



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

AU-GFCE COLLABORATION PROJECT

**Africa Cyber Expert (ACE) Community
Consultation Meeting | 23 November 2021**

Summary Report

The Hague, Netherlands

November 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This report is a summary of deliberations by the Africa Cyber Experts (ACE) Community Consultation Meeting that was held in The Hague, Netherlands on the 23 November 2021. The meeting was organised by the GFCE secretariate as part of the activities of the AU-GFCE Collaboration Project by the African Union (AU) and the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE).

One of the key deliverables of the AU-GFCDE Collaboration project is the establishment of the Africa Cyber Experts (ACE) Community, which consist of cyber experts from AU member states, who will participate in the coordination, engagement and support of the implementation of Cyber Capacity Building (CCB) activities in Africa. The ACE Community members are expected to participate and contribute towards the design, development and deployment of relevant CCB Knowledge Modules (KMs).

The ACE community consultation meeting provided cyber experts, from AU members states, with an opportunity to discuss and provide input, feedback and guidelines on:

- The on-going development of the KMs, which will be used to enhance capacity and enable cyber resilience in participating AU member states;
- Components to be included in the design & development of the KMs;
- The delivery mechanism that will enable the KMs deployment and implementation to be effective;
- Identify key agenda items for addressing specific cyber capacity needs for the Africa region, and more specifically priorities for the five Africa regions (North, East, West, Central, and Southern Africa); and
- Articulate specific needs for Cyber diplomacy for African nations to contribute to the global debate.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Background

The AU-GFCE Collaboration Project, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to enhance Cyber Capacity Building (CCB) within the AU Member States, to enable better understanding of cyber capacities as they apply in African countries, and support these countries in strengthening their cyber resilience.

One of the main deliverables from the project is the development of **Knowledge Modules**. These Knowledge Modules aim to provide interactive tools, knowledge and expertise on various key CCB topics for AU Member States to utilize. These topics will feature key CCB elements, communicate the impact of CCB, and highlight key issues in cyber-security leadership, for example, the gender gap. The draft Knowledge Modules are expected to be presented at the kick-off in-person meeting of the AU-GFCE collaboration project scheduled for February 2022.

1.2 Scope of Participation

ACE community members participated in two main sessions—the *Africa CCB Analysis* and *Knowledge Modules (KMs)*.

The *Africa CCB Analysis* session covered:

- An overview of the AU-GFCE collaboration project focusing on the status and progress achieved.
- Engagement and contribution from the AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).
- Africa CCB analysis status & lessons learnt, focusing on CCB analysis outcome and trends in AU member states.
- Role of ACE community and sustainability of the project

Knowledge Modules (KMs) session covered:

- AU-GFCE Knowledge Module - Design, Development & Implementation. The format of the session was in groups discussions, conducted by *Diplo Foundation*.

During the sessions, ACE community members provided input and expert knowledge on their countries on key CCB key focus areas including and not limited to:

- National Cybersecurity Strategy, Cybersecurity Assessment, Cyber Norms & Diplomacy
- CIRTs/CSIRT; CIIP/CNIP
- Legislation and Legal Frameworks
- Awareness, Skills and Workforce Development
- Open Internet and Cybersecurity Standards

2 PARTICIPANTS

2.1 ACE Community

The AU-GFCE collaboration project has contact all the 54 AU member states. 23 AU member states have confirmed and nominated cyber experts to participate and join the ACE community.



Figure [1]: List of current ACE Community AU Member States

2.2 Africa Cyber Capacity Building (CCB) Coordination Committee

Over 25 African organisations have formerly joined the Africa CCB Coordination Committee. The committee aims to strengthen and provide oversight on key CCB activities and projects in Africa. This is part of the sustainment strategy by the AU-GFCE collaboration project.



Figure [2]: List of current Africa CCB coordination committee

3 AU-GFCE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Score Card 2020/21

The following table summarises the score card for the project from Oct 2020 – Oct 2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project WorkPlan (Oct 2020 to Oct 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On schedule despite COVID pandemic challenges ○ Report on CCB priority analysis of AU Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagements with AU Member Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contacted 54 AU Member States (3 Countries yet to respond) ○ Submitted CCB Priorities & ACE Nominations (23+ Countries) ○ Establishment of CCB Coordination Committee (20+ Members)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development & Deployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with AU and GFCE Community >300+ Hrs Virtual Meetings ○ Engaged <i>Diplo Foundation</i> – Knowledge Module (KM) work ○ Knowledge Module (KM) development on-going
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Recognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Among 80 potential impactful global projects at Paris Peace Forum ○ Results and outcomes will be a template for other global regions

4 AFRICA CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING (CCB) PRIORITY ANALYSIS

4.1 Methodology and Process

During the CCB analysis, CCB priority needs of AU member states was collated and categorised into relevant focus areas as shown in Figure [3] below.

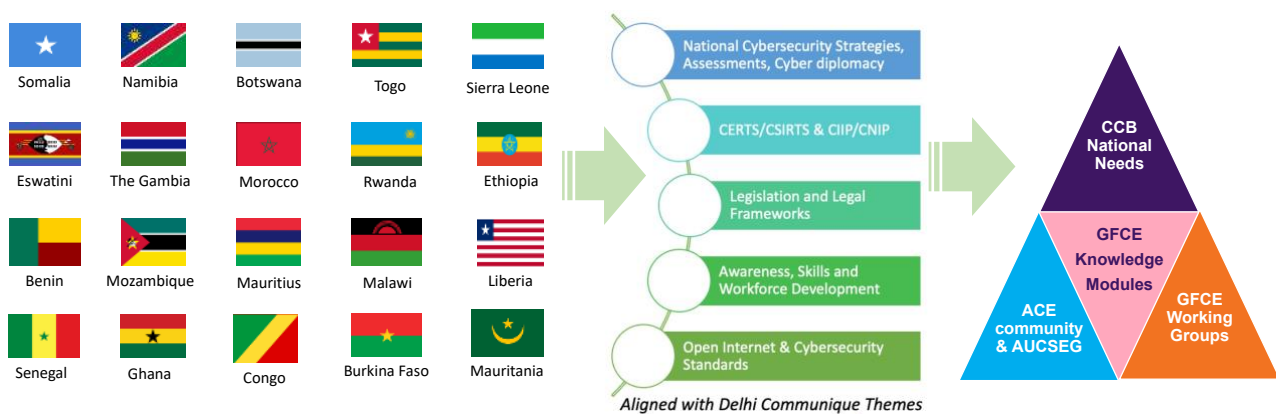


Figure [3]: CCB Analysis Process

Table[1]: Summary of CCB Priority Analysis for AU members states

CCB Priority Focus Areas	AU Member States										AU Member States						
	MZ	CG	GM	MW	BJ	SZ	ET	MA	SN	TG	BW	BF	MR	NA	RW	SL	SO
National Cybersecurity Strategies (NCS), Assessments and Cyber Diplomacy	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CERTs/CSIRTs and CIIP/CNIP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Legislation and legal frameworks related cybersecurity	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Cybersecurity awareness, skills and Workforce Development	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Open Internet and Cybersecurity Standards		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Other Priorities			●		●	●		●			●		●	●			

4.2 CCB Priority Analysis Lessons Learnt

The CCB analysis showed that both CERT/CSIRT establishment and enhancement; and Cyber awareness, workforce and skills; were of high priority for most AU member states. Other CCB focus areas of emerging include Cyber Norms and Diplomacy.

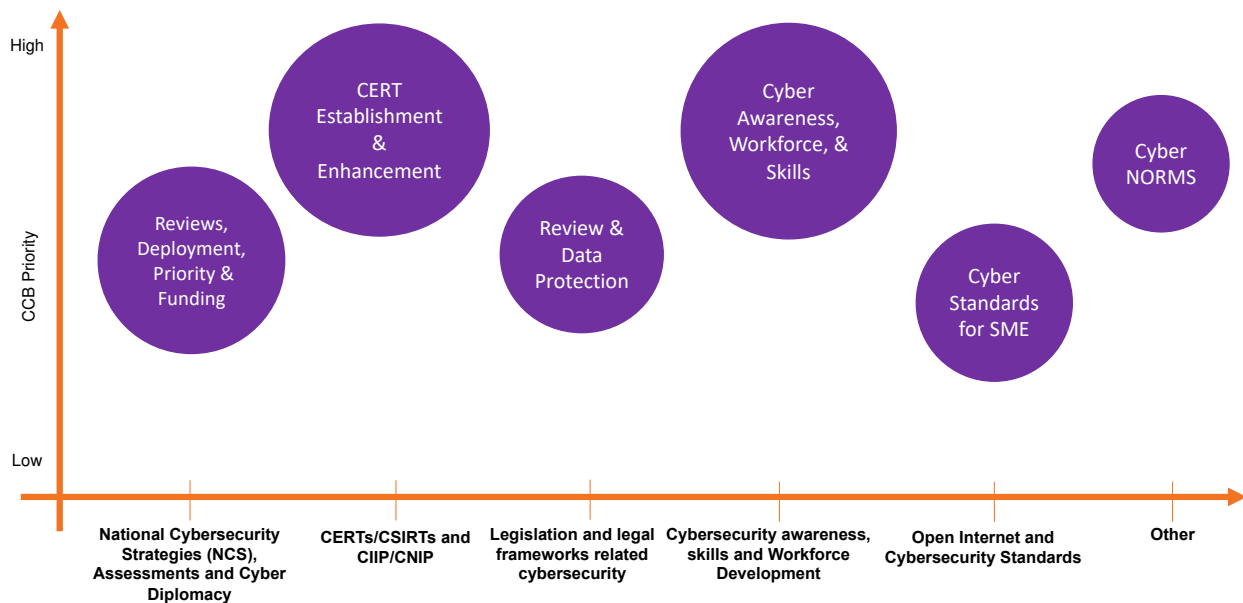


Figure [4]: Africa CCB Analysis of relevant focus areas

4.3 CCB Priority Analysis ACE Community Contribution

ACE community members highlighted the progress, challenges, and plans for their countries. The following key considerations were highlighted:

- Need for restricted access to Country specific data shared during and after the project
- Emphasis on Cybersecurity governance, multi-stakeholder engagement and awareness
- **Political Will & High-Level Government Support is a MUST**
- Encourage sharing of experiences and expertise within the ACE Community
- Need to reduce duplicity, waste of resources and guiding emerging countries
- Understanding emerging threats, including Cyber Norms challenges

5 AFRICA CYBER EXPERTS (ACE) COMMUNITY

5.1 ACE Community Analysis

The AU-GFCE collaboration project has contact all the 54 AU member states. 23 AU member states have confirmed and nominated cyber experts to participate and join the ACE community.

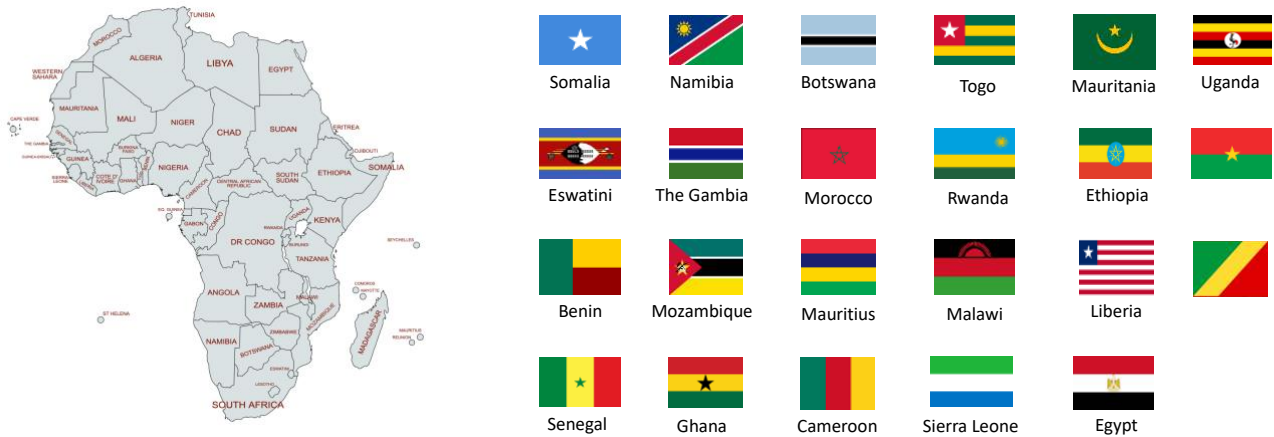


Figure [5]: List of engaged ACE community

5.2 ACE Community Analysis Lessons Learnt

The ACE data analysis showed that most members are responsible for CERT/CSIRT in the AU member states; and a number of countries have experts from the academia.

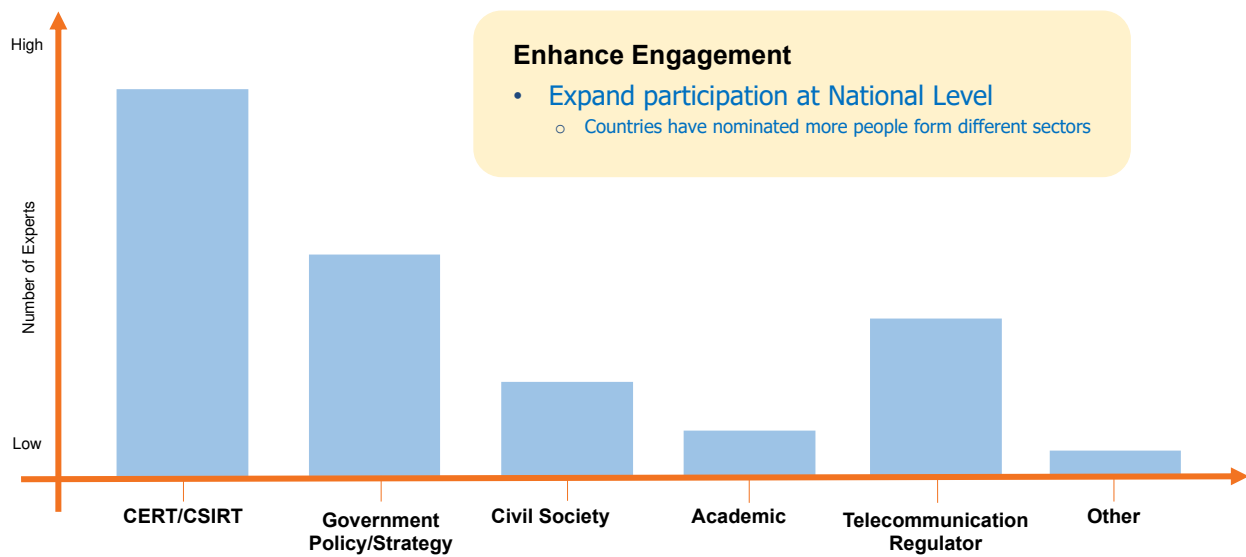


Figure [6]: ACE community categorisation

5.3 Role of ACE Community

The ACE community discussed its role in the development and deployment of the Knowledge Modules (KMs).

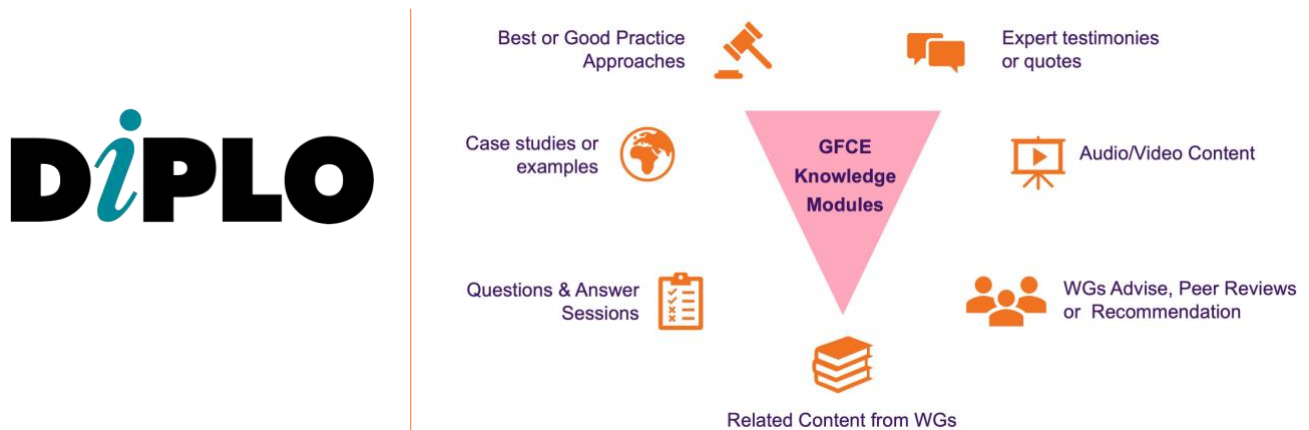


Figure [7]: ACE community categorisation

5.4 ACE Engagement and Contribution

The ACE community engagement and contribution will relate to the following KMs components:

<p>Best or Good Practice Approaches </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently considering content and material from WG contributions • WG have developed various good/best approaches for various related areas • Consider other references relevant to the KMs contributed by GFCE community and partners
<p>Case studies or examples </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently considering content and material from WG and other references • AU member states have exemplary content that can be used for this component
<p>Expert testimonies or quotes </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently considering testimonies by subject matter experts within the GFCE community • References from partners content will also be considered
<p>Audio/Video Content </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently considering content and material from WGs and other relevant sources • AU member states have also provided content that can be used for this component • This content will also include Info Graphics and Illustrations
<p>WGs Advise, Peer Reviews or Recommendation </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WGs will be requested to participate in review and providing any comments or recommendations • GFCE community will also be invited to engage with ACE community during in-person sessions

Related Content from WGs



- Currently considering content and material from WGs and other relevant references

Questions & Answer Sessions



- KMs will include comprehension, Q&A and certificates issued for successful completion

5.5 ACE Planned Activities

KMs Development:

- ACE community will be requested to provide relevant input into the design & development of KMs
- Individual participants in the ACE community will be involved in both virtual and in-person engagement
- ACE community to relate on how the KMs are addressing CCB challenges from a National perspective

KMs Deployment:

- Virtual Session: ACE community will be invited to attend sessions focusing on relevant CCB focus areas
- Provides more in-depth information on key topics and opportunities for enhancing use and application of KMs in respective countries
- In-person Meetings: ACE community will be invited to attend in-person meetings in Africa (Feb & Jul 2022), to learn more about the developed KMs

6 SUSTAINABILITY AND WAY FORWARD

6.1 GFCE Clearing House

AU member states are encouraged to channel requests for funding and technical assistance to the GFCE Clearing House for consideration.

6.2 Enhance Role of Africa CCB Coordination Committee

Over 20+ African based organisations, to continue ensuring that the outcome from the project are utilised effectively. Both the GFCE and AUDA-NEPAD secretariat will provide support to the committee.

6.3 Participation of ACE and GFCE Communities

The project will continue to engage with both the GFCE and ACE communities to enhance the development and deployment of the Knowledge Modules. Due to COVID challenges and restrictions, the engagement will be done both in virtual and in-person meetings.

6.4 Enhancing the Knowledge Modules

The development will initially consider two languages—*English* and *French*. Future development will also include other languages (Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili & Others). It was also recommended that illustrations used should consider using local cartoon characters & accent.

One of the key sustainment considerations is enabling both offline and online access. This will cater for areas with poor and expensive connectivity. The design should provide a light-weight downloadable versions to cope with Internet access & costs challenges.

6.5 Incentive Mechanisms

The ACE community proposed a number incentive considerations, including:

- The need on how KMs will continue being updated with new content, references and tools developed by both the GFCE and AU communities.
- Establishing a framework for selecting an AU-GFCE national focal contact persons after the project is completed. The person identified should ensure equitable sharing of services at national level.
- Offering certificates of recognition to ACE Community members and to individuals using the KMs

7 KNOWLEDGE MODULE (KM) WORKPLAN

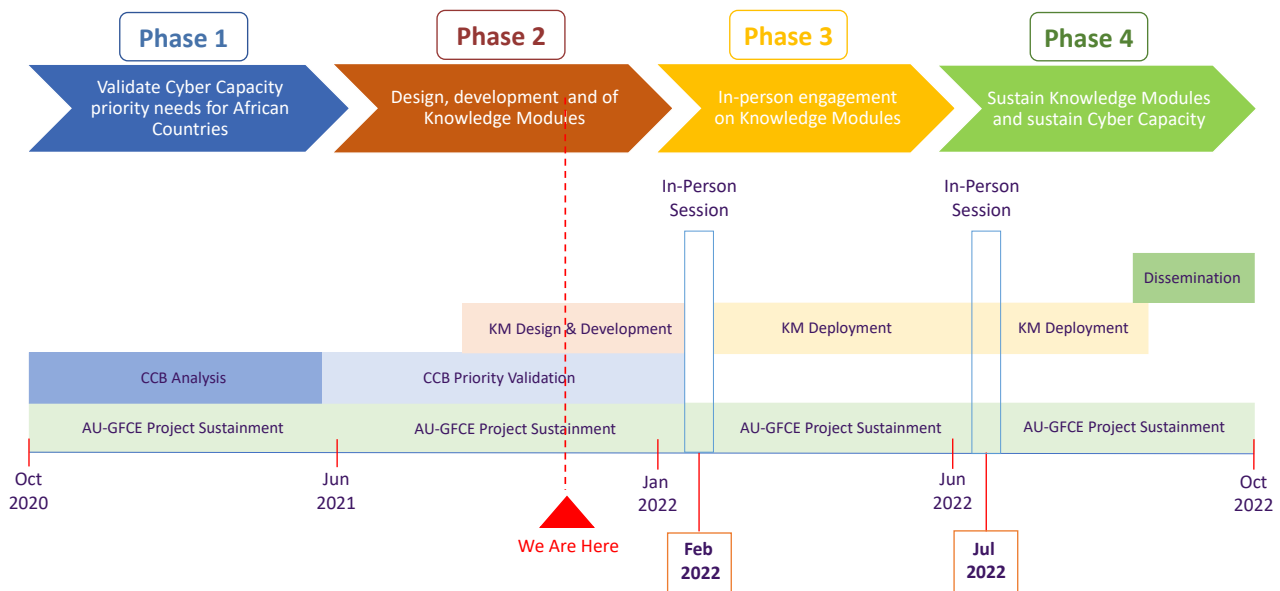


Figure [8]: KM Development & Deployment Plan

8 NEXT PLANNED IN-PERSON ACE MEETING

The next planned kick-off in-person will be held in Accra, Ghana in February 2022. The in-person meeting will fully virtual or hybrid-virtual/physical subject COVID pandemic and effect on travel restrictions.



1st In-Person Meeting
Feb 2022
 Accra, Ghana



9 REFERENCES | PRESENTATIONS,

9.1 Presentation Slides

Day One (23 November 2021):

- AU-GFCE Collaboration Project Overview ([Presentation Slides](#))
 - Project status and progress
 - CCB Analysis Status & Lessons Learnt
 - Role of ACE Community and Project Sustainment
 - AU-GFCE Knowledge Module
- AU-GFCE Knowledge Modules Group Session
 - Design, Development & Implementation

Day Two (24 November 2021):

- Re-Cap of Day One - Summary ([Presentation Slides](#))
 - Key takeaway points
- Cyber Security in Africa – Understanding the state of play (KPMG Slides – To be sent)
 - Changing digital landscape
 - Changing consumer demography and expectations
 - Evolving cyber threats
 - Regulatory landscape
 - Gaps and priorities for consideration
- Panel Presentation – Dr Martin Koyabe ([Cybersecurity: Difficult Problems](#))

9.2 Video Recording

Day One (23 November 2021):

- Morning/Afternoon Session ([English](#) & [French/English/Slides](#))

Day Two (24 November 2021):

- Morning/Afternoon Session ([English](#) & [French](#))

9.3 Photos

Day One & Two (23 & 24 November 2021):

- Group and workshop photos ([Delegates Photos](#))

9.4 GFCE Magazine

[The GFCE Magazine](#)

10 LIST OF ACE COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

First name	Last name	Organization
Sevi	Rodolphe Adjaigbe	Benin
Miguel	Sossouhounto	Benin
Nga	Bertrand Kisito	Cameroon
Wandile	Comfort Mhlanga	Eswatini
Nokuthula	Hlophe	Eswatini
Hannibal	Lemma	Ethiopia
Kassaye	Tafesse	Ethiopia
Samuel	Antwi Gyekyi	Ghana
Owusu	Bediako-Poku	Ghana
Christopher	Banda	Malawi
Didi	el Housseine	Mauritania
Salim	Khanfri	Morocco
Zakaria	Yartaoui	Morocco
Lourino	Alberto Chemana	Mozambique
Sergio	Henrique Guivala	Mozambique
Geneva	Hanstein	Namibia
Elizabeth	Ujaruna Kamutuezu	Namibia
Serge	Anel Ongani	Republic of Congo
Eric	Armel Ndoumba	Republic of Congo
El Hadji	Ndiawar Cisse	Senegal
Racky	Seye	Senegal
Musa	Jalloh	Sierra Leone
Abdullahi	Guled	Somalia
Amadou	Bah	The Gambia
Sanusi	Drammeh	The Gambia
Chita	Chibesakunda	Zambia
Nalucha	Imasiku	Zambia

11 LIST OF GFCE, DIPLO FOUNDATION & KPMG PARTICIPANTS

First name	Last name	Organization
Martin	Koyabe	Senior Manager AU-GFCE Collaboration Project
Manon	van Tienhoven	GFCE Program Coordinator
Bernard	Brian Cudjoe	GFCE AU Liaison Officer
Manuel	Precioso Ruiz	GFCE Secretariat
Mariano	Vargas	GFCE Secretariat
John	Anyanwu	KPMG
Vladimir	Radunovic	Diplo Foundation
Tereza	Horejsova	Diplo Foundation
Mwende	Njiraini	Diplo Foundation

CONTACTS

Global Forum on Cyber Expertise



Martin Koyabe
Senior Project Manager | Lead GFCE-AUC
Coordination at Global Forum on Cyber Expe...



Dr Martin Koyabe

Senior Manager | AU-GFCE Project

Mob: +44 (0) 7742 6106 88

Off: +31 (0) 6 55 4376 22

martin.koyabe@thegfce.org

contact@thegfce.org

thegfce.org