contract review, compliance, alternative dispute resolution, and litigation, but contrasted these with the challenges and emerging opportunities presented by technology:

### Challenges

- Emerging Opportunities
- Slow regulatory adaptation in new tech areas.
- Data Management, particularly compliance with the Data Protection and Privacy Act.
- Limited digital literacy and discomfort with new tools.
- Specialization in Cyber Security, Fin-tech, AI Governance, and Digital Currencies.
- The inherently conservative nature of the legal profession.
- Increased efficiency in traditional roles via automation and tech platforms.
- Addressing the ethical duty in the age of AI, automation, and privacy.
- Enhancing Access to Justice through legal tech-enabled and powered platforms.

### Lessons from Legal Tech Start-ups

Reviewing start-ups like Barefoot Law, LawPadi, HarveyAI, and jibuDocs, the presentation summarized critical lessons for the legal profession:

The Automation of repetitive Tasks and embracing of AI tools frees up time for complex, high-value work. Additionally, because tech startups often must work with each other to ensure continuity and maximize resources, it encourages collaboration and knowledge expansion; also feeding into the need for lawyers to work across disciplines and continuously learn and upskill.

There is now an emphasis on Data and Privacy Protection Clauses in contracts, ensuring that they include the necessary Intellectual Property (IP) and Data Protections for all parties involved.

Tech Startups have also redefined the value of the lawyer, shifting the focus

from process execution to strategic advice and complex problem-solving.

## Recommendations

Mr. Basoga concluded with the following recommendations for professionals:

- Become more tech-literate and comfortable with digital tools.
- Actively participate in discussions about AI and its legal implications.
- Prioritize Digital Commerce and related legal frameworks.
- Understand Data Privacy, including the importance of registering with the Data Protection Office.

## Training Session 6: How Lawyers Can Use Tech Creatively to Enhance Legal Practice

**Facilitator:** *Terry Kahuma, Simply Legal*

Mr. Kahuma shared a practical, personal account of how he leveraged technology to start Simply Legal, a platform dedicated to simplifying the law for the common person, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Entrepreneurial Mindset and Practical Steps

Mr. Kahuma stressed that technological adoption starts with simple, practical steps:

1. **Start where you are:** He encouraged young lawyers to begin immediately, emphasizing the importance of simply starting with the resources available to them.
2. **Investment:** Practical investment includes acquiring better equipment to enhance digital output quality.
3. **Resilient mindset:** A fundamental requirement for legal-tech entrepreneurship is a resilient mindset cultivated during law school.
4. **Visibility and engagement:** Utilizing platforms like TikTok and YouTube for daily legal news and updates, demonstrating how legal expertise can be successfully translated to popular digital media.

## Advice for Young Lawyers

1. **Balancing Roles:** It is not difficult to balance a traditional legal role with running an online platform like Simply Legal.
2. **Self-Esteem:** Young lawyers must have self-esteem and not be shy to “sprout out” and contribute their ideas.
3. **Intellectual investment:** The key investment is intellectual investment, reading and continuously developing expertise.

Mr. Kahuma noted that starting his firm, Firmeron, was based on having “a brain and a will to do it,” reinforcing the message that “We can achieve what we put our minds to.”

## Closing Remarks

**Speaker:** *Mr. Kenneth Muhangi*

In his closing remarks, Mr. Muhangi underlined the need for advocates in The Uganda Law Society to remember to not only practice the law with integrity, but to also branch out into other areas of the law that may be considered non- conventional. He pointed out that this is where the opportunities to make money are, and rigidity and being set in traditional ways of practicing the law can only serve to hold the Bar back. There’s a marked need for both advocates and the Uganda Law Society to commit from the ULS to be inclusivity and cover all emerging areas of law.

Mr. Muhangi closed Day one of the Symposium with the profound remarks, “How you live your days is how you live your life,” encouraging attendees that it is entirely possible to grow their practice through intentional, consistent actions.



# Day 2:

## Friday, 24th October 2025



### Overview

Day 2 of the 8th Annual KTA Symposium took place at MCI Media Hub in Kabalagala, Kampala. It featured panel discussions, presentations, and a world café around the thematic topics: digital trade, artificial intelligence, and the creative economy. In attendance were policymakers, development partners, and industry players from diverse sectors to discuss the challenges and opportunities relating to the thematic topics and how Uganda can foster inclusive digital transformation.

### Opening Remarks by the Symposium Convener

**Speaker:** *Mr. Muhangi Kenneth*

Mr. Muhangi Kenneth, partner at KTA Advocates, officially opened the second and final day of the event by welcoming the audience to the 8th KTA



Annual Law Symposium. In attendance were policy makers, academicians, notable tech industry players, representatives from the creative industry, civil society, and various stakeholders.

Mr. Muhangi took a moment to reflect on the symposium's history, tracing the journey from the inaugural tech symposium to the considerable progress achieved over the years. He acknowledged the resulting influence on tech policy and the corresponding growth in involvement from relevant sectors. He extended his gratitude to key partners whose strategic support has been instrumental in advocating for policy reform within Uganda's digital economy regulatory landscape.

Key partners mentioned were the International Trade Centre, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Uganda and South Sudan, the British Council in Uganda, Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPEA), Uganda Law Society, Media Access Initiative, NSSF, Akatuti, the Impact Table, Global Shapers Community, and Tyms.ai, alongside other industry players.

Mr. Muhangi articulated the theme for this year's symposium: "Digital Trade, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Creative Economy as Drivers for Digital Transformation," emphasizing the crucial role that each plays in achieving Uganda's digital transformation objectives. He underscored that the symposium was designed to be an environment encouraging candid discussion and tangible change.

Finally, he spoke to the central role of the Uganda Law Society and advocates as champions of the Rule of Law and custodians of justice. In this capacity, the legal community holds a mission to actively advocate for policy and legal reform necessary for Uganda to realize the digital transformation objectives outlined in key national plans, including the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV, 2025/2026 – 2029/2030) and the National ICT Strategy (2025/2026 – 2029/2030).

## Welcome Remarks from the British Council

**Speaker:** *Rasheedah Nalumoso*

Ms. Rasheedah Nalumoso, Head of Arts and Regional Lead for the Creative Economy at the British Council, began by congratulating KTA Advocates on reaching the 8th edition of their Annual Symposium. She commended the firm's sustained commitment to convening meaningful conversations



around innovation, technology, and creativity, noting that these values align closely with the British Council's mission.

In her address, she outlined the British Council's work in arts and culture, emphasizing its role in building creative and global communities that inspire innovation, inclusion, and youth empowerment.

She noted that the symposium theme, "Digital Trade, AI & The Creative Economy as Drivers for Digital Transformation," resonates strongly with the Council's broader objective of fostering regional creative growth.

Rasheeda emphasized that digital transformation is a present reality driving economic growth. The British Council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting creatives, educators, and entrepreneurs across Uganda through specialized programs in arts, education, and digital innovation.

### Key initiatives highlighted included:

- **Creative DNA Fashion Programme:** A partnership with Bold in Africa that supports female entrepreneurs in building sustainable brands using digital tools.
- **TechStitch:** A programme designed to foster collaboration between creatives and technologists.
- **Creative E-Learning:** An initiative focused on expanding access to digital learning.

She underscored the importance of collaboration, curiosity, and innovation in shaping Uganda's digital and creative future, concluding with a call to co-create solutions that will drive inclusive growth and creativity across the continent.

## Keynote Address: Driving Inclusive Growth through Digital Trade, AI, and the Creative Economy: The Policy Agenda Under National Development Plan IV

**Speaker:** *Mr. Vincent L. Mangeni, Ag Manager ICT Systems, National Planning Authority (NPA), representing Prof. Pamela*

## *Mbabazi- Executive Chairperson, NPA*

Mr. Vincent L. Mangeni, acting on behalf of the Executive Director of the National Planning Authority (NPA), delivered the keynote address, focusing on the NPA's strategic policy agenda for digital transformation under the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV).



## Digital Transformation as a Cross-Cutting Enabler

Mr. Mangeni began by commending the NDP IV's focus on propelling high-impact growth in key sectors, including technology, insurance, and mineral development. He established digital transformation as a critical cross-cutting enabler essential for the success of all sectors.

Speaking about Artificial Intelligence (AI), he emphasized its definitive role in shaping the future of work, enterprise, and the national economy. He highlighted AI's positive impact on the creative industry, which can maximize creator potential by bringing together digital innovators and translating culture and art into both cultural assets and job opportunities.

## NPA Policy Interventions and Challenges

The NPA is focused on several key policy interventions to achieve inclusive digital growth:

1. **Infrastructure Expansion:** Expanding infrastructure specifically for the export of creative goods and advancing national ICT infrastructure development to encourage creatives to participate meaningfully in the digital economy.
2. **Regional Collaboration:** Prioritizing regional collaboration among partner states to leverage cross-border opportunities.
3. **Reducing Cost and Access Barriers:** Government plans include significant investments to reduce internet costs by 2030, decrease the costs of last-mile internet connections, and invest heavily in data centers.

A major challenge noted was digital literacy, with Mr. Mangeni stating that approximately one-third of Ugandan homes live with low digital literacy, which hinders meaningful participation in the digital economy.

## Economic Strategy and Legal Modernization

Mr. Mangeni observed that digital transformation is recognized as the third key driver of Uganda's economy. Other strategic government interventions include:

- **Trade Integration:** Embracing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to establish Uganda as a regional trade hub.
- **Business Support:** Implementing Income Tax exemption for Small and Medium Enterprise Ugandan businesses.

Crucially, he stressed the urgency of modernizing Uganda's laws to responsibly address challenges such as AI misinformation and growing cybercrimes. To curb these issues, the government plans to integrate high-skills training in Machine Learning, cybersecurity, and related courses into educational curricula.

Mr. Mangeni concluded by identifying the creative economy as an engine for all the digital drivers, especially for youth and women. He called for the involvement of all sectors to ensure inclusive and cross-border practice, affirming that Uganda's policy agenda for digital transformation is "clear, unwavering, and certain."

## Panel Discussion: Formulating a Policy Framework on AI: Bridging Uganda's Priorities with Lessons from Abroad

**Moderator:** *Mr. Torach Julius, Afri-Asia AI Policy Network*



## Panelists:

- **Atuhaire Collins**, *AI Software Engineer, Crane AI Labs*
- **Shirley Gladys Nakyejwe**, *Senior IT Officer and Intellectual Property (IP) Specialist at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance*
- **Ruth Muhawe**, *Technology Associate, DLA Piper Africa, S&L Advocates*
- **Edrine Wanyama**, *Programme Manager, Legal CIPESA*

This panel convened to discuss the formulation of a national Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy framework, focusing on identifying domestic gaps, leveraging global lessons, and developing recommendations for Uganda's strategy.

## Progress and Challenges

Ms. Shirley emphasized that Uganda is accelerating rapidly in the area of AI and is actively drawing lessons from regional neighbors such as Rwanda and Kenya, as well as more developed nations. Acknowledging that policy formulation typically spans about two years, she confirmed the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance is taking proactive steps by identifying priority areas and policy gaps. Progress includes advocating for a Private Members' Bill before Parliament, underscoring the pressing need for regulation. She stressed that any effective AI strategy requires a multi-sectoral approach and that current solutions involve establishing AI sandboxes within Uganda's academia and universities.

Ms. Ruth Muhawe introduced a foundational caution: it is difficult to regulate what one does not know or understand. She stressed the importance of clearly defining Uganda's priorities before adopting any specific AI governance model. She provided comparative examples of global approaches, for example, the European Union's preference for a product safety approach, the United States' reliance on existing data protection laws, and China's model of strong state regulation and oversight.

## Policy as a Guardrail and the Role of Innovators

Mr. Atuhaire Collins emphasized the need for policymakers to move from a theoretical to a practical viewpoint by understanding the technical processes involved in AI output generation. He defined the role of policy as a "guardrail for innovators," providing necessary certainty amid the unpredictable nature of technological regulation. He strongly recommended that



***He defined the role of policy as a “guardrail for innovators,” providing necessary certainty amid the unpredictable nature of technological regulation.***

innovators collaborate with policymakers in creating regulatory sandboxes where new regulations can be tested alongside the innovators themselves to arrive at creative and effective policy.

### Risks to Data Privacy

Responding to questions on data protection and privacy concerning data for innovation, Mr. Wanyama highlighted the highly intrusive nature of AI. He noted that “it isn’t human. It has no feelings,” and is capable of entering private spaces via

bots and internet-powered technology. He asserted that every stakeholder must be involved in expressing their views, and that AI should be an integral part of all sectoral discussions. Furthermore, he recommended that AI policy be approached primarily from a risk perspective.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The panel concluded with key recommendations from the speakers for a successful AI policy development process:

| Panelist                    | Key Recommendation  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Mr. Wanyama                 | Ensure an environment that allows every stakeholder to participate in the AI policy development process, recognizing that AI impacts all citizens (“No one should be left behind”).   |
| Ms. Ruth Muhawe             | Re-imagine AI regulation by bringing more of the industry into the room and clearly defining who the policy is intended to empower.   |
| Ms. Shirley Gladys Nakyejwe | Embed AI into all existing sectoral issues (e.g., health and agriculture). All stakeholders must give input and strategy to build a cohesive ecosystem.   |
| Mr. Atuhaire Collins        | Policy makers must set the vision and seek a deeper technical understanding (“not be scared of getting technical”). He stressed the need for guardrails to give direction, pointing out the current disconnect where there is policy discussion but a lack of talent and attention to data, which is Uganda’s true leverage |

## Partner Showcase: CIPESA- The Role of CIPESA

**Speakers:** *Mr. Edrine Wanyama and Ms. Patricia Ainembabazi, CIPESA*

Mr. Edrine Wanyama and Ms. Patricia Ainembabazi delivered a presentation introducing the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA). They informed the audience of CIPESA's critical role as a leading African policy think-tank in technology and a digital security hub.

### Mission and Focus

CIPESA's mission is centered on impacting policy through research and strategic presentations. To effectively discharge this mission, the think-tank engages in collaboration, partnering closely with government ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) across the continent.

Beyond its core research and policy advocacy functions, CIPESA is actively involved in several key areas of digital governance:

- **Policy Leadership:** Leading initiatives on AI policy and Data Protection within Africa.
- **Internet Governance:** Engaging in strategic litigation related to internet governance issues.
- **Convening Power:** Annually convening the Forum on Internet Freedoms in Africa (FIFA), bringing together stakeholders to discuss continental challenges and policy solutions.





## Remarks from Delegation of the European Union to Uganda - EEAS



**Speaker:** *Mr. Sofian Dahmani, Programme Officer for Green Transition and Private Sector, EU Delegation in Uganda*

Mr. Sofian Dahmani delivered remarks on behalf of the European Union Delegation to Uganda, acknowledging the partnership with KTA Advocates in hosting the symposium and expressing the EU's pleasure in supporting the panel discussion on "The Business of Digital Trade".

### Strategic Context: Global Gateway and SB4U 2.0

Mr. Dahmani contextualized the EU's involvement through the Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Business for Uganda (SB4U), a flagship component of the Global Gateway Strategy.

He announced the launch of SB4U 2.0, a programme valued at UGX 40 billion. This initiative is being implemented in partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, and various government agencies.

***The core of the SB4U 2.0 programme is structured around promoting trade and investment, with a strong emphasis on e-commerce***

### E-commerce Focus and Support

The core of the SB4U 2.0 programme is structured around promoting trade and investment, with a strong emphasis on e-commerce. Through this pillar, the EU is taking a multi-pronged approach:

- **Addressing Payment Challenges:** Partnering with private sector actors, such as payment providers, to address financial and logistical hurdles faced by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

(MSMEs) in their e-commerce journeys.

- **Capacity Building:** Supporting initiatives and tailored training programs to enhance the ability of Ugandan enterprises to access local, regional, and international markets via online platforms.

## Complementary Regional and Continental Programs

Mr. Dahmani highlighted that this national effort is complemented by significant regional investment:

- **AfCFTA Level:** The EU is providing technical assistance for MSMEs, women, and youth through campaigns and workshops that promote the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol.
- **East African Community (EAC) Level:** The EU is supporting the Deep Digital Economy, E-Commerce, E-Payments, and Public E-Services Programme, valued at UGX 100 billion. This programme aims to strengthen cross-border interoperability, harmonize payment systems, and enhance cybersecurity frameworks within the East African Community.

In closing, Mr. Dahmani underscored the EU's conviction that e-commerce is pivotal to trade efficiency and market access, particularly for small businesses, and reaffirmed the Union's commitment to supporting Uganda's integration into the regional and global digital economy.

## Panel Discussion: The Business of Digital Trade: Building Uganda's E-commerce Ecosystem

**Moderator:** John Ndabarasa, Digital Transformation Lead, International Trade Centre



## Panelists:

- **Ms. Stella Ayikoru**, *Uganda Free Zones Export Promotion Authority (UFZEPA)*
- **Mr. Gideon Nkurunungi**, *CEO, Internet Communication Technology Association Uganda (ICTAU)*
- **Ingrid Aringaniza**, *CEO, Footprint Experiences*
- **Mr. Rob Sanford**, *CEO, Safeboda*

This panel session critically examined the drivers of e-commerce growth in Uganda and the systemic challenges faced by private companies and associations in the sector.

## Drivers of E-commerce Growth

Ms. Stella Ayikoru submitted that e-commerce is the “life-line of trade,” underpinned by significant national factors:

- **Digital Penetration:** At least 43% of Ugandans own mobile phones, providing a ready user base.
- **Mobile Money Revolution:** Every telecom company has a mobile money element, solving a fundamental payment challenge.
- **Market Readiness:** The e-commerce boom was accelerated by COVID-19 and the fact that citizens possess disposable income to purchase imported goods.
- **Consumer Behavior:** Ugandans are generally tech-savvy and comfortable with the logistics of online purchasing, including paying for warehousing and clearance fees.

***He highlighted a major policy gap that hinders competition. For example, online ride-hailing businesses (like Safe-Boda) incur taxes related to digital transactions, while their offline competitors do not, creating an uneven playing field.***

## Policy Gaps and Lags

Mr. Rob Sanford emphasized that the current growth of e-commerce has occurred primarily organically, not as a result of policy. He highlighted a major policy gap that hinders competition. For

example, online ride-hailing businesses (like Safe-Boda) incur taxes related to digital transactions, while their offline competitors do not, creating an uneven playing field. He, however, acknowledged that policymakers are beginning to engage, thanking platforms like the KTA symposium for facilitating necessary dialogue.

## Blockades to Scaling the Ecosystem

Ms. Ingrid Aringaniza focused on the domestic blockades limiting the e-commerce sector's scalability:

- **Capacity and Aggregation:** She noted that major aggregators are not emerging from the Ugandan ecosystem due to a lack of capacity to build a sustainable ecosystem and aggregate services effectively. Many businesses cannot scale beyond a certain level.
- **Financial Challenges:** Problems include high transaction fees caused by a fragmented payment system and currency devaluation when converting foreign currencies to Uganda shillings, and a pervasive problem of trust in international trade and financing.
- **Recommendation:** She advised entrepreneurs to focus on creating online visibility to attract the international market and encouraged them to pursue scalable businesses, starting small but having the ambition to grow beyond local limitations.

Mr. Gideon Nkurunungi reiterated that achieving e-commerce growth requires a sharp strategic focus, affirming that Uganda possesses the necessary technology. He also stressed the importance of Internet stability, arguing that government mandated internet shutdowns severely disrupt trade, particularly given Uganda's limited internet user base.

## Evolving Policy and Legal Frameworks

In response to a query about existing functional e-commerce policies, Ms. Ayikoru explained that e-commerce policy is still in its nascent stages. Key frameworks supporting the sector include:

- **EAC E-Commerce Strategy and AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol:** The rolling out of the EAC e-commerce strategy aims to harmonize the national strategies of partner states, and the AfCFTA framework is expected to harmonize African markets and currency rates, essential for trade to flourish.

- **National Strategy:** The national strategy is informed by the EAC digital policy. Specifically, the Digital Transformation Programme under NDP-IV is already providing support to Ugandan start-ups.

## Lessons from Logistics and Advocacy

Mr. Gideon Nkurunungi shared a valuable logistics lesson learned as a CEO: he was initially unaware that his local start-up was tax-exempt. This highlighted the issue of poor policy communication, noting that his organization is now working with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to ensure ongoing conversation.

He criticized the current advocacy landscape, noting that “We don’t lobby for the entire eco-system,” with only a few players involved. This results in policies that are sometimes passed to support new market entrants rather than resilient, existing ICT organizations, underscoring the need for broader and more consistent industry advocacy.

## Speaker Presentation: Enhancing the African Fashion Industry Through Technology

**Facilitator:** *Rasheeda Nalumoso, Head of Arts and Regional Creative Economy Lead SSA Arts, British Council*

Ms. Rasheeda Nalumoso delivered a presentation detailing Tech Stitched XR, a groundbreaking, British Council-backed fashion residency that demonstrated the powerful integration of Extended Reality (XR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create sustainable, culturally grounded African fashion in the metaverse.

## Project context and methodology

The project emerged in response to global paradigm shifts in the fashion industry, driven by the urgency of climate change, decolonial thinking, and rapid digital innovation. It aligns with the Fifth Industrial Revolution’s





human-centered approach to technology.

The residency was a multi-national collaboration that brought together designers from Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal, in partnership with Guzo Technologies (Ethiopia) and the British Council. The participants utilized tools such as Unreal Engine and Clo3D to co-create digital garments and virtual runways that drew inspiration from African heritage cities.

## Outcomes and key Insights

The core outcomes of the residency demonstrated that immersive technology can significantly reduce waste, enhance cultural storytelling, and expand global access to African fashion. The project was not only a design experiment but also a cultural narrative tool, allowing designers to virtually preview and test creations before committing to physical production. It successfully encouraged cross-sectoral collaboration, bridging the gaps between fashion, technology, and tourism, exemplified by an exhibition in Addis Ababa where visitors engaged with digital garments in real-time.

***The core outcomes of the residency demonstrated that immersive technology can significantly reduce waste, enhance cultural storytelling, and expand global access to African fashion.***

## Key findings underscored the project's success in fusing technology with heritage:

- **Confidence in cultural heritage:** The digitization of cultural heritage context amplified confidence in culture, with designers reporting a renewed sense of pride in seeing their work contextualized within digitally recreated African environments.
- **Cultural interpretation:** Generative AI played a role in enhancing cultural interpretation, offering novel ways to preserve and reinterpret traditional aesthetics and designs.
- **Sustainability and identity:** The project demonstrated a replicable framework for the Global South, proving that integrating emerging technologies can simultaneously advance sustainability goals and

strengthen cultural identity.

Ms. Nalumosu concluded by urging the tech sector to collaborate more closely with creatives. She stressed the necessity for African designers to actively take ownership of their cultural narratives as they navigate the digital frontier, ensuring that both authenticity and sustainability remain central to innovation.

## Sponsor Showcase: The Tyms AI Personal Assistant

**Presenter:** *Mr. Allan Akatuntu*

Mr. Allan Akatuntu delivered a presentation on the Tyms AI personal assistant, which he strongly recommended for enhancing employee productivity and organizational efficiency.



### About Tyms AI

Tyms is an AI digital assistant designed to handle a variety of automated, time-consuming tasks. Key functionalities include managing messaging chains, automating customer replies and conducting faster document searches. By handling these routine tasks, the assistant frees individuals to focus on more complex and important work.

Mr. Akatuntu highlighted several ways Tyms is transforming organizational operations:

- **Knowledge management:** It establishes in-built Knowledge Bases, eliminating the need for employees to search through “endless documents without context or memory.”
- **Customer service:** Customers receive immediate answers, significantly reducing waiting times and frustration.
- **Workflow automation:** The system can manage complex, routine processes, such as loan applications and classifications.

Mr. Akatuntu concluded with a compelling projection of AI-human collaboration through AI Assistants becoming the working standard 5–10 years from now, emphasizing that the future of work is already underway.



## World Café Session



### Facilitators:

- **Emily Banya, Akatuuti**
- **Tendo Namugga, The Impact Table**

The World Café session was designed to transition the symposium from a panel format to a more interactive session. The facilitator, Ms. Janice Celine Nantumbwe, emphasized that the goal was to “engage with” participants on topics, rather than merely “talk at” them.

The session covered two distinct topics:

1. Cultivating the Creative Ecosystem
2. The Visibility Advantage: Storytelling, Data & AI for Growth

### Topic 1: Cultivating the Creative Ecosystem (Facilitated by Akatuuti)

The creative economy discussion, led by Emily Banya from Akatuuti, featured the lived experiences of working creatives: Nunu the Creative (Kwevuga) and Toby Fluck from Kelele Collective.



***She called for more inclusive financial systems and the integration of creative entrepreneurship into education to teach artists about sustainability and growth.***

- **Nunu the Creative (Kwevuga):** Described her journey curating a multidisciplinary creative space since 2011. She candidly spoke about the challenges of accessing funding and financial literacy, particularly for self-taught creatives operating outside formal economic structures. She called for more inclusive financial systems and the integration of creative entrepreneurship into education to teach artists about sustainability and growth.

- **Toby (Kelele Collective):** Highlighted the difficulties young creatives face in professionalizing their work. He

underscored the lack of mentorship and knowledge around intellectual property, contracts, and business management, urging for greater guidance on navigating the commercial side of creativity.

## Reflections:

| Guiding Question  | Participants' Feedback  |
|---|---|
| What are the biggest barriers preventing creative collectives from accessing funding or investment? | Lack of business literacy, limited project scalability, and the challenge of proving commercial viability to risk-averse investors.   |
| How can we measure creative impact to satisfy both artists and funders?                             | Need for structured monitoring and reporting systems, capacity building, specific budget allocation for creatives, and early talent nurturing to capture measurable impact. |

## Topic 2: The Visibility Advantage: Storytelling, Data & AI for Growth (Facilitated by The Impact Table)

Tendo Namugga, founder of The Impact Table (a business storytelling and strategy agency), led a conversation on discoverability in the digital era. She defined business storytelling as a multi-sectoral process, drawing from science, AI, and data, but ultimately focused on effectively connecting with audiences and stakeholders to communicate value.



The conversation explored storytelling through AI and data, with participants affirming the importance of authentic and relatable narratives. They also noted that AI provides cost-efficiency and agility, enhancing overall creative output in narrative development.

The session concluded with a reflective question: “If you had all the funding in the world, what idea would make you more visible?” Responses centered on two shared visions:

1. Amplifying African stories through data-driven platforms.
2. Ensuring every child has access to AI education, underscoring a shared commitment to a digitally empowered and creatively confident Africa.

## Speaker Presentation: Strengthening MSMEs Through Strategic Collaborations



**Speaker:** *Ms. Dona Sava, Senior Programs Manager, Hive Colab*

Ms. Dona Sava of Hive Colab provided insights into the organization’s ongoing work, its history as Uganda’s first innovation hub, and its strategic partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC) under the Sustainable Business for Uganda (SB4U) programme.

## Hive Colab's mission and evolution

Founded in 2010, Hive Colab holds the distinction of being Uganda's first innovation and incubation hub. Its core mission is to support both tech and social innovators through a range of programs that foster entrepreneurship and digital inclusion.

Ms. Sava noted that while Hive Colab initially focused primarily on technology-driven initiatives, its scope has successfully expanded to include broader social innovation, ensuring that technology adoption meaningfully addresses genuine community needs.

## Strategic partnerships and digital skilling

Hive Colab is currently engaged in key partnerships to bridge the digital divide:

- **Government collaboration:** The organization is actively collaborating with the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) to implement digital skills training programs specifically targeting rural communities, thereby addressing the critical urban-rural digital divide.
- **SB4U Digital Skilling Programme:** Under the ITC's SB4U initiative, Hive Colab is focusing its digitalization efforts on three key sectors:
  1. Tourism
  2. Grains
  3. Logistics

The initiative began with the outskirts of Kampala before expanding to Mbarara. This expansion strategy is based on the recognition that while urban centers have progressed in digital adoption, rural regions require specific, targeted capacity building to fully harness the benefits of digital transformation.



## Panel Discussion: AI and Its Role in Misinformation, Disinformation, and Personality Rights Infringement

**Moderator:** *Shiba Nakakande, Journalist, Switch Africa*



### Panelists:

- **Anna Reismann**, *Country Director, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Uganda and South Sudan*
- **Abaas Mpindi**, *CEO and Founder of the Media Challenge Initiative*
- **David Mpanga**, *Founding Partner, AF Mpanga, Advocate of the High Court of Uganda*

This fireside chat explored the profound challenges AI poses to democracy and personality rights, focusing on the rise of misinformation, disinformation, and the legal implications of deepfakes.

### AI as a Threat to Authenticity

Mr. Abaas Mpindi commenced the discussion by highlighting the current state of “authenticity fatigue,” where the public struggles to discern truth due to the growing volume of AI-driven misinformation. He asserted that individuals now possess the power to choose the reality they experience.

To counter this, he encouraged young journalists to prioritize post-media work and utilize fact-checking tools. He broadly recommended that the public must proactively educate themselves and become AI-literate.

## Protecting Personality Rights and Personal Information

Mr. David Mpanga focused on the critical need for legislation protecting personal information in the context of AI. AI introduces a complex dimension to the protection of personal data with the rise of deepfakes, which allow for the creation of content where an individual can be made to look or sound like someone else. He stressed that Uganda faces the same challenges as other countries in this regard, highlighting the necessity for laws to safeguard against the misuse of personal information and image rights.

***The biggest hurdle she identified is the rapid release of AI tools that outpace any meaningful regulatory process.***

## Ethical Gaps and the Erosion of Critical Thinking

Ms. Anna Reismann emphasized the role of development partners in fostering dialogue and collaboration on these issues. She cautioned the audience against sharing excessive personal information with AI systems, arguing that AI lacks the capacity for judgment and values, stating that AI systems “cannot experience by themselves and have no judgment.” She noted that AI is

inherently biased by default, contrasting this with the human capacity to experience and discern truth.

The biggest hurdle she identified is the rapid release of AI tools that outpace any meaningful regulatory process. Furthermore, disinformation has evolved into a component of hybrid warfare. Ms. Reismann raised profound rhetorical questions regarding the state of human intellect:

- “Are we being led to a point where we are reducing our original thinking?”
- “Who is in charge of training people in critical thinking?”

She cited the alarm raised by a lecturer over law students relying on AI for essays, questioning the value of studying constitutional law without

dedicating original thought to it. She concluded that professionals must not give up their original, genuine voice, as this is a vital defense against AI's influence.

## AI in the Legal Field and the Challenge of Hallucination

Mr. Mpanga returned to address the role of AI within the legal profession. While acknowledging the utility of Machine Learning, he warned that not all innovation is necessary or good. He argued for the need for a guide or set of values to ground the legal profession's adoption of this technology.

The primary challenge AI poses to legal practice is the killing of the "billable hour" and, more critically, the risk of misinformation. He pointed out the core flaw of generative AI: when faced with questions where it lacks answers, it does not simply return a "NO," but instead hallucinates. He emphasized that lawyers using AI must closely check their work for hallucination and the potential reliance on proprietary works existing on the internet.

Finally, Mr. Mpanga addressed a key challenge for young lawyers: the adoption of AI by law firms. He posed the question of why firms would need young associates for research and first drafts if AI can automate those tasks. However, he concluded with an optimistic note that there will always be room for human judgment, which will open doors for more complex work, even in automated environments.

He concluded with a final caution to the audience about putting too much personal information online. He recommended that the public must cultivate awareness and knowledge to discern AI data manipulations, with the ultimate goal of building the capacity to discern, dictate, and apprehend perpetrators of AI misuse and misinformation.

## Closing Remarks

**Speaker:** *Ms. Janice Celine Nantumbwe, Head of Policy and Research, CeLP II*

The symposium concluded with remarks delivered by Ms. Janice Celine Nantumbwe and Mr. Kenneth Muhangi, offering thanks, summarizing key takeaways.





Janice Celine Nantumbwe offered profound thanks to all participants for making the symposium a reality. She specifically recognized KTA Advocates and CeLP II for their pivotal role in connecting policy makers directly with the industry. She extended gratitude to all partners whose support was critical to the event's success, including CIPESA, the International Trade Centre, MCI-Hub, Impact Table, Global Shapers, and NSSF. She also thanked the Uganda Law Society for partnering with KTA to educate lawyers on the emerging field of digital trade and the creative economy.

**Speaker:** *Mr. Kenneth Muhangi, Head of CeLP II*



Kenneth Muhangi delivered the final statements, emphasizing that the answers lie in policy. He stressed the collective responsibility to account, regulate, and solve the complex issues raised during the symposium. He called for the active involvement of enforcers, citing the need for agencies like the Police Cybercrime Department to effectively handle cybercrime cases in Uganda.

Before officially closing the symposium, Mr. Muhangi expressed his honor and pleasure at seeing a multi-sectoral conversation on tech policy successfully take place. He rallied the audience with the assertion that the legal and tech communities “should be the ones carrying out innovative solutions.”

He concluded with an encouraging note for the next generation, stating that CeLP II, KTA, and the Uganda Law Society offer a welcoming and supportive community where young lawyers can find a home and define their legal practice in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

## Conclusion

The symposium reaffirmed the pivotal role of technology in attaining Uganda's national development goals. Over the two days, participants engaged in dialogue to discuss the role of digital trade, AI, and the creative economy in this endeavor.

The integration of Artificial Intelligence, digital trade, and creative economy has already begun to redefine innovation, businesses, and the future of tech policy. The symposium portrayed the power of collaboration in developing frameworks that protect rights, nurture innovation, and

promote sustainable digital growth. Importantly, youth inclusion, gender representation, and equitable access were recognized as central pillars for a truly transformative digital ecosystem.

As CeLP II, KTA Advocates, and its partners continue to champion inclusive technology policy, knowledge sharing, and cross-sectoral collaboration, this symposium stands as a testament to what is possible when a multi-sectoral approach is deployed to solving urgent societal needs. It is a collective call to action to reform our laws and refine our approach to policy to lead Uganda to be a contributor to, as opposed to just a consumer in, the digital economy.

**Rapporteurs:** *Angu'zu Raymond, Mutengu Lauren Shalom*

