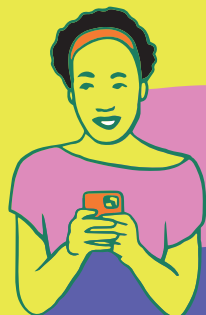




# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Omkhâisensa //gâi/as tsi !gom mâsib !na hâse #ansa mâ !kharu sa  
!hub //uigu tsi !huba xura /omkhâi xun !Khawagas Afrikab dis !na.

# BUILDING RESILIENT INFORMATION ECOSYSTEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



**DAY 1: 1 OCT 2024**

Session No.	Time	Session Title	Description	Expert / Host
	08:00 - 08:30	Registration		
	09:00 - 09:30	Opening MJE, Welcome, Setting the Scene	Conversational opening	<b>Zoé Titus</b> (NMT) <b>Chisomo Ngulube</b> (MISA Malawi) <b>Abigirl Khupe</b> (CITE) <b>Peter Deselaers</b> (DW Akademie) <b>Tabani Moyo</b> (MISA Regional & Zimbabwe)
<b>Session 1.1</b>	09:30 - 10:30	<b>AI in Journalism: Integration, education, and ethical considerations</b>	Integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into journalism is reshaping media practices, offering new functionalities in news production, distribution, and audience engagement. This session explores how AI technologies are transforming journalism education and raising critical ethical considerations. AI-driven tools automate content generation, personalise news delivery, and analyse data, prompting educators to adapt curricula to equip future journalists with AI literacy. Ethical concerns around bias, transparency, and editorial oversight of automated processes are central, ensuring AI-enhanced journalism upholds standards of integrity and serves the public interest effectively.	<b>Format:</b> Presentation + panel discussion <b>Moderator:</b> Zoé Titus <b>Reyhana Masters</b> (Lead consultant, NMT-DW AI research) <b>Zenzele Ndebele</b> (Director and Founder, CITE) <b>Natascha Schwanke</b> (Director of Media Development, DW Akademie) <b>Mallick Mnela</b> (Co-Founder, iHubOnline)
<b>Session 1.2</b>	10:30 - 11:30	<b>African structural dynamics that shape journalism practice: Integrating decolonial perspectives to nurture inclusive narratives</b>	"The decolonial agenda aims to rehumanise the world, ensuring dignity for those affected by colonial and apartheid legacies. It is based on the experiences of those striving for freedom and justice. This mission is now more critical than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted severe impacts on historically marginalised communities, affecting them by race, gender, and class. In Africa, journalism is shaped by these structural dynamics. Journalists must navigate a landscape influenced by colonial histories, economic disparities, and social inequalities. The decolonial agenda calls on them to challenge these structures, amplify marginalised voices, and promote social justice, contributing to a more equitable society"	<b>Moderator:</b> Reyhana Masters <b>Sarah Chiumbu</b> (UJ) <b>Phillip Santos</b> (NUST) <b>Dr. Francis Chikunkhuzeni</b> , Senior Lecturer in Journalism and Media Studies, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS)
	11:30 - 12:00	Tea/Coffee Break		





## DAY 1 continued

Session No.	Time	Session Title	Description	Expert / Host
<b>Session 1.3</b>	12:00 - 13:00	<b>Citizen Journalism in the Digital Era: Ethical Challenges and the role of Journalism Education</b>	Internet in general and social media in particular brought with them individuals who are not professional journalists but are disseminating information in journalism 'fashion'. In times of crises or disasters, citizen journalists have even helped traditional or mainstream journalism access first hand information including pictures, video footage and on site interviews with the survivors and other concerned groups. However, the growing influence of citizen journalism in the digital era has also resulted in ethical pitfalls as most citizen journalists are either not aware of ethics in reporting or deliberately flout rules to suit their preferences or agenda. This session explores these ethical challenges and attempts to lead a discussion on the role of journalism education in ensuring ethical citizen journalism.	<b>Golden Matonga</b> , Chairperson, MISA Malawi & Director of Investigations at Platform for Investigative Journalism (PIJ)
<b>13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Break</b>				
<b>Session 1.4</b>	14:00-15:00	<b>TikTok Journalism: Amplify journalism in the age of short form vertical storytelling</b>	More relevant, more accessible, community driven: younger audiences are looking for news that are different. Different in tone, style and attitude. With over 1.5 billion user each month the social platform TikTok is constantly growing its reach - also for news content. South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria are among the top ten markets worldwide of using TikTok for news. 2024 is the first time where TikTok is front and center as an app for political discourse in an election year. By contrast, publishers have been slow to adopt TikTok. This has left a gap where users tend to pay more attention to social media influencers and celebrities than they do to journalists or media outlets when it comes to news.	<b>Format:</b> Masterclass (presentation + stage performance + video production)  <b>Lungile Ngwenya</b> (Social Media Editor, Centre for Innovation and Technology (CITE/ Zimbabwe)  <b>Stefanie Duckstein</b> (Media Trainer and Project Manager, DW Akademie/ Germany)  <b>Dilia Mazula</b> , multimedia journalist Fresh FM/ Future Media News, entrepreneur
<b>Session 1.5</b>	15:00 - 16:00	<b>Where is the Audience? Strategies for understanding, engaging, and monetising diverse audiences in the digital age</b>	The media landscape has seen a dramatic transformation in recent years, largely due to the rapid rise of digital technologies. This shift has significantly changed how audiences consume content and how media organisations reach and monetise these audiences. This session will provide insights to help media organisations navigate the complexities of the digital era and effectively engage with diverse audiences.	<b>Format:</b> Presentation + discussion. <b>Tim Zunckel Regional</b> Media Business Advisor: Africa Internews
<b>16:00 - 16:15 Tea/Coffee Break</b>				
	16:15 - 16:45	<b>Wrap Up Day 1/ Outlook Day 2</b>	Proposal: Facilitator; + M&E aspect = Peter & menti.com; Tabani presenting outlook for day 2; done in a conversational style	<b>Peter Deselaers</b> & ad hoc interviews <b>Tabani Moyo</b> (Outlook) Lulu Kitololo
<b>17:00 - 21:00 Evening Event Excursion: NMT campus with dinner</b>				



## DAY 2: 2 OCT 2024

Session No.	Time	Session Title	Description	Expert / Host
	08:00 - 09:30	Check-in and introductions	Free Expression Art Vernissage + Check-in	Reyhana Masters (IFEX, Independent researcher)
	09:30 - 10:00	Welcome to Spaces of Solidarity 2024	Official Opening of SoS 2024 including welcoming remarks by Mr. Tabani Moyo, the Regional Director of MISA, and a keynote speech by Mr. Golden Maunganidze, Chairman of MISA's Regional Governing Council. MISA is the initiator and convener of the annual Spaces of Solidarity Forum, the meeting of the SoS coalition of 21 organisations working for free expression, free media, access to information and the safety of journalists in the SADC region.	Tabani Moyo (MISA) Golden Maunganidze (MISA Malawi)
Session 2.1	10:00 - 11:15	Holding the Space – How coalitions can effectively push back on shrinking spaces	The past few years have experienced democratic backsliding, with freedom of expression and access to information being among the most affected rights. This is further complicated by the rise of misinformation and disinformation and the exponential growth of AI. This makes defending of freedom of expression an onerous task, which demands that organisations work together rather than in silos. This session will focus on the importance and effects that ground level coalitions have on freedom of expression frameworks and human right taking the “Spaces of Solidarity” as an example case.	Sarah Chiumbu (Researcher on media coalitions in Africa) Zoé Titus (NMT)
		The Status-Quo – Analysing the Free Expression Climate Survey 2024	MISA and DWA regularly circulate a questionnaire that acts as a gauge on the status of freedom of expression in Southern Africa. This year more than 80 media experts, academics and journalists have participated in the survey. This session will analyse the results of this survey and compare them with the results of previous years.	Tabani Moyo (MISA) Peter Deselaers (DW Akademie)"
	11:15 - 11:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
Session 2.2	11:30 - 12:45	"Focus on Production – How accessible media products support free expression advocacy"	Spaces of Solidarity meets African MILE: This production-oriented session creates the space to use media to explain, illustrate and break-down complex media and free expression policy issues. Media experts and practitioners will have the opportunity to create impactful problem statements and compelling arguments to share with wider audiences using videography and social media.	Reyhana Masters (IFEX, Independent researcher) Nqaba Matshazi (MISA)
	12:45 - 14:15	Lunch Break		
Session 2.3	14:15 - 15:45	Civil Society under Pressure – A workshop on how to mitigate the effects of laws against CSOs	Several countries in the region have either enacted laws or are in the process of promulgating laws that could curtail the operations of CSOs. This session will focus on risk mitigation in countries where the laws are yet to be enacted and experience sharing in cases where the laws have been enacted. This session will conduct a stakeholder analysis, chain of influence, identifying audiences, monitoring evaluation & impact assessment, risk management.	Reyhana Masters (IFEX, Independent researcher) Tabani Moyo (MISA)

## DAY 2 continued

Session No.	Time	Session Title	Description	Expert / Host
	15:45 - 16:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
Session 2.4	16:00 - 17:15	SoS Closed Session – Designing a communication strategy, work plan, content plan, and define responsibilities	This session will focus on coming up with a work plan and a communication plan. It will zero in on understanding concepts relating to the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of strategic campaigns	Reyhana Masters (IFEX, Independent researcher) Tabani Moyo (MISA)
	16:00 - 17:15	Outing to KCAC (tbc)	visiting the MiLLi* initiative, NCBN, and Cota in Katutura	
	17:15 - 19:00	Break before Evening event		
	19:00 - 21:00	Snacks and Solidarity” - SoS Reception	The Spaces of Solidarity coalition invites conference attendees as well as international and Namibian stakeholders to a Dinner Reception and Networking Event at the Goethe Institute.	Tabani Moyo (MISA)



## DAY 3: 3 OCT 2024

Session No.	Time	Session Title	Description	Expert / Host
	08:00 - 09:30	Registration	Rap Battle performances*	
	09:30 - 10:00	Opening MILE, Welcome	African MILE Spotlight: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities in Southern Africa	All partners
Session 3.1	10:00 - 11:15	Tools that help combat Mis and dis-information's Impact on Citizens	Tackling the critical issue of misinformation and disinformation in today's media landscape, with a specific focus on tools that empower citizens to actively participate in safeguarding their digital rights.	Phakamile Khumalo Media Monitoring Africa
Session 3.2	10:00 - 11:15	Media and Elections: Youth votes for informed impact	Reflect on why voting matters, distinguish propaganda, and disinformation from real news, and analyze the influence of media on elections, while developing skills to contribute meaningfully to electoral discussions	Farah Frederick, Media & Information Literacy Learning Initiative
	11:15 - 11:30	Tea/Coffee Break		

## DAY 3 continued

Session No.	Time	Session Title	Description	Expert / Host
<b>Session 3.3</b>	11:30 - 12:45	<b>Securing the Story</b>	Gain essential cybersecurity skills to protect journalists and civil society actors from digital threats and ensure safe, secure reporting and activism.	<b>David Mopeng</b> , Cybersmart Botswana
<b>Session 3.4</b>	11:30 - 12:45	<b>Storytelling: Impactful Films for Change</b>	Master short video techniques with simple voice-over options to create compelling stories that drive change.	<b>Meri Hyoky</b> , the Hub Morija
	12:45 - 14:15	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
<b>Session 3.5</b>	14:15 - 15:30	<b>AI Impact: User Skills and Insights</b>	Explore AI's impact on users and acquire essential skills for navigating its evolving landscape.	<b>Peter Deselaers</b> , DW Akademie
<b>Session 3.6</b>	14:15 - 15:30	<b>Fact-Checking Mastery</b>	Learn fundamental techniques for verifying information and identifying falsehoods to ensure accuracy and credibility in your reporting.	<b>Fredericko Links</b> , Namibia Fact Check
	15:30 - 16:00	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>		
<b>Session 3.7</b>	16:00 - 17:15	<b>(Conference Closing)</b>	<b>Closing: Bringing all 3 Days and Discussions together (ideas: fishbowl, create a "roadmap", an illustration of conference results)</b>	

# THANK YOU!

