



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: Coligação da Juventude dos Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa – CJP (Coalition of Youth of Portuguese-speaking African Countries).

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TITLE: Accelerera Youth: Digital Transformation and Inclusion in Africa.

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

The "Accelerera Youth: Digital Transformation and Inclusion in Africa" initiative, led by the Coalition of Youth from Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (CJP), is a comprehensive programme aimed at catalysing digital transformation across the African continent, with a specific focus on the Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (PALOP). The initiative is committed to fostering inclusive ecosystems of innovation and ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital revolution.

Objective

The fundamental objective of the initiative is to foster sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, and technological development throughout Africa. This will be achieved through the acceleration of the adoption of cutting-edge digital technologies and the establishment of robust innovation ecosystems that empower local populations and promote the development of relevant technological solutions.

Key Goals and Actions

Advanced Digital Infrastructure Development: The initiative is dedicated to significant investments in expanding high-speed broadband networks and ensuring reliable connectivity throughout Africa. This robust infrastructure will enable equitable access to high-quality digital services for all communities, regardless of their location or demographics.

Digital Empowerment and Gender Inclusion: Comprehensive digital empowerment programmes will be implemented at all levels of education, from primary schools to universities and community centres. These programmes will be accessible to all individuals, with a strong focus on eliminating





inequalities and promoting gender inclusion in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and related fields.

Support for Startups and Inclusive Innovation: A comprehensive network of startup incubators and accelerators will be established across Africa, with a special emphasis on PALOP countries and promoting diversity and inclusion. These entities will provide critical resources, mentorship, and funding for entrepreneurs from all backgrounds.

Public-Private Partnerships: The initiative will facilitate strategic collaboration between governments, private sector companies, and non-profit organisations to develop technological solutions that address specific challenges in Africa, including gender and equality issues.

Investment in Inclusive Research and Development (R&D): Substantial resources will be allocated to research institutions, universities, and innovation centres to conduct advanced research and development projects in emerging technologies, promoting gender equality in scientific research.

Favourable and Inclusive Policies and Regulations: Close cooperation with African governments will be established to develop policies and regulations that encourage innovation, protect intellectual property, and ensure digital security, with a special focus on gender equality and inclusion.

Promotion of Digital Awareness and Gender Equality: Comprehensive educational campaigns will be launched across Africa, with a particular focus on PALOP countries and the promotion of gender equality. These campaigns will increase awareness of the benefits of digital transformation and actively encourage women's participation in technology.

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

The "Accelerera Youth: Digital Transformation and Inclusion in Africa" initiative will be implemented in all African countries, with a special emphasis on PALOP countries, including Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The commitment is to ensure that the benefits of digital transformation and innovation reach all these nations, promoting economic, social, and technological development in each of them.

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]

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

