Welcome to this mini series of “Data...for What?!”, the Development Gateway podcast. Over the course of four episodes, we will explore open data, data governance and privacy, as well as the many challenges and opportunities within these topics.

I'm your host, Beverley Hatcher-Mbu,

In this episode,

What we're really looking to get at overall today are what editable rights and how do they manifest in non-Western contexts
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and what are some of the key opportunities and risks are to identifying collective data rights and designing policy frameworks that reflect these approaches.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

So ultimately, what would it look like to talk about governing data from the perspective of community rather than individual rights?

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

In this episode, we’ll grapple with this question

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

by looking at varied examples of policy making and community building

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

to highlight how some communities are managing data
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and what we could be learning from them.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

A little bit about the why of this episode.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

the European Union rocked our world, or at least mine

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

with the passing of the General Data Protection Regulation in 2018.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

And since then it seems that every few months
there is another story of a country passing a data protection law

00;00;59;15 - 00;01;00;12

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

or policy

00;01;00;12 - 00;01;01;08

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

to set the scene

00;01;01;08 - 00;01;02;19

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

for responsible data management.

00;01;02;19 - 00;01;03;14

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

But there’s a big chunk

00;01;03;14 - 00;01;05;13

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

of this discussion missing. In my view.
If you look closely, whether in Europe, South Africa or China, the rights and protections espoused often focus on individual rights, need for individuals to understand.
and protect their own rights.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

But not all societies are structured with the individual at the center.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Societies around the world conceptualize rights, protections and management through the lens of ethnicity, religion and regional identity,

just to name a few. Collective identities
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

How should we balance between being a part of the global consensus on data needs, harms and knowledge,

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

while also acknowledging that these factors are context specific?

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Much of the global conversation has come from people located in countries that are wealthy global powers

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and that power, dynamic
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and viewpoint

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

matters.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

So

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

how do we add to the conversation to bring in nuance?

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Today, we are so lucky to have our in one to speak to her experiences around policy,
digital harms,

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

protections and collective action in Uganda, across Africa, and connecting

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
to global policy discussions.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
So let's dive in.

Irene Mwendwa

Thank you very much, Bev. My name is Irene Mwendwa.

Irene Mwendwa

and I am a lawyer by profession.
I lead strategic initiatives and feminist movement, building

and policy.

Who is policy? First of all, policy is spelled with a double L,

and we are a feminist

civic
Irene Mwendwa

based in Kampala, Uganda,

and we work on the intersections of data and technology.

What do I mean by V's?

mean that

we
Irene Mwendwa try to engage citizens to understand the power of data and technology in their lives. And in this instance,
our own

00;02;29;06 - 00;02;30;15

Irene Mwendwa

elected officials,

00;02;30;15 - 00;02;31;13

Irene Mwendwa

journalists,

00;02;31;13 - 00;02;35;19

Irene Mwendwa

every day, Internet users in different parts of Africa as well as,

00;02;35;19 - 00;02;38;02

Irene Mwendwa

our own friends in the civil society sector.

00;02;38;02 - 00;02;38;26

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Fantastic
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and policy. You guys make

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

very distinct

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

decision to be feminist framed and to look at

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

data and harms and activities through a feminist lens.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Where did that come from and why is that such an important
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

how you structure your work?

Irene Mwendwa

To be fair and to be honest, the definition of feminist stick to date has never been well coined.

Irene Mwendwa

But from where we stand, we believe that everyone
Irene Mwendwa deserves to enjoy the internet.

And in this sense, then we decided to use this approach to engage those who have always been marginalized.

and even now online,
because traditionalism

Irene Mwendwa

is our old way.

Irene Mwendwa

didn’t

Irene Mwendwa

necessarily use much technology.

Irene Mwendwa

It now online, where we are using a lot of technology and digital technology in that

Irene Mwendwa

matter.
Irene Mwendwa

We have seen that some of the marginalization,

discrimination

and

exclusion is shifting into

digital
platforms and also

Irene Mwendwa

some of the innovation and technology is coming up.

Irene Mwendwa

So we asked ourselves

Irene Mwendwa

as an organization, how can we ensure that we work

Irene Mwendwa

together?

Irene Mwendwa

And working together for us means that
Irene Mwendwa

the same people who have been traditionally excluded

Irene Mwendwa

are able to shape

Irene Mwendwa

some of this

Irene Mwendwa

solution and are also able to speak about

Irene Mwendwa

how they use these
Our approach

for

first of all,

creating narratives and really create narratives that shows that
Irene Mwendwa

indeed Africa and parts of the continent are

Irene Mwendwa

contributory into

Irene Mwendwa

some of the innovations we see every day.

Irene Mwendwa

And then number two,

Irene Mwendwa

history sizing, using, using technology to
depict what African women and girls in other marginalized

communities in the continent and parts of Africa

Irene Mwendwa have been able to do so far when it comes to innovation,

Irene Mwendwa to these digital

Irene Mwendwa technologies.

Both you individually, Irene, and sort of Pollicy as a whole really highlights
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

that

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

the marginalization that we

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

we suffer and see and experience in the analog world very much carries over to the digital if we're not intentional about changing those patterns.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

So let's continue to dive in on this. So I think

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

opened that framing really well.
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

So what do you mean when you say digital rights?

00;04;38;02 - 00;04;43;05

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Particularly when you’re talking about what are digital rights of communities? Are digital rights of individuals?

00;04;43;05 - 00;04;43;24

Irene Mwendwa

We also,

00;04;43;24 - 00;04;45;09

Irene Mwendwa

have taken up the definition

00;04;45;09 - 00;04;46;01

Irene Mwendwa

that was

00;04;46;01 - 00;04;49;23

Irene Mwendwa
coined and developed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

And we believe that it's simply

rights exercised in digital spaces or environments.

At the same time, we know that there is direct application and transfer of human rights as

defined under some of the resolutions of
Irene Mwendwa

Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

so that we can be able to uphold dignity and equality of people everywhere, including

on land species.

So

as much as digital and online spaces and sales do not refer
Irene Mwendwa

Internet spaces and mainly social media platforms,

Irene Mwendwa

also expand this definition to include

Irene Mwendwa

applications such as smart fridges,

Irene Mwendwa

Fitbits that you have in your hand

Irene Mwendwa

surveillance cameras and other biometrics,
Irene Mwendwa

biometric software that are used in our everyday life, in our societies.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

That’s really helpful, because sometimes I think the term digital rights gets used and thrown around a lot,

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and people don’t always have a clear understanding of what that can mean.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

So you touched on this a little bit in your intro, talking about why policy has been
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

a feminist lens or feminist focused

00;05;45;07 - 00;05;46;04

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

organization

00;05;46;04 - 00;05;49;10

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and been a champion of approaching data and digital rights through that lens.

00;05;49;10 - 00;05;52;27

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

What assumptions are we sort of collectively as a community making

00;05;52;27 - 00;05;56;20

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

about harms women face in digital spaces, as well as the opportunities

00;05;56;20 - 00;05;58;05

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

that may need to be broken down?
Irene Mwendwa

Where we stand at policy, we have seen

that there are a lot of

challenges when it comes to data governance and digital infrastructure governance in

parts of the continent.

what we know
so far is that

there needs to be a rethinking

towards data and

a balance of digital power.

What I mean is that the current ecosystem, digital and its ecosystem

the frameworks are not inclusive.
Irene Mwendwa

We know that they're short sighted.

Irene Mwendwa

They continue to be disempowering.

Irene Mwendwa

and they're also very

Irene Mwendwa

exploitative.

Irene Mwendwa

One of the research that was commissioned by our founder, Nehemiah, also
Irene Mwendwa

in terms of exploitation, found that

00;06;33;07 - 00;06;34;04

Irene Mwendwa

a lot of

00;06;34;04 - 00;06;36;05

Irene Mwendwa

data collected in the continent

00;06;36;05 - 00;06;37;24

Irene Mwendwa

other parts of the global south.

00;06;37;24 - 00;06;40;02

Irene Mwendwa

This data is collected and used

00;06;40;02 - 00;06;42;14

Irene Mwendwa

to inform solutions in the global north,
whereas the best model would be to first start

Irene Mwendwa

with where

Irene Mwendwa

the data or information has been collected.

Irene Mwendwa

The other thing we saw in terms of

Irene Mwendwa

short sightedness
in the wake of the pandemic 2021,

we conducted a research and interviewed over 200

women

rights organization representatives,

social movement actors, women, human rights defenders

and
Irene Mwendwa everyday women and asked them how they use

digital platforms or, you know, the Internet.

And they told us, of course, that they use the Internet to
Irene Mwendwa

collectivize,

00;07;11;22 - 00;07;16;10

Irene Mwendwa

they use the Internet to store resources, and they also use the Internet to seek for solutions.

00;07;16;10 - 00;07;18;22

Irene Mwendwa

But at the same time, they told us that they see something that

00;07;18;22 - 00;07;23;06

Irene Mwendwa

is happening in terms of data. Sometimes only we conduct research, sometimes only

00;07;23;06 - 00;07;25;13

Irene Mwendwa

have information on what’s happening on the ground.

00;07;25;13 - 00;07;26;26

Irene Mwendwa

As the human rights actors
Irene Mwendwa

in parts of Africa,

Irene Mwendwa

we find that the reports that are put out

Irene Mwendwa

in some

Irene Mwendwa

organizations or entities in other parts of the world

Irene Mwendwa

are not a true collection of what
Irene Mwendwa

is happening on the ground.

00;07;36;00 - 00;07;36;18

Irene Mwendwa

With that,

00;07;36;18 - 00;07;38;07

Irene Mwendwa

then it meant that there was

00;07;38;07 - 00;07;40;25

Irene Mwendwa

clear shortsightedness in terms of data governance,

00;07;40;25 - 00;07;43;15

Irene Mwendwa

infrastructures or frameworks in the continent where

00;07;43;15 - 00;07;47;24

Irene Mwendwa

they do not adequately provide for verification of data that is being
Irene Mwendwa shared

Irene Mwendwa in terms of

Irene Mwendwa what is the information being shared about the continent

Irene Mwendwa and therefore women rights

Irene Mwendwa actors,
Irene Mwendwa

women's rights, human defenders and

00;07;55;21 - 00;07;56;24

Irene Mwendwa

generally people in the

00;07;56;24 - 00;07;58;15

Irene Mwendwa

human rights social movement

00;07;58;15 - 00;07;59;23

Irene Mwendwa

were able to provide

00;07;59;23 - 00;08;01;08

Irene Mwendwa

feedback in terms of

00;08;01;08 - 00;08;01;23

Irene Mwendwa

when
Irene Mwendwa

there there

Irene Mwendwa

are feminist data governance structures, they will ensure that some of the information

being collected or data being collected in Africa

will first

develop or improve. The current status of the continent
Irene Mwendwa will first be used to address or improve innovations in the continent before they are used by multinationals and other billionaires to continue building on their digital ecosystems and infrastructure.
Fear that being

Irene Mwendwa

that I would speak to, especially on this in Parliament,

Irene Mwendwa

is that

Irene Mwendwa

many in our research,

Irene Mwendwa

throughout our research we

Irene Mwendwa

keep
Irene Mwendwa

hearing the same thing of

Irene Mwendwa

a lack of agency over how our data

Irene Mwendwa

is generated and used,

Irene Mwendwa

because

Irene Mwendwa

continue to be imbalances
between, of course, people,

Irene Mwendwa

big tech or digital platforms themselves

Irene Mwendwa

and even our national governments.

Irene Mwendwa

What we found is that

Irene Mwendwa

as you are conducting research, I can give you an example.

Irene Mwendwa

In the wake of the 2021 Ugandan election,
Irene Mwendwa

we were able to scrap that type of

Irene Mwendwa

the different digital platforms

Irene Mwendwa

for our research. Currently, we are not able to

Irene Mwendwa

scrap off any of that on any

Irene Mwendwa

platform to conduct public interest research.
You can see that

Irene Mwendwa
day by day the rules continue

Irene Mwendwa
changing even without

Irene Mwendwa
public interest or public good interests

Irene Mwendwa
That is being sought to be addressed.

Irene Mwendwa
So organizations like ourselves who are
Irene Mwendwa at the margins of civil society and technology,

Irene Mwendwa know, innovators,

Irene Mwendwa we really are grappling with the issue of disempower meant where we are.

Irene Mwendwa are not able to

Irene Mwendwa address fully some of these challenges by ourselves.
And we thought the best model is to use multi-stakeholder approaches, which I can speak to

Irene Mwendwa

we continue with this wonderful podcast.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

I think that's a perfect example of how

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

data scraping can be used in ways that people don't expect.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

coming back

to
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

the

theme of the opposite.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

There are pros and cons that don't fit neatly

into individual rights on one side

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and community rights on the other.
What do marginalized groups lose in systems built around individual rights?

And what do individuals lose and systems built around communities and group identities?

When you look at how the current systems are built,

they continue to pose a risk of overkill.
Irene Mwendwa

End

Irene Mwendwa

of our dependance. And this eventually is a form of structural dependance that

Irene Mwendwa

will not be able to suit and fit. Everyone’s needs.

Irene Mwendwa

The current experience for an African like myself and for many other

Irene Mwendwa

Africans is that
the information or data collected

Irene Mwendwa

from me

Irene Mwendwa

is

Irene Mwendwa

used up by some of the

Irene Mwendwa

innovators in tech companies, but does not address the very

Irene Mwendwa

important needs that are seeking to be addressed.
Irene Mwendwa

We found that as

Irene Mwendwa

the best way to address the sources of power of big tech companies

Irene Mwendwa

is to

Irene Mwendwa

ensure that we use a multi-stakeholder approach.

Irene Mwendwa

And in this sense, then
need to identify

00;10;37;11 - 00;10;38;20

Irene Mwendwa

who are they left out

00;10;38;20 - 00;10;39;13

Irene Mwendwa

communities,

00;10;39;13 - 00;10;41;02

Irene Mwendwa

the communities on the margins, rather,

00;10;41;02 - 00;10;43;08

Irene Mwendwa

and how can we engage them in terms of

00;10;43;08 - 00;10;47;19

Irene Mwendwa

addressing some of the challenges they face every day when it comes to data protection,
Irene Mwendwa

some of the forms of discrimination that we see online.

Irene Mwendwa

and also the issues of inclusion online.

Irene Mwendwa

to do this, we have

Irene Mwendwa

been championing for better governance models

Irene Mwendwa

that,
know, that address the specific needs of Africans.

Irene Mwendwa

And in this sense, then you started off by mentioning the

Irene Mwendwa

European Union,

Irene Mwendwa

general data protection

Irene Mwendwa

provision. And we see

Irene Mwendwa

here in Africa that
Irene Mwendwa

we must have protective

Irene Mwendwa

mechanisms and preventative mechanisms

Irene Mwendwa

that embrace our culture,

Irene Mwendwa

that embrace our uniqueness, but also embrace

Irene Mwendwa

that
we are also

Irene Mwendwa

pattern puzzle of the innovators of some of these

Irene Mwendwa

technologies, even though they stem

Irene Mwendwa

and continue to

Irene Mwendwa

be brought from the global north.

Irene Mwendwa

So those are some of the
Irene Mwendwa

issues

Irene Mwendwa

we've seen

Irene Mwendwa

in terms of

Irene Mwendwa

groups being marginalized.

Irene Mwendwa

The
positive goal that we have eventually

Irene Mwendwa
is looking at

Irene Mwendwa
some of the innovations and algorithms being developed by private and public actors,

Irene Mwendwa
but also consider that

Irene Mwendwa
that

Irene Mwendwa
wonderful individual or societal goal that you hope to achieve
Irene Mwendwa

so is instead of really developing

Irene Mwendwa

models that are very

Irene Mwendwa

commercial models that are very

Irene Mwendwa

inclusive, it's important for scientists

Irene Mwendwa

in technologies to consider
Irene Mwendwa

embrace democratic

principles and also really embrace the public good of our society.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

I think that's extremely important, that it's really,

engaging with and and and critiquing the models that we rely on

for data and digital engagement and seeing how they can be taken in ways that we don't always expect. I think that's
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

that's a really essential point.

So seen policy sort of as an organization,

start out focus on data and general write specific to Uganda.

But I've

seen how that scope has broadened
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

be Pan-African

as well as to highlight that Africa has a lot to offer the global conversation on rights and governance,

not just as a recipient of ideas.

What are the top three perspectives you’ve gained in the African data rights space that you feel should be highlighted in global conversations on rights and governance?
Irene Mwendwa

I'll start off by

00;12;43;01 - 00;12;44;03

Irene Mwendwa

sic very simple thing. We have to rethink regulatory approaches

00;12;44;03 - 00;12;47;15

Irene Mwendwa

in digital markets.

00;12;47;15 - 00;12;48;29

Irene Mwendwa

This is because I was part of

00;12;48;29 - 00;12;51;02

Irene Mwendwa

women
Irene Mwendwa

human rights Defenders Mission in November of 2022,

Irene Mwendwa

where we approached or we used a multi-stakeholder approach to speak to

Irene Mwendwa

the big tech companies in the US

Irene Mwendwa

at Silicon Valley.

Irene Mwendwa

We also visited the White House,
Irene Mwendwa visited some State Department offices, the US seed and other civil society actors and academia to just hear what
Irene Mwendwa

they

Irene Mwendwa
do,

Irene Mwendwa

some of the solutions they are trying
to

bring out. And as I was listening to everyone contributing,
Irene Mwendwa

know, people spoke about the EU market, the Asian market, and

00;13;22;28 - 00;13;25;15

Irene Mwendwa

Africa was mentioned here and there and

00;13;25;15 - 00;13;26;17

Irene Mwendwa

that point I

00;13;26;17 - 00;13;27;28

Irene Mwendwa

was struggling a lot with

00;13;27;28 - 00;13;29;08

Irene Mwendwa

how some of these

00;13;29;08 - 00;13;31;07

Irene Mwendwa

solutions and regulations coming up
Irene Mwendwa

globally.

Irene Mwendwa

So there is definitely a very specific need to

Irene Mwendwa

rethink the regulatory approaches in digital markets

Irene Mwendwa

where

Irene Mwendwa

innovators, technologists
Irene Mwendwa

and policy makers are able to understand

00;13;42;08 - 00;13;47;17

Irene Mwendwa

that Africa is also a market and it's able to contribute to some of the solutions that are coming up.

00;13;47;17 - 00;13;49;04

Irene Mwendwa

And also to understand that

00;13;49;04 - 00;13;50;16

Irene Mwendwa

Africa right now is

00;13;50;16 - 00;13;51;14

Irene Mwendwa

we have over

00;13;51;14 - 00;13;54;18

Irene Mwendwa
60 to 80% of the population

made up of

people under the age of 35.

It means most of us will be the next labor force for some of the opportunities coming up
Irene Mwendwa

these digital

and online markets.

So it's very important

to consider

frameworks that
many of these

Irene Mwendwa

labor sources would be lacking. And if

Irene Mwendwa

I'm coming from Kenya, if I'm coming from Senegal, if I'm coming from Sierra Leone,

Irene Mwendwa

we all have different labor

Irene Mwendwa

frameworks and we would hope to see that

Irene Mwendwa

are managed and reconsidered and
Irene Mwendwa

put in consideration when it comes to,

Irene Mwendwa

online

Irene Mwendwa

markets and also some of the opportunities that are coming

Irene Mwendwa

up in the platforms.

Irene Mwendwa

The other thing I can speak about
some of the developments I'm seeing is some of the developments in data and AI policy

Irene Mwendwa

those are research that was conducted by some of our friends

Irene Mwendwa

as late as, I think

Irene Mwendwa

this April of 2023

Irene Mwendwa

here in Kenya, where

Irene Mwendwa

ey they just looked at the landscape of AI
Irene Mwendwa

innovation and also

Irene Mwendwa

framework setting.

Irene Mwendwa

And the study found that

to date,

Irene Mwendwa

the field of AI innovation in a country like Kenya, which is considered to be very progressive,
continues to be very scattered.

Irene Mwendwa

we all have very unique

Irene Mwendwa

innovations that are trying to

Irene Mwendwa

bring out, especially the private sector

Irene Mwendwa

solution developers.

Irene Mwendwa

However, they have
Irene Mwendwa

They continue to rely on

standards.
frameworks that are based in the global north, which do not necessarily fit

Irene Mwendwa

our context.

Irene Mwendwa

that's another area that

Irene Mwendwa

I think

Irene Mwendwa

is something that we need to watch out and look out for

Irene Mwendwa

as a whole, because it's going to affect all sectors, starting from health,
Irene Mwendwa

agriculture,

Irene Mwendwa

criminal issues,

Irene Mwendwa
civic issues in our lives and all that.

Irene Mwendwa

The last issue may be I see we need to look out for

Irene Mwendwa
is
some of the weak enforcement of the regulatory frameworks

Irene Mwendwa

that we are coming up with,

Irene Mwendwa

in Africa

Irene Mwendwa

that we

Irene Mwendwa

enforcement, unfortunately, is

Irene Mwendwa

stemming
Irene Mwendwa

greatly from weak enforcement of some of the

Irene Mwendwa

other media laws that we see in our continent.

Irene Mwendwa

Unfortunately,

Irene Mwendwa

lot of crime

Irene Mwendwa

is happening
online

and this

affects a lot of

processes.

When you look at

democratic
Irene Mwendwa

processes where

women are supposed to be elected officials, but

every single day they're being discouraged from using online platforms.

You see that

online hate and weak enforcement of some of their
hate provisions continue to hamper how women
participate online.

If you look at how financial institutions continue to use our data,
continue to enforce some of the financial
regulations,
there's a very huge discrepancy because
Irene Mwendwa

the citizenry or many people are not aware of some of the provisions that can

Irene Mwendwa

protect them when they’re using solutions online,

Irene Mwendwa

when they’re using online

Irene Mwendwa

banking services or

Irene Mwendwa

online or digital services
to transact.

Irene Mwendwa

So

Irene Mwendwa

what we've seen is a very, very huge need for

Irene Mwendwa

capacity strengthening

Irene Mwendwa

for some of the stakeholders who are working in this ecosystem

Irene Mwendwa

and the Internet
Irene Mwendwa

users themselves where big tech companies

Irene Mwendwa

have an obligation and opportunity to share

Irene Mwendwa

additional information

Irene Mwendwa

as much as they can

Irene Mwendwa

where
it relates

Irene Mwendwa
to issues to do with,

Irene Mwendwa
you know, enforcement of some of these laws that we see coming up.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
These are really meaty issues to tackle.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
Something that I had wanted to ask earlier and I think

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
picks up well from some of these key entry points that you've highlighted around
regulatory framework

the strong need, forever improving digital literacy.

What gives you hope?

Are there examples you've seen

at
the National

Regional or continental level

of the beginnings of a responsive data governance framework that either adequately recognizes collective harms or does a strong job or starts to do a good job

of

championing individual rights, particularly for women and marginalized groups.
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

What are some good

examples you've seen out there that we should be highlighting or talking about more often?

Irene Mwendwa

This very podcast and many of those that are coming out

in my country, Kenya and different parts of Africa are a very, very good example of

championing for better digital rights.
Why is this? So? When we are on our podcast, we are sharing about critical issues and other communities able to listen in

00;17;39;22 - 00;17;40;21
Irene Mwendwa
and engage.

00;17;40;21 - 00;17;45;01
Irene Mwendwa
Organizations like ourselves are conducting Africa based research

00;17;45;01 - 00;17;45;15
Irene Mwendwa
or

00;17;45;15 - 00;17;49;02
Irene Mwendwa
research that is about and Africans experience

00;17;49;02 - 00;17;52;05
Irene Mwendwa
in terms of using data and digital technology. So
Irene Mwendwa

those two

Irene Mwendwa

models so far are very

Irene Mwendwa

wonderful tools for creating

Irene Mwendwa

social change when it comes to Internet governance.

Irene Mwendwa

The other thing
Irene Mwendwa

I believe I use in my everyday work is movement building

00;18;03;14 - 00;18;04;22

Irene Mwendwa

as a movement build out.

00;18;04;22 - 00;18;07;21

Irene Mwendwa

For the past ten years, I've been engaging in different,

00;18;07;21 - 00;18;09;18

Irene Mwendwa

fields in the spectrum of the law.

00;18;09;18 - 00;18;12;21

Irene Mwendwa

I've been able to engage in human rights, have been able to engage in

00;18;12;21 - 00;18;15;13

Irene Mwendwa

commercial issues. I've been able to engage in
Irene Mwendwa
other

societal issues, and I'm able to bring the interconnections

when it comes to Internet use.

I've been privileged to engage with mainstream civil society actors here in Kenya

and at the Pan-African level to show their very much
Irene Mwendwa

needed regulation of

00;18;30;15 - 00;18;32;01

Irene Mwendwa

or framework in terms of

00;18;32;01 - 00;18;33;27

Irene Mwendwa

digital technologies and its use

00;18;33;27 - 00;18;35;05

Irene Mwendwa

at Pan-African level.

00;18;35;05 - 00;18;35;28

Irene Mwendwa

I know

00;18;35;28 - 00;18;38;18

Irene Mwendwa

in August of 2022, the Africa Commission,
Irene Mwendwa which is the commission in charge of people's and Human Rights at the regional level, was able to institute a mechanism against online hate, and specifically for
Irene Mwendwa

women who continue to be the most affected

00;18;49;10 - 00;18;49;24

Irene Mwendwa

people.

00;18;49;24 - 00;18;50;19

Irene Mwendwa

seen that they've

00;18;50;19 - 00;18;52;08

Irene Mwendwa

continued these conversations where

00;18;52;08 - 00;18;52;15

Irene Mwendwa

they are

00;18;52;15 - 00;18;53;12

Irene Mwendwa

looking at how
Irene Mwendwa

ey

Irene Mwendwa
want to engage organization like myself

Irene Mwendwa
see how they can build that

Irene Mwendwa
provision and framework better so that

Irene Mwendwa
member states can
Irene Mwendwa

ratify and implement.

00;19;01;20 - 00;19;02;04

Irene Mwendwa

So

00;19;02;04 - 00;19;05;12

Irene Mwendwa

starting the conversation is a very, very wonderful tool

00;19;05;12 - 00;19;07;01

Irene Mwendwa

and these podcast and many other

00;19;07;01 - 00;19;08;17

Irene Mwendwa

technological based

00;19;08;17 - 00;19;09;16

Irene Mwendwa

solutions
Irene Mwendwa

I've continued to provide room to discuss

Irene Mwendwa
despite these issues.

Irene Mwendwa

My last takeaway is

Irene Mwendwa

recognizing that

Irene Mwendwa

children right now have more devices.
Irene Mwendwa

So it's important that some of the

00;19;20;10 - 00;19;22;08

Irene Mwendwa

solutions that are going out to them

00;19;22;08 - 00;19;24;19

Irene Mwendwa

to contain as much information as

00;19;24;19 - 00;19;26;03

Irene Mwendwa

they can so that they can

00;19;26;03 - 00;19;29;04

Irene Mwendwa

communicate effectively about the power of the Internet and data

00;19;29;04 - 00;19;32;00

Irene Mwendwa

as opposed to just communicating to the parents alone who
Irene Mwendwa

most of their time may be

busy with other things.

So

recognizing

population and addressing some of the
Irene Mwendwa

challenges we see in this society today through this population is really in Africa

Irene Mwendwa

is also a very powerful

Irene Mwendwa

tool to use as well.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Right.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

I love to

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

chat with people,
especially about issues that I'm passionate about. So it's

really been such a treat to have

the special series to have a chance to dig into some of these issues.

You've mentioned other podcasts. Are there any that you'd recommend

to people who are listening who might want to learn more about these topics or others?
Yes, yes, definitely. Shamelessly going to plug one of our partners in this work.

Pan-African based podcast on online safety. It’s called the Digital Dada Podcast.

It’s hosted by our good friend Cecilia.

When they’re here in Nairobi, Kenya, she has been able to bring
Irene Mwendwa

different

Irene Mwendwa

speakers online to share about the experiences

Irene Mwendwa

and everyday Internet use. A journalist, A media personality is recognized

Irene Mwendwa

in the whole continent just to share

Irene Mwendwa

the very
Irene Mwendwa

need of why we need to regulate some of these

00;20;31;14 - 00;20;34;28

Irene Mwendwa

some of these issues that we are seeing today, especially on online

00;20;34;28 - 00;20;36;08

Irene Mwendwa

violence against women.

00;20;36;08 - 00;20;40;03

Irene Mwendwa

Maybe the other podcast I can also shamelessly plug

00;20;40;03 - 00;20;42;04

Irene Mwendwa

that I listen to a lot

00;20;42;04 - 00;20;43;23

Irene Mwendwa

would be a fun one,
Irene Mwendwa

and that would be

Irene Mwendwa

the

Irene Mwendwa

Is it the Telegraph’s had had folk? I think that’s the one

Irene Mwendwa

because it addresses or speaks about some of the

Irene Mwendwa

technological issues coming out
Irene Mwendwa

regularly. Those are the two that I really

00;20;57;03 - 00;20;58;18

Irene Mwendwa

listened to very, very

00;20;58;18 - 00;21;00;23

Irene Mwendwa

regularly and update myself on

00;21;00;23 - 00;21;01;28

Irene Mwendwa

the latest news.

00;21;01;28 - 00;21;02;18

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

I love that.

00;21;02;18 - 00;21;07;11

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Anything else you're reading or watching that helps you tackle these issues
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

or think about them more deeply?

Irene Mwendwa

Oh yes.

Irene Mwendwa

Currently I'm also just

Irene Mwendwa

beginning to go into

Irene Mwendwa

in European
Irene Mwendwa

Journal on low end technology that was published last year

by two

Irene Mwendwa

professors

of law in

Europe in Brussels.

It's called the vulnerable data subject
Irene Mwendwa

Agenda Data Subject. This, of course, looks at

gender data, the importance of gender data. And it’s going to be

was actually joking with my colleagues, this is our new

app Feminist Data Bible because covers very, very well.

Why?
Why we need
to really ensure that
the there is gender data.

So this is something that we hope to also enforce at the organization level
and also in some of the projects that we are going to be undertaking. That meant everyone to read it.
What an amazing resource. I'm not familiar with that and I'm looking forward to digging in. So we'll gather all of these as we've done in previous episodes,

00;22;00;18 - 00;22;01;24
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
gather some of these

00;22;01;24 - 00;22;08;16
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
resources and share them alongside the episode so that people, other people can read them as well. Thanks for that. Thanks for the hot tip. Irene.

00;22;08;16 - 00;22;10;08
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
On my side, I'm continuing to engage.

00;22;10;09 - 00;22;19;08
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
I've written in the spirit of of shameless plugs. I've got to say, I got to say this before we started the recording, but I'm a huge fan girl of policy

00;22;19;08 - 00;22;23;16
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
and I think that policies ongoing project and work generating from

00;22;23;16 - 00;22;24;14
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
there

00;22;24;14 - 00;22;31;26
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
the project on African women in artificial intelligence is excellent. It's really accessible and dynamic. There's a recording of the launch

00;22;31;26 - 00;22;32;22
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
of the event.

00;22;32;22 - 00;22;34;21
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
There's a really fantastic report.

00;22;34;21 - 00;22;39;29
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu
So it's I think it doesn't it doesn't count as a shameless plug if I do it right.
I'm just so excited to highlight that work because I found it so interesting to read and to watch and to engage with. So I'd really encourage anybody who's listening to check that out.

So that would be my one plug.

The other thing

I've been reading a book called Venomous Lump Suckers about a sci fi.

It's a sci fi novel set,
I think 100 years from now. And it's about extinction of human species and why I think that this is it's very funny and very inappropriate,

but it's also quite relevant to this topic

because I think there's something to be said for, again, thinking about

we're all sort of

pursuing our lives individually, but there are collective harms and also collective benefits from protecting one another
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

and taking each other's

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

lives and experiences seriously.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

And the book is it's a fiction novel. It's through the lens of

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

of protecting rare animal species. But I think that there is a lesson there for all of us.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

So if you are on the hunt for new fiction reading or new
sci fi reading, Venomous Lump Suckers is a very good book.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Irene, anything else

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

that we haven’t talked about

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

that you wish you could share?

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Maybe predictions for the future

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

of digital rights.
Irene Mwendwa

We have about

Irene Mwendwa
games

Irene Mwendwa
interactive bins that

Irene Mwendwa
would like.

Irene Mwendwa
We invite everyone to
and share with us feedback directly on Twitter, on socials.

Irene Mwendwa
We have a game on digital safety. It's called digital tea for Chai.

Irene Mwendwa
And then because you drink chai every day,

Irene Mwendwa
then we also have

Irene Mwendwa
another game
Irene Mwendwa

to guide you. On

Irene Mwendwa

choosing own fake news,

Irene Mwendwa

and it's called exactly that.

Irene Mwendwa

Choose your own fake news dotcom. It's going to help you understand the different sets of

Irene Mwendwa

news in terms of misinformation, mobile information, disinformation.
And we love these, especially

Irene Mwendwa

when different rumors are spreading around in our societies.

Irene Mwendwa

And we developed these in the wake of the pandemic. So you can imagine there was a lot of

Irene Mwendwa

misinformation.

Irene Mwendwa

The other product I would

Irene Mwendwa

I would love to speak about is to shamelessly
Irene Mwendwa

plug our trainings platform where we

have

content that can be used

to train local government elected officials.
And especially here in Africa, we believe

Irene Mwendwa

our

Irene Mwendwa
data governance and our digital governance issues cannot be addressed if we are not

Irene Mwendwa

engaging people from rural backgrounds

Irene Mwendwa

and the way we engage people from rural backgrounds and other communities is working through local
Irene Mwendwa

governments or local authorities.

Irene Mwendwa

Our mayors, our

councilors as our

Irene Mwendwa

members of

Irene Mwendwa

county assemblies are very, very
powerful community champions.

Irene Mwendwa

And once they understand the power of the Internet and the power of

Irene Mwendwa
data, then they’ll be able to communicate effectively to

Irene Mwendwa
their communities

Irene Mwendwa
in schools, at the hospitals and other community

Irene Mwendwa
engagements. And here in Kenya, we call them Baraza. So we want
Irene Mwendwa
to hear our local
government representatives speaking about the power of data and technology.
I recently saw my
equivalent of Lord mayor.
He's called a governor here, and there will be Kenya
forming a very wonderful partnership with Mozilla Foundation

Irene Mwendwa
just two weeks ago to

Irene Mwendwa
ensure training on many youths who are busy Nairobi, Kenya to get

Irene Mwendwa
online gigs or

Irene Mwendwa
online work,

Irene Mwendwa
So you can imagine it's
Irene Mwendwa

very wonderful tool if you engage with it that's streaming the policy dot org.

Irene Mwendwa

Thank you.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

We at DG, we particularly love engagement with

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

with local leadership and local champions.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Sometimes there's so much focus on the national and international level,
but there are champions for digital advancement hiding everywhere.

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

So I'd love to hear how you guys are engaging at that level,

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Irene,

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

thank you so incredibly much

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

taking the time out of your really busy schedule

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

to join and to share
Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

your insights.

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