



TECHFORWARD POLICY **FELLOWSHIP**

COHORT 2025 REPORT



AFRICA CENTER FOR
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



Internet Society
Ghana Chapter



INNOVATION
FOR POLICY
FOUNDATION



In partnership with



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Preface



Head of Advisory Council, ACDT **Patrick Kwabena Stephenson**

It is with immense pride that the Advisory Council reflects on the landmark 2025 cohort of the Techforward Policy Fellowship, a program that has successfully united a brilliant and diverse cohort of policymakers, entrepreneurs, and researchers from across Africa. Through a rigorous curriculum of collaborative research and expert engagement, these Fellows have transcended geographical and disciplinary boundaries to produce a body of groundbreaking policy papers; their insights on digital sovereignty, AI governance, and inclusive fintech are already providing critical, evidence-based roadmaps for governments and institutions seeking to navigate the continent's digital future. Beyond the fellowship itself, we are inspired by their profound commitment to becoming lifelong ambassadors for digital transformation, as evidenced by their formal pledges to continue their research, launch targeted advocacy initiatives in their home countries, and strengthen a powerful pan-African network dedicated to shaping policies that will ensure an equitable and prosperous digital economy for all.



Preface



Executive Director, ACDT

Kwesi Atuahene

The Tech Forward Policy Fellowship–Spring Cohort of 2025 marks an important step in developing a new generation of African policy makers and advocates equipped to navigate the intersection of technology, governance, and society. Initiated by the Africa Center for Digital Transformation (ACDT), the fellowship was designed to strengthen the link between technological progress and effective public policy. Through research, mentorship, and collaborative projects, the fellows explored key areas such as artificial intelligence governance, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, and ethical innovation issues central to Africa’s digital transformation.

This report captures the experiences, outcomes, and lessons from the inaugural cohort, serving as both a record of achievement and a guide for future cohorts. It highlights the fellows’ contributions, the program’s impact and the collaborative efforts that shaped its success. The insights presented reaffirm ACDT’s commitment to promoting evidence-based policymaking and building capable digital leaders who can shape Africa’s digital future through informed, ethical, and forward-thinking policy engagement.

TechForward Policy Fellowship –Project Lead

Evelyn Kwarteng

It has been an honor to lead this Fellowship and witness the incredible journey of our fellows. Over three months, we saw passion transformed into purpose, and curiosity shaped into clarity. What began as a quest to fill a gap has blossomed into a vibrant community of young leaders committed to shaping Africa’s digital future.

This report captures the milestones we achieved and the personal transformations that define the true success of the Fellowship. From pursuing advanced studies to launching bold initiatives, our fellows have shown that when knowledge, mentorship, and opportunity come together, impact follows. The Fellowship is a movement! And this is only the beginning.





Foreword



ISOC Ghana Chapter

Maud Ashong Elliot

TechForward is a policy fellowship that shows what disciplined collaboration can deliver for Africa's digital future. As the Internet Society Ghana Chapter, partnering with ACDT enabled us to co-design a programme that was rigorously organised and impact-oriented. Fellows engaged with real policy problems, ranging from data protection and cybersecurity to spectrum management, digital inclusion, and responsible AI through evidence-informed analysis, stakeholder consultation, and practical recommendations.

The fellowship's structure (policy labs, mentorship, and peer review) produced tangible outputs: concise policy briefs, implementation roadmaps, and cross-border dialogues that speak to regulators, civil society, and industry alike. Just as important, the TechForward has cultivated a continent-wide community of practice: alumni who can translate technical understanding into governance choices, convene multi-stakeholder consensus, and steward open, secure, and affordable internet ecosystems. We are grateful to the fellows, mentors, and organisers whose professionalism turned intent into results, and to ACDT for a partnership anchored in trust and shared purpose. May this foreword affirm our conviction that sound policy, locally grounded and regionally networked, is the lever for inclusive digital transformation. TechForward proves this and points the way forward.



Acknowledgement

The TechForward Policy Fellowship Cohort of 2025 was made possible through the unwavering support, generosity, and commitment of a community of partners, and experts who walked alongside us throughout this journey.

To our Guest Speakers: **Professor Chux Daniels; Patrick Stephenson; Juliet Wangui** and **Dr. Folashade Soule-Kohndou**, thank you for bringing your expertise and rich experiences into the sessions you led. You've left an indelible mark on the fellowship and deeply shaped the perspectives of our fellows.

To our Policy Clinic experts: **Belinda Baah; Aniya Hamilton** and **Christophe Li**, your balance of practical industry insights and theoretical depth grounded the fellows in the realities of policymaking, implementation, and advocacy.

To our Track Leads; **Professor Kofi Sarpong Adu-Manu; Dr. Shady Adib; Dr. Gabriel Udoh; Lawyer Richard Nunekpeku; Osei Kagyah** and **Dr. Charles Gyamfi Ofori**, we remain indebted to you for showing up week after week with fresh ideas, unique perspectives, and unwavering dedication. Your contributions shaped the learning experience and the quality of the fellowship.

To our mentors: **Theorose Elikpilm Dzineku; Dr. Selasie Brown; Lily Ediman Botsley; Richard Dzikunu; Osei Kagyah; Igxtelle Mbah-Acha Dopgima; Dominic Asitanga Awuni, Eric Lee, Ida Na Tei, Maud Ashong-Elliot; Dr. Frank Ato Ghansah; Elisha Njomaba** and **Hadeer Maher**, thank you for walking alongside our fellows, encouraging them, challenging them, and sharing from your own journeys. Your mentorship created space for growth that extended far beyond the program itself.

To our facilitators: **Kwesi Atuahene; Evelyn Kwarteng; Hafiz Toyyib; Sandra Aba Quianoo; Simeon Mede** and **Emmanuel Owusu** your commitments, coordination, and presence held the fellowship together and ensured that every moment ran with meaning and intention.

To our partners: **Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter; UNDP Data-to-Policy-Navigator team** and **I4Policy Foundation**, your belief in this vision, your partnership, and your resources gave this fellowship its wings. Without your collaboration, none of this would have been possible.

Together, you have helped us shape a generation of leaders who will continue carrying forward the mission of building inclusive, ethical, and impactful digital policies for Africa.



Executive Summary

The inaugural TechForward Policy Fellowship (March–May 2025), led by the Africa Center for Digital Transformation (ACDT) in partnership with ISOC Ghana Chapter, UNDP Data-to-Policy Navigator team, and Innovation for Policy Foundation (I4Policy), equipped 20 fellows from 10 African countries to shape inclusive and forward-looking digital policies.

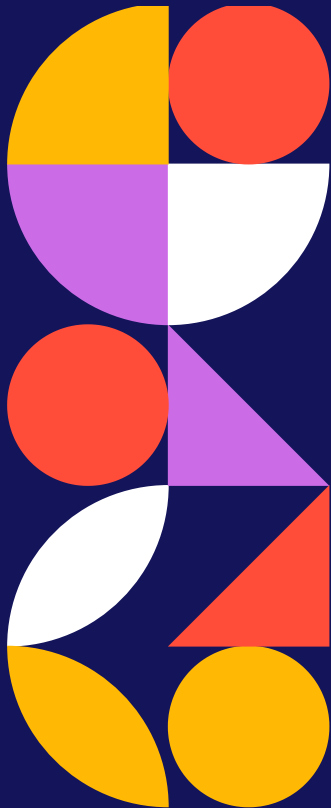
Key Highlights

- Selected from 900+ applicants across 60 countries, fellows represented diverse regions and professional backgrounds, achieving 50/50 gender parity.
- Training focused on four thematic tracks: Legal, Regulatory and Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity & Data Protection, Digital Public Infrastructure and ICT Infrastructure, and Green & Digital (Twin) Transitions.
- Fellows engaged in expert-led sessions, mentorship, policy clinics, and capstone projects, producing practical policy insights.
- The fellowship received an overall satisfaction rating of 4.4/5, with 100% of fellows recommending it to others.

Impact

- Fellows reported career advancement, advanced studies in cyber law, AI ethics, and digital policy, and invitations to conferences and policy forums.
- The fellowship catalyzed long-term networks through the TechForward Alumni Network (TAN), ensuring continued collaboration and leadership.

The fellowship successfully bridged a critical gap in digital policy capacity in Africa, positioning fellows as future leaders in global governance discussions while strengthening locally grounded, inclusive solutions.



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INTRODUCTION





Introduction

The TechForward Policy Fellowship, organized by the Africa Center for Digital Transformation (ACDT) in partnership with the Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter, Innovation for Policy (I4Policy) and the UNDP Data to Policy Navigator (DPN) team, was a 3 month virtual Pan-African program designed to build the next generation of digital policy leaders. At a time when Africa stands on the cusp of immense digital transformation, the Fellowship equipped young professionals with the knowledge, tools, and networks needed to design and implement policies that were innovative, inclusive, and sustainable.

Why This Fellowship Matters

Africa's digital growth presents both opportunities and challenges. Many countries lack robust policy frameworks to fully harness the potential of ICTs for socio-economic development and digital inclusion. Guided by the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy (2020–2030), there is a pressing need for skilled professionals who could translate vision into practice. **The TechForward Policy Fellowship responded directly to this gap, preparing fellows to shape Africa's digital future with competence, ethics, and creativity.**

Goals and Objectives

The Fellowship sought to:

- Develop young professionals as digital policy leaders and analysts capable of driving national and continental transformation.
- Promote the ethical and sustainable use of digital technologies to tackle Africa's development challenges.
- Foster a collaborative Pan-African network of policy experts, innovators, and leaders.

Through expert-led sessions, case studies, mentorship, and hands-on deliverables, fellows gained critical skills in research, policy design, legal and regulatory frameworks, and advocacy.

Participants in the Fellowship gained:

- Skill development and training in research, policy analysis, and advocacy.
- Access to peers, mentors, industry leaders, and a global alumni community.
- Career advancement.
- Impactful research experience.
- Community empowerment.
- Certificates of participation.



Applications in Numbers



- 900+ Applicants
- 60+ Countries
- 40 shortlisted for Interview

Cohort in Numbers



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • 20 Fellows | 10 Countries |
| • 13 Mentors | 8 Experts Leads |
| • 5 Facilitators | 4 Guest speakers |

Regional Representation



- **Western Regional Bloc**
 1. Ghana
 2. Nigeria
 3. Niger
 4. Sierra Leone
- **Eastern Regional Bloc**
 5. Kenya
 6. Rwanda
 7. Uganda
 8. Tanzania
- **Southern Regional Bloc**
 9. Zimbabwe
 10. South Africa

Gender Representation



Male = 50%



Female = 50%

Tracks & Fellows Distribution

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Legal, Regulation & Ethics of Artificial Intelligence | |
| 2. Cybersecurity & Data Protection | |
| 3. Digital Public Infrastructure & ICT Infrastructure | |
| 4. Green and Digital Transition | |

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FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE





Fellowship Structure

The Fellowship unfolded in **five core phases**, each designed to spark growth, collaboration, and impact:

1. Official Launch (January 4–24, 2025):

The program began with a global call for applications, amplified through digital campaigns, partner spotlights, and targeted regional outreach. The launch introduced the Fellowship and set the tone for a vibrant, collaborative community.



2. Review and Selection (February 1–28, 2025):

From over 900 passionate applicants, 20 fellows from 10 countries were carefully selected. The final cohort reflected diversity in sex, expertise, motivation, and regional representation, laying the foundation for rich dialogue and cross-border collaboration.



3. Capacity Building and training (March 12 – May 22, 2025):

At the heart of the Fellowship were four expert-led sessions in four thematic tracks, complimented by interactive guest seminars and fellow meetups. Fellows were matched with mentors who provided personalized guidance, strengthening soft skills and shaping innovative capstone projects.

4. Oral Defense (May 29–30, 2025):

Fellows took the stage to present their capstone projects before a jury of global experts. The defenses showcased bold ideas rooted in innovation, inclusivity, and real-world solutions to pressing policy challenges.

5. Graduation and Alumni Network Launch (June 6, 2025):

The Fellowship culminated in a celebratory graduation, honoring the fellows' achievements and unveiling the TechForward Alumni Network; a lasting community to carry forward the spirit of collaboration and impact.





Capacity Building Trainings

A balanced program of expert sessions, policy clinics, guest lectures, and mentoring equipped fellows with practical insights and skills for Africa's digital future.

Expert Sessions & Thematic Tracks

Expert Sessions & Thematic Tracks (Weeks 3–10):

Four biweekly sessions covering **AI, Cybersecurity, Data Protection, DPI, and Green & Digital Transitions**, with expert-led discussions on digital policies and regulations in Africa.

Guest Speaker Series

- **Week 2:** Introduction to Digital Transformation in Africa led by Prof. Chux Daniels.
- **Week 3:** Policy Development in Africa led by Patrick Stephenson and Juliet Wangiru.
- **Week 11:** Africa's Journey to Digital Sovereignty. (Closing Seminar, May 22): Africa's Journey to Digital Sovereignty led by Dr. Folashade Soule.

Biweekly Mentoring Sessions

Fellows met with mentors every two weeks, building skills in leadership, writing, and policy research, while receiving guidance on capstone projects

Policy Clinics

- **Week 8:** From Data to Policy (UNDP Data to Policy Team).
- **Week 10:** Design thinking in Policy Making Innovation for Policy Foundation (I4policy).

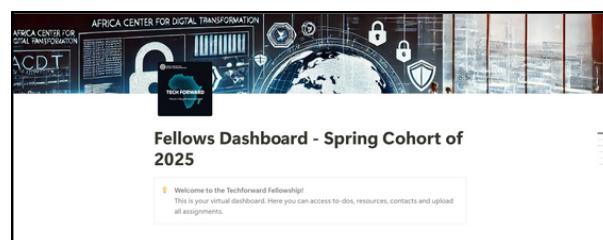
Oral Defense of Projects

- **Week 12:** Oral defense of each Capstone Project before a Jury.

Graduation and Launch of Alumni Network:

- **Week 13:** Graduation and Launch of the TechForward Alumni Network (TAN).

Program Timeline



Fellows Dashboard- a central information and resource hub.

The sessions brought together leaders from the Global South and North, offering diverse perspectives on policymaking, implementation, and advocacy.



The fellowship commenced with an introductory seminar facilitated by Prof. Chux Daniels, who presented key theoretical frameworks, including the TIAH from the STI Hub on the topic of Digital Transformation in Africa. This session provided the theoretical foundation that guided fellows throughout the 12-week journey.

The second introductory seminar was delivered by two policy consultants and industry advocates, shifting the focus to a more practical perspective. Here, fellows engaged with strategies for policy development and advocacy, with particular emphasis on the African context.



The IAPolicy team further enriched the program with a highly interactive workshop on design thinking in policymaking, illustrating its application through real life examples such as the Senegal Startup Act.

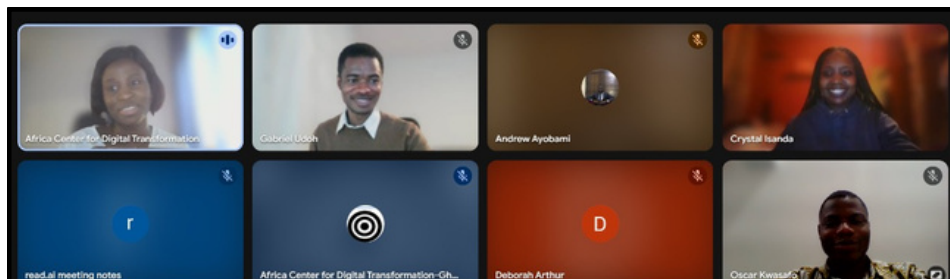
In addition, the Data to Policy team facilitated a thought-provoking workshop that exposed fellows to comparative insights from the Global South. The session highlighted diverse policy design and implementation strategies, broadening perspectives on what effective policy innovation can look like across different contexts.





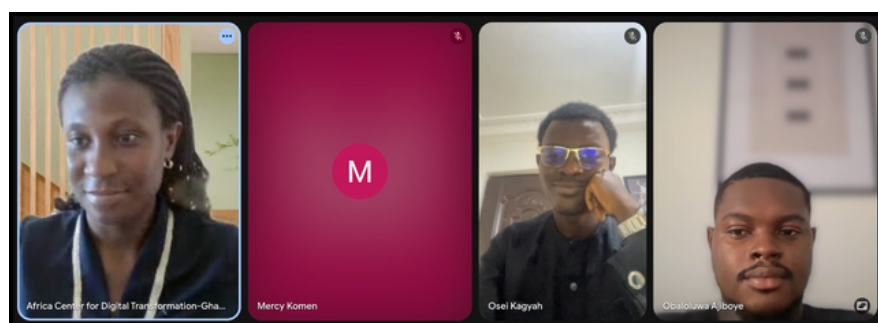
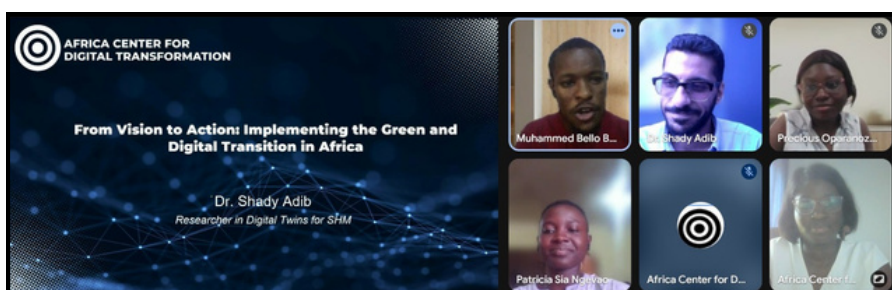
Over the following 10 weeks, the fellowship explored four thematic areas, each guided by distinguished experts. These sessions combined theoretical knowledge with practical reflections, preparing fellows to address emerging challenges in Africa.

The fellowship also captured memorable moments, including class pictures from each track



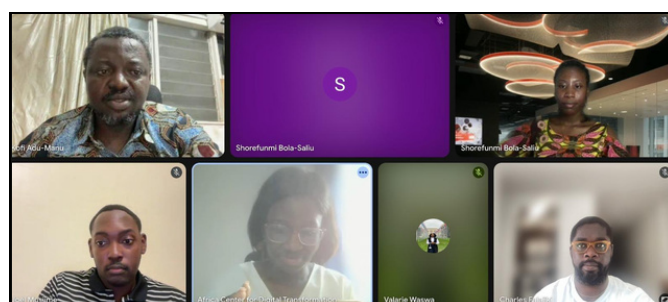
In the AI Track, fellows engaged with Dr. Gabriel Udoh and Lawyer Richard Nunekpeku, who provided technical and policy insights into the fast-evolving field of artificial intelligence.

This is a class picture of the (Green and Digital) Twin Transition Track with their expert leads Dr. Charles Ofori and Dr. Shady Adib.

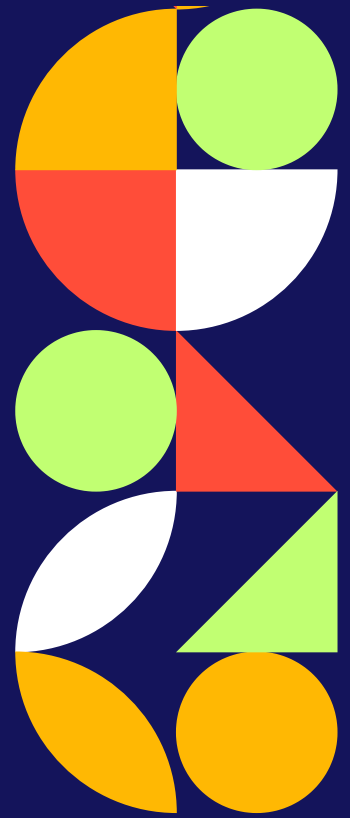


This is a class picture of the DPI & ICT Infrastructure Track with their expert led – Mr. Kagyah Osei. The entire track was led by Dr. Shady Adib and Mr. Kagya.

A class picture of the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Track with their expert led – Prof. Kofi Sarpong Adu-Manu.



The fellowship concluded on a high note with a closing seminar led by Dr. Folashae Soule, who challenged and inspired fellows to take collective action in advancing Africa's journey toward Digital Sovereignty.



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OUTCOMES FROM FELLOWSHIP





Summary of Qualitative Insights from fellowship survey

“I highly recommend this fellowship to anyone interested in tech and policy. The program offers a unique opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge, network with experts, and develop practical skills. The experience has been enriching, and I believe it would be invaluable for anyone looking to make a meaningful impact in the field of tech policy.” Fellow, Techforward Policy Fellowship, 2025.

Highlights

- High Satisfaction: Fellows praised expert-led sessions, mentorship, and exposure to global and African perspectives.
- Policy & Practice: Interactive sessions, case studies, and policy clinics were most impactful.
- Career Impact: Many fellows reported pursuing further studies or careers in tech policy, AI ethics, and cybersecurity.
- Networks: The Fellowship built valuable connections with peers, mentors, and global experts.

Key Strengths

- Expert sessions combining technical depth and practical insights
- Policy workshops with real-world applications
- Dedicated mentors offering personalized guidance
- Strong support from the ACDT team (responsive and timely)
- Networking and exposure to leading practitioners
-

Challenges Identified

- Mentorship consistency: Not all fellows received the same level of engagement.
- Workload balance: Some deliverables, especially capstones, felt overwhelming.
- Session interactivity: A few sessions leaned too heavily on theory.
- Connectivity barriers: Internet/data costs limited participation for some fellows.

Recommendations from Fellows and Mentors

- Strengthen Mentorship: Introduce structured biweekly check-ins, better mentor matching, and clearer guidelines for mentors.
- Balance Workload: Adjust timelines and provide clearer communication around milestones.
- Enhance Learning Experience: Incorporate more simulations, role-plays, and cross-track collaboration to boost interactivity.
- Improve Accessibility: Explore flexible scheduling (evenings/weekends), provide partial stipends or data support, and pilot hybrid/offline models where feasible.

Conclusion

The Fellowship was a highly successful and impactful program, equipping future tech policy leaders with critical skills, networks, and perspectives. By addressing the lessons learned and recommendations above, TechForward can further increase accessibility, equity, and long-term impact.



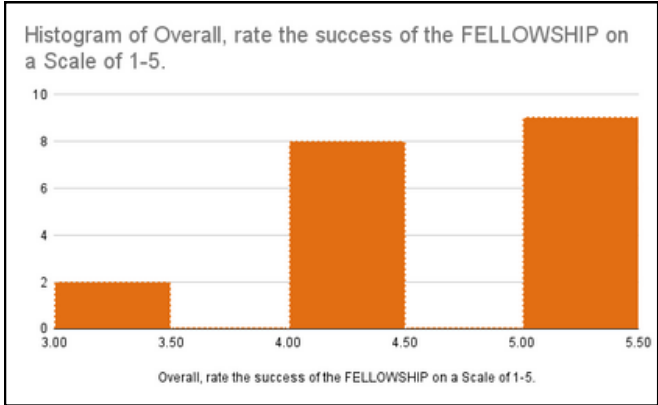
Lessons Learnt

The Fellowship highlighted the importance of structured and personalized mentorship, balancing rigorous content with manageable workloads, and prioritizing interactive, practical learning experiences such as case studies and simulations. Addressing connectivity and logistical barriers proved essential for inclusivity, while networking opportunities played a key role in supporting fellows' career growth and fostering a strong community.

- Personalized mentorship significantly enhances learning outcomes and engagement; structured support is essential.
- Balancing rigorous content with manageable workload ensures fellows can absorb knowledge without burnout.
- Practical, interactive sessions case studies, simulations, and collaborative exercises, have the greatest impact on skill development.
- Addressing logistical and connectivity barriers is critical for inclusivity and equity.
- Networking opportunities drive long-term career growth and foster a sense of community among fellows.



Summary of Quantitative Insights from fellowship survey

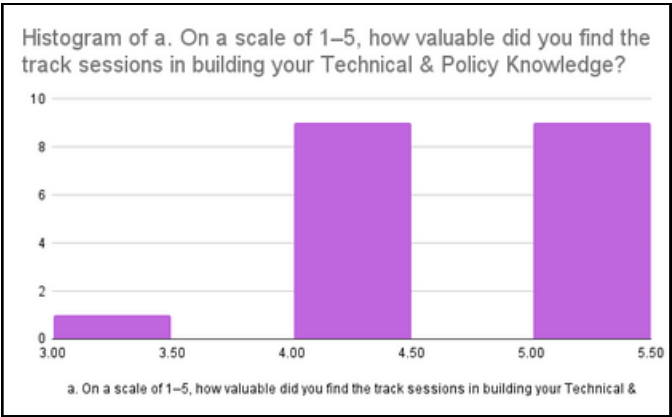
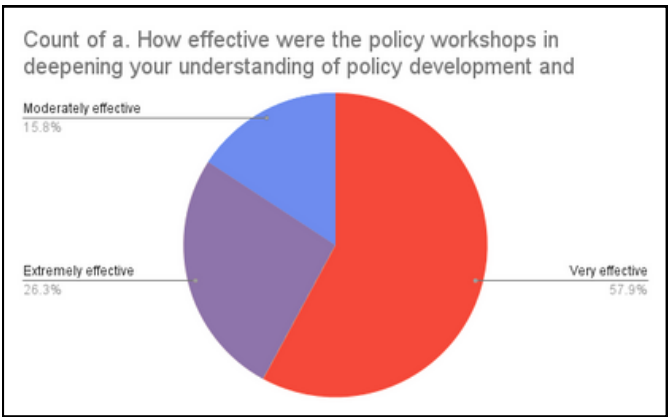


The Fellowship achieved an impressive overall rating of **4.4 out of 5**, with nearly half of participants (**47%**) calling it “**Excellent**” and another (**42%**) rating it “**Very Good.**” Fellows consistently described the program as **transformative, enriching, and practical**, a unique experience that deepened their expertise in technology policy and shaped their academic journeys and opened new career pathways.

A core objective of the Fellowship was to deepen fellows’ understanding of policy developments across the African continent. Feedback shows this goal was strongly met: **57%** of fellows rated the Policy Clinics as **very effective**, while **26%** found them **extremely effective**. Only a small fraction (**15%**) rated them as **moderately effective**.

Key Highlights

- Policy workshops were praised as **highly impactful**, especially those that applied **real-life case studies** and data-to-policy translation.
- Fellows emphasized the value of the sessions and recommended adding **more interactive simulations** and **policy evaluation exercises** to further strengthen learning outcomes.



Fellows reported that the track sessions significantly strengthened both their technical and policy knowledge. **47% of the respondents** found the sessions **extremely valuable**, another **47%** rated them **very valuable**, and only 5% rated them as simply **valuable**.

Key Highlights

- Track sessions were praised for effectively building both technical expertise and policy insight.
- Practical and interactive formats, including case studies, breakout groups, and design thinking exercises were seen as the most impactful.

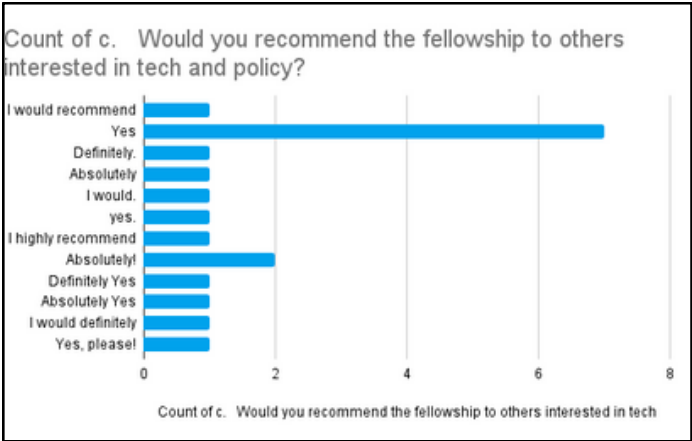
All Fellows (100%) indicated that they will recommend the fellowship to others. This depicts how impactful the fellowship was for the fellows. Beyond their certainty of recommending the fellowship, most of them went ahead and explain.

“It is a wholesome experience. From learning in more depth about your field, to getting to learn more about other areas and getting expert mentoring help. It’s the full package.”

Fellow, Techforward Policy Fellowship, 2025

“I would. It offers the perfect foundational platform to launch into the tech policy space while engaging with experts and mentors and peers who are equally invested in your growth.”

Fellow, Techforward Policy Fellowship, 2025





5

IMPACT STORIES





Impact Stories

The Fellowship equipped participants with technical and policy skills and reshaped their ambitions, broadened their perspectives, and set them on new paths as leaders in Africa's digital transformation. **Here are five stories that illustrate this impact.**

From Technical Expert to Policy Leader

“I am now determined to make a career in tech and digital policy.”

One fellow entered the program deeply rooted in technical cybersecurity work. By the end, they had shifted their career trajectory toward policy, governance, and advocacy. Inspired by expert sessions and mentorship, they now plan to pursue advanced studies in Cyber Law and Digital Policy, with a vision of influencing policymaking in Nigeria and across Africa.

Takeaway: The Fellowship enables technical professionals to bridge into policy leadership roles.

A Pan-African Perspective on Cybersecurity

“To think beyond Kenya—think East African, South African, continental.”

Another fellow described how the Fellowship expanded their outlook from national issues to continental challenges in data governance and cybersecurity. The program helped them situate local work in a wider African policy context, strengthening their ambition to shape governance at a regional level.

Takeaway: Fellows leave with a broader, Pan-African approach to digital transformation.

From Research Questions to Real-World Policy

“It helped me to better formulate my research question and relevant stakeholders for my inquiry.”

One fellow highlighted how the Fellowship bridged academia and practice. Through expert input and mentorship, they were able to refine their research questions and align them with real policy needs. This grounding has made their work not only more rigorous but also more impactful.

Takeaway: Fellows gain tools to connect academic inquiry with policy influence.

Building a Career in AI Policy

“The fellowship has sharpened my focus on tech policy, helping me align my research with real-world impact and strengthening my goal of contributing to AI governance in Africa and beyond.”

A trained lawyer found clarity and inspiration in the Fellowship's sessions on AI ethics and regulation. They are now considering further studies in AI ethics and law, aiming to shape policies that balance innovation with responsible governance across the continent.

Takeaway: The Fellowship affirms and strengthens fellows' long-term career pathways in tech policy.



Recurring Themes

1. African-Centered Understanding

A recurring theme was the Fellowship's ability to contextualize tech policy within the African experience. Fellows noted that much of their prior knowledge had been shaped by Western frameworks, but the program provided an "African touch." This grounding deepened appreciation for continent-specific challenges from digital infrastructure gaps to cybersecurity strategies and helped fellows see tech policy as a tool for Africa's digital transformation.

2. Depth in Specific Policy Domains

- **Cybersecurity & Data Protection:** Fellows gained a sharper understanding of vulnerabilities, data privacy, and online safety, emphasizing the need for policies that protect people without curbing freedoms.
- **AI Governance:** The Fellowship expanded awareness of how AI ethics and regulation intersect with African realities, equipping fellows to think about responsible, locally relevant AI policies.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure & Twin Transitions:** Fellows developed insights into how technology and policy interact in infrastructure development, green transitions, and digital inclusion.

3. Critical Thinking & Stakeholder Awareness

Through expert-led discussions and practical exercises, fellows began to analyze tech-policy through a stakeholder lens, recognizing the diverse actors (governments, private sector, civil society, communities) whose interests shape outcomes. This widened their ability to think systemically about digital governance, policymaking, and advocacy.

4. Practical Skills and Confidence

The Fellowship was both conceptual and skills-oriented. Fellows reported gaining practical tools for:

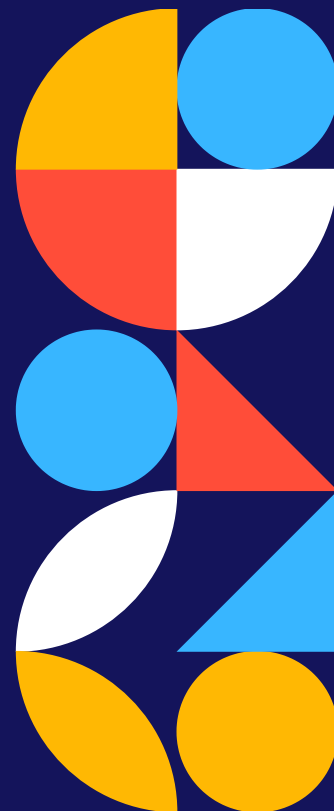
- Policy analysis and development (e.g., using data for decision-making).
- Research and writing (especially policy briefs and capstone projects).
- Leadership and advocacy (understanding how to influence processes).

This hands-on engagement gave them confidence to contribute meaningfully to tech policy debates at national, regional, and continental levels.

5. Lasting Impact

For many, the Fellowship represented a turning point in career and academic trajectories:

- Deepening interest in cyber law, AI ethics, and digital governance.
- Inspiring some to pursue further studies or transition into policy-focused roles.
- Instilling a Pan-African mindset, encouraging them to see digital transformation both in national terms and across borders.



6

POST FELLOWSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY





Post Fellowship

The Fellowship has continued to create ripple effects well beyond its 3 month program. Fellows have carried the knowledge, skills and networks gained into diverse spaces, advancing both their personal growth and the broader tech policy ecosystem across Africa.

- **Further Opportunities:** Several fellows have been selected for other competitive fellowships, continuing their journey of leadership development and expanding their global networks.
- **Career Advancement:** A number of fellows have secured new jobs and internships, leveraging their Fellowship experience to step into roles that align with digital policy, governance, and advocacy.
- **Thought Leadership:** Some fellows have been invited to speak at conferences, contribute to panel discussions, or even moderate sessions on critical tech policy topics demonstrating their growing influence as thought leaders.
- **Academic Progression:** Others have returned to school to pursue advanced studies in fields such as Cyber Law, AI Ethics, and Digital Policy, deepening their expertise to contribute more effectively to policymaking.
- **Continued Engagement with the Center:** A few fellows have joined the Center as research associates, contributing directly to ongoing projects and strengthening the Fellowship's legacy within the institution.
- **Practical Application:** Many are applying the skills gained during the Fellowship directly in their workplaces, influencing digital policy and governance in both public and private sectors.
- **Community Impact:** Inspired to pay it forward, some fellows have organized training workshops in their local communities, equipping others with digital skills and policy awareness.
- **Public Engagement:** Others have taken to digital platforms, such as podcasts and online forums, to share their Fellowship journey and insights, amplifying conversations around Africa's digital transformation.

Collectively, these outcomes highlight that the Fellowship is beyond a capacity building program, it is a launchpad for leadership, innovation, and advocacy with fellows actively shaping digital futures across Africa in diverse and meaningful ways.



Sustainability of Fellowship

The TechForward Alumni Network: (TAN)

A Movement Beyond the Fellowship

From the very beginning, the Fellowship set out to do more than train individuals; it sought to build a movement of young African leaders ready to shape digital futures with bold ideas and practical solutions. With expertise in Cybersecurity and Data Protection, Digital Public Infrastructure, AI Regulation, and Green & Digital Transitions, our fellows are already leading important conversations across the continent.

To sustain this momentum, we proudly launched the *TechForward Alumni Network* at graduation. This network, guided by its elected leadership, ensures that fellows remain connected, supported, and empowered by the Center and by one another. It is a living community of practice, built on collaboration, solidarity, and the shared vision of an inclusive, ethical, and innovative digital Africa.

Staying Connected, Growing Together: (Bi-annual check-in calls)

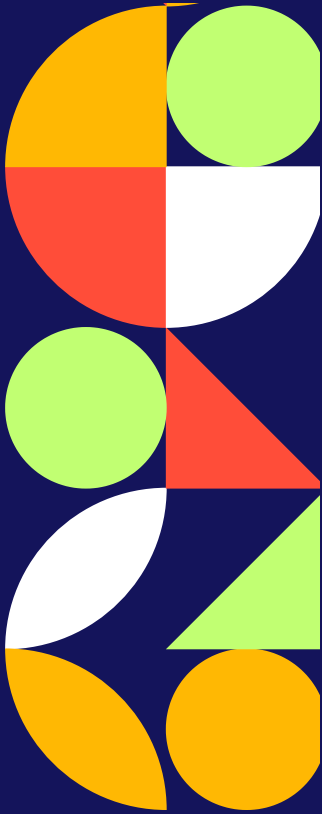
The journey doesn't end with graduation. Through bi-annual check-in calls, the Center continues to walk alongside our fellows, listening to their stories, celebrating their wins, and extending support where needed. These calls are a reminder that no fellow walks this journey alone.

Our monthly alumni newsletter amplifies the remarkable achievements of fellows, spotlighting their impact across Africa while sharing opportunities for continued growth. A unique space for storytelling, encouragement, and collective pride.

Looking ahead: TechForward Policy Fellowship Cohort of 2026

With the lessons, feedback, and recommendations of this inaugural cohort, we are already preparing for TechForward Policy 2026. The next cohort of fellows will inherit a thriving alumni network, a growing legacy, and a continent-wide movement that is stronger because of those who came before them.

The future of Africa's digital transformation will be written by its people and through this Fellowship, we are ensuring that our fellows are authors and not spectators.



7

CONCLUSION





Conclusion

The TechForward Policy Fellowship 2025 planted seeds of leadership and transformation across Africa's digital ecosystem. In just three months, fellows evolved from national practitioners to continental voices, from technical experts to policy leaders, and from learners to changemakers.

Their successes, career advancements, academic pursuits, published insights, and community initiatives, are not isolated. They represent a ripple effect that will continue to shape Africa's digital transformation.

The launch of the TechForward Alumni Network (TAN) ensures this momentum will grow into a sustained movement. With each collaboration, mentorship exchange, and story of impact, fellows are not just participants in Africa's digital future they are its authors.

As we prepare for TechForward 2026, we extend our deepest gratitude to partners, mentors, experts, and facilitators whose dedication made this possible. We also invite new partners to join us in scaling this impact.

Together, we can empower even more young leaders and ensure Africa's digital transformation is led by Africans, for Africa, and for the world.



About Us –Africa Center for Digital Transformation

The Africa Center for Digital Transformation (ACDT) is an African-led organization dedicated to advancing digital development across the continent. We provide a platform for dialogue, research, and practical initiatives that enable technology to serve as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

As a recognized thought leader in Africa’s digital innovation landscape, ACDT convenes diverse stakeholders, shares critical insights on digital policy and innovation, and supports programs that strengthen digital capacity. Through our work, we aim to empower youth, collaborate with governments and businesses, and drive actionable solutions that accelerate Africa’s digital transformation.

Guided by our vision “A digitally empowered Africa, led by Africans, where research and innovation drive sustainable development and inclusive prosperity”

ACDT remains committed to building a continent where technology and innovation advance opportunities for all.



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