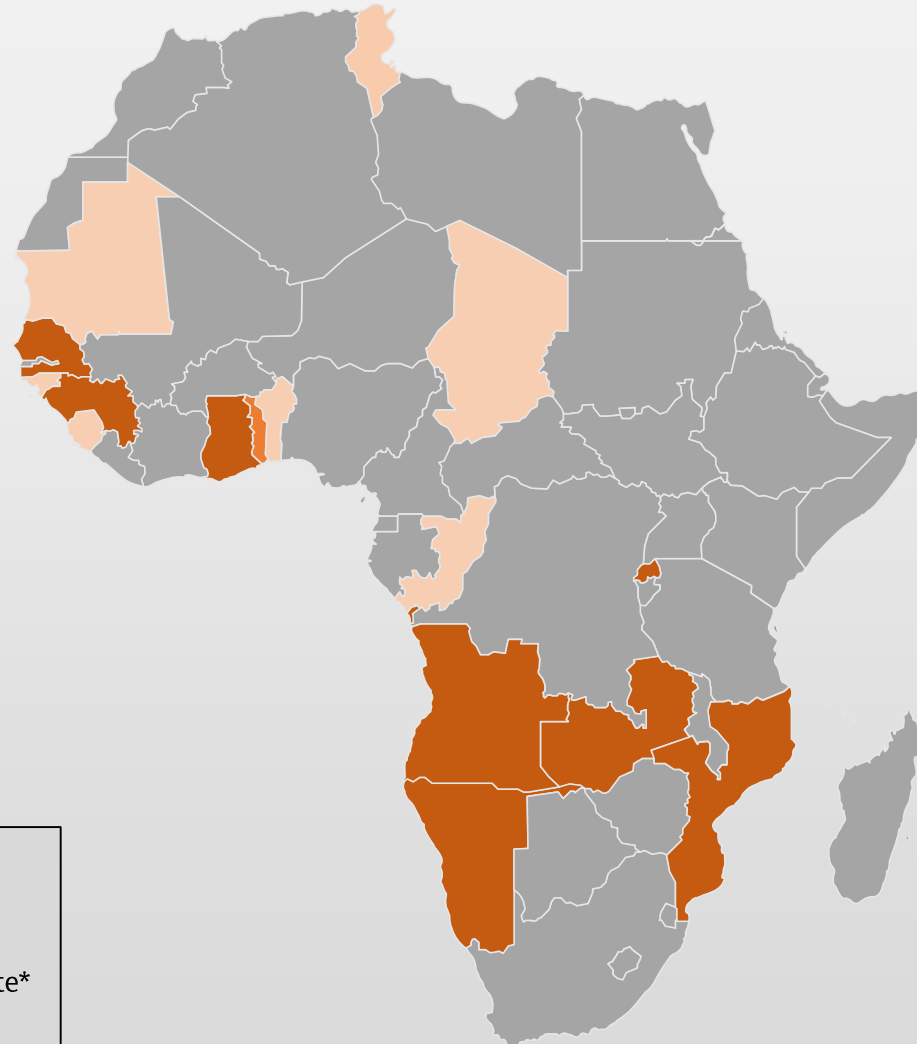


# I03 | Parties to the Malabo Convention



**Map Legend**

-  Signature by African Union (AU) member state
-  Ratification of the Convention by AU member state\*
-  Deposit of the instrument of ratification with the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union

\* For Togo, a [press release by the Ministry of Digital Economy](#) (dated 1 July 2021) indicates that the Togolese Government has moved to ratify the Convention.

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(last revised: 24 August 2021)

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<https://www.jura.uni-passau.de/fakultaet/forschungseinrichtungen/fredi/data-law-maps/>

## Progress en route to commencement of the Malabo Convention

The African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Data Protection was adopted on 27 June 2014 in the capital of Equatorial Guinea, Malabo. It is therefore also known as the Malabo Convention. The Convention aggregates rules on electronic transactions, data protection, and cyber security. According to the Preamble, the chapter devoted to data protection serves to harmonise legislative frameworks within the African Union, protect privacy and promote free movement of information. Substance-wise, the regulatory regime somewhat bears the marks of the 1995 EU Data Protection Directive, albeit with key differences (among which provisos for local communities, the categories of sensitive personal data, and the absence of notification and accountability procedures in case of data breaches stand out).

For the Malabo Convention to enter into force, 15 member states of the African Union must have taken steps to ratify it (Article 36 of the Convention). As is shown in the chart below, only 10 out of 55 member states have so far consented to be bound by the Convention – either by way of ratification or accession:

State	Signature (date)	Ratification (date)	Deposit of instrument of ratification (date)	State	Signature (date)	Ratification (date)	Deposit of instrument of ratification (date)
Angola	-	• (21 February 2020)	• (11 May 2020)	Mauritania	• (26 February 2015)		
Benin	• (28 January 2015)			Mauritius	-	• (6 March 2018)	• (14 March 2018)
Chad	• (14 June 2015)			Namibia	-	• (25 January 2019)	• (1 February 2019)
Comoros	• (29 January 2018)			Rwanda	• (16 April 2019)	• (14 November 2019)	• (21 November 2019)
Congo (Republic)	• (12 June 2015)			Senegal	-	• (3 August 2016)	• (16 August 2018)
Ghana	• (4 July 2017)	• (13 May 2019)	• (3 June 2019)	Sierra Leone	• (29 January 2016)		
Guinea-Bissau	• (31 January 2015)			São Tomé and Príncipe	• (29 January 2016)		
Guinea (Conakry)	-	• (31 July 2018)	• (16 October 2018)	Togo	• (2 April 2019)	• (July 2021?)	
Mozambique	• (29 June 2018)	• (2 December 2019)	• (21 January 2020)	Tunisia	• (23 April 2019)		
Mauritania	• (26 February 2015)			Zambia	• (29 April 2016)	• (11 June 2020)	• (by 23 March 2021)



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## References and further reading

Africa Union

[African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection: Status List](#)

*Boshe / Hennemann / von Meding*

African Data Protection Laws - Current Regulatory Approaches, Policy Initiatives, and the Way Forward (2022) 3 GPLR, forthcoming

*Greenleaf / Cottier*

Comparing African Data Privacy Laws: International, African and Regional Commitments (preprint via [SSRN](#))

Lusaka Times

[Zambia Completes Ratification of AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection](#) (23 March 2021)

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