



What: **Assessing Internet Development in Ethiopia:** Launch of the Ethiopia Multistakeholder Advisory Board (MAB)

When: Friday 18th December 2020, 11am- 12.30pm

Where: Virtual launch

Why: This is an assessment using UNESCO's Internet Universality Indicators (IUIs) which measures Internet compliance with human Rights (R), evaluating its Openness (O) and Accessibility (A), and assessing the involvement of Multistakeholder actors (M) in its governance.

How: The assessment will use a set of 303 indicators that aim to assess how well national stakeholders, including governments, companies, and civil society perform in adhering to the internet ROAM-X principles of Rights, Openness, Accessibility, and Multi-stakeholder participation.

By Who: Through a Multistakeholder Advisory Board (MAB) comprised of representatives from the government, private sector, academia, civil society, media, development partners and individuals interested in ICT policy and regulation

Expected Results: (i) Enable new insights and evidence-based policy improvements. (ii) Present a comprehensive and substantive understanding of the national Internet environment and policies. (iii) Assess their alignment to the R.O.A.M. principles and their contribution to the National Development Agenda and sustainable development. (iv) Develop policy recommendations and practical initiatives that will enable the country to improve their Internet ecosystem as advanced ICTs evolve.

Background:

The internet development assessment in Ethiopia was first proposed by UNESCO to the Ethiopian Government Minister of Innovation and Technology on the margins of the May2019 World Press Freedom Day Global Conference. The 2020 Internet Development Conference organized by the Internet Society from 3-5 March 2020 in Addis Ababa, provided an opportunity to discuss further the proposed assessment with wide stakeholders. Follow-up consultations with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology and other internet development stakeholder in Ethiopia agreed on the importance of this assessment, which is to commence with the establishment and launch of the **Multistakeholder Advisory Board (MAB)**. This MAB which has been constituted through a consultative process, is composed of leading women and men experts from various stakeholder groups, including governments, academia, the technical community, private sector, journalists and media organizations, civil society, individual internet users, UN agencies and intergovernmental groups.

The launch of the MAB will be followed by the following actions: (i) Building a collaborative research team (ii) Developing a research action plan (iii) Data gathering (iv) Data analysis (v) Report-writing and recommendations (vi) Organizing a national validation multistakeholder workshop (vii) Impact assessment and monitoring

This activity is with the financial and technical support by the UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), and the Internet Society (ISOC).

More info on the Project Website: <https://en.unesco.org/internet-universality-indicators>