

# 16th Quarterly Regional eConference of AfICTA



**AfICTA** 16<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Webinar  
*Africa ICT Alliance*

## The AU Digital Agenda 2030 **Virtual**

**Achievable or Unattainable?**

10th September, 2024  
9:00am UTC  
*(10:00 am Nigeria)*

**Sponsored by**



*Report By*  
AfICTA Secretariat

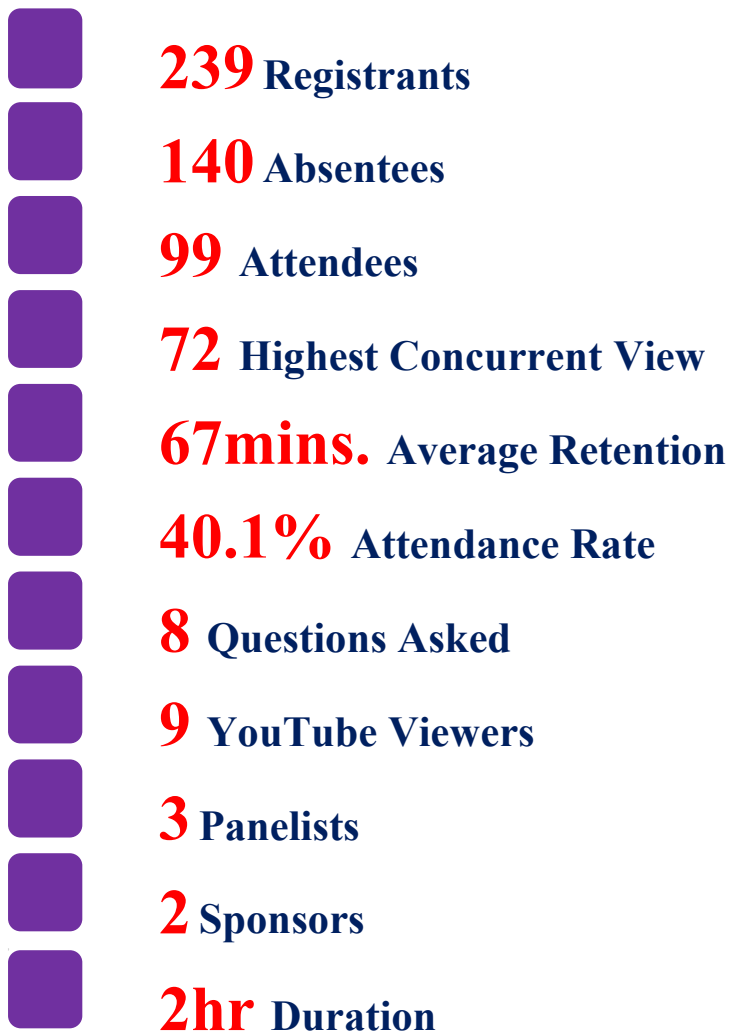
15th October, 2024

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## About the Event

In Africa's pursuit of sustainable development and inclusive economic growth in the area of technological advancement, the African Union's (AU) Digital Agenda 2030 stands as a transformative vision. This agenda is designed to leverage the potential of digital technologies to drive economic diversification, bridge socio-economic disparities, and position Africa as a globally competitive digital economy. However, the visionary goals of this digital roadmap face numerous challenges, such as infrastructure deficits, policy gaps, governance issues, and limited access to digital tools across the continent.

The 16th AfICTA eConference was organized by the West African region purposely to engage stakeholders from across Africa and beyond in a robust discussion on the AU Digital Agenda 2030, examining its feasibility and identifying the practical steps needed to achieve its objectives. This session... [Read more](#)



General  
Statistics

**Table 1: Attendance Statistics**

S/N	Description	Details
1.	Total Viewer	99
2	Max. Concurrent Viewer	72
3	Total Duration	120mins.
4	Average Retention	67mins

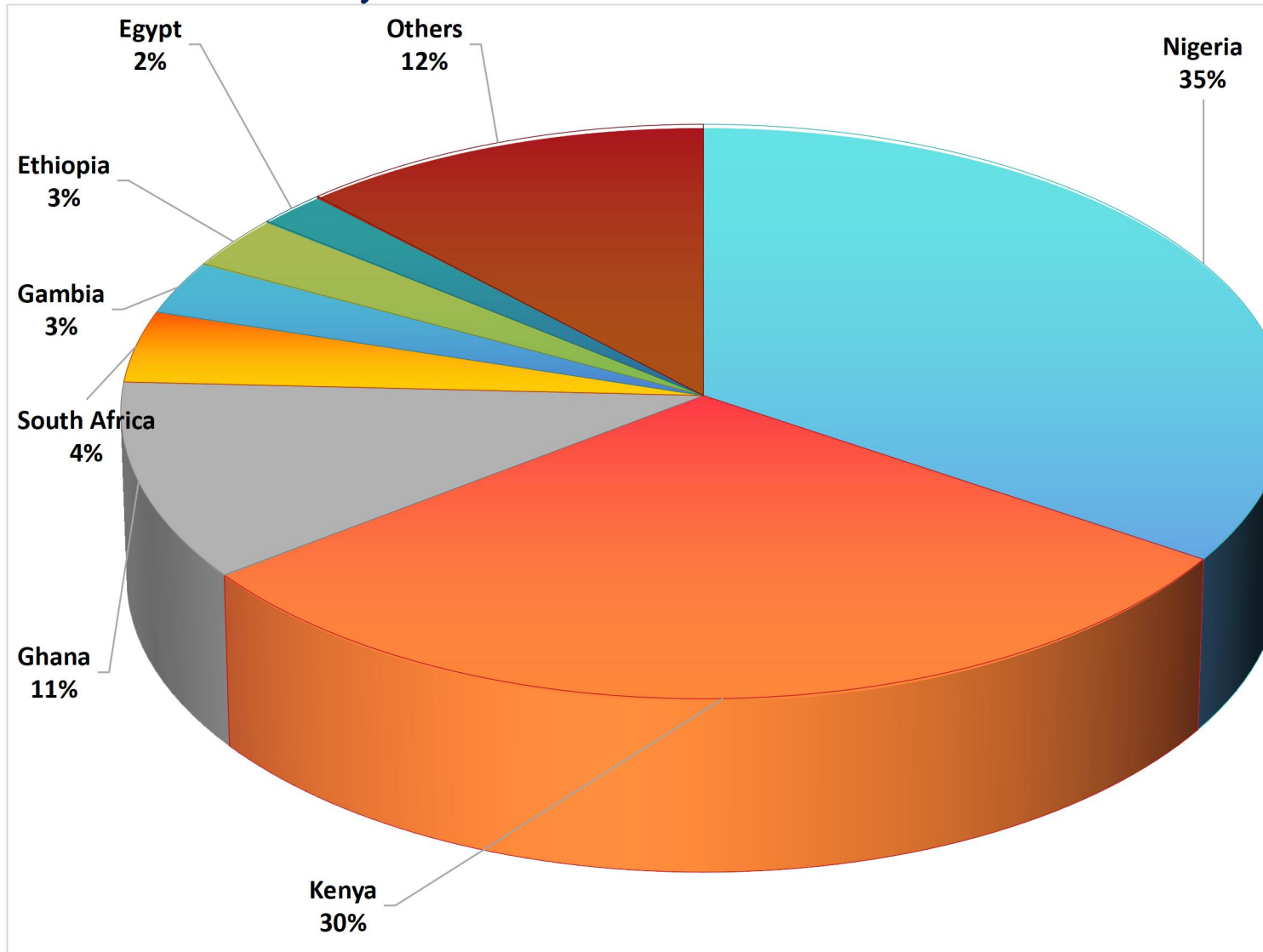
**Table 2: Represented Countries**

S/N	Countries	Registered	Attended	Absent
1	Algeria	1	0	1
2	Bangladesh	1	0	1
3	Benin	1	1	0
4	Burundi	1	0	1
5	Cameroon	3	1	2
6	Chad	1	0	1
7	Congo DRC	1	1	0
8	Côte d'Ivoire	1	0	1
9	Dominican Republic	1	1	0
10	Egypt	4	2	2
11	Ethiopia	8	3	5
12	France	1	1	0
13	Gambia	6	3	3
14	Ghana	25	11	14
15	India	1	1	0
16	Kenya	73	30	43
17	Liberia	2	0	2
18	Namibia	1	1	0
19	Niger	1	0	1
20	Nigeria	82	34	48
21	Oman	1	1	0
22	Rwanda	1	1	0
23	Senegal	1	0	1
24	Somalia	3	1	2
25	South Africa	7	4	3
26	Sudan	1	0	1
27	Tanzania	2	1	1
28	Togo	1	0	1
29	Uganda	6	1	5
30	USA	1	0	1
		<b>239</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>140</b>

**Table 3: Gender Statistics**

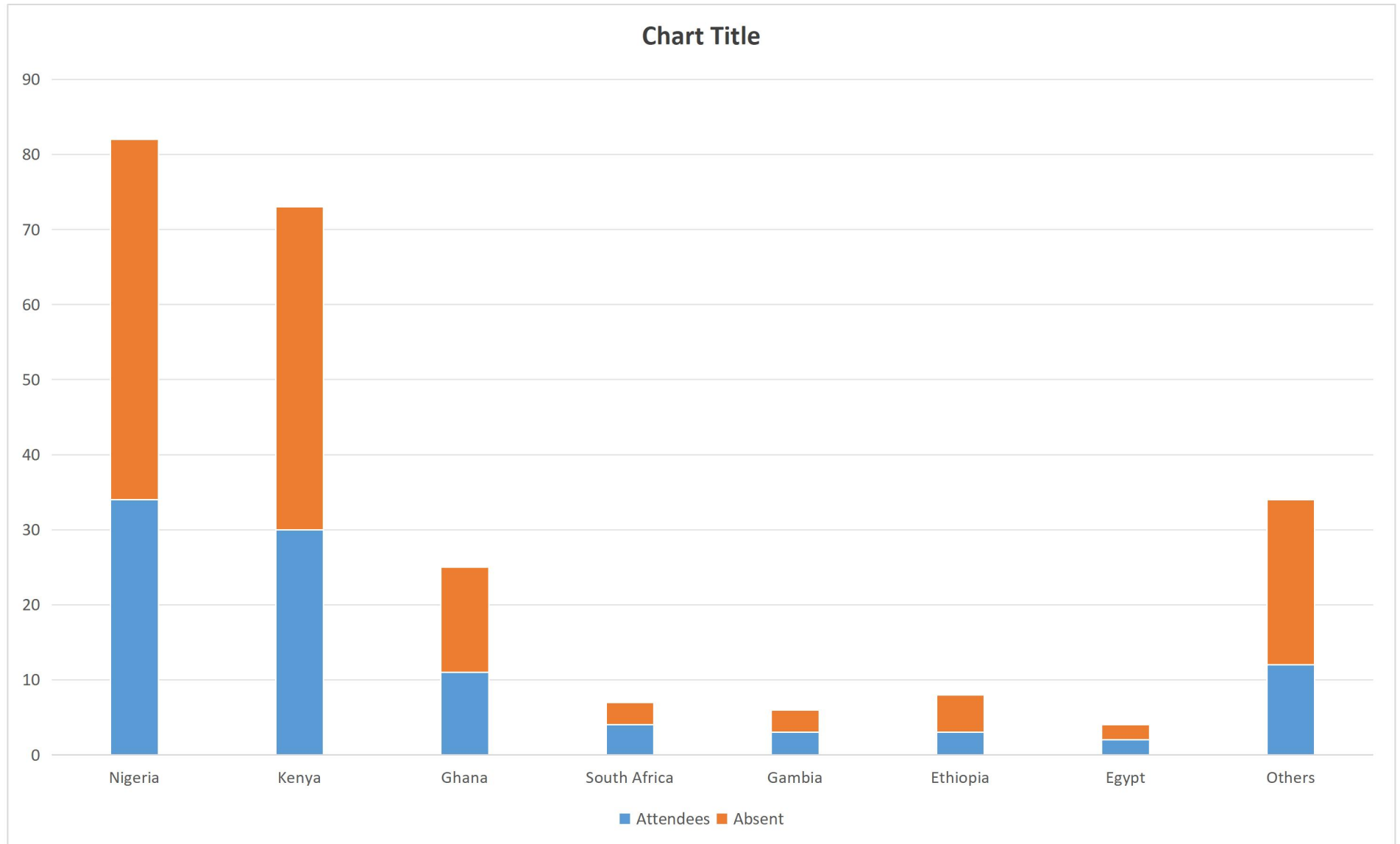
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Register</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Male	196	74	122
Female	43	25	18
Undisclosed	0	0	0

### Chart 1: Attendees by Countries

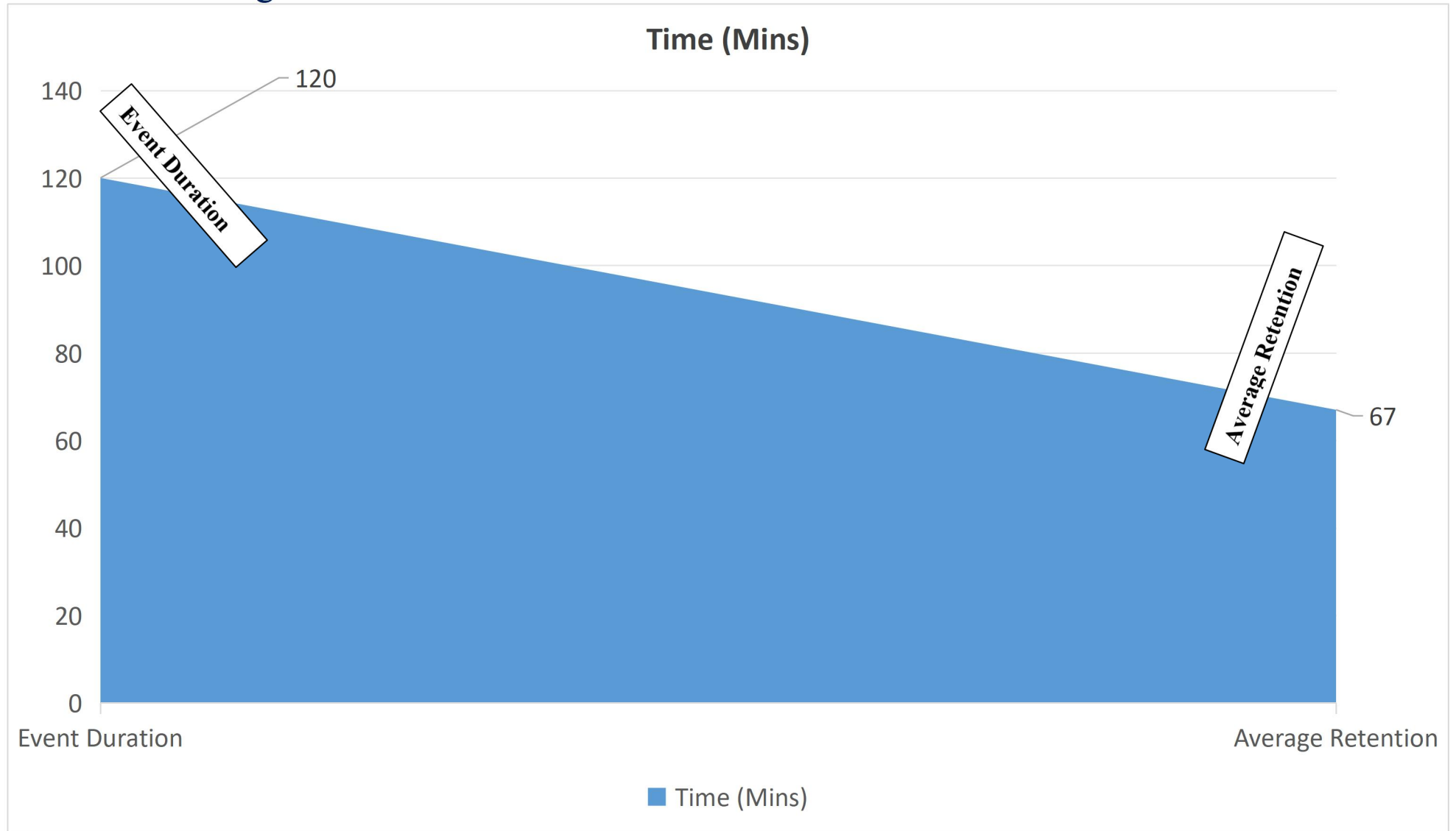


Country	Attendees
Nigeria	34
Kenya	30
Ghana	11
South Africa	4
Gambia	3
Ethiopia	3
Egypt	2
Others	12

## Chart 2: Attendees / Absentees According to Countries

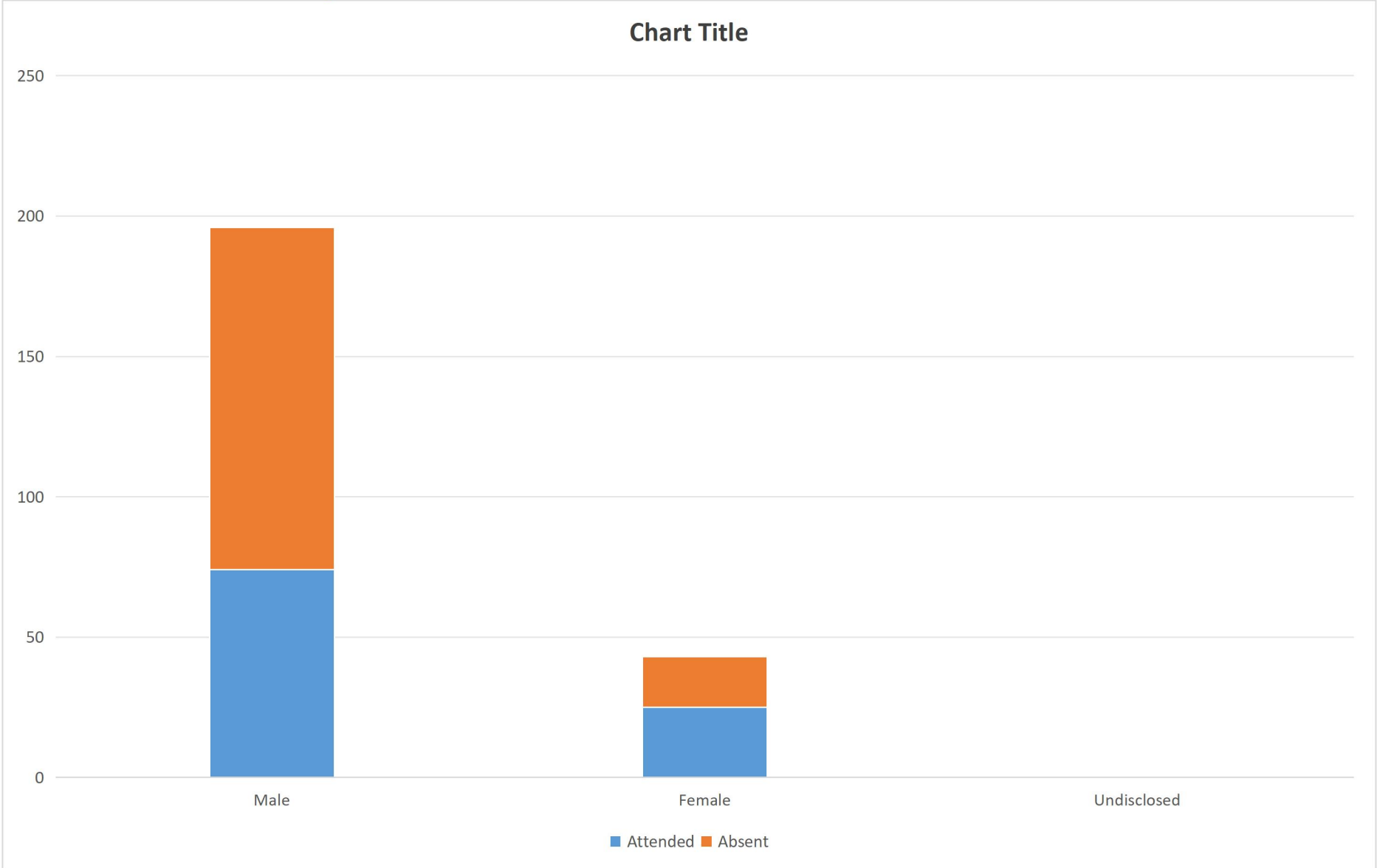


### Chart 3: Average Retention





**Chart 4: Gender Representation**



## Notable Organizations

S/N	Organizations
1	Kapacity Innovative Concepts Limited
2	Federal Medical Center Nguru Yobe State Nigeria
3	National Parliament (DRC)
4	National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority
5	Ethiopia Cybersecurity Association
6	Mwanza College of Health and Allied Sciences
7	Ministère de l'économie et des finances
8	West Africa IGF
9	The Messenger of Hope International Foundation
10	Nigerian Communications Commission
11	Zain Sudan
12	Airtel
13	University of Health and Allied Sciences
14	Kenya Shipyards Limited
15	IPv6 Forum
16	Dispatch Egypt
17	Computer Society of Kenya
18	Dotengee
19	Ministry of Communications and Technology
20	Compsoftnet Technologies Limited
21	One4all Alliance
22	Gambia Information Security Community
23	South Eastern Kenya University
24	Kenya Petroleum Refineries Limited
25	Kenya School of Government
26	Federal Ministry of Transportation
27	Gambia Tourism Board
28	Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd
29	Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation
30	ipNX Nigeria Limited
31	Kenya Rural Roads Authority
32	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
33	AfCFTA Secretariat
34	Rwanda ICT Chamber
35	Internet Society Ghana Chapter
36	Management Edge
37	University of Cape Coast

## Poll Results

Poll Questions	Ans. 1	Ans. 2	Ans. 3	
What is the biggest challenge to achieving the AU Digital Agenda 2030?	<b>Political Will</b> 55%	<b>Funding</b> 20%	<b>Digital Literacy &amp; Tech</b> 25%	
How confident are you in Africa's ability to meet the Digital Agenda 2030 goals?	<b>Not confident</b> 20%	<b>Very Confident</b> 32%	<b>Somewhat Confident</b> 48%	
Which area should receive the most focus to meet the AU Digital Agenda 2030?	<b>Internet Connectivity</b> 48%	<b>Innovation</b> 23%	<b>eGovernance &amp; Security</b> 29%	
Do you believe international collaboration is essential for Africa to achieve the Digital Agenda 2030?	<b>Yes</b> 95%	<b>No</b> 5%		
Do you agree that the African Union is doing enough to support digital transformation?	<b>Yes</b> 20%	<b>Needs Improvement</b> 44%	<b>No</b> 18%	<b>Unsure</b> 18%
Would you like to participate in future AfICTA events?	<b>Yes</b> 100%	<b>No</b> Nil		
How did you hear about this event?	<b>Email</b> 32%	<b>Social Media</b> 32%	<b>AfICTA Website</b> 8%	<b>Others</b> 28%

## Event Summary

The 16th webinar was held virtually on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 by 9:00am UTC by the west African region through the leadership of **Ms. Arinola Akinyemi**, the regional Vice-Chair and the theme examined was The AU Digital Agenda: Achievable or Unattainable? The session was declared open with opening remarks from the Chair of AfICTA, **Ms. Ulandi Exner** and moderated by **Mr. Inye Kemabonta**, the Nigeria National Coordinator, AfICTA.

**Mr. Adil Suleiman**, *Senior Policy Officer, Telecom & ICT Department of Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission* was the Special Guest speaker who delivered a short presentation regarding the AU Digital Agenda while **Ms. Maud Adjeley Ashong Elliot**, *Lecturer, IT Studies Department, University of Professional Studies, Accra* and **Mr. Alex Ntale**, *Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda ICT Chamber* the guest speakers subsequently provided their interventions. The objective of the session was to review the progress and successes made regarding the African Union Digital Agenda 2030 and to examine the possibility of its attainability.

While speakers expressed their optimism regarding the attainability of the digital framework, they also shared some critical actionable points that must be urgently taken into consideration to ensure the realization of the framework by the year 2030.

The African Union (AU) Digital Agenda 2030 is a comprehensive strategy aimed at accelerating digital transformation across Africa. Adopted in 2020, it outlines Africa's vision for a digitally driven future. During the eConference, the speakers highlighted the following as the key objectives of the framework 1. Digital Infrastructure Development, 2. Digital Skills and Literacy, 3. Digital Economy and Industry Development, 4. Digital Governance and Cybersecurity, and 5. Digital Inclusion and Accessibility

However, what kept resurfacing during the session was the need for a firm collaboration among the actors in the sector and the need to have an inclusive and active participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process of digital governance. In light of the above the AU through the representative of Mr. Adil Suleiman, further reassured AfICTA of its openness to collaboration. The session was quite engaging and participatory with questions and interventions from the participants. The eConference ended with closing remarks from Ms. Arinola Akinyemi, AfICTA Vice-Chair, West Africa.

We thank all our sponsors **Kontemporary Konsulting Ltd** and **Data Analytics Protection Technology - DAPT** for their financial support and our appreciation goes to the leadership of **DigiSphere Investment Ltd**, **DotEnggee Ltd** and **Diamond Security Consulting** for their time and intellectual support to the success of the 16th AfICTA Quarterly eConference.

# Recommendations

## 1. Unified Digital Strategy and Vision

- a. **Shared Digital Single Market Approach:** African countries need a cohesive approach to create a Digital Single Market that supports seamless cross-border digital services and transactions.
- b. **AU 2030 Digital Agenda Alignment:** There should be a collective effort towards a shared vision to achieve the AU 2030 Digital Agenda, ensuring alignment with global digital compacts like the GDC while reflecting African perspectives.

## 2. Robust Digital Infrastructure and Accessibility

- a. **Government and Private Investment:** Significant government investment in digital infrastructure is crucial, alongside collaborative efforts to ensure accessible and reliable connectivity across the continent.
- b. **Infrastructure Expansion in Education:** Prioritize expanding digital infrastructure in educational institutions, ensuring widespread access to the internet and digital devices.
- c. **Technology Optimization:** Leverage technology to bridge the digital divide, particularly for marginalized communities.

## 3. Cybersecurity and Data Policy Harmonization

- a. **Cybersecurity Framework:** Develop a comprehensive cybersecurity framework to protect digital infrastructures and users.
- b. **Harmonized Data Policies:** Harmonize data policies across member states to facilitate safe data sharing, protect privacy, and promote cross-border digital trade.

## 4. Knowledge and Experience Sharing

- a. **Digital Skills Development:** Promote digital literacy through curriculum reform at basic education levels, enhancing entrepreneurship and tech skills.
- b. **Experience Sharing:** Create mechanisms for cross-border experience sharing to learn from successful initiatives and best practices.
- c. **Research and Development:** Support ongoing research to address Africa's unique digital challenges and develop tailored solutions.

## 5. Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

- a. **Collaborative Efforts for Accessibility:** Foster strong partnerships between governments, private sector, educational institutions, and civil society to co-create digital skills programs, share resources, and establish innovation hubs.
- b. **Monitoring and Compliance:** Establish frameworks to monitor progress and ensure compliance with the AU Digital Strategy.
- c. **Gender Inclusivity:** Implement multi-stakeholder strategies to promote gender inclusivity in digital spaces.

## 6. Leadership and Governance

- a. **Strong Leadership:** Ensure strong leadership at both institutional and governmental levels to drive the adoption of digital transformation initiatives and lead successful implementation.

### Panelist Group Picture



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