

ABRIDGED CURRICULUM VITAE

Guy Berger, August 2026

Current position: Consultant

Website: <https://CommsPolicy.Africa>

Blog: [LinkedIn](#)

OVERALL CAREER:

2022-present: consultant and researcher; [Professor Emeritus, Rhodes University](#), and [Distinguished Research Fellow at Research ICT Africa](#).

2011 to mid-2022: senior UNESCO [Director for freedom of expression and media development](#) (D2 level)

1994 to 2010: Head of Rhodes University's [School of Journalism and Media Studies](#); columnist for the [Mail & Guardian](#) newspaper

2023 to present: deputy chair of [SA National Editors Forum committee on Access to Information](#).

2024 to present: voluntary convenor of the [African Alliance for Access to Data](#).

2022 - external member of [UNESCO's Access to Information Panel](#) which assists the Director-General in monitoring the implementation of the Organization's policy.

EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES

Doctorate in Philosophy, Political Studies, Rhodes University, South Africa.
English (mother tongue), Afrikaans (good), French (good), IsiXhosa (basic).

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2022 – 2026

Having retired from UNESCO in 2022, Berger has since:

- Served as convenor of the African Alliance for Access to Data, and championed the continental consultation process that culminated in two key outputs by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:
 - Resolution on "[Promoting and harnessing data access as a tool for advancing human rights and sustainable development in the digital age](#)". ACHPR/Res.620 (LXXXI),
 - "[African guidelines on promoting and harnessing data access as a tool for advancing human rights and sustainable development in the digital age](#)" (scheduled for adoption in October 2026).

- He was seconded by UNESCO to the SA-hosted G20, covering data governance, digital transformation, and AI capacity building for civil servants. In co-operation with the Department of Digital and Communication Technologies and Research ICT Africa, he authored [five reports](#) for the G20 Digital Economy Working Group as well as the G20 AI Task Force, including the report: [“Guidelines for access to data for researchers, SMMEs and start-ups”](#).
- In 2024, he authored these G20 publications:
 - [Mapping the information integrity debate](#)
 - [Possible approaches to information integrity](#)
- In 2023, he served on [an expert group commissioned by the African Association of Electoral Authorities](#) which led to the [Principles and Guidelines for the use of digital and social media in elections in Africa](#), adopted by the AAEA assembly in Benin in 2023.

During 2023, Berger also authored a report for UNESCO titled: [“Platform problems and regulatory solutions: findings from a comprehensive review of existing studies and investigations”](#). This in turn was based on extensive research commissioned by UNESCO through Research ICT Africa, which had also been undertaken by him:

- [Digital governance and the challenges for trust and safety \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Digital governance and the challenges for trust and safety \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Digital governance and the challenges for trust and safety \(Part 3\)](#)

While still employed at UNESCO, he had initiated the work that culminated in [Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms](#) which were adopted at the [2023 Internet4Trust conference](#). These served as the basis for the global regulators gathering, the [International Conference on Digital Platform Governance](#), that was held in Pretoria 2026, where Berger advised the lead host UNESCO.

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES 2011-2024

During his employment at UNESCO, Guy Berger oversaw much of this UN organisation’s work on digital society, including the topics of Internet and AI policy and governance; Elections in the digital age; Disinformation; Media and Information Literacy, and Data Access.

Particularly relevant is that he helped to secure UNESCO Member States’ adoption in 2015, and the UN General Assembly’s adoption in 2019, of 28 September as the annual [International Day for Universal Access to Information](#) (IDUAL).

In addition, Berger:

- oversaw UNESCO’s [annual worldwide monitoring](#) of SDG 16.10 on access to information, and its related reports to the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

- oversaw several reports dealing with information privacy and digital governance, such as:
 - 2017. [Survey on Privacy in Media and Information Literacy with Youth Perspectives](#)
 - 2017. [Human rights and encryption](#)
 - 2017. [Privacy, free expression and transparency: redefining their new boundaries in the digital age](#)

He also supervised four editions of UNESCO's Global Report on [World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development](#); eight publications in the UNESCO World Trends [issue/policy briefs series](#) and five publications in the UNESCO World Trends [in-focus series](#).

Over 11 years, Berger frequently represented UNESCO at the Internet Governance Forum and the World Summit on the Information Society.

Other relevant activities include organising extensive international co-operation around the annual World Press Freedom Day (including in Ethiopia, Ghana and Namibia), and in particular the 2021 conference that produced the Windhoek+30 declaration "[Information as a public good](#)" - whose principles (including transparency of platforms) were endorsed by UNESCO member states.

Since 2024, Berger has also contributed regularly to the [International Panel on Social Progress, working group on Information as a Public Good](#).

Recent key publications relevant to the Information Regulator:

UNESCO Courier, 2026. [Quality information, an endangered public good](#)

G20. Issue Brief, 2025. [Guidelines for access to data for researchers, promoting data sharing with and by the public and private sectors](#)

M20 Policy Brief 1, 2025: [Information Integrity is a vital public good – and it's at risk](#)

Co-author with Liz Orembo, 2025: [Data Deficits and Democratic Processes: The Under-Explored Role of Data in African Elections](#)

Co-author with Hlengiwe Dube, 2024, [Accra Statement: Harnessing the Power of Data for Positive Change: A Commitment to Strengthening Access to Information in the Digital Age](#), agreed at UNESCO's International Day for Universal Access to Information.

Co-author with Liz Orembo, 2023: [Towards an African alliance for meaningful data access](#)

UNESCO study, 2023: [Data sharing to foster information as a public good: the case of media viability and safety of journalists in the digital ecosystem](#)

Expertise on Disinformation and Information Integrity;

Berger has provided oversight and expert input into the following:

2018. [Journalism, Fake News and Disinformation](#)

2021. [Media and Information Literacy Curriculum for Educators and Learners](#)

2020. [Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation while respecting Freedom of Expression](#)

2022. [Foreword](#). In Wasserman, H and Madrid-Morales D, *Disinformation in the Global South*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell.

(He also led UNESCO's work in co-convening (with WHO) the ongoing UN Inter-Agency Group on Disinformation).

PRIOR TO 2011

Berger was head of the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University, initiating the facility's New Media Lab, and courses in online media research and production.

Over 15 years he led the convening of Highway Africa, an annual conference of African journalists interested in digital issues, and devoted efforts to supporting The African Editors Forum and other African networks.

He further worked closely with the office of the AU's Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in related issues. His passion is founded in his opposition to the apartheid regime which saw him jailed for two years in 1980.

- Soon after appointment at the university, he:
 - convened South Africa's [first conference on freedom of information](#) (addressed by then vice-president Thabo Mbeki as keynote speaker),
 - as a member of the [Pan-African Platform for Access to Information](#), he co-convened the [Pan-African conference on Access to Information in Cape Town](#) in 2011. This event and its declaration inspired both the IDUAI proclamation and the 2013 Model Law on Access to Information of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

RECOGNITION:

Awards:

Recognised as a Professor Emeritus at Rhodes University when he left the University to join UNESCO in 2011.

SANEF's Nat Nakasa Award for integrity in journalism was bestowed on him in 2006. Berger is also winner of two Fulbright awards.

Other:

Besides being a Distinguished Research Fellow at Research ICT Africa, Berger is a Digipol Fellow at Liverpool University, UK.

Over the years, he has served on the board of the SA Media Development and Diversity Agency, and the media board of the Open Society Foundation. From 2024 to present, he has been elected chair of the board of [International Media Support](#) (IMS) NGO.

He was a founder member of the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) and served as elected deputy chair for a term.