

**SHORT BIOS**  
**Panellists for the Digitalization for Peace in Africa Webinar**  
**3 November 2022**

**I. Col. Ademola Lawal (rtd)**

Head of Research, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development

Col. Abdulwahab Ademola Lawal has been the head of research at the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development since 2016. He holds a doctorate degree in Public Policy and has published articles including 'Towards Accountability in the Defence Sector, Democratic Management of the Armed Forces, Democracy, Peace and Security in Nigeria 1999-2019', among others. He has done extensive research work on insecurity in the northeast of Nigeria on counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency and has been involved in curriculum development for the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps.

Col. Lawal served in the Nigerian Army Infantry from 1974-1995, during which he served as Sector Operations Officer in the Military Observer Group in the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988 from 1988-1989. He commanded a Battalion in ECOMOG from 1993-1994 and was a Directing Staff at the Command and Staff College, Jaji-Kaduna in Nigeria. He has held many appointments in government institutions at the Kwara State and Federal levels, including as a member of the board of directors of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria.

**II. Ms. Fiona Waithira**

Research and Data Analyst, iGov Africa

Ms. Fiona Waithira is a research and data analyst with a keen interest in GovTech and CivicTech. She is passionate about public sector innovation for efficient and effective public service delivery across various sectors. She has worked with the private sector and developmental agencies to undertake studies and pilot solutions that assess the place of digital innovation in public service delivery in Kenya. Through iGov Africa, she has honed a research skillset specific to government technology and digital policy analysis.

Recognizing that the world today is tech-driven, Ms. Waithira works to identify policy gaps that can be addressed using innovative technological solutions. She believes in the collaborative effort between governments and the private sector to develop solutions that are aimed at increasing public sector efficiency and citizen inclusivity.

**III. Mr. Hani Eskandar**

Digital Services Senior Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Hani Eskandar is the Digital Services Senior Coordinator at the Digital Society Division of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU. He is currently involved in providing assistance to several developing countries by advising on digital applications and services strategies and policies, assisting in implementing technical cooperation projects in the areas of digital health, agriculture, governance and education. He has led the development of several guidelines and best practices reports on digital applications particularly on digital health, digital agriculture and digital government.

Mr. Eskandar has more than 25 years of extensive on-the-ground experience in the field of ICT for Development where he, through working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Switzerland and UNDP, the Ministry of ICT and other NGOs in Egypt, was involved in several development projects in the fields of health, education, illiteracy eradication, community development, SME development and microcredits.