



# OPENNESS

The Internet should have an open and distributed architecture, and should continue to be based on open standards and application interfaces and guarantee interoperability so as to enable a common exchange of information and knowledge. Opportunities to share ideas and information on the Internet are integral to promoting freedom of expression, media pluralism and cultural diversity. Open standards support innovation and competition, and a commitment to network neutrality promotes equal and non-discriminatory access to and exchange of information on the Internet.

*November 2015*

[africaninternetrights.org](http://africaninternetrights.org)

This article is part of The African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms, and it was prepared by members of the African Declaration group: a Pan-African initiative to promote human rights standards and principles of openness in Internet policy formulation and implementation on the continent.

This is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-ShareAlike 2.5 licence.