

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS REPORT

AI Policy Summer School

West Africa Edition

The First Regional Edition — Laying the Continental Foundation

24 – 25 November 2025 | GIMPA Law School, Accra, Ghana

Day 1: In-Person | Day 2: Virtual (Zoom)

185 Participants · 9 Countries · 155+ Organisations

The programme that launched Africa's continental AI governance conversation

Organised by Lawyers Hub | In Partnership with GIMPA Law School

Supported by the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation

Prepared for Donors & Strategic Partners

Executive Summary

The AI Policy Summer School – West Africa, held on 24–25 November 2025 at GIMPA Law School in Accra, Ghana, was the first edition of what has since become Africa's most significant regional AI governance capacity programme. Designed to bridge the widening AI capacity gap across West Africa, the programme convened a diverse, multi-stakeholder cohort of 185 participants from 9 countries for two days of structured, practitioner-led engagement with AI governance frameworks, policy challenges, and regional strategy.

Participants represented 155+ unique organisations spanning law firms, government agencies, regulatory bodies, universities, civil society, technology companies, and international organisations. The programme drew Anglophone and Francophone West Africans together — a deliberate act of regional integration — with participants attending from Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Benin, Gambia, and Liberia. Three High Court Justices from Ghana's Judicial Service attended. Government regulators, data protection officers, cybersecurity specialists, academics, and emerging practitioners all engaged alongside senior legal professionals.

The programme's most significant output was the collaborative drafting of a Model West Africa AI Governance Roadmap, co-developed by participants across all 9 countries and structured around five strategic pillars: Regulation, Capacity Building, Innovation, Inclusion, and Collaboration. This document — the first practitioner-authored AI governance roadmap for West Africa — emerged directly from the programme's Policy Design Lab and breakout sessions, and forms the basis for continued regional advocacy.

The West Africa edition established the model — rigorous, practical, peer-to-peer, on African terms — that has since been replicated in Southern Africa (750 participants, February 2026) and North Africa (133 participants, 2026), making the Ghana convening the foundational edition of a continental programme now totalling more than 1,000 participants.

The 2-day AI Policy Summer School aims to bridge the widening AI capacity gaps by providing a practical, interactive, and multi-stakeholder platform where participants can engage with experts, explore regional policy challenges, and co-develop an AI governance roadmap for West Africa.

— Programme Design Document, Lawyers Hub & GIMPA Law School

Key Headline Statistics

The following figures represent the total registered participant data for the West Africa edition of the AI Policy Summer School, drawn from participant registration records.

185

9

155+



Attendance by Country of Residence

Participants came from 9 countries across West and Central Africa, making the West Africa edition a genuinely regional convening. Ghana, as the host country, provided the largest single cohort. Nigeria — West Africa's most populous nation — contributed the second largest group, with 45 participants, reflecting strong Anglophone West African engagement. Notably, 17 participants came from Francophone countries (Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Benin), demonstrating the programme's success in bridging the Anglophone-Francophone divide that often fragments regional policy dialogue.

| Country | Participants | % of Total |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Ghana (Host Country) | 118 | 63.8% |
| Nigeria | 45 | 24.3% |
| Togo | 7 | 3.8% |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 5 | 2.7% |
| Burkina Faso | 3 | 1.6% |
| Sierra Leone | 3 | 1.6% |
| Benin | 2 | 1.1% |
| Gambia | 1 | 0.5% |
| Liberia | 1 | 0.5% |
| TOTAL | 185 | 100% |

Note: Participants from Togo (7), Côte d'Ivoire (5), Burkina Faso (3), and Benin (2) represent 17 Francophone West African participants — 9.2% of the total cohort — spanning French-speaking legal, technology, and civil society communities.

Geographic Reach Highlights

63.8% Ghanaian participants — host country representation

24.3% Nigerian participants — largest international cohort

36.2% International participants from 8 other countries

9.2% Francophone West Africa (4 countries represented)

5 countries Anglophone non-Ghana (Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Liberia + Benin)

3 countries Francophone sub-Saharan Africa (Togo, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire)

Attendance by Professional Sector

Participant Background & Expertise

The West Africa edition drew a richly multi-stakeholder cohort. Legal professionals formed the core audience, consistent with the programme's positioning at the intersection of law, technology, and governance. Policy, management, and government leaders formed the second largest group, including compliance officers, directors, and government officials. Technology and digital professionals — a crucial constituency for AI governance — were well represented, alongside a significant student and early-career cohort reflecting the programme's investment in the next generation of African AI policy leaders.

Note: many participants occupy multiple categories (for example, a Legal Director or a Chief Technology Officer who is also an advocate). Figures below represent primary role classification.

| Professional Sector | Participants | Notes |
|--|--------------|---|
| Policy, Governance & Management | 51 | Compliance officers, directors, managers, senior officers, government officials |
| Legal Profession (Lawyers, Advocates, Counsel) | 42 | Advocates, legal officers, solicitors, managing partners, counsel, associates |
| Technology & Digital | 24 | Software engineers, IT managers, cybersecurity, data analysts, digital policy leads |
| Students & Early-Career Professionals | 29 | Law, tech, and policy students; national service personnel; trainees |
| Academia & Research | 12 | Lecturers, professors, teaching assistants, research associates |
| Civil Society & NGOs | 2 | Executive directors, programme officers, advocacy leads |
| Other Professionals | 25 | Farmers, pharmacists, journalists, CEOs, business founders, consultants |

Notable Roles & Institutions

Sample of High-Impact Participants

The following organisations and roles represent the diverse, high-level institutional engagement the West Africa edition achieved. The breadth of participation — from High Court Justices to data protection officers, from PwC consultants to a UNDP AI strategy consultant — underscores the programme's relevance across every layer of West Africa's governance ecosystem.

Judiciary & Rule of Law

- 3 Justices of the High Court — Judicial Service of Ghana
- Senior Principal Investigator — Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ghana
- Director, Programs and Projects — Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ghana

- Registrar — Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ghana
- Principal IT Admin and Digital Rights Lead — Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ghana
- Senior Legal Officer — Institute for Legal Research and Advocacy for Justice, Sierra Leone

Government & Regulatory Bodies

- Deputy Director, ICT — Parliament of Ghana
- Compliance Officer — Data Protection Commission, Ghana
- Digital Policy and Inclusion Lead — GIFEC (Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications)
- Tax Auditor / Revenue Officer — Ghana Revenue Authority
- Payment System Analyst — Bank of Ghana (BOG)
- Detective — Ghana Police Service
- 2nd Deputy Speaker — National Youth Mock Parliament, Parliamentary Network Africa

International & Multilateral Organisations

- Consultant, National Tech & AI Strategies — UNDP (Togo)
- Technical Advisor — GIZ Ghana (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- Program Secretary — Internet Society (ISOC) Nigeria Chapter
- President — Internet Society Ghana Chapter
- Service Technician — Internet Society Togo Chapter
- Researcher / Consultant Specialist — Bonn Sustainable AI Lab | Institute of Science & Ethics | University of Ghana

Private Sector & Technology Companies

- Cybersecurity and Privacy Consultant — PwC Ghana
- IS Auditor — PwC Ghana
- Offensive Security Consultant — Deloitte Ghana
- Operational Risk Management — United Bank for Africa Ghana Ltd
- Information Security Manager — Hubtel
- PCI DSS Compliance Manager — Agricultural Development Bank, Ghana
- Compliance — Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT)
- Partnerships Coordinator — Fly Zipline Ghana Limited
- Chief Digital Officer — Digistride Limited

Academia & Research

- Multiple lecturers and professors — Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)
- Multiple lecturers — University of Cape Coast (including School of Medical Sciences)
- Lecturer — University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA)
- Lecturer — AAMUSTED (Akonten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development)
- Project Coordinator — University of Ghana
- Professor — Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria
- Researcher — Bonn Sustainable AI Lab, University of Ghana
- Multiple students — Ghana School of Law, GIMPA, BlueCrest College, Kabarak University, OAU Nigeria

Top Organisations by Participation

Institutions Sending Multiple Participants

The following organisations sent multiple participants, demonstrating organised institutional engagement with the programme beyond individual interest — a key indicator of institutional buy-in for AI governance capacity building.

| Organisation | Participants | Sector |
|---|--------------|---|
| Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) | 10 | Academia / Host Institution |
| Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) | 4 | Government / Human Rights Regulatory Body |
| Judicial Service of Ghana | 3 | Judiciary |
| University of Cape Coast | 3 | Academia |
| Ghana School of Law | 3 | Legal Education |
| Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria) | 3 | Academia |
| University of Nairobi (Represented by diaspora) | 3 | Academia |
| PwC Ghana | 2 | Professional Services |
| Adudu & Co. (Nigeria) | 2 | Law Firm |
| Heirs Energies Ltd (Nigeria) | 2 | Energy / Legal |
| Sevn Ghana Ltd | 2 | Legal / Business |
| Highest Love Initiative | 2 | Civil Society / Advocacy |

Programme Content Highlights

Curriculum & Outcomes — 24–25 November 2025

The West Africa Summer School delivered a two-day, expert-led curriculum covering the full arc from AI foundations to regional governance strategy. Day 1 (in-person at GIMPA Law School) focused on Foundations and Context; Day 2 (virtual via Zoom) delivered Sector Deep Dives, Policy Making, and Roadmap Development.

Day 1 — In-Person | GIMPA Law School, Accra

S1**Introduction to Artificial Intelligence: Concepts, Use Cases & Risks**

Interactive lecture + Q&A. Speaker: Frederick Abu-Bonsrah, Business Lawyer (AI, Tech & Competition Policy, Fintech)

S2**Freedom of Speech vs. Generative AI — Misinformation and Disinformation: Where Should a Nation Draw the Line?**

Interactive lecture + Q&A. Speaker: Sammi Laryea, Lecturer, School of Technology and Social Sciences, GIMPA

S3**AI Landscape in West Africa: Regional Adoption, National Strategies, Current Gaps, Opportunities & Risks**

Plenary Discussion. Speakers: Blaise Bayuo (ACET); Fiifi Baidoo (Cloud Technology Expert)

S4**Data Governance, Sovereignty & Cross-Border Data Flows**

Masterclass. Speaker: Ms. Patricia Poku, Lawyers Hub Board Advisory Chair

S5**AI Safety, Accountability & Inclusion: Addressing Bias, Fairness and Human Rights in AI Systems**

Plenary Discussion. Speakers: Daniella Esi Darlington (Responsible AI Leader); Jorge Appiah (CEO, Solar Taxi)

S6**AI, Automation & The Future of Work in Africa: Balancing Productivity and Employment**

Fireside Chat. Speakers: Dr. Stephen Moore (University of Cape Coast); Deborah Arthur (Co-Founder, AI Ghana)

Day 2 — Virtual (Zoom) | Sector Deep Dives & Policy Roadmap

KN**Keynote: From Strategy to Action — Building a West African AI Ecosystem**

Speaker: Dotun Adeoye, Co-founder, AI in Nigeria

S1

Continental & Global AI Governance: AU AI Strategy, EU AI Act, UNESCO, UN Processes

Expert Presentation + Q&A. Speaker: Naa Adoley Azu, Policy, Governance & Inclusion Expert

S2

Sectoral Deep Dives: Judicial Governance & AI Regulation, AI in Public Sector & Digital ID, AI & Startups

Plenary Session. Speakers: Hon. Sylvester Ablorh (Judge, High Court of Ghana); Emmanuel Vitus (UNDP); Ilamosi Ekenimoh (Flutterwave)

S3

Policy Design Lab: Drafting the West Africa AI Governance Roadmap — Breakout Sessions

Facilitated Breakouts. Leads: Nicole Asamoah (Regulation Pillar); Afenyi-Donkor Esq. (Capacity Building Pillar)

S4

Presentation & Validation of the Model West Africa AI Governance Roadmap

Group Presentations. All breakout groups presenting combined draft

PL

Establishing the Pan-West African AI Policy Network — Framework, Working Groups & Next Steps

Plenary Facilitation. Introduction to Africa AI Policy Lab and bridging Anglophone-Francophone communities

Key Programme Output

The West Africa AI Governance Roadmap

The most significant and unique output of the West Africa Summer School was the collaborative co-development of a Model West Africa AI Governance Roadmap. Through facilitated breakout sessions on Day 2, participants from all 9 countries worked in groups organised around five strategic pillars to draft a governance framework specifically calibrated to West African institutional realities, development priorities, and legal traditions.

This document — the first practitioner-authored AI governance roadmap for West Africa — is designed to inform national AI strategy processes across the region and to serve as Africa's contribution to the continental AI strategy process being developed under the African Union.

1

Regulation

Developing fit-for-purpose AI regulatory frameworks for West African jurisdictions, informed by global best practices (EU AI Act, UNESCO, US approaches) while reflecting continental development priorities and legal traditions. Pillar Lead: Nicole Asamoah.

2

Capacity Building & Education

Strengthening AI literacy and technical capacity across legal, judicial, government, and civil society communities through sustained training programmes and curriculum development. Pillar Lead: Afenyi-Donkor Esq.

3

Innovation

Creating an enabling policy environment that supports AI-driven entrepreneurship, startup growth, and the responsible deployment of AI technologies across key economic sectors.

4

Inclusion

Ensuring AI governance frameworks are gender-responsive, accessible to marginalised communities, and reflective of the linguistic and cultural diversity of West Africa — including bridging Anglophone-Francophone policy communities.

5

Collaboration

Establishing the Pan-West African AI Policy Network as a permanent mechanism for regional knowledge-sharing, joint advocacy, and coordinated engagement with the African Union and global AI governance bodies.

The program aims to position Africa as a proactive leader in global AI governance discourse while ensuring AI development serves the continent's unique needs and values.

— Programme Design Document, Lawyers Hub & GIMPA Law School, 2025

Impact Highlights

The West Africa edition generated concrete, measurable outcomes alongside important qualitative shifts in regional AI governance capacity:

- ✓ 185 professionals from 9 countries received structured, expert-led exposure to AI governance frameworks — many for the first time in a practitioner-focused format.
- ✓ A Model West Africa AI Governance Roadmap was co-developed by participants across all 9 countries — the first practitioner-authored regional AI governance framework for West Africa.
- ✓ The Pan-West African AI Policy Network was formally established, with a framework for ongoing collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
- ✓ 3 High Court Justices from Ghana's Judicial Service directly engaged with AI regulation, bias, and human rights in AI systems.
- ✓ GIMPA Law School was strengthened as a continental centre for AI policy education and dialogue.
- ✓ The Anglophone-Francophone divide was deliberately bridged, with 17 Francophone participants from 4 countries integrating into a unified regional conversation.

- ✓ UNDP, GIZ, Internet Society chapters (Ghana, Nigeria, Togo), and the Bonn Sustainable AI Lab all represented — connecting the programme to international policy and research networks.
- ✓ Lawyers Hub was established as the convening organisation for regional AI governance capacity building — the foundation for subsequent Southern Africa and North Africa editions.
- ✓ Networking prompt: 'One policy gap you want solved' generated a rich peer exchange, surfacing regulatory sandboxes, data localisation policies, and AI judicial literacy as urgent priorities.

The Continental Context

First Edition of a Three-Part Programme

The West Africa Summer School was not a standalone event. It was the first chapter of a three-edition continental programme that has since become Africa's largest regional AI governance capacity initiative. The model, the network, and the credibility established in Accra in November 2025 directly enabled the subsequent editions:

| Edition | Date | Location | Participants | Orgs | Countries |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| West Africa (Edition 1) | Nov 2025 | GIMPA, Accra, Ghana | 185 | 155+ | 9 |
| Southern Africa (Edition 2) | Feb 2026 | UCT, Cape Town, South Africa | 750 | 613 | 10+ |
| North Africa (Edition 3) | 2026 | Egypt | 133 | 117 | 11+ |
| TOTAL — All 3 Editions | 2025–2026 | Across Africa | 1,068 | 885+ | 20+ |

The West Africa edition's 185 participants, 9 countries, and co-developed Governance Roadmap laid the foundation on which a 1,000-participant, 20-country, 3-region programme was built. Every subsequent edition built explicitly on the network, the curriculum, and the credibility first established in Accra.

For partnership and funding enquiries, contact Lawyers Hub

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