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"**

organized by the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the
Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia

**3-5 October 2023
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-AFR P2C Roundtables and
it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Once completed please send to: itu-ro-africa@itu.int **by 15 September 2023**

ORGANIZATION: AFRICAN NETWORK INFORMATION CENTRE (AFRINIC)

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TITLE: AFRINIC INTERNET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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

AFRINIC is committed to developing Africa's Internet and unlocking the region's full potential in ICT. This is achieved through collaboration with stakeholders to improve connectivity and promote the use of Internet technologies.We have an array of Internet development programs that are aimed at promoting investment in Internet development in Africa. These programs include; capacity building, research, technological collaboration, and related efforts to ensure Africa has a safe and reliable Internet connection, while supporting the region's long-term digital development

1. The AFRINIC Fellowship Program creates a network of African ambassadors to promote AFRINIC's mission. It offers African citizens opportunities to engage in public policy meetings, fostering future Internet leaders. Over 230 fellows from 50 African countries have benefited from this initiative, with AFRINIC covering expenses to ensure maximum impact. Expanding these opportunities will further contribute to a secure, affordable, reliable, and available Internet.

2. The Technical Community Development Program: In recognition of the vital role technical communities play in Internet development, AFRINIC collaborates with groups like AfNOG, sdNOG, and IXPs to provide resources for growth and skill development. This program empowers these communities to drive Internet expansion and stability in Africa.

3.The Internet Governance and ICT Initiatives Development Programme empowers stakeholders in Internet governance, fostering participation in global discussions. AFRINIC actively supports national and regional Internet Governance Forums, facilitating open and inclusive dialogue among stakeholders. With significant participation in over 40 Internet Governance events, AFRINIC contributes to shaping Africa's Internet future.

4. The African Research Collaboration Program: Through partnerships with educational institutions, AFRINIC conducts research to empower network operators and end-users in Africa. This program sponsors impactful projects, offers skills development, and forms strategic partnerships to advance knowledge and innovation in Internet technology on the continent.

5. The Critical Infrastructure Development Program focuses on expanding essential Internet infrastructure in Africa. By providing financial support and technical expertise, AFRINIC aids the implementation of crucial Internet components such as Internet exchange points and domain name systems. This initiative aims to establish a more accessible, dependable, and secure Internet across Africa.

6. To address underrepresentation in ICT initiatives, AFRINIC implements the Diversity in ICT Program. It aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by promoting gender equality and empowering underrepresented groups. AFRINIC advocates for diversity in ICT development and collaborates with organizations like RIFEN to create a more inclusive and innovative Africa.

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

The AFRINIC Internet Development Programs target all the countries in Africa and Indian Ocean

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ 2023

☒ 2024

☒ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ 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/ICTs and protection of personal data

☐ AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

☐ 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-22, here.

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

☐ Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services

☐ International telecommunication numbering resources

☒ Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services

☐ Digital applications

☒ Enabling environment

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, here

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ 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 SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☐ SDG 1: No Poverty

☐ SDG 2: Zero Hunger

☐ SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being

☒ SDG 4: Quality Education

☐ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

☒ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

☐ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

☒ 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 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