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| A logo with a black background  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | **Regional Preparatory Meeting** **for Africa for WTDC-25 (RPM-AFR)****Nairobi, Kenya, 8-9 April 2025** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **RPM-AFR25/19-E** |
|  | **9 April 2025** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Chair, RPM-AFR |
| Final Report by the RPM-AFR Chair |
|  |

# Introduction

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-25 for Africa (RPM-AFR) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), from 8 to 9 April 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, and hosted by the Communications Authority (CA) of Kenya.

The objective of RPM-AFR was to identify and align priorities at the regional level for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions submitted by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members from the region.

The meeting concluded with a set of proposals on priority issues that will serve as a basis for the formulation of contributions to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025, and will consider the ITU-D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2025-2028).

This report gives an account of the work and results of the RPM-AFR.

# Participation

The meeting was attended by 240 participants, including 170 delegates representing 32 Member States from Africa, 20 participants from Sector Members, 20 Observer Member States, and 9 participants from Observer Sector Members. There were 97 female and 143male participants.

The final list of participants will be published as Document 18.

# Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony began with welcoming remarks emphasizing the strategic significance of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa (RPM-AFR) in shaping digital development ahead of the WTDC-25:

**Mr David Mugonyi,** Director-General and CEO of the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), opened the session by welcoming delegates to Nairobi and underscoring the critical role of the RPM in shaping Africa’s contributions to WTDC-25. He emphasized the need for urgency in addressing regional ICT priorities, including affordable connectivity, infrastructure development, cybersecurity, and digital skills. Mr Mugonyi highlighted Kenya’s active participation in ITU initiatives, such as Study Groups 1 and 2, which informed national policies aligned with global ICT frameworks. He called for unity among African nations to ensure their collective priorities—such as bridging the urban-rural divide and advancing innovation—are prominently reflected in global negotiations at WTDC-25. He also stressed the importance of collaboration with partners like the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and ITU to mobilize resources and implement projects with tangible impacts.

**Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the BDT, commended Kenya for hosting the RPM and outlined ITU’s achievements since WTDC-22, including the mobilization of over 60 million Swiss francs for African ICT projects. He highlighted the implementation of Regional Initiatives, such as broadband mapping, cybersecurity capacity-building, and disaster early-warning systems, which directly addressed Africa’s unique challenges. Dr Zavazava emphasized ITU’s role in fostering partnerships with governments, regulators, and donors, ensuring projects like Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) and e-waste policies delivered measurable outcomes.

He underscored the need for coherence in Africa’s positions at WTDC-25, urging delegates to prioritize affordable connectivity, youth entrepreneurship, and harmonized regulations. Dr Zavazava referenced ITU’s support for least developed and landlocked countries and small island states, particularly in accessing submarine cables and mitigating climate-related disruptions. He also announced upcoming events, including the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) in Riyadh, and reiterated ITU’s commitment to data-driven policymaking through tools like the ICT Development Index (IDI). His closing remarks called for trust and collaboration across regions to ensure Africa’s voice shapes global ICT agendas. The BDT Director’s opening remarks can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/bdt-director/Pages/past-speeches.aspx).

**Mr Dickson Gisiora**, Director in charge of cybersecurity at the Ministry of Information Communications and The Digital Economy of Kenya, represented the Permanent Secretary Eng. John Tanui and in his remarks, he reiterated the significance of telecommunication and ICT in societal transformation and economic progress. He advocated for a collective approach to address regional challenges including broadband access, infrastructure gaps, cybersecurity, and digital literacy. Kenya reaffirmed its readiness to contribute expertise and resources to support regional ICT initiatives aligning with ITU's vision for sustainable development.

The Opening Ceremony concluded with a formal group photo of the VIPs in attendance to the opening ceremony, involving senior officials from CA of Kenya and participant Ministers, marking the successful launch of the meeting.

# Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

Following consultations in the region, **Mr David Mugonyi,** Director General and Chief Executive Officer, Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) was elected by acclamation as the Chair of RPM-AFR.

The meeting also endorsed the proposal for the following Vice-Chairs of RPM-AFR:

* **Mr Jamit Djeroua Moura** from Chad
* **Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou** from Côte d’Ivoire
* **Ms Caecilia Nyamutswa** from Zimbabwe
* **Mr Abdulkarim Oloyede** from Nigeria

# Approval of the agenda

The meeting approved the agenda as presented in [Document 1(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0001/en).

# Approval of the time management plan

The secretariat noted that the RPM-AFR had received 17 documents: 9 from Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, 4 from the secretariat and 4 from the TDAG working groups. All the meeting documents are available on the [RPM Website](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/afr/home/).

Having examined all related meeting documents, the meeting adopted the proposed draft time management plan- [Document DT/1(Rev.1).](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-250408-TD-0001/en)

# Report on the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives) and Presentation on State of Digital Development and Trends in Africa: Challenges and opportunities

[Document 2(](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0002/en)Rev.3): The document titled **“Reporting on the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (including regional initiatives)**” and the related presentation showing projects in the region under each of the Regional Initiatives for the AFR region was presented by the Secretariat.

The report summarizes the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) between May and December 2024, showcasing progress in telecommunications and ICT development across regions. The document emphasizes capacity-building efforts, such as workshops and training on digital skills and ICT policy, targeting diverse groups including women, youth, and underserved communities. It reports significant strides in fostering digital innovation ecosystems, advancing regulatory frameworks, and promoting sustainable development through digital transformation projects. The report calls for strengthened collaboration, tailored strategies, and investment in emerging technologies to address persistent disparities and ensure inclusive connectivity aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ITU Regional Initiatives for the AFR region consist of four priority areas that were elaborated and agreed by the Members of the AFR region and approved under WTDC-22 [Resolution 17](https://www.itu.int/pub/D-RES-D.17-2022) (Rev. Kigali, 2022):

* **AFR1:** Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa
* **AFR2:** Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies
* **AFR3:** Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data
* **AFR4:** Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems

The presentation reported on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, detailing projects aligned with the African region’s four Regional Initiatives. Projects supported by ITU and partners included the establishment of broadband mapping systems, digital transformation centres enhancing digital skills, cybersecurity initiatives, and emergency telecommunication plans. Reference was made to the projects that were implemented in various countries like Ghana, Uganda, Congo, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Equatorial Guinea, covering areas such as e-waste management, digital inclusion, cybersecurity, innovation and entrepreneurship, and disaster response initiatives.

A significant achievement was mobilizing over 60 million Swiss francs in funding for project implementation, with collaboration from governments, regulators, and donors. BDT emphasized ITU’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective delivery of projects tailored to Africa’s digital development needs.

The presentation was followed with a [video](https://youtu.be/TQMlkFoVHQ4?feature=shared) that showcased the impact of work done by the ITU.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 2 (Rev. 3) and the** [Video](https://youtu.be/TQMlkFoVHQ4?feature=shared) **presentation with appreciation.**

[Document 3:](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMAFR-C-0003) The document titled “**State of digital development and trends in Africa: challenges and opportunities”** was presented by the Secretariat.

The document and the related [presentation](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/md/22/rpmafr/inf/D22-RPMAFR-INF-0005%21%21PDF-E.pdf) informs participants and stakeholders in setting the region’s digital agenda. The document is structured in two parts: the first part provides an overview of the state of digital connectivity in Africa through key indicators, and the second part highlights case studies from the region about impactful initiatives led or supported by ITU.

Despite considerable progress in the region, there are still connectivity challenges, with major barriers to internet usage including high costs, digital literacy and limited rural infrastructure. Without targeted support, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS may fall further behind in digital development. Challenges with gender, geography and age groups leading to digital access divides are also highlighted. Additionally, the document features six case studies illustrating the success of collaborative digital transformation projects across various domains, supported by ITU’s expertise.

While challenges like affordability, cybersecurity, e-waste, and governance persist, the region is well-positioned to advance in digital transformation. This advancement necessitates setting universal and meaningful connectivity as a policy imperative, with ongoing investment, data-enabled policies and regulations, and enhanced regional collaboration needed to ensure inclusive and sustainable digital development.

The presentation can be accessed through this [link](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/md/22/rpmafr/inf/D22-RPMAFR-INF-0005%21%21PDF-E.pdf).

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 3 with appreciation.**

# Report on the decisions of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work

[Document 4](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0004/en): The document titled “**Report on the decisions of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work**” was presented by the BDT under this agenda item.

The document summarizes key decisions from WTSA-24, RA-23, and WRC-23, with a focus on their relevance to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). It aims to inform the meeting, as well as the other Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) about these outcomes, inviting Member States to review such outcomes and ensure alignment of WTDC 25 outcomes and resolutions with those adopted at WRC-23 and WTSA-24.

Document 4 encompasses two Annexes: [Document 4 Addendum 1(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0004/en) which provides details on the outcomes of WTSA-24 held in New Delhi from 15 to 24 October 2024, and [Document 4 Addendum 2](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0004/en)whichprovides details of the outcomes of the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023 (RA-23), the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), and the first session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM27-1) for WRC-27, all held in Dubai, UAE. Both annexes were presented by the Secretariat as part of Document 4.

The Secretariat provided some highlights on current and upcoming joint work between ITU-D and the other two Sectors (ITU-T and ITU-R) as well as collaboration between the Sectors’ bureaus including on bridging the standardization gap (BSG) and the effective use of spectrum, in relation to WTDC Resolution 9 among others.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 4 and its addenda with appreciation.**

# Preparations for WTDC-25

# Preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan, and draft Action Plan

[Document 8:](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0008/en) The document titled **“Report on progress of the TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities**” was presented by Ms Inga Rimkevičienė, Chair of TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities.

In her presentation, Ms Rimkevičienė provided an overview of the progress report outlined in document 8. She highlighted the group’s mandate to analyze and align ITU-D priorities with global development goals and to propose recommendations for the Baku Action Plan for WTDC-25.

The presentation emphasized the work of the group as of today, including the agreement by the Working Group at the last meeting on using the current Kigali Action Plan ITU-D priorities as baseline to develop the new priorities, as well as on the structure of the Baku Action Plan.

Ms Rimkevičienė also provided information on the next steps to be taken by the group toward the elaboration of the final deliverable, to be submitted for further consideration at TDAG 2025.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-INF/en).

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 8 with appreciation.**

# Future Study Group questions

[Document 5(Rev.2):](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0005/en)The document titled **“Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-futureSGQ**” was presented by Dr Ahmed Sharafat, Chair of the TDAG Working Group, on Future Study Group Questions.

Dr Sharafat presented the report on the Group’s progress and outlined the Working Group’s key objectives, including evaluating the relevance of current study questions, proposing new topics, and ensuring alignment with ITU-D priorities. The report details the methodology employed, such as stakeholder consultations through online questionnaires, which revealed significant interest in topics like broadband development, cybersecurity, and smart cities.

Dr Sharafat emphasized the consolidation of study questions to enhance efficiency, noting the planned mergers of related topics while ensuring inclusivity within management teaMs He also highlighted the importance of contributions to the Group from Member States and Regional Groups to represent regional perspectives in upcoming discussions. Dr Sharafat concluded by encouraging continued contributions to ensure that the final document reflects diverse regional insights, with the outcomes set to be presented at the TDAG meeting in May 2025 before WTDC-25.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-INF/en).

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 5 (Rev. 2) with appreciation.**

# Preliminary draft WTDC-25 Declaration

[Document 7(Rev.1):](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0007/en)The document titled **“Report on progress of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration**” was presented by Dr Abdulkarim Oloyede, Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the WTDC Declaration, who gave a progress report on the work of the Group, including meetings held.

He informed the RPM-AFR that the working group had held three meetings to date, during which a zero draft was developed, incorporating feedback from stakeholders. A revised draft has been developed incorporating further feedback and will be discussed at the next working group meeting. The proposed theme for the 2025 WTDC Declaration, “Universal, Meaningful, and Affordable Connectivity for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future,” was accepted in principle, with no objections raised so far. The draft follows the structure of the Kigali Declaration, consisting of an introduction, declaration statement, commitments, and a call to action. The working group also ensured alignment with other TDAG working groups.

Dr Oloyede detailed next steps, including continued engagement with Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTO). The aim is to present the revised draft for further consideration at the next working group meetings as well as at TDAG’s upcoming meeting before submission to WTDC-25. He underlined the inclusive approach taken and encouraged Member States to contribute actively to the upcoming meetings and to the proposed revised draft, particularly in preparation for the TDAG meeting in May 2025.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-INF/en).

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 7 (Rev.1) with appreciation.**

# Rules of procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1)

There was no specific contribution under this agenda item. Therefore, this agenda item was considered within the discussions under agenda item 7.5, which focused on the streamlining of WTDC Resolutions. In [Document INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-INF-0004/en), text of Resolution 1 (Rev. Kigali 2022) was provided.

# Streamlining WTDC Resolutions

[Documen](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0006/en)t 6(Rev.1):The document titled **“Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-SR**” was presented by Ms Blanca Gonzales, Vice-Chair of TDAG-WG-Streamlining Resolutions.She outlined the Working Group’s activities, highlighting the four meetings held to date, which focused on reviewing existing WTDC resolutions and identifying opportunities to enhance their coherence and relevance. She explained the adopted approach of clustering resolutions into thematic groups, with designated volunteers coordinating the review process for each cluster. The group proposed a thematic clustering of resolutions into ten categories, including information and statistics, regional cooperation, infrastructure, environment, gender and youth, cybersecurity, and accessibility. She emphasized the importance of aligning ITU-D priorities with evolving digital policies while ensuring that resolutions remain relevant and actionable.Ms Gonzales highlighted that the group would finalize contributions and prepare a comprehensive report for TDAG.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-INF/en).

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 6 (Rev.1) with appreciation.**

# Priority setting for Regional Initiatives, related projects and financing mechanisms

The Chair of the RPM-AFR invited the contributors to present their inputs on Regional Initiatives. The following contributions were presented:

[Document 9:](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0009/en) The document titled "Cybersecurity Incident Management Center (CIM SOC)" submitted by the General Authority of Communication and Informatics of Libya was not presented due to the absence of a representative.

[Document 10:](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0010/en) The document titled "Contribution on future Study Questions" was presented by the ATU. It outlines the views of African countries on the TDAG Working Group's Future Questions, capturing the results of a survey on study questions and discussions from the TDAG Working Group's meetings. The document includes contributions from ATU members on the first draft revision of extracts from Resolution 2 annexes, proposing terms of reference for study questions. The proposal invites the meeting to consider, comment, and adopt these inputs as an African Common Proposal (AFCP) for future study questions. The document emphasizes the importance of incorporating aspects of artificial intelligence and affordability of devices into existing study questions, maintaining the number of study groups at two, and merging certain study questions while ensuring clear terms of reference. The overall aim is to enhance the digital infrastructure and connectivity in rural and remote areas, improve consumer protection, and address economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 10 with appreciation.**

[Document 11(Rev.1):](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0011/en) The document titled "ATU's Contribution to ITU-D priorities for the WTDC-25" was presented by the ATU. It outlines the African proposal for the main priorities of the WTDC-25, focusing on enhancing meaningful connectivity and digital infrastructure, disaster management, cybersecurity, innovation, AI and data governance, capacity building, digital transformation, partnership and cooperation, and mitigating risks associated with emerging technologies. The document invites the meeting participants to consider, comment, and adopt the proposed priorities as appropriate.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 11 with appreciation.**

[Document 12](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0012/en): The document titled "ATU's Contribution to ITU-D priorities for the WTDC-25" was presented by the ATU. The document outlines ATU's initial views and proposals for the Baku Declaration 2025, emphasizing the need to address challenges such as affordability of devices and access to digital services, poverty alleviation through digital connectivity, access to finance, and improving the standardization gap. It also highlights the importance of partnerships, emerging technologies risks, and consumer rights protection, particularly for vulnerable groups like young people and women. The proposal aims to reflect the aspirations of African member states and address the disparities hindering universal, meaningful connectivity in the region. The meeting is expected to consider and adopt these contributions to be reflected in the final Baku Declaration 2025.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 12 with appreciation.**

[Document 13](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0013/en): The document titled "Addressing Barriers to Mobile Internet Adoption" was presented by the GSM Association (GSMA). It offers the mobile industry's perspective on efforts to close the digital divide, outlining two distinct groups of digitally excluded people: those affected by the coverage gap and those affected by the usage gap. The document highlights the challenge that demand-side barriers to internet adoption pose to digital inclusion efforts and calls on the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) to intensify efforts to address these barriers. It emphasizes the urgency of tackling the usage gap, which is significantly larger than the coverage gap, and proposes concerted action to address the demand-side barriers that prevent people from being online. The document invites RPM-AFR to examine and approve the proposal contained therein.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 13 with appreciation.**

[Document 14](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0014/en): The document titled "Contribution on Resolution 34 revision" was presented by the ATU. It proposes modifications to Resolution 34, which addresses the role of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief, and response. The document highlights the increasing awareness of the negative consequences of climate change and the growing number of natural and man-made disasters. It emphasizes the crucial role of telecommunications and ICT in disaster management and calls for enhanced disaster preparedness plans that incorporate resilient communications equipment and services. The proposal aims to ensure public safety, assist disaster-relief agencies, provide necessary public information, and meet communication needs during disasters.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 14 with appreciation.**

[Document 15](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0015/en): The document titled "African common proposal on Regional Initiatives for WTDC-25" was presented by the ATU. It outlines the revised Africa regional initiatives for the next period, focusing on digital transformation needs and key issues such as capacity building, AI and data management, funding mechanisms, and emergency telecommunications and early warning systeMs The document proposes six new initiatives aimed at addressing the continent's priorities, including enhancing broadband infrastructure, developing an inclusive AI ecosystem, building trust and security in ICT, fostering digital innovation and SME development, establishing sustainable funding mechanisms, and strengthening emergency telecommunications and multi-hazard early warning systeMs The proposal emphasizes collaboration between various sectors and stakeholders to achieve these objectives and calls for consideration and adoption by Members.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 15 with appreciation.**

[Document 16](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0016/en): The document titled "**Satellite Solutions for Universal Service: Bridging the Digital Divide**" was presented by the Global Satellite Operators’ Association (GSOA). It emphasizes the critical need for universal connectivity to foster economic opportunity, improve quality of life, and ensure inclusivity in the digital era. The document outlines the challenges of achieving universal connectivity, particularly in remote and underserved regions, and proposes leveraging satellite technology as a viable solution. It calls for the WTDC-25 to promote inclusive policies, foster cross-industry collaboration, and streamline ITU-D priorities to achieve meaningful progress in bridging the digital divide. The proposal highlights the importance of integrating satellite solutions with terrestrial networks to provide reliable and cost-effective connectivity to all populations, regardless of their geographical location.

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 16 with appreciation.**

[Document 17:](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0017/en) The document titled "ARTP contribution on non-geostationary low earth orbit satellite networks: The challenges of the regulatory framework and regulation" was presented by the Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications et des Postes (ARTP) of Senegal. The document addresses the growing need for connectivity in Africa, highlighting the potential of non-geostationary low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites to bridge the digital divide in underserved areas. It discusses the challenges posed by the current regulatory frameworks, which are not adequately adapted to accommodate LEO satellite networks. Senegal proposes the implementation of mechanisms to oversee these activities and suggests sub-regional harmonization of the regulatory framework to facilitate the integration of LEO satellites, ensuring improved connectivity and regulatory compliance across the region

**The RPM-AFR took note of Document 17 with appreciation.**

**Work by the Drafting Group of the RPM Plenary**

Following the review of all submissions, a Drafting Group on Regional Initiatives was established. Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou, Vice-Chair of the RPM, was appointed as Chair of the Drafting Group.

The Drafting Group met on 8 April 2025, from 17h15 to 19h00, and agreed on the draft for new Regional Initiatives, building upon the successful implementation of existing Regional Initiatives for the AFR Region, taking into account all contributions submitted to RPM-AFR and its plenary sessions.

The outcome of the drafting group was presented on the second day of the RPM-AFR and published in [Document DT/3](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMAFR-250408-TD-0003). Accordingly, the following proposed Regional Initiatives were adopted:

* **AFR1: Meaningful connectivity and resilient infrastructure- for sustainable development including emergency telecommunications and multi-hazard early warning systems in the Africa region**
* **AFR2: Developing an inclusive trustworthy AI ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development**
* **AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technology and Data protection and privacy**
* **AFR4: Digital infrastructure applications, SMEs development and emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems**
* **AFR5:** **Sustainable funding mechanisms for Africa’s digital transformation**

# Any Other Business

The following items were addressed under this agenda item:

* The Regional Development Forum (RDF) 2025 Draft Outcome Report was presented. The RPM-AFR received with appreciation the RDF Outcome Report which was published as an information document [(INF/10)](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMAFR-INF-0010) to the RPM-AFR.
* A presentation ([INF/3](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMAFR-INF-0003)) was made that provided an update on the Global Youth Summit, held in Varadero, Cuba, from 11-13 March 2025. The presentation was accompanied by a [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvCYhjH9gKs) of the event.
* A representative from Azerbaijan gave updates on the preparations for the upcoming WTDC, scheduled to be held in Baku from 17 to 28 November 2025. The RPM-AFR welcomed this update with appreciation.

**The RPM-AFR took note of this information.**

# Closing ceremony

# The closing ceremony of the RPM-AFR was marked by the closing remarks from the BDT Director, Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, and the RPM Chair, Mr David Mugonyi.

In his address, the BDT Director expressed gratitude to the CA of Kenya for hosting the event, with special appreciation to Mr Mugonyi for his leadership as Chair of the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM-AFR). He also expressed his gratitude to the Member States, Sector Members, and all participants, both in-person and online, for their active involvement in discussions that contributed to the identification of draft Regional Initiatives for the upcoming cycle. He emphasized that these initiatives would be carried forward to the World Telecommunication Development Conference in November 2025 (WTDC-25), ensuring that the priorities of African countries are represented.

Dr Zavazava reaffirmed the ITU Secretariat’s commitment to supporting Member States in their preparations for WTDC-25 and their broader goal of achieving universal and meaningful connectivity. Emphasizing a shared vision and commitment to impactful results under the principle of BDT4Impact, he reiterated ITU’s focus on delivering tangible outcomes. Dr Zavazava also presented a highlights video before concluding his remarks.

# Following Dr Zavazava’s remarks, Mr David Mugonyi delivered his closing address, expressing appreciation to the ITU, Member States, and all participants for their commitment and collaborative spirit. Mr Mugonyi highlighted the key priorities identified during the RPM sessions.

As part of the ceremony, certificates of appreciation were awarded to Mr Mugonyi, the RPM Chair, in recognition of his leadership throughout the RPM-AFR and to ATU for its contribution to the preparations towards WTDC-2025.

# Annex 1

# Proposed Regional Initiatives for Africa for 2026-2029 period

| **(Draft) AFR Regional Initiatives** |
| --- |
| **AFR1: Meaningful connectivity and resilient infrastructure- for sustainable development including emergency telecommunications and multi-hazard early warning systems in the Africa region****Objective:** This initiative aims to Support Member States in the region in reaping the full benefits of digital transformation. It also aims to enhance broadband infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas, by strengthening policy frameworks, encouraging public-private partnerships, and investing in resilient infrastructure and sustainable connectivity solutions. It also aims at enhancing emergency telecommunications and multihazard early warning systeMs It aspires to create an enabling digital ecosystem that empowers individuals and businesses. Furthermore, the initiative emphasizes gender inclusivity, youth empowerment, and the responsible use of digital technologies to drive equitable and long-term development across the African continent.**Expected results:**1. **Support in developing national digital transformation strategies that are innovative.**
2. **Support in developing action plans with digital key performance indicators** **Increased Internet Penetration**: A measurable rise in broadband coverage, particularly in remote and rural communities.
3. **Greater Affordability**: By reducing the price of internet services, smartphones, and computers, more people can participate in the digital world, reducing inequalities in access to information, online services, and opportunities.
4. **Enhanced Digital Skills**: A well-trained workforce equipped with the necessary digital skills to contribute to the knowledge economy.
5. **Improved Policy Environment**: More robust and harmonized regulatory frameworks that promote digital inclusion and investment.
6. **Sustainable Digital Ecosystem**: Strengthened partnerships between governments, private sector players, and civil society to drive long-term connectivity initiatives and ensure better conditions for providing services within the digital market competition.
7. **Accelerated Economic and Social Development**: Tangible improvements in e-governance, education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship driven by digital access.
8. Support in designing, facilitating, financing models and partnerships that would enable digital transformation of economies in Africa, and innovative frameworks.
9. Assistance in adopting and implementing relevant standards that are targeted at addressing challenges of interoperability stemming from the disruptive and transformative spread of digital innovation.
10. Support in facilitating collaboration between the Telecommunication sector and other relevant sectors such as transport and energy needed for digital transformation.
11. Utilize effectively the USFs to expand broadband and mobile network access to rural and low-income communities, and to support digital literacy and affordability programs can help developing countries paying special attention to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS face the significant digital divides and the inadequate telecommunications infrastructure, high costs, and socio-economic barriers.
12. Rely on all available technologies including satellites for connectivity can play a crucial role in achieving **sustainable development**, particularly in remote and underserved regions.
13. Facilitating access to submarine cables for landlocked countries is crucial for ensuring equitable digital connectivity and economic development through regional collaboration, policy coordination and public private partnership.
14. Ensuring meaningful connectivity for marginalized people, especially for individuals with disabilities through providing a combination of inclusive policies, affordable technologies, and community-driven solutions.
15. Creation of a Network of Disaster Management Experts to strengthen knowledge sharing and regional collaboration in disaster preparedness and response
16. Support member states with development of enhanced Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) to enable effective warnings for natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and storms and promote data-driven decision-making for disaster risk reduction.
17. Sharing best practices, guidance materials, and conduct cross-border and cross-sectoral risk analysis at regional level including resilient testing exercise.
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| **AFR2: Developing an inclusive trustworthy AI ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development****Objective:** To harness the transformative power of AI to address Africa’s developmental challenges and accelerate the realization of the SDGs and the goals stipulated in the African Union Agenda 2063. Leverage the benefits of AI by adopting it in the various sectors of high economic value for Africa while providing safeguards for an ethical use of AI by all stakeholders.**Expected results:**1. Support member States to set national AI strategies directed to contribute to the sustainable development plans.
2. Develop a mechanism to assess the current potential risks associated with the adoption of AI in the economy in Africa.
3. Develop a mechanism to address and mitigate AI risks. Support member States in developing national Charters for an ethical and responsible use of AI technologies.
4. Support member States to develop a comprehensive AI governance framework.
5. Take necessary measures to support the development of a data governance frameworks and development of datasets that reflects the African context.
6. Conduct assessments on the data infrastructure requirements of member States.
7. Develop a continental wide program to raise awareness among the citizens on the potential of AI to positively impact their livelihoods and on the risks that might be associated with it.
8. Assess the needs of member States to develop an AI curriculum in basic and higher education.
9. Set capacity building and AI literacy programs to raise the capacity of public servants on the positive impact of AI on their performance in public services delivery.
10. Support the establishment of regional centres of excellence to conduct research on the adoption of AI in sectors of high economic value to Africa (Education, healthcare, public services delivery, agriculture, environment protection and climate change, use of AI to promote peace and security). Establish a network of the centres of excellence in Africa and promote a collaboration mechanism to encourage exchange of knowledge and expertise.
11. Support the establishment of national incubators to assist the development and promotion of AI oriented startups and SMEs.
12. Development of an AI-powered knowledge exchange platform to foster dialogue among regional Member States, facilitating the sharing of data, experiences, and best practices. This platform may include online forums, knowledge repositories, and collaborative projects to address common challenges.
13. Establish a regional mechanism and support Africa’s engagement in international dialogues to share best practices and expertise on the adoption of AI in the economy.
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| **AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technology and Data protection and privacy****Objective:** To assist Member States in developing and implementing policies, strategies, standards and mechanisms as well as human capacity building, to protect telecommunications and ICT infrastructure & network from cyber threats & attacks in order to protect data, people & privacy including vulnerable groups such as children and guarantee digital trust. To increase public awareness and educate people on safe online practices, cyber and data protection. Enhance Incident Response and Risk Management mechanisms for cybersecurity incidents and data breaches to minimize damage and ensure continuity of services. To strengthen partnerships with global stakeholders to share best practices and collaborate on cross-border cybersecurity and data protection challenges.**Expected results:**1. Support member states in assessing adopting developing and the implementation of a regulatory and legislative framework, at national and regional level, related to cybersecurity that address data privacy, child protection, and the ethical use of emerging technologies while aligning with global best practices.
2. Development of a global framework for collaboration and awareness at regional and sub-regional levels for nurturing a global culture of cybersecurity and to help consumers better understand and protect against risks.
3. Assistance in developing content and training materials for educating consumers on their rights and responsibilities related to data protection while performing electronic and physical transactions as well as execution of campaigns to raise the awareness of cyber threats, cybersecurity measures and quality of service in the use of ICTs.
4. Encourage the sharing of best practices and exchange of knowledge between Member States on the mechanisms to combat cybercrimes and cyber threats.
5. Support member states in the establishment, development and enhancement of national computer emergency/incident response teams (CERT/CIRTs) by offering technical support, capacity building and resources to effectively detect, manage, and mitigate cyber threats and strengthening cooperation mechanisms between them, at regional and sub-regional levels.
6. Enhance and strengthen regional confidence and security in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), prioritizing capacity building and support for the adoption and harmonization of standards, with a special focus on standards supporting child online protection.
7. Facilitate the creation of innovation hubs to drive research and development in cutting-edge cybersecurity technologies and solutions.
8. Support Member States to strengthen cybersecurity resilience and governance while developing innovation and inclusivity to reinforce national security, economic growth, and societal advancement.
9. Ensuring safe digital ecosystem through Securing digital platforms that foster e-commerce, e-governance, and financial inclusion and protecting of critical industries (e.g., banking, healthcare, and education) from cyber threats.
10. Set key standards and measures to protect children online including Legal & Regulatory Measures and Technical protection i.e. Age Verification Systems, parent controls and Encryption & Data Security.
11. critical network infrastructure—such as utilities, electricity, water supply, and telecommunications—is vital for national security, economic stability, and public safety. Enhancing protection for these systems is essential because they are frequent targets for cyberattacks, natural disasters, and physical sabotage.
12. Ensuring the existence of laws and regulations that should provide cyber victims with **legal recourse and protection** (e.g., the right to report cybercrimes, seek compensation, and have data restored).
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| **AFR4: Digital infrastructure applications, SMEs Development and Emerging Technologies and Innovation Ecosystems****Objective:** To foster an enabling digital innovation ecosystem that can navigate technological revolutions and establishment of a sustainable conducive environment for the utilization of emerging technologies and development of SMEEs and start-ups.**Expected results:**1. Assistance in undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the human and institutional capacity and regulatory environment related to digital innovation, emerging technologies, and SMMEs at national and regional levels.
2. Support Member States in developing the necessary legislative and regulatory framework to encourage digital industries and innovation development and the establishment of SMMEs.
3. Assistance in the designing and adoption of national strategies and infrastructures such as innovation and Research Labs to usher the utilization of emerging technologies in the different sectors of the economy.
4. Support in scaling up digital entrepreneurship and SMEs through global partnerships focused on achieving national development priorities and elaborating financing models to ensure the necessary investments for the continuous development and deployment of emerging technologies.
5. Designing a comprehensive human capacity-building framework to upskill and reskill the human factor on emerging technologies and digital innovation related material.
6. Raising awareness on the importance of the protection of Intellectual Property (IP) and developing relevant regulatory frameworks.
7. Conduct foresight studies that strengthen digital innovation ecosystems and help countries unlock the potential of the digital economy, including by working with academic institutions, research centers, and knowledge hubs.
8. Support the development of ITU acceleration centers in countries and engage them in efforts to accelerate regional initiatives and their achievement.
9. Leverage regional initiative acceleration and innovation cafe frameworks developed by the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance to support the achievement of regional initiatives.
10. Support in establishing centers of excellence and incubators to help nurture and develop innovative ideas and start-ups in Africa.
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| **AFR5:** **Sustainable Funding Mechanisms for Africa’s Digital Transformation****Objective:** Establish a sustainable financing mechanism to support the implementation of the African Common Initiatives and to accelerate the digital transformation process in Africa through the mobilization of diverse funding sources and attraction of long-term investment in digital infrastructure and emerging technologies.**Expected results:**1. Establish a permanent platform to encourage the dialogue between governments, private sector, and international organizations to encourage the co-financing of digital initiatives.
2. Develop a mechanism for collaboration with international development partners and financing banks to finance ICT for development projects on a sub-regional basis in Africa.
3. Establishing a Coordinated Digital Investment Framework (CDIF), this framework will serve as a structured mechanism to align funding strategies between governments, private sector investors, development banks, and international organizations.
4. Support the establishment of a specialized fund to support digital projects in collaboration with African regional organizations and investment banks; to support cross-border digital projects and mutual investments.
5. Develop specialized funds through government budgets, digital taxes, and Universal Service Funds (USFs) to drive the growth of ICT infrastructure.
6. Implement a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track the progress of regional digital initiatives. Regular assessments should be conducted to evaluate the level of implementation, identify challenges, and share key learnings.
7. Foster the expansion of local start-ups and tech hubs throughout Africa with enhanced access to funding and resources, innovative and scalable digital solutions will be created to tackle critical challenges in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and finance.
8. Develop a specialized framework for delivering financial and technical support to Developing countries paying special attention to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, promoting regional and international cooperation, and encouraging partnerships to exchange knowledge, expertise, and innovative solutions for digital transformation.
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