



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 17 March 2026

- Administrations of ITU Member States from the Africa region
- ITU Sector Members from the Africa region
- ITU Academia from the Africa region
- Regional Telecommunication Organization from the Africa region
- Intergovernmental Organizations operating satellite systems
- The United Nations and its Funds and Programmes
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations
- TDAG Bureau members
- Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-D study groups

Subject: ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa 2026, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), 25-26 May 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the **Regional Development Forum for Africa 2026 (RDF-AFR)**, to be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). The Forum will be held from 25 to 26 May 2026 in **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**, back-to-back with the **2nd Africa Preparatory Meeting (APM) for the 2026 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26)**, held from 27 to 29 May 2026.

Under the theme **‘Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future’**, the Regional Development Forum for Africa serves as a platform for ITU and its stakeholders, including Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, regional organizations, development partners and financial institutions, to discuss the newly adopted regional initiatives for Africa and exchange views on achieving meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the region. RDF-AFR will feature Partner2Connect matchmaking sessions and provide an opportunity to match specific country and regional needs with potential partners’ interests to advance digital development.

In this context, the Regional Office for Africa is launching a Regional Consultation that offers ITU Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to ITU’s activities at the regional level and to reflect the strategic needs of the region during the implementation of Baku Action Plan for the period 2026 – 2029.

Stakeholders contributing to the implementation of the Baku Action Plan at the regional level, in particular to ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa, are kindly invited to provide their written input by **1 April 2026** to ITU-RO-Africa@itu.int, using the Contributions Template attached as **Annex 3** to this letter and also available on the website: <http://itu.int/go/RDF-AFR-26>.

The outcomes of the discussions of the RDF-AFR will be consolidated into an indicative implementation plan for 2026-2029 for the ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa and will be used as the basis for further coordination of the implementation of Regional Initiatives for Africa.

A draft agenda can be found in **Annex 1**. For information on registration and practical information, please see **Annex 2**.

For any additional enquiries, Dr. Emmanuel Manasseh, ITU Regional Director for Africa (e-mail: ITU-RO-Africa@itu.int) remains at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1: Draft agenda**2026 ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa
(RDF-AFR)**

***Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for
an inclusive and sustainable digital future***

RDF-AFR is organized by the ITU in close collaboration with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and is hosted by the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ)

**25-26 May 2026
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

Event website: <http://itu.int/go/RDF-AFR-26>

RDF-AFR 2026 is held back-to-back with the 2nd African Preparatory Meeting (APM) for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26)

The 2026 ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR) will be held under the theme “Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future”. In line with the ITU Baku Action Plan and for the effective implementation of the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) outcomes and recommendations, RDF-AFR explores synergies that include the agreed Africa regional initiatives, projects and other initiatives.

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening Ceremony: ITU, African Telecommunications Union (ATU), and Government of Zimbabwe
 2. Session 1: State of Digital Development and Trends - Challenges and Opportunities
 3. Session 2: Infrastructure Development for Universal Meaningful Connectivity
 4. Session 3: Regional Initiatives Accelerator
 5. Session 4: Building upon the outcomes of the ITU Conferences and UN processes towards the results and impact-oriented regional actions in Africa
 6. Session 5: Matching the country and regional needs with stakeholders’ interests to support digital development across Africa, in line with the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition
 7. Session 6: ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa
 8. Any other business (AOB)
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Annex 3: Practical information for participants

Venue

RDF-AFR will be held at Victoria Falls Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Additional information is available on the RDF-AFR [website](#).

Registration

Advance registration is mandatory and will be carried out exclusively online with manual approval. Online registration is open at the [following link](#).

1. [Create an ITU user account](#) (if you already have an account, go to step 2): When creating an ITU user account affiliated to an ITU Member ([Member States](#), [Sector Members](#), [Associates](#), [Academia](#), and UN System), users must obtain approval of their affiliation from the corresponding TIES Focal Point prior to submitting a registration request.
2. [Register here](#): Log in with your ITU user account credentials and complete the corresponding registration request form. After successful submission, you will receive an acknowledgement of successful submission of the registration request.

For assistance with the registration process, please contact: BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int
Please allow enough time for the visa to be processed.

Remote Participation

Advance registration is required to participate remotely. Instructions on how to connect to the remote participation platform will be sent to registered participants and made available on the meeting websites [Zoom](#) is the remote participation platform that will be used for the meetings.

Participation fees

No participation fee is required for this event. However, all participants are to cover their own expenses for travel, accommodation and insurance.

Paper policy and access to documents

ITU-D meetings are paperless. An ITU user account with [TIES access](#) is required to download the meeting documents.

Interpretation and translation of documents

RDF-AFR will be conducted with English and French interpretation.

Table 1: Summary of key deadlines

Region	RDF dates	Deadline for the submission of contributions	Deadline for registration
Africa	25-26 May 2026	1 April 2026	1 May 2026

Other practical information

Additional practical information is available on the RDF-AFR [website](#).

Contact

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Annex 3: Contribution template

2026 ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

*Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for
an inclusive and sustainable digital future*

**25-26 May 2026
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

Event website: <http://itu.int/go/RDF-AFR-26>

CONTRIBUTION FORM

This form is intended to collect inputs from stakeholders contributing to the implementation of the Baku Action Plan and the ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa (2026–2029).

Please send the filled in form to: ITU-RO-Africa@itu.int by 1 April 2026

ORGANIZATION: [Name of the submitting organization and country]

FOCAL POINT: [First Name and Surname, Title, email address, phone number]

TITLE: [Title of submission]

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: [Name countries to be impacted by this action]

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- 2026
- 2027
- 2028
- 2029

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- AFR1: Resilient digital infrastructure and universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for sustainable development
- AFR2: Developing an inclusive, trustworthy artificial intelligence ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development
- AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies
- AFR4: Development of digital applications, micro, small and medium enterprises and digital innovation ecosystems
- AFR5: Sustainable funding mechanisms for Africa's digital transformation

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2026-2029, as defined by WTDC-25, [here](#).

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2025 [Tick the relevant boxes]

- Affordable connectivity
- Digital Transformation
- Enabling policy and regulatory environment
- Resource mobilization and international cooperation
- Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-25, [here](#).

RELATED PARTNER2CONNECT FOCUS AREAS [Tick the relevant boxes]

- Focus Area 1 - ACCESS: Connecting people everywhere
- Focus Area 2 - ADOPTION: Empowering communities
- Focus Area 3 - VALUE CREATION: Building digital ecosystems
- Focus Area 4 - ACCELERATE: Incentivizing investments

Please find more information on the Partner2Connect Focus Areas Action Framework [here](#).

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
- C2: Information and communication infrastructure
- C3: Access to information and knowledge
- C4: Capacity building
- C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- C6: Enabling environment
- C7: ICT applications
- C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
- C9: Media

- C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society
- C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- 1: Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals
- 2: Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
- 3: Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights
- 4: Advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches
- 5: Enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity

RELATED SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes]



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- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs