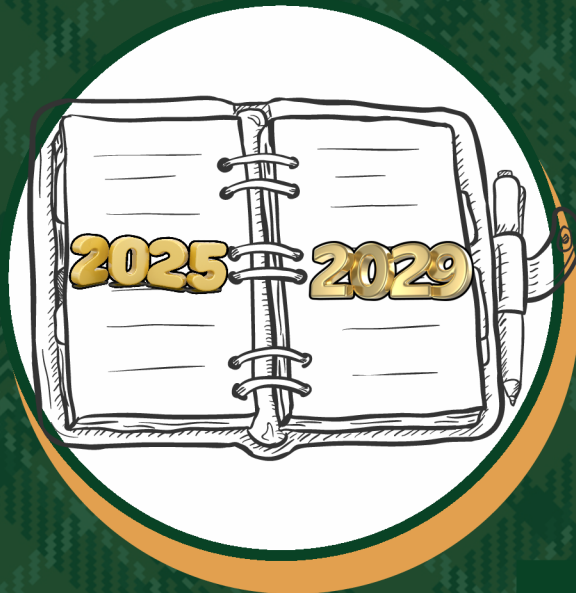# Africtivistes

STRATEGIC PLAN

Civic tech serving African democracies

OUTLOOK

FIVE PILLARS OF THE AFRICTIVISTES 2025-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Our AfricTivistes 2025 Strategic Plan lays out a roadmap for strengthening democracy, human rights and governance through technological innovation and citizen engagement. This plan also marks the tenth anniversary of AfricTivistes, an important milestone that reaffirms our role as a key player in digital democracy on the continent. The Plan is structured around five strategic pillars:

- Technological Innovation
- Elections, Democracy and Governance
- Citizen Engagement
- Media and Information
- Training, Research and Documentation

This plan reflects AfricTivistes' commitment to the empowerment of African citizens and institutional stakeholders in an increasingly digital world. It was developed using a participatory approach, integrating the perspectives of stakeholders across the continent, including civil society organisations and movements, governmental, regional and continental partners, media professionals, academics and technology experts.

It was developed with a participatory approach, harnessing the perspectives of stakeholders across the continent, including civil society organisations and movements, governmental, regional and continental partners, media professionals, academics and technology experts. It prioritises key areas where AfricTivistes has demonstrated expertise, such as the fight against digital censorship and disinformation, the promotion of participatory democracy, the development of citizen-led initiatives, the creation of communities of good practice, electoral transparency and the strengthening of digital resilience among activists and journalists.

With this strategy, AfricTivistes aims to expand its reach, innovate in its approaches and deepen its impact. By fostering partnerships, harnessing the power of technology, promoting inclusive governance and strengthening citizen participation, the pan-African network seeks to create a future by Africans and for Africa.

This document is not just a plan; but a rallying call to action mobilising supporters, partners and allies to join AfricTivistes in this shared vision of an Africa where civic tech fully serves democracies.

CONTEXT

Africa has seen a steady rise in civic engagement in recent decades, with populations increasingly demanding transparency, accountability and inclusion in decision-making processes. Africa's path towards democratic governance has been characterised by both significant progress and persistent challenges. However, despite this progress, many countries continue to face obstacles such as electoral manipulation, civic space restrictions, disinformation and digital security threats. These challenges, compounded by rapid technological change, highlight the need for greater citizen mobilisation and innovative solutions to enhance people's capacity, support institution-building and help improve democratic processes.

AfricTivistes, as a pan-African network, operates at the intersection of technology and democracy, harnessing digital tools to equip citizens, combat mis/disinformation and improve governance. Its work is based on the premise that informed, engaged and connected citizens are the backbone of resilient democracies.

The 2025 Strategic Plan builds on AfricTivistes' past successes, responding to the evolving needs of the continent by integrating civic tech into governance processes and fostering a culture of engagement and participation.

This Plan comes at a critical time when digital transformation is redefining the interactions between societies and governance. It also comes at a time when democracies are experiencing an unprecedented crisis, particularly amid the resurgence of military coups and popular uprisings.

By aligning its objectives with the continent's democratic priorities, AfricTivistes aims not only to meet the current challenges of access to information, the fight against disinformation, citizen participation and youth involvement, but also to anticipate the growing challenges of digital sovereignty. This approach will strengthen the foundations of an Africa where every citizen, thanks to digital tools, plays an active role in upholding democracies and building a sustainable future.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Strengthening citizen participation through technological innovation, artificial intelligence and local solutions

- Identifying African Youth Talents and Expertise through Hackathons to Strengthen Democracy
  - Inclusion programmes for women and girls in technological innovation: Ñuji4Dev
  - Training in digital skills
  - Develop endogenous technological solutions
  - Support for local innovation initiatives
  - Promote digital citizen entrepreneurship

- Continuing "AfricTivistes Leadership & Civic Engagement" Programme in Six Countries
  - Create a citizen innovations' database
  - Document best practices and lessons learned
  - Develop methodological manuals
  - Share open-source resources

- Setting up Six New AfricTivistes CitizenLabs: Citizen Innovation Labs
  - Expand CitizenLabs network to new regions
  - Training in civic technologies and digital engagement
  - Develop social innovation projects using digital tools
  - Create citizen technological experimentation spaces
  - Create a pan-African collaborative platform for digital democracy

- Setting up Six New AfricTivistes CitizenLabs: Citizen Innovation Labs
  - Develop mobile applications for citizen participation
  - Implement online citizen consultation tools
  - Create accessible interfaces in local and national languages

- Implementation of a Digital Innovation Programme using Advanced Technologies like Blockchain and AI
  - Develop data analysis tools for governance
  - Create chatbots for citizen information
  - Use AI to detect mis/disinformation
  - Create a collaborative database on mis/disinformation
  - Develop blockchain tools for transparency in electoral processes

- Innovation in Communication, Data Protection and Cybersecurity
  - Deploy secure communication solutions for activists (e.g., Enigma.Africa, darkweb)
  - Develop private data protection tools
  - Establish early warning systems for digital security
  - Implement security protocols tailored to the African context
  - Organise cybersecurity training programmes
  - Implement rapid response mechanisms for security incidents
  - Develop digital backup and resilience solutions

ELECTIONS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Strengthening the integration of digital technology into democratic electoral processes in Africa

- "AHEAD Africa" Programme (Support and Assistance for Electoral Processes)
  - Develop digital tools for electoral observation
  - Comprehensive mapping of citizen electoral initiatives
  - Establish early warning systems
  - Training observers in the use of digital tools
  - Tailored support for local observation initiatives
  - Design and deploy databases on democracy, elections and governance
  - Create a one-stop shop for electoral processes in Africa

- Capacity Building for Citizen Actors in Electoral Processes
  - Training in digital tools for citizen electoral monitoring
  - Awareness programmes on electoral disinformation
  - Training on digital security during electoral periods
  - Develop useful manuals on electoral processes

- Regional Election Information Platform
  - Database on electoral processes in Africa
  - Document best electoral practices
  - Archival system for election data

- Regional Election Information Platform
  - Election data visualisation tools
  - Disseminate verified election information

- Awareness and Advocacy Programme to Consolidate Democratic Gains
  - Promote the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)
  - Promote the Malabo Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection
  - Advocate for transparency in electoral processes
  - Awareness campaigns on digital rights
  - Campaigns for electoral integrity
  - Citizen mobilisation for democratic governance

- Technological innovation for Electoral Transparency
  - Develop result verification applications
  - Create incident reporting tools
  - Set up parallel voter counting platforms
  - Solutions for secure data transmission
  - Tools for real-time results visualisation
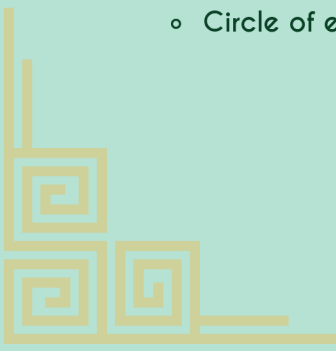
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Developing network dynamics and pan-African communities of best practice

- Network Expansion
  - Extend the AfricTivistes network to new countries (Anglophone Africa and the Maghreb)
  - Structure national and regional representations
  - Create thematic groups
  - Coordinate AfricTivistes Champions' network
  - Develop strategic partnership

- AfricTivistes Civic Engagement Tour (ACET)
  - Deployment in six new countries
  - Training on citizen engagement and leadership
  - Mentorship for local initiatives
  - Organise community services
  - Document and share experience

- Pan-African Collective Intelligence and Citizen Action Platform (PICA):
  - Develop a collaborative interface
  - Database of citizen initiatives
  - Resource-sharing tools
  - Networking and exchange space
  - Document best practices

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- Support for Enhanced Citizenship
  - Training in citizen digital tools and digital advocacy
  - Develop digital engagement projects
  - Promote online citizen participation
  - Create citizen content
  - Manage digital community engagement

- Support for citizens' movements
  - Technical and methodological support
  - Training in citizen mobilisation
  - Support for the structuring of movements
  - Networking of initiatives
  - Document successful experiences

- Development of Thematic Communities
  - Expansion of the Sahel Activistes network (Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Chad)
  - Community of engaged women - FemTech
  - Group for civic innovations
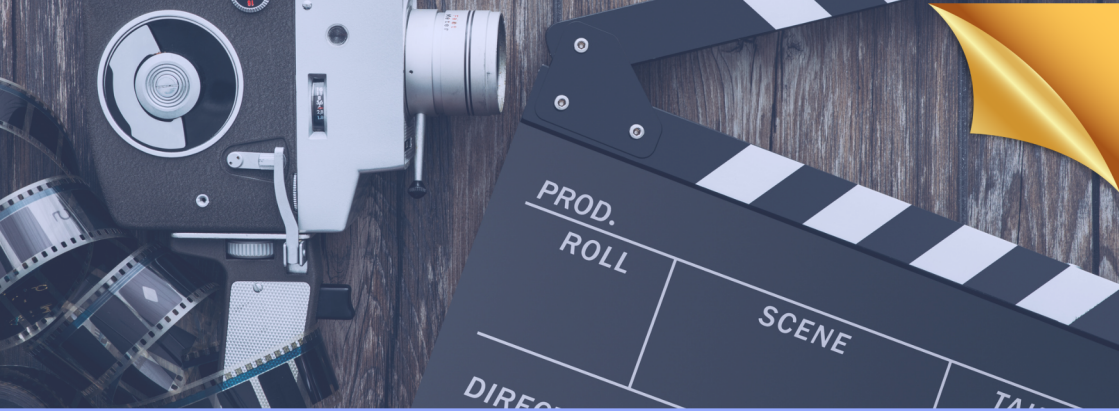 - Circle of e-electoral observers

MEDIA AND INFORMATION

Consolidate the resilience of media and information actors

- Africa Media Cybersecurity Programme
  - Cybersecurity training for journalists and civil society media actors
  - Digital security support for professional media outlets
  - Develop tools for journalist protection
  - Set up an alert and support network
  - Training in sources' protection techniques
  - Design cybersecurity toolkits

- AfricaMediaLab Programme
  - Training in digital investigation techniques
  - Strengthen fact-checking and data journalism skills
  - Training in data journalism
  - Develop multimedia content production tools
  - Develop online investigation tools
  - Produce innovative multimedia content

MEDIA AND INFORMATION

- Combating Disinformation
    - Set up a verification brigade
    - Develop automated fake news detection tools
    - Training in verification techniques
    - Create awareness-raising content
    - Networking of African fact-checkers

- Dialogue Migration Platform
    - Expand the network of migration-specialised journalists
    - Produce contents on migration
    - Training in migration issues
    - Develop a massive open online course on migration
    - Develop the information platform
    - Create transnational migration content
    - Create a chatbot for migration information

- Support for Independent Media Programme
    - Support for digital transformation
    - Training in innovative business models
    - Technical support for online media
    - Develop collaborative solutions
    - Networking for independent media

TRAINING, RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

Foster access to knowledge programmes and promote research/actions on democracy, elections and citizen participation

- African Centre for Civic Engagement Research (Cadre CTrL)
    - Develop research-action programmes
    - Create documentary database on digital democracy
    - Produce thematic studies and analyses
    - Coordinate network of African researchers
    - Publish reports and policy briefs
    - Establish research grants for young African researchers
    - Organise an annual conference on digital democracy

- Online Training Programme
    - Develop thematic MOOCs
    - Strengthen AfricTivistes Academy
    - Certification of acquired skills

- Documentation and Capitalisation
    - Create a digital library
    - Document citizen experiences
    - Produce methodological manuals
    - Develop educational tools
    - Archive produced resources

- Educational Innovation Programme
    - Create ICT passports for innovation and citizen participation
    - Develop digital learning tools
    - Experiment with new teaching methods - Taxaw Temm toolkit
    - Create multilingual educational materials

- Documentary and Multimedia Productions
  - Series on African democratic movements
  - Document innovative citizen initiatives
  - Portraits of Champions of Democracy
  - Stories of resilience and social transformation
  - Create web series on democracy
  - Develop short formats for social media
  - Produce thematic podcasts
  - Produce interactive documentaries

- AfricTivistes Observatory 2025
  - Thematic research production
  - Coordinate a community of African researchers
  - Edit and publish Observatoire AfricTivistes 2025
  - International researchers and students hosting programme

- Observatory for Civic Engagement Dynamics
  - Analysis of citizen movements
  - Study of democratic innovations
  - Monitoring participatory processes
  - Impact assessment
  - Produce open data

- Observatory for Democracy and Elections
  - Track democratic processes
  - Publish thematic reports
  - Analysis of democratic trends
  - Monitor Internet restrictions
  - Document violations of democratic rights

- Observatory for Media and Information
  - Monitoring press freedom
  - Document rights violations
  - Analysis of media trends
  - Publication of thematic reports
  - Advocacy for freedom of expression

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN WILL BE BUILT ON:

- Inclusive and participatory approaches

- Multi-actor strategic partnerships

- Rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems

- Diversified resource mobilisation

- Impact-driven communication

Africtivistes
STRATEGIC PLAN

Liberté 6 Extension, Dakar (Sénégal)

(+221) 33 837 51 24

info@africtivistes.org

https://www.africtivistes.org

Africtivistes