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# AFROFEMINIST


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INTERNET SCORECARD

**A tool to assess the progress of achieving an equitable internet for women in Africa**



# POLLICY



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# Contents

Acknowledgement	5
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>6</b>
Key Concepts and Terminology	7
<b>Introduction &amp; Background</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Conceptual Foundation of the Scorecard</b>	<b>10</b>
Feminist Internet	10
Country Context	10
<b>Key Findings from the Consultative Meetings</b>	<b>12</b>
Strengths	12
Identified Gaps	12
Recommendations	12
Methodology of the Scorecard	13
Why a scorecard for an Afrofeminist Internet?	13
Application of the scorecard	13
Who should use this scorecard?	17
<b>References</b>	<b>18</b>

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# Executive Summary

The scorecard for promoting an Afrofeminist internet is a comprehensive tool designed to evaluate the progress and challenges related to achieving an equitable internet in each of the seven countries. This scorecard addresses key areas where the internet intersects with feminist principles, aiming to create an inclusive, safe, and equitable digital environment. Developing the scorecard for promoting an Afrofeminist internet is revealing of the commitment to support the future of work for women in all their diversity and other marginalized communities.

In-country consultative meetings were conducted with organizations and individuals working towards an equitable internet. The multi-country research assessed various aspects of the digital landscapes through a gender and feminist lens. The project focussed on seven countries on the African continent: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda. Findings from the research were then used to develop this scorecard.

The Afrofeminist internet scorecard identifies gaps and areas of improvement that CSOs, government and private sector can tailor their programs to address the specific needs of women and marginalized groups in digital spaces. It also serves as a baseline, reporting, and tracking tool, allowing users to track progress and developments on digital rights and online safety for women and other marginalized communities. Furthermore, the scorecard establishes a basis for strategic plans of action and can be applied in conjunction with national gender policies and digital transformation strategic plans for respective countries.

## Key Concepts and Terminology

**Algorithmic Bias:** The tendency of algorithms and artificial intelligence systems to reflect and perpetuate existing biases and inequalities, particularly in relation to race, gender, and socio-economic status.

**Cybersecurity:** The practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from digital threats, including cyberattacks, malware, and unauthorized access.

**Data Privacy:** The protection of personal information and data from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure, often governed by legal frameworks and regulations.

**Digital Divide:** The gap between individuals and communities who have access to digital technologies and those who do not, often resulting from disparities in socio-economic status, geography, and infrastructure.

**Digital Inclusion:** Efforts to ensure that all individuals and communities have equitable access to digital technologies and opportunities, often involving initiatives to bridge the digital divide and promote digital literacy.

**Digital Literacy:** The ability to access, understand, evaluate, and utilize digital technologies and information effectively, encompassing skills such as internet navigation, critical thinking, and media literacy.

**Digital Rights:** Fundamental freedoms and principles that pertain to the use, access, and governance of digital technologies, encompassing issues such as privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information.

**Digital Sovereignty:** The concept of asserting national control over digital technologies and data, often in response to concerns about data localization, surveillance, and foreign influence.

**Feminism:** A social and political movement advocating for gender equality and the dismantling of patriarchal structures, encompassing a diverse range of ideologies and approaches.

**Internet Governance:** The processes and mechanisms by which the internet is managed and regulated, involving a range of stakeholders including governments, corporations, civil society organizations, and technical experts.

**Intersectionality:** A framework for understanding how multiple forms of oppression, discrimination, and privilege intersect and interact, particularly in relation to gender, race, class, sexuality, and other social identities.

**Online Activism:** The use of digital platforms and technologies to advocate for social and political change, encompassing a range of tactics including online petitions, social media campaigns, and digital protests.

**Online Harassment:** The use of digital technologies to intimidate, threaten, or harm individuals or groups, often targeting marginalized communities and exacerbating inequalities.

**Online Privacy:** The right of individuals to control the collection, use, and sharing of their personal information online, often protected by privacy laws and regulations.

**Open Access:** The principle of making scholarly research and information freely available to the public, often through online repositories and journals.

**Social Media Activism:** The use of social media platforms such as Twitter(now X), Facebook, and Instagram to raise awareness, mobilize support, and advocate for social and political change.

# Introduction & Background

The internet and the rapid growth of digital technologies have revolutionized how people communicate, acquire information, and engage with the world around them.<sup>1</sup> The digital age has created a “network society” where access to and control over information and communication technologies (ICTs) is essential for participation in the global economy and society.<sup>2</sup>

Women across the African continent have harnessed the transformative power of digital technologies for feminist activity and advocacy. From organizing online campaigns against gender-based violence to amplifying women’s voices on social media platforms, African women are increasingly using digital tools to challenge patriarchal norms, promote gender equality, and drive societal change.<sup>3</sup>

Women from diverse backgrounds are also leveraging digital spaces to access and share information and knowledge. For instance, women in the media use social media platforms to amplify their voices, connect with audiences, and promote their work, leading to greater visibility and impact.<sup>4</sup>

However, persistent discrepancies in internet access, digital literacy, and online safety continue to marginalize African women in digital spaces. The digital gender gap remains a significant barrier to women’s empowerment and change in socioeconomic status.<sup>5</sup>

Women in various regions across the African continent continue to face inequities in access to digital technology, limiting their ability to fully engage in the digital economy and society.<sup>6</sup> For example, studies have found that in Sub-Saharan Africa, women are less likely than men to own mobile phones or have access to the internet, with socio-cultural and economic barriers contributing to these disparities.<sup>7</sup> The digital gender gap widens existing inequalities by restricting women’s access to education, employment, and civic engagement. The 2023 International Telecommunications Union report indicates that women use the internet 12% less frequently than men, with this gap increasing to 32.9% in the least developed countries.<sup>8</sup> In Uganda, for example, only 13% of women access the internet, compared to 24% of men.<sup>9</sup> Women are less likely than men to own a mobile phone or have internet access, limiting their opportunities for education, work, and participation in civic activities.<sup>10</sup>

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1 Yustisia, I. R., Priyanti, D. D., Mulachelah, N., Kasim, A., Wulandari, M. P., Oktaviani, F. H., & Illahi, A. K. (2023). *The Transformation of Digital Technology: Its Impact on Human Communication*. *Journal of Future Science*.

2 Adam, I. O., & Dzang Alhassan, M. (2021). *Bridging the global digital divide through digital inclusion: the role of ICT access and ICT use*. *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*, 15(4), 580-596.

3 UN Women (2023), *The gender digital divide must be bridged to ensure we leave no one behind* <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2023/03/the-gender-digital-divide>, accessed on 17 April 2024.

4 AMWIK (2023), ‘Empowering Kenyan Women in Media through Digital Media and Social Media Activism’ *Amwik.org* (9 October 2023) <<https://amwik.org/empowering-kenyan-women-in-media-through-digital-media-and-social-media-activism%EF%BF%BC/>> accessed 26 June 2024.

5 ITU. (2021). *Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2021*. International Telecommunication Union

6 Sanders, C. & Scanlon, E. (2021). *The Digital Divide Is a Human Rights Issue: Advancing Social Inclusion Through Social Work Advocacy*. *J Hum Rights Soc Work*. 6(2):130-143

7 ITU. (2021). *Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2021*. International Telecommunication Union

8 ITU (2023). *The gender digital divide* <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/2022/11/24/ff22-the-gender-digital-divide/>, accessed on 15th February 2024.

9 Kadulu, E., and Arnold, J., (2024). *Digitalization and Gender Norms. Learnings from CARE’s Digital Pilot for VSLA members in Rwanda & Uganda*. CARE, <https://www.marketlinks.org/sites/default/files/media/file/2024-04/Digitalization-Gender-Norms.pdf>.

10 *Ibid*



The United Nations (UN) Women report underscores how cultural norms and gender stereotypes often hinder women's access to digital technologies and their ability to influence digital narratives.<sup>11</sup> Similar challenges are faced by women across other African countries such as Senegal, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly concerning digital technology access and online safety. The 2023 World Bank report highlighted that Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the largest gender gaps in mobile internet use, with over 190 million women not using mobile internet services, resulting in a 37% gender gap.<sup>12</sup>

The gender disparity in internet usage transcends access issues and also includes gendered gaps in digital skills and literacy. Women often struggle to acquire the necessary digital skills to effectively utilize online platforms, hindering their ability to leverage digital technology for personal and professional growth, leaving them marginalized in the digital space.<sup>13</sup> A Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA) study in Kenya demonstrates this as they found that by 2023, only 10% of women used their mobile phones to access information about products and services, compared to 22% of men.<sup>14</sup>

African countries face numerous challenges in safeguarding digital rights, such as structural inequities, legislative shortcomings, and technological weaknesses. The digital divide is a major concern, as it exacerbates existing socioeconomic inequalities and limits access to essential digital services like the internet and online platforms.<sup>15</sup> This disparity is particularly pronounced in areas on the continent, where rural and marginalized communities often lack access to basic digital infrastructure.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, governments in Africa frequently engage in extensive surveillance and restriction of online activities, curtailing freedom of expression and eroding privacy rights.<sup>17</sup> Draconian regulations further aggravate these issues by silencing dissent and fostering a climate of fear and self-censorship.<sup>18</sup> Understanding and upholding fundamental human rights in the digital realm is crucial for comprehending digital rights.

This lack of digital literacy not only limits women's access to information and services but also perpetuates gender disparities in the digital workforce and entrepreneurship. Efforts to close the digital gender gap should prioritize programs that enhance women's digital skills and empower them to utilize digital technology for personal and professional advancement.<sup>19</sup>

Overall, women's access to and use of the internet are influenced by various factors, including socioeconomic status, cultural norms, and educational opportunities.<sup>20</sup>

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11 Cookson, T.P., L. Fuentes, M.K. Kuss, and J. Bitterly. (2023) "Social Norms, Gender and Development: A Review of Research and Practice. New York, . UN-Women Discussion Paper Series No. 42. New York: UN-Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/discussion-paper-social-norms-gender-and-development-a-review-of-research-and-practice-en.pdf>.

12 Kwakwa, V., (2023). Accelerating Gender Equality: Let's Make Digital Technology Work for All <https://blogs.worldbank.org/african/accelerating-gender-equality-lets-make-digital-technology-work-all>, accessed on 15th February 2024.

13 Chipeva, P., Cruz-Jesus, F., Oliveira, T., & Irani, Z. (2018). Digital divide at individual level: Evidence for Eastern and Western European countries. *Government Information Quarterly*, 35(3), 460-479.

14 GSMA (2023). *The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2023* <https://www.gsma.com/r/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2023.pdf>, accessed on 29th April 2024.

15 Essien, E. (2018). *Ethical dilemma of the digital divide in the threshold of social inequalities in Africa*. In *Ethics and Decision-Making for Sustainable Business Practices* (pp. 73-89). IGI Global.

16 Graham, M. (2014). *Internet geographies: data shadows and digital divides of the networked world*. Springer.

17 Deibert, R. (2019) *Three Painful Truths About Social Media*. *Journal of Democracy*. 30(1), 25-39.

18 Ndiaye, K. (2017). *Freedom of expression in Africa: What are the limits to online freedom of expression?* *International Journal of Law and Information Technology*, 25(4), 316-341.

19 UNESCO. (2019). *Cracking the code: Girls' and women's education in STEM*. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

20 GSMA (2023). *The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2023* <https://www.gsma.com/r/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2023.pdf>, accessed on 29th April 2024.

# Conceptual Foundation of the Scorecard

## Feminist Internet

This scorecard is grounded in the Feminist Principles of the Internet, a set of statements that provide a framework for women's movements to articulate and explore technology-related issues. These principles emphasize the importance of accessibility, openness, and care while offering a gender and sexual rights perspective on critical internet-related rights.<sup>21</sup> They advocate for a tech space built on sustainability, access, care, and safety.<sup>22</sup> The goal of Afrofeminist internet is to ensure that more women and gender-diverse people have universal, acceptable, affordable, unconditional, open, meaningful, and equal access to the internet.<sup>23</sup>

The evolution of the internet has fundamentally transformed how feminists and women's rights movements address social justice and gender equality issues. Women from diverse backgrounds can now engage in feminist debate and advocacy.<sup>24</sup> This democratization of activism has given structurally silenced and underrepresented groups a stronger voice and greater access to intersectional feminist organizing strategies.<sup>25</sup> This inclusive approach prioritizes the empowerment of women, gender-diverse people, and other marginalized communities.

Digital platforms, including blogs, social media, and online forums, have provided women with unprecedented opportunities to share their stories, raise awareness, and inspire action.<sup>26</sup> The #MeToo movement and online campaigns against gender-based violence exemplify how digital feminism has reshaped public discourse and challenged established power structures.<sup>27</sup> Women activists and feminists use collective actions, such as online petitions and viral hashtags like #HearMeToo, to drive societal change and hold perpetrators of discrimination and violence accountable.<sup>28</sup>

Furthermore, the internet fosters a sense of global connectivity among feminists. By participating in online forums and social media groups, women can connect with like-minded individuals, exchange information and support, and build networks of solidarity that transcend national and cultural boundaries. A feminist internet aims to empower more women and marginalized communities to fully enjoy their rights, engage in pleasure and play, and dismantle patriarchal systems.

## Country Context

Since 2022 through its Future of Work Program, Pollicy has directly and indirectly engaged with about 763 women media practitioners from Uganda and Kenya, spanning both legacy and alternative media. This engagement aimed to help these women better understand and leverage the opportunities presented by technology while enhancing their digital resilience to confront associated challenges. Insights from these

21 Berting, N. (2022, March 8). 12 Principles for a Feminist Internet. *What Design Can Do*. <https://www.whatdesigncando.com/stories/12-principles-for-a-feminist-internet/>

22 Association for Progressive Communications (APC). (2023, September). *Feminist Principles of the Internet - Version 2.0* | Association for Progressive Communications. [www.apc.org](https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/feminist-principles-internet-version-20). <https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/feminist-principles-internet-version-20>

23 Perera, S. (2022). *WHITE PAPER ON FEMINIST INTERNET RESEARCH*. <https://firn.genderit.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/FIRN-whitepaper-2022.pdf>

24 Noble, S. U. (2018). *Algorithms of oppression: How search engines reinforce racism*. NYU Press.

25 Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET). (2021). *Examining the Effect of Shrinking Civic Space on Feminist Organizing Online, Particularly for Structurally Silenced Women in Uganda*. [https://cnxus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Examining\\_the\\_Effects\\_of\\_Shrinking\\_Civic\\_Space\\_on\\_Feminist\\_Organising\\_Online\\_Particularly\\_for\\_Structurally\\_Silenced\\_Women\\_in\\_Uganda1.pdf](https://cnxus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Examining_the_Effects_of_Shrinking_Civic_Space_on_Feminist_Organising_Online_Particularly_for_Structurally_Silenced_Women_in_Uganda1.pdf)

26 Banet-Weiser, S. (2018). *Empowered: Popular feminism and popular misogyny*. Duke University Press

27 Fairbairn, J. (2020). *Before# MeToo: Violence against women social media work, bystander intervention, and social change*. *Societies*, 10(3), 51.

28 Osman, H. R. (2019, January 14). #MeToo, #TimesUp, #HearMeToo and other Campaigns: Are We Getting Anywhere? *Tiunike*. <https://www.tiunike.com/post/2019/01/14/metoo-timesup-hearmetoo-and-other-campaigns-are-we-getting-anywhere>

engagements prompted the inclusion of more African countries where women face numerous challenges in accessing and using digital technology.

Engagements with women media practitioners stemmed from Pollicy’s previous research and reports from different African countries on online gender-based violence among women internet users in five African countries,<sup>29</sup> online violence against women in politics-OVAW-P in Uganda<sup>30</sup> and in Kenya<sup>31</sup> as well as online violence against women human rights defenders and women in the media.<sup>32</sup> Findings from these research reports highlighted the urgent need for targeted measures to create a digital landscape where women can thrive and fully participate in the future workforce.

This scorecard is designed to provide a clear framework for evaluating and improving key areas such as access to technology, online safety, representation, and economic opportunities. By highlighting gaps and recommending targeted actions, the scorecard will serve as a toolkit to drive policy changes and initiatives that ensure women have equal access to digital resources and protections against online harassment. Additionally, it aims to promote actions towards creating a more supportive and empowering online environment for women. Overall, the scorecard will be a crucial tool in advancing gender equality in digital spaces, enabling women to participate fully and confidently in the digital world.

The Afrofeminist internet scorecard consultative meetings were conducted in seven African countries from October 2023 to April 2024. These countries are Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Cameroon, and Senegal, where organizations and individuals working towards an equitable internet participated in these meetings. The table below summarizes these meetings.

Country	Where the meeting took place	When	Participants
Uganda	Kampala	November 2023	19
Tanzania	Dar es Salaam	November 2023	12
Kenya	Nairobi	October 2023	20
Mozambique	Maputo	December 2023	22
DRC	Goma	January 2024	20
Cameroon	Yaoundé	February 2024	20
Senegal	Online*	April 2024	15

Table 1: Consultative meetings in selected African countries

29 Iyer, N., Nyamwire, B., & Nabulega, S. (2020). *AlternAte reAlities, AlternAte internets*.

30 Kakande, A., Achieng, G., Iyer, N., Nyamwire, B., Nabulega, S., and Mwendwa, I. (2021) *Amplified Abuse: Report on Online Violence Against Women in the 2021 Uganda General Election*. Retrievable from <https://vawp.pollicy.org>

31 Kakande, A., Nyamwire, B., Saturday, B., Mwendwa, I., (2023) *Byte Bullies*.

32 Nyamwire B., Metial K., and Siba Yahaya M. (2022) *A Dark Place for Women Journalists and Women Human Rights Defenders: Documenting the Experiences of Online Violence in Anglo and Francophone Countries*.

\*Senegal had a virtual meeting because the meeting was held at the time when there were general elections in the country and it was anticipated that it would be challenging to have the physical meeting as elections often bring about political tensions, protests, and sometimes violence. This can make it difficult for researchers to move around safely and gather data. Also certain areas may become inaccessible therefore making it difficult for the data collection team to move freely.

# Key Findings from the Consultative Meetings

## Strengths

Across the seven countries, significant strides have been made in addressing gender digital disparities, despite the existence of wide gaps. Policies and programs aimed at increasing women's participation and representation on the Internet have been implemented by both government and non-government actors. Civil Society Organizations play a crucial role in advocating for improved digital inclusion for women, holding governments accountable, and directly building the capacity of digitally marginalized groups in areas such as online safety and security, digital rights, digital literacy, and the adoption of online economic opportunities.

Unique efforts were identified in some countries, such as Kenya, which boasts better internet infrastructure, more affordable internet, and effective cybersecurity laws, although these benefits are primarily concentrated in urban areas. Similarly, Cameroon and Mozambique have shown promising legal efforts in cybersecurity, data protection, and privacy, marking important steps towards digital inclusion.

## Identified Gaps

Cross-cutting persistent gender gaps were registered in all seven countries and these were;

**Digital Gender Divide:** The digital gender gap persists across all seven countries, with women in rural areas encountering more barriers to internet access and affordability, digital literacy, and meaningful participation in online spaces. Additionally, social norms continue to discriminate against women, rendering them 'invisible' and subjects of abuse in digital environments.

**Online Harassment and Safety:** Online harassment and abuse are pervasive issues affecting women's ability to engage in digital spaces safely and effectively.

**Policy and Legal Frameworks:** It was identified that whereas many of the countries have policies and legal frameworks on cybersecurity, these laws are inadequate, least gender responsive and are selectively implemented.

## Recommendations

- Development actors, such as civil society organizations and the media, should consistently follow up and hold governments accountable for developing and enforcing gender-inclusive policies and regulations that protect women's rights and promote inclusive digital spaces.
- To address gender digital divides, targeted interventions are needed to improve women's access to digital technologies and build their digital skills.
- Multi-sector interventions are urgently required to address online harassment against women and enhance their digital resilience to foster an Afrofeminist internet.

## **Methodology of the Scorecard**

The project initially collaborated with women journalists and media practitioners from both traditional and alternative media outlets. It later expanded to include women leaders, activists, educators, technologists, creatives, and community organizers across various capacities.

Information was gathered from women from the aforementioned categories in the seven countries through consultative meetings that were conducted in two stages. The first stage involved holding consultative meetings and collection of data that was used to develop the scorecard. In the second stage, the findings of the scorecard were validated with partners from the seven countries involved. This two-stage process ensured both the thoroughness and the accuracy of the information collected, achieving saturation and validating the gathered data through collaborative review and feedback.

The research employs a scorecard method, a tool used to assess and evaluate the performance or progress of specific subjects or projects. In the context of a feminist internet, the scorecard defines key criteria, indicators, and metrics to measure and analyze the status and impact of initiatives and policies related to a feminist Internet. This scorecard is integral to the feminist internet initiative, serving as a mechanism to evaluate progress and identify challenges in achieving an equitable internet across the seven participating countries. We aim to extend the scorecard mechanism to additional countries across the African continent.

## **Why a scorecard for an Afrofeminist Internet?**

This scorecard is designed to assist partners (organizations and institutions) operating within the digital space on the African continent in monitoring the digital landscape in relation to gender equality and inclusivity in the respective countries. It is a foundational tool for measuring the country's performance in strengthening, advocating for, and implementing initiatives that ensure women can navigate the digital landscape safely and effectively despite existing digital threats. However, it should not be regarded as a mere checklist. The development of this scorecard was informed by findings from consultative meetings with women from diverse backgrounds in seven countries, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

## **Application of the scorecard**

The multi-country consultative meetings leveraged the feminist principles of the internet to guide the information collection process for developing this scorecard, focusing on nine key dimensions: Access, safety, and security online, data privacy, representation and inclusivity in technology and innovation, freedom of expression, content creation and ownership, online economic opportunities, digital literacy skill, and technology advocacy.

The Scorecard's nine dimensions were organized with a scoring scale of 1-5. These ratings were formulated through a combination of direct feedback from country-specific partners as well as a literature review of relevant documents. The scores are based on a scale from 1-5.

Rate	Interpretation	Description
1	Missing	Countries scoring in this range lack any substantial efforts in the given indicator. There is no meaningful work being conducted to create an inclusive and safe digital ecosystem.
2	Inadequate	Countries rated as “inadequate” have made efforts to develop a digital ecosystem that addresses gender disparities under a specific indicator but still encounter significant obstacles, including inconsistent political commitment to policy changes and cultural barriers hindering women’s access to and use of digital technology. It is essential to create targeted recommendations for improvement in the indicators associated with this score.
3	Needs Improvement	A “Needs improvement” score on any indicator signifies that while the country has made some progress, there is still substantial work required to bridge the identified gaps. This rating should be accompanied by specific follow-up recommendations and key information necessary to advocate for closing these gaps.
4	Meets minimum standards	This rating indicates that significant progress has been made toward creating a gender-inclusive and safe digital ecosystem through effective policies and programs. Nonetheless, addressing certain unmet conditions would be advantageous. For instance, on the dimension of “Digital literacy and skills” the indicator that meets standards regarding “specific skills for women”, unmet conditions would be additional attention is needed to include women from various categories, such as from both rural and urban areas.
5	Exceeds minimum standards	Countries with indicators scoring in this range have made significant investments and achieved notable success in creating a gender-inclusive and safe digital ecosystem through the development and implementation of effective policies and programs. There may be minimal need for follow-up actions, although further efforts to exceed this standard are always encouraged.

Table 2: Rating scale and interpretation

The scorecard is designed for annual use due to the rapidly evolving nature of digital technology. The plan is to share the measured indicators and methodology with partners so that they can populate the scorecard throughout the year. This will make the scorecard more accurate and developed by the community. By compiling yearly scores, organizations and institutions can effectively monitor progress and strengthen their advocacy for policy changes and reforms to close the digital gender divide in specific countries.

Dimensions	Indicators	Countries						
		UG	KY	MOZ	DRC	CAM	SNG	TZ
Access and Connectivity	Affordability of digital devices & internet bundles	2	3	2	2	3	2	2
	Internet & digital Infrastructure	3	4	3	4	3	3	4
	Social norms	2	2	2	2	3	3	2
Online Safety & Security	Existence of Frameworks	3	3	2	4	2	4	4
	Adequacy of Legal Measures	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
	Effectiveness in Practice	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Privacy & Data Protection	Existence of Frameworks	2	4	2	4	3	4	4
	Adequacy of Legal Measures	2	3	2	3	3	2	3
	Effectiveness in Practice	2	3	2	3	3	2	3
Representation and Inclusivity	Existence of Policies	2	4	2	2	4	3	3
	Adequacy of Programs	2	3	3	2	3	2	3
	Effectiveness in Implementation	2	3	2	2	3	2	2
Freedom of Expression	Existence of Legal Safeguards	4	4	4	4	3	3	4
	Adequacy of Policies	3	3	3	2	2	3	3
	Alignment with International Standards	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Content Creation & Ownership	Recognition of Intellectual Property Rights	2	4	3	2	3	3	3
	Specific Mechanisms for Women Content Creators	2	4	2	2	3	3	2
	Inclusivity in Existing Intellectual Property Frameworks	2	3	3	2	3	3	2

Dimensions	Indicators	Countries						
		UG	KY	MOZ	DRC	CAM	SNG	TZ
Online Economic Opportunities	Existence of Support Programs	4	3	2	2	3	3	4
	Accessibility of Support for Women	1	3	2	2	3	3	3
	Specific Focus on Online Platforms	1	4	2	2	2	2	4
Representation in Technology and Innovation	Presence of Initiatives	3	3	3	2	3	3	4
	Scope & Reach of Initiatives	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
	Tailoring for Women-Led Innovation	2	2	2	2	4	3	4
Digital Literacy and Skills	Recognition of Essential Skills	3	3	3	3	2	2	3
	Specific Digital Skills for Women	3	4	3	2	2	2	3
	Alignment with Current Digital Trends	3	3	3	2	2	2	3
Policy and Advocacy for Feminist Internet	Presence of Civil Society Organizations	3	3	3	3	4	2	4
	Specific Groups Focused on Feminist Internet Principles	3	3	2	3	3	2	4
	Collaborations among Organizations	3	3	2	3	3	3	3

Table 3: Scores



## Who should use this scorecard?

This scorecard is designed for use by civil society, governments, policymakers, and decision-makers involved in developing and implementing policies and legislation aimed at ensuring an accessible, affordable, and safe internet for women across the African continent. It provides a valuable opportunity to address gaps and priorities identified in existing laws and policies, as well as the broader digital technology and internet landscape. Additionally, it serves as a tool to identify key areas and priorities for policy advocacy.

The scorecard for promoting an Afrofeminist internet is particularly useful for stakeholders working to bridge the digital gender divide and advocating for women's safety online, tailored to the specific context of each country.

The scorecard can be used to specifically:

- Inspire discussion and reflection about gender equality in digital technology and important focus areas
- Strategically assess and score a country to demonstrate commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in the digital age
- Identify areas for improvement so as to create a gender-inclusive and safe internet as well as for women's empowerment in the digital age
- Conduct consistent scores and track a country's progress on creating a gender-inclusive and safe internet.

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