2023 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"**

Draft agenda

Day 1: 3 October 2023	
08:00-09:00	Arrival and registration
09:00-09:15	**Official event opening**
09:15-10:30	**High-level Ministerial/Executive session – Setting the scene for 'Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future in Africa'** This will be an interactive high-level ministerial power session on the vision for digital development and digital transformation in Africa with its people at the centre.
10:30-11:00	Group photo and Coffee/Tea break
11:00-12:00	**Session 1 – Digital milestones and the urgency for action now** This session will review progress on informing decision making towards achieving World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) Kigali Action Plan (KAP) Outcomes and its contribution to the achievement of Africa's Agenda 2063 and United Nations Development Agenda 2030 and examine the role of digital.
12:00-13:00	**Session 2 – Universal and meaningful connectivity for all** This session will discuss how to enable increased access in Africa to achieve meaningful connectivity for all and to advance digital transformation in Africa, including sustainable connectivity solutions and approaches, energy-connectivity opportunities, and synergies between initiatives. The importance of infrastructure mapping will be highlighted throughout the discussion.
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:45	**Session 3 – Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities around implementing impactful digital connectivity projects in African countries** This session aims to review the status of ongoing projects, sharing of experiences and lessons learnt from among the membership and partners.
15:45-16:00	Coffee/Tea break
16:00-17:00	**Session 4 – Accelerating digital transformation for sustainable development** Digital innovation improves access to essential services, creates jobs, and drives economic growth. No single stakeholder can alone drive digital innovation. This session will assess efforts to unlock opportunities around innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development, innovation ecosystem building as cross-cutting enablers for digital transformation. It will discuss with membership and development partners, UN agencies and programmes, and stakeholders the key challenges and opportunities that exist for increased adoption of digital technologies and value creation in Africa.
17:00-17:15	**Wrap up of Day 1**
Day 2: 4 October 2023	
08:00-09:00	Arrival
09:00-09:30	**Opening of Day 2 Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtables**
09:30-10:45	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 1 – Transforming pledges into commitments for impact**

	This session will focus on effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scaled-up impact of digital for sustainable development in Africa and beyond. Announcements and commitments and target countries in the Africa region will be made.
10:45-11:15	Coffee/Tea break
11:15-12:30	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 2 – Digital transformation for an enabled digital economy and society** This session will discuss how innovation can accelerate digital transformation in Africa. **AFR Regional Initiative 1:** Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-14:45	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 3 – Resilient infrastructure and emerging technologies** This session will discuss emerging technologies and their ability to contribute to resilient infrastructure deployment. **AFR Regional Initiative 2:** Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructure, connectivity and emerging technologies
14:45-15:45	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 4 – Universal, trustworthy, and equitable access and use** This session will discuss the need to continue building confidence in the use of digital technologies. **AFR Regional Initiative 3:** Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data
15:45-16:00	Coffee/Tea break
16:00-17:00	**Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable 5 – Towards digital innovation ecosystems to accelerate progress towards an inclusive digital society** Local capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship are key to unlocking and accelerating ecosystems' impact on cross-cutting sectors for an inclusive and sustainable society. This session will discuss the critical ecosystems that drive relevant local content, services and digital businesses. **AFR Regional Initiative 4:** Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems
17:00-17:15	**Wrap up of Day 2**
18:00-21:00	**Networking and social event**
Day 3: 5 October 2023	
08:00-09:00	Arrival
09:00-09:15	**Opening of Day 3 and interactive recap of Days 1 and 2 by youth representatives**
09:15-10:30	**Session 6 – Youth-driven digital development in Africa** This session is powered by youth who will be sharing their digital development action plan.
10:30-11:00	Coffee/Tea break
11:00-12:00	**Session 7 – Flagship initiative deep-dives** • The first deep-dive will show case and share progress of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development to bring an equitable digital future in Africa. • The second deep-dive discuss what the GovStack initiative and its role in establishing Government Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Technology Stack (GovStack) based on open, reusable, trusted and interoperable building

	blocks and how this can support the implementation of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to digital transformation. • The third deep-dive with look at ITU infrastructure connectivity maps, infrastructure data, mapping tools and insights for informed decision making.
12:00-12:30	**Session 8 – Regional Development Forum takeaways and next steps** This session will present the Regional Development Forum takeaways and discuss next steps.
12:30-13:00	**Closing of event**
13:00-14:00	Lunch break