



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

FOCAL POINT: Anne Shannon Baxter, Senior Advocacy Manager - Digital Inclusion,
abaxter@gsma.com, +44 (0)7977 184 733

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 [Addressing the Digital Divide](#) 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 [Mobile Connectivity Index](#) 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 *5G - 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.







- ☐ 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:

- ☒ 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:

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

