

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

ORGANIZATION: GSMA

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TITLE: GSMA actions on expanding digital inclusion in Africa

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Over the past year, GSMA had made progress on its Partner2Connect pledges to foster digital transformation throughout the Africa region. This contribution provides an update on actions taken relating to two pledges, 1) Delivering free training to policymakers and regulators, and 2) Delivering digital skills across LMICs.

ACTION 1 - Training and capacity building for policymakers

In May 2023, GSMA's ran a free training on <u>Addressing the Digital Divide</u> in partnership with the ITU Academy. The training was attended by policymakers and regulators from nine African countries and focused on policy recommendations to help bridge both the usage and coverage gaps.

GSMA delivered a series of capacity building workshops on the <u>Mobile Connectivity Index</u> to show governments how to use the index for tracking connectivity progress and for determining policy priorities to improve mobile connectivity. The Mobile Connectivity Index is a publicly available online tool that measures and tracks the performance across 170 countries of key enablers to mobile connectivity, including affordability, infrastructure, consumer readiness, and content and services. Recent workshops have been delivered to the governments of Zimbabwe, SADC member states and ARTAC member states.

In 2023, GSMA also delivered capacity building courses on *Spectrum Management for Mobile Telecommunications* and on 5*G* - *The Path to the Next Generation*, for the benefit of policymakers and regulators from more than 20 African countries. In the same period, the GSMA hosted a series of tailored spectrum workshops across the region to share knowledge and recommendations relating to specific elements of spectrum management (Spectrum Licensing, Spectrum Pricing, Spectrum Roadmaps, WRC23, etc.) with African countries.

The GSMA organised knowledge-sharing sessions on rural connectivity and Universal Service Fund reforms to support policymakers in addressing mobile service and device affordability challenges. These engagements highlighted the role that infrastructure sharing, innovations, tax and USF reforms and subsidies can play in reducing the cost to end users and encourage mobile usage. These sessions were held with ARTAC in Kinshasa (DRC) in April 2023 and virtually with policymakers and regulators of SSA countries in September 2023.





In June 2023, GSMA hosted a <u>Bridging the Mobile Gender Gap</u> capacity building course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to policymakers from the Ministry of Innovation and Technology and the Ministry of Trade in partnership with ITU and European Investment Fund. Through the training, policymakers gained insights on policy actions that can help close the mobile gender gap.

ACTION 2 - Delivering basic digital skills

Nigeria's National Information Telecommunications Development Agency (NITDA) has been working with the GSMA to leverage the GSMA Connected Society's <u>Mobile Internet Skills Training Toolkit (MISTT)</u> as part of the implementation of NITDA's National Digital Literacy Framework. MISTT is a set of free resources for governments and partners to use to train people on basic digital skills. To date, over 65 million people have been trained in 27 countries.

UNCDF, in collaboration with Hive Colab in Uganda, has developed a Digital and Financial Literacy Toolkit which incorporates MISTT content, and has been used to train 90,000 people in Uganda. So far, fifteen partner organisations have adopted the toolkit as a benchmark for digital literacy in Uganda.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS:

Action 1: Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cameroun, DRC, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Siera Leone

Action 2: Nigeria, Uganda

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION:

図 2023

□ 2024

□ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE:

☑ 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

 \square 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		
	$\hfill\square$ 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		
	$\hfill\square$ 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:			
	$\ oxdot$ 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		
	☑ 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:

Infrastructure

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

