



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: Members of Generation Connect Africa

FOCAL POINT: Members of Generation Connect Africa following: ABLE Anan Grâce Emmanuella-GC Côte d'Ivoire, AKAFFOU Espérance Kachy Mylène-GC Côte d'Ivoire, HIEN Winnore Imelda Olivia-GC Burkina Faso

TITLE: Digital Transformation in Africa: Strategies, Barriers, and Youth Empowerment

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: Unlocking Africa's digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable future hinges on accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative strategies.

To bridge the digital divide, we must offer financial support and assistance to SMEs and startups with pioneering ideas. Forge partnerships between educational institutions from developed countries and African counterparts to facilitate the transfer of competencies and technologies. Tap into the wealth of expertise within the African diaspora, engaging them in projects designed to uplift Africa. Critical to this transformation is investment in infrastructure, extending high-speed internet access to remote and underserved regions, alongside robust datacenters and cloud infrastructure to bolster digital services.

Moreover, **to catalyze digital transformation**, Africa requires a skilled workforce, including technicians, engineers, and researchers across various digital domains. A commitment to continuous learning and training is essential, involving collaboration with distinguished professors and technology experts. Adequate funding must be available to support expert research and development efforts. Recognizing that digital transformation spans diverse sectors such as healthcare, education, and agriculture, governments must establish a supportive framework for African researchers, facilitating product development and cross-continental business opportunities.

Addressing the barriers to digital transformation, including limited technology access, knowledge gaps, language diversity, and policy challenges, is paramount. Overcoming prejudices, data security concerns, and fostering trust in digital technologies are pivotal steps. Mitigating the risk of idea theft and ensuring technology adaptation to African realities are crucial for reliable transformation.

In driving this transformation, the youth plays a pivotal role. Their unique perspective and digital immersion make them vital contributors. Youth involvement should include expanded training opportunities, networking, and practical skill development. They should advocate for underrepresented voices, encourage digital interest among their peers, and be catalysts for





change. Africa's digital future is within reach, but only through concerted efforts and strategic actions can we create a sustainable and equitable digital landscape for all.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Mostly African countries specially: Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION:

☒ 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 type="checkbox"/> SDG 2: Zero Hunger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 4: Quality Education | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 13: Climate Action |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | |

