



African Governance and Leadership Institute of Corporate Directors

Guiding Governance and Leadership Excellence in Africa

King IV's Technology and Information Governance Principles Drive Board Oversight

31st May 2026 to 5th June 2026

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

In the dynamic landscape of African businesses, effective corporate governance is not merely a regulatory burden; it's a strategic imperative. At the heart of this lies the **King IV Report on Corporate Governance**, a globally respected framework that guides organisations toward ethical and effective leadership. While King IV addresses a broad spectrum of governance elements, its principles concerning **Technology and Information Governance** (Principle 12 and Principle 13) have become increasingly critical.

For boards operating across Africa, the digital realm presents both unprecedented opportunities and significant risks. From cybersecurity threats to the ethical implications of artificial intelligence (AI) and the stringent demands of the **Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)**, technology is no longer an IT department concern. It is a core board responsibility. This programme is aimed at equipping directors with knowledge, insights, and perspectives on Technology Governance and the risks it may pose for their business. Discussions will focus on the rapidly evolving nature of technology, the global environment, as well as the new challenges it poses for the modern organisation and its directors. Insights from this intervention will support your journey toward understanding the key areas affecting Technology Governance and its impact on the organisation.

Key focus areas

- Addressing Technology Governance in a manner that moves beyond intimidating technical language
- Setting the foundation - an overview of the nature of technology and the rapid advances in technology

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- The 'Culture at the Top' - why setting the right tone at the top of the organisation is essential
- In-depth review of King IV principle 12
- Aligning strategy from board level to technology level
- Various methodologies that are applied to achieve Technology Governance
- Key issues involving Technology Governance relating to assurance and reporting
- Key technology issues and challenges facing organisations, as well as topical areas such as disruptive technologies, cloud computing, and cybercrime

The Digital Imperative: Why Technology Governance is a Board Priority

King IV champions an outcomes-based approach to governance, focusing on ethical culture, good performance, effective control, and legitimacy. In today's interconnected world, achieving these outcomes is inextricably linked to how an organisation governs its technology and information. Recent trends, including the rapid acceleration of digital transformation, the rise of sophisticated cyber threats, and the advent of generative AI, have placed technology firmly on the board agenda. African boards must understand that technology risk is business risk and that information is a critical asset that demands strategic oversight.

King IV's Core Principles for Technology and Information Governance

King IV articulates two key principles that directly address technology and information. These principles provide a framework for boards to guide and oversee their organisation's digital journey.

Personal Benefits for Board Directors & Executives:

- **Reduced Liability & Legal Protection:** Effective oversight prevents major incidents and legal breaches, protecting directors from negligence claims.
- **Enhanced Reputation:** Directors involved in robust, compliant governance are seen as skilled leaders, enhancing their reputation, according to **Increased Strategic Competence:** Understanding technology governance enables directors to make better, informed decisions on strategic investments.

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- **Stronger Corporate Reputation & Performance:** Strong governance attracts capital and investors, leading to higher performance and credibility.
- **Better Decision-Making:** Access to high-quality, secure information allows directors to make accurate decisions based on trusted data.

Organisational Benefits of Strong Board Oversight:

- **Enhanced Resilience:** Proactive risk management and business continuity strategies help the organization withstand digital disruptions.
- **Cost Efficiency & Strategic Value:** IT investments are better scrutinized, ensuring technology drives, rather than just supports, business value.
- **Improved Reputation & Trust:** Proper stewardship of information builds trust with stakeholders, customers, and regulators.
- **Ethical Data Handling:** Ensures that AI, algorithms, and data usage conform to company ethics, protecting the brand.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** High-quality information, overseen by the board, leads to better decision-making processes.

Principle 12: The board should govern technology and information in a way that supports the organisation in achieving its strategic objectives.

This principle emphasizes that technology is not just an operational tool but a strategic enabler. The board's role is to ensure that technology investments and strategies are aligned with the organisation's overall goals, driving innovation and efficiency while managing associated risks.

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