2023 ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)
**"Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future:
Accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Africa"**

Draft agenda (4 October 2023)

Day 1: 3 October 2023	
08:00-09:00	Arrival and registration
09:00-09:15	**Official event opening** • Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) • Belete Molla, Minister, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
09:15-10:30	**High-level Ministerial/Executive session – Setting the scene for 'Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future in Africa'** This will be an interactive high-level ministerial power session on the vision for digital development and digital transformation in Africa with its people at the centre. **Moderator:** Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) **Speakers:** • Huria Ali Mahdi, State Minister to National ICT and Digital Economy Sector, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • Néfertiti Mushiya Tshibanda, Permanent Representative of the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa • John Omo, Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union (ATU) • Lacina Kone, Director General and Chief Executive Officer, Smart Africa Secretariat • Mactar Seck, Chief of Innovation and Technology Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) • Ramiz Alakbarov, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ethiopia
10:30-11:00	Group photo and Coffee/Tea break
11:00-12:00	**Session 1 – Digital milestones and the urgency for action now** This session will review progress on informing decision making towards achieving the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) Kigali Action Plan (KAP) outcomes and its contribution to the realization of Africa's Agenda 2063, the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy and United Nations Development Agenda 2030 and examine the role of digital. **Facilitator and presenter:** Anne-Rachel Inné, Regional Director, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) **Speakers:** • Moses Bayingana, Ag. Head of Information Society Division, African Union Commission (AUC) • John Omo, Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union (ATU)
12:00-13:00	**Session 2 – Universal and meaningful connectivity for all** This session will discuss how to enable increased access in Africa to achieve meaningful connectivity for all and to advance digital transformation in Africa, including sustainable connectivity solutions and approaches, energy-connectivity opportunities, and synergies

	between initiatives. The importance of infrastructure mapping will be highlighted throughout the discussion. **Moderator:** Balcha Reba, Director General, Ethiopian Communications Authority, Ethiopia **Speakers:** - Vaiva Lazauskaite, ITU expert (virtual participation) [*Understanding the phases of digital transformation strategy development*] - Vladimir Daigele, Senior Programme Officer, Future Networks and Spectrum Management Division (FNS), ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) [*Connectivity infrastructure mapping, emerging technologies for meaningful connectivity*] - Laurent Ferrali, Government and International Governmental Organizations (IGO) Engagement Senior Director, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) - Tiffanie Ting Xiong, Director of Integrated Solutions Department in Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, ZTE Corporation - Endashaw Tesfaye, Digital Finance Country Lead, Ethiopia, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:45	**Session 3 – Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities around implementing impactful digital connectivity projects in African countries** This session aims to review the status of ongoing projects, sharing of experiences and lessons learnt from among the membership and partners. **Moderator**: Didier Nkurikiyimfura, Chief Growth and Strategy Officer, Smart Africa (TBC) **Speakers:** - Alessandra Lustrati, Head of Digital Development, United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Idongesit Udoh, Digital Access Programme Adviser, Nigeria and Charles Juma, Digital Access Program Adviser, Kenya (virtual participation) [*ITU-FCDO global joint programme*] - Lana Žutelija, Adviser to Head of Policy and Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the African Union [*ITU-European Commission projects, Global Gateway*] - Jean-Jacques Massima, Head, ITU Area Office for Central African countries, and Souhila Amazouz, Senior Digital Policy Officer, African Union Commission (AUC) (AUC), speaking to the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa [*ITU-with African Union-European Commission joint project*] - Mohammed Suleh-Yusuf, Expert, Legal and Regulatory Services, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Nigeria [*Nigeria collaborative regulation case study, ITU Collaborative Digital Regulation Country Reviews project with several partners*] - Josephine Nyiranzeyimana, Government Chief Information Officer, Rwanda Information Society Authority, Rwanda (virtual participation) [*Giga Rwanda implementation, ITU-UNICEF Giga initiative for connectivity of schools*]
15:45-16:00	Coffee/Tea break
16:00-17:00	**Session 4 – Accelerating digital transformation for sustainable development** Digital innovation improves access to essential services, creates jobs, and drives economic growth. No single stakeholder can alone drive digital innovation. This session will assess efforts to unlock opportunities around innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development, innovation ecosystem building as cross-cutting enablers for digital transformation. It will discuss with membership and development partners, UN agencies and programmes, and stakeholders the key challenges and opportunities that exist for increased adoption of digital technologies and value creation in Africa. **Moderator**: Mactar Seck, Chief of Innovation and Technology Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

	Speakers: • Rita Bissoonauth, Director of Liaison Office to the African Union and UNECA and Representative to Ethiopia, UNESCO • Fargani Tambeayuk, Head of Connectivity and Innovation Policy, Meta Africa • Choolwe Nalubamba, Director General, ZICTA, Zambia • Francis Cubahiro, Director of Infrastructure and ICTs, Ministry of Communication, ICT and Medias, Burundi • Julia Niblett, Australia's Ambassador to Ethiopia • Betselot Zewge, Creative Director, Zemenay, and Entrepreneur participating in the ITU-EIF Project
17:00-17:15	**Wrap up of Day 1** [*Wrap up by youth representatives:* Sandra PHIRI and Lydia Berhanu]
Day 2: 4 October 2023	
08:00-09:00	Arrival
09:00-09:30	**Opening of Day 2 Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtables**
09:30-10:45	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 1 – Transforming pledges into commitments for impact** This session will focus on effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scaled-up impact of digital for sustainable development in Africa and beyond. Announcements and commitments and target countries in the Africa region will be made. **Moderator**: Sameer Sharma, Head, Special Initiatives, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) **Panellists**: • Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Minister for Communications and Digitalization for the Republic of Ghana (virtual participation) • Masahiro Miyashita, Chief Strategy Officer, Safaricom • Maureen Mwanza, Board Member, Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), Zambia • Lare Atcha-Oubou, Senior Advisor, Market Development and Government Affairs Africa, INTELSAT • Qing Zeng, ZTE Corporation • Fargani Tambeayuk, Meta, Head of Connectivity and Innovation Policy, Africa • Sunil Geness, Director Global Government Affairs and CSR, Global Sustainability Lead Africa, SAP Africa
10:45-11:15	Coffee/Tea break
11:15-12:30	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 2 – Digital transformation for an enabled digital economy and society** This session will discuss how innovation can accelerate digital transformation in Africa. **AFR Regional Initiative 1:** Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa **Moderator**: Lwando Bbuku, Manager Markets and Competition, Zambia Information & Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), Zambia **Speakers**: • Elizabeth Migwalla, Vice President International Government Affairs, Qualcomm (virtual participation) • Thapeli Tjabane, Director General ICT, Ministry of Information, Communications Science, Technology and Innovation, Lesotho (virtual participation) • Joshua Kweikuma, Youth Engagement Associate, Women and Gender Development Directorate, African Union Commission • Ismael Limalia, Manager, Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (MDPA), Mauritius (virtual participation) • Abiyot Bayou, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia

12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-14:45	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 3 – Resilient infrastructure and emerging technologies** This session will discuss emerging technologies and their ability to contribute to resilient infrastructure deployment. **AFR Regional Initiative 2:** Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructure, connectivity and emerging technologies **Moderators**: Lidya Birhanu, Generation Connect Youth Envoy – Ethiopia and Ali Drissa Badiel, Area Representative for West Africa **Speakers**: • Ahmed D. Kora, Professor, Ecole Superieure Multinationale des Telecommunications (ESMT), Senegal (virtual participation) • Alain T. Sawadogo, Senior Digital Development Expert, World Bank Senegal • Koffi Fabrice Djossou Senior Digital Economy Expert, West African Development Bank (BOAD), Lomé, Togo (virtual participation) • Thomas A. Senaji, ICT Consultant and Senior Expert, Professor and Deputy Vice Chancellor, The East African University, Kenya • Modou Mamoune Ngom, Manager, Universal Service fund (FDSUT), Ministry of Digital Economy, Senegal (virtual participation) • Lionel Traoré, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Digital Economy, Burkina Faso (virtual participation) • Astrid Bonté, Director for Institutional and International Affairs, Eutelsat (virtual participation)
14:45-15:45	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 4 – Universal, trustworthy, and equitable access and use** This session will discuss the need to continue building confidence in the use of digital technologies. **AFR Regional Initiative 3:** Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data **Moderator**: Yaovi Atohoun, Director for Staff Stakeholder Engagement and Operations Africa, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) **Speakers**: • Abdul-Hakeem-Ajijola, Chair, African Union Cybersecurity Experts Group (AUCSEG) (virtual participation) • Ghislaine Kayigi, Chief CyberSecurity Standards Officer, National Cyber Security Authority, Rwanda (virtual participation) • Aretha Mare, Data, Security Infrastructure and Governance Unit Manager, Smart Africa Secretariat (virtual participation) • Awo Aidam Amenyah, Executive Director, Child Online Africa (virtual participation) • Berhanu Beyene, President, Ethiopian Cybersecurity Association, Ethiopia • Christopher Banda, Head of Malawi CERT, Malawi (vitual participation) • Solomon Soka, Director General, Information Network Security Administration (INSA), Ethiopia
15:45-16:00	Coffee/Tea break
16:00-17:00	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 5 – Towards digital innovation ecosystems to accelerate progress towards an inclusive digital society** Local capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship are key to unlocking and accelerating ecosystems' impact on cross-cutting sectors for an inclusive and sustainable society. This session will discuss the critical ecosystems that drive relevant local content, services and digital businesses. **AFR Regional Initiative 4:** Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems

	Moderator: Mohammed Ba, Senior Coordinator, Digital innovation Ecosystem, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) **Speakers**: • Marietou Ba, Coordinateur Laboratoire d'Innovation, Senegal Numerique, (virtual participation) • Helinna Ayalew, Head of Innovation Partnerships, Liquid Intelligent Technologies • Selamyhun Adefers, Director General for Research and Innovation, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia • Ian Nyasha Mutamiri, Head Innovations, POTRAZ, Zimbabwe (virtual participation) • Bienvenu Agbokponto Soglo, Director, Government Affairs Africa and IGA CTO Liaison, Intel Corporation (virtual participation) • Ounfanatt Edui, Programme Officer, UN Technology Bank (virtual participation)
17:00-17:15	**Wrap up of Day 2** *[Wrap up by youth representatives:* Krshtee Sukhbilas and Horace Chipembere]
18:00-21:00	**Networking and social event**
**Day 3: 5 October 2023**
08:00-09:00	Arrival
09:00-09:15	**Opening of Day 3 and interactive recap of Days 1 and 2 by youth representatives**
09:15-10:30	**Session 6 – Youth-driven digital development in Africa** This session is powered by youth who will be sharing their digital development action plan. **Moderator**: Saba Beyene, Generation Connect Youth Envoy – Africa **Opening remarks:** Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) **Speakers**: *Youth* • Bethlehem Wondimu Abo, Founder and Creative Director at Be8ty, Youth entrepreneur EIF-ITU project • Horace Chipembere, Managing Director of Her for Tech in Malawi, Winner of the Generation Connect Youth Summit Hackathon • Krshtee Sukhbilas, Mauritius, Winner of the GC Youth Summit Hackathon • Emmanuella ABLÉ, Côte d'Ivoire, Generation Connect – Youth Envoy *Professionals/Experts* • Anne Chantal Mvogo, Chef de Division de la Coopération et de la Recherche, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Postes, des Télécommunications et des TIC (SUP'PTIC), Cameroun and Réseau International Des Femmes Expertes Du Numérique (RIFEN)(virtual participation) • Regina Mungai, Réseau International Des Femmes Expertes Du Numérique (RIFEN), Kenya (virtual participation) *Policymakers* • John Omo, Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union (ATU) • Amah Vinyo Capo, Directeur de l'Economie, des Marchés et de la Concurrence (DEMC), Autorité de Régulation des Communications Electroniques et des Postes (ARCEP), Togo and ITU-D Study Group 1 Vice-Chair
10:30-11:00	Coffee/Tea break
11:00-12:00	**Session 7 – Flagship initiative deep-dives** ***** The first deep-dive will show case and share progress of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development to bring an equitable digital future in Africa. • Mohammed Ba, Senior Coordinator, Digital Innovation Ecosystem, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

	* The second deep-dive discuss what the GovStack initiative and its role in establishing Government Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Technology Stack (GovStack) based on open, reusable, trusted and interoperable building blocks and how this can support the implementation of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to digital transformation.
	    • Hani Eskandar, Head of Digital Services Division, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) (virtual participation)
	* The third deep-dive with look at ITU infrastructure connectivity maps, infrastructure data, mapping tools and insights for informed decision making.
	    • Vladimir Daigele, Senior Programme Officer, Future Networks and Spectrum Management Division (FNS), ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

12:00-12:30	**Session 8 – Regional Development Forum takeaways and next steps** This session will present the Regional Development Forum takeaways and discuss next steps.

12:30-13:00	**Closing of event**
	    • Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)
	    • Belete Molla, Minister, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

13:00-14:00	Lunch break