

# Legal Framework in the Digital Context

Rwanda has several laws and regulations governing information and communication technology (ICT) within the Country.

According to the ICT Regulatory Tracker (International Telecommunication Union, Geneva 2021), Rwanda is a fourth generation (G4) regulator but already has a G5 mindset. As a Country that has put ICTs at the centre of its development since 2000, Rwanda has duly earned its recent entry into the small but growing club of African countries to be rated at the G4 level. G4 is characterised by integrated regulation, led by economic and social policy goals.

The main laws (not limited) governing ICT in Rwanda are:

**Law No. 18/2010 of 12/05/2010** Relating to Electronic Messages, Electronic Signatures and Electronic Transactions. This Law governs electronic transactions, electronic messages and prevention of misuse of computers in electronic transactions, electronic signature and all other applications relating to information technology.

**Law N° 22/2016 of 17/06/2016** Relating to Electronic Messages, Electronic Signatures, and Electronic Transactions: This law addresses matters related to electronic communications, signatures, and transactions in the digital environment.

**Law No. 60/2018 of 22/08/2018 on Prevention and Punishment of Cyber Crimes:** This law Regulates Cybercrime prevention and punishment in Rwanda. It focuses on cybersecurity measures and addresses offences related to cybercrime.

**Law N° 70/2018 of 31/08/2018** Regulating Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): This law provides a comprehensive framework for the regulation of ICT activities in Rwanda, covering aspects such as cybersecurity, electronic transactions, and data protection.

**Law N°24/2016 of 18/06/2016** governing information and communication technologies: This law defined a regulatory framework for telecommunication operators to promote services or products in a fair and competitive manner in Rwanda.

**Law No. 058/2021 of 13 October 2021**, relating to the protection of personal data and privacy: The law protects personal data and ensures privacy of individual users.

**Law n° 029/2023 of 14/06/2023** governing population registration in the national single digital identity system.

Rwanda's policy framework further reinforces the nation's dedication to addressing climate change issues within the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The advancement that is needed in the legal framework of Rwanda is the progress to reach the fifth-generation level, which has the important additional aspect of deep and meaningful

collaboration as a means of achieving development-oriented digitalization and digital transformation.

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