# Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development



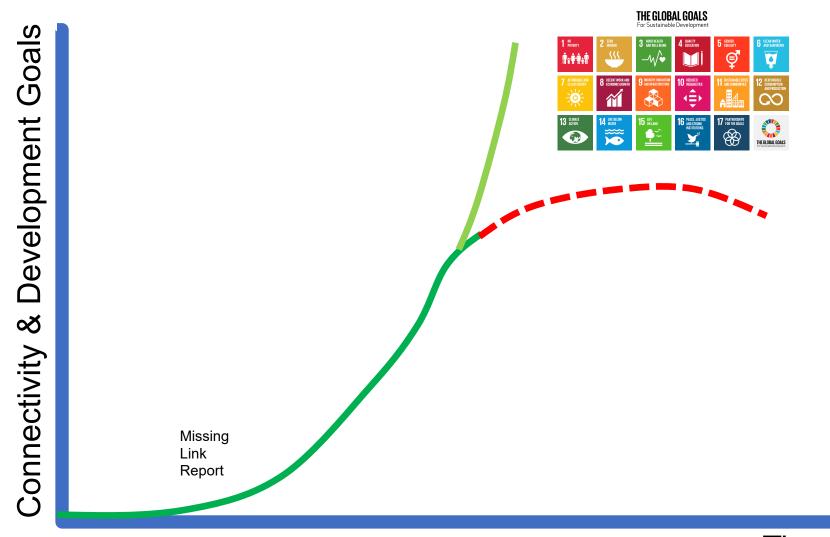
RDF Africa 5 October 2023

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### Are countries digitally transforming to deliver an equitable future for all?

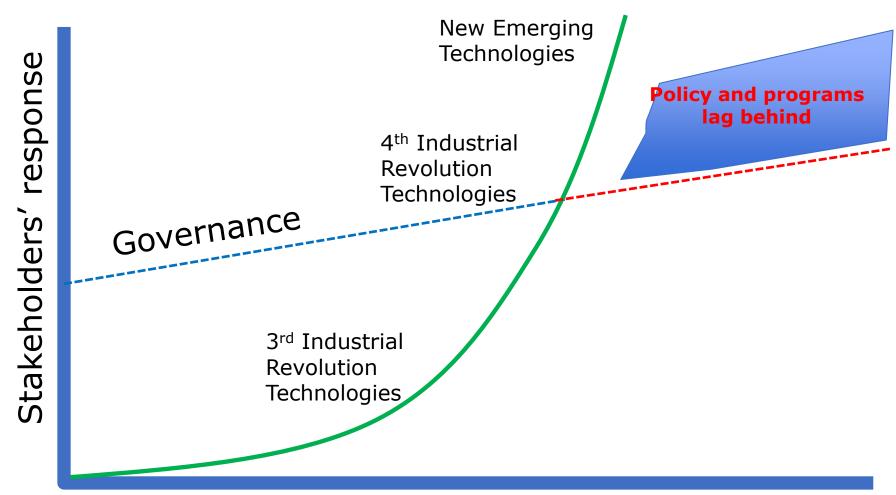




Time

### Our digital environment is changing faster than we can adapt

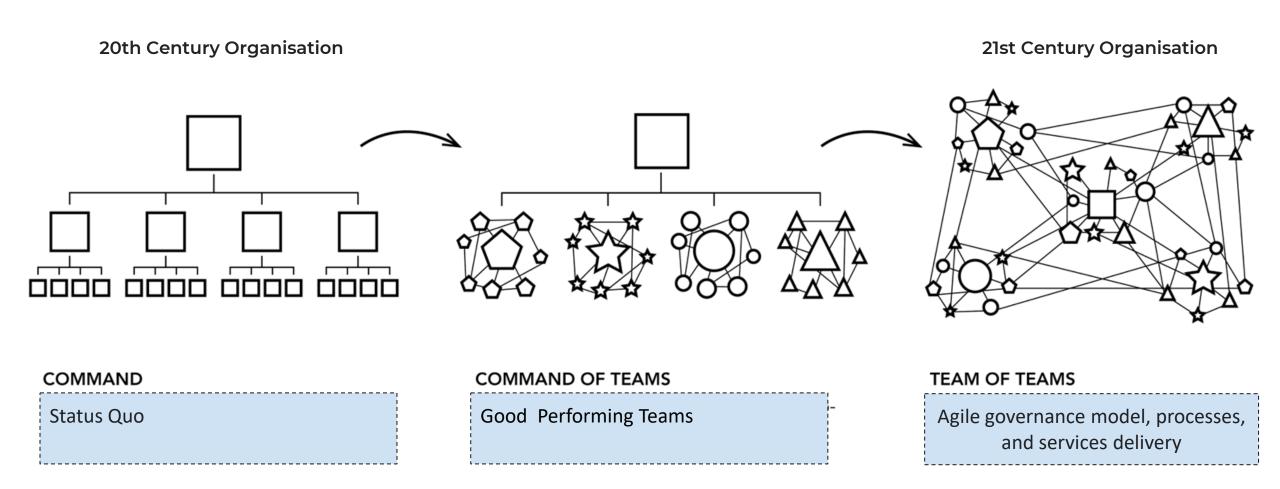




Time

### Our organizations need to adapt





Concept adapted from teams-of-teams

### Countries have unmet needs to close the gap leading to digital transformation





The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance For Digital Development is established to respond to significant unmet needs of ITU Membership in the area of innovation, as articulated in the Kigali Action Plan adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) and the Outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22).

"Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable digital future for all."

Dr Cosmas Zavazava Director BDT ITU

### Outcomes







Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation and digitalization in their national development agendas and to develop strategies to promote innovation initiatives, including through public, private and public-private partnerships.



Enhanced human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership in telecommunications/ICTs to foster digital transformation.

The work of the Alliance is aligned with:

WTDC Resolutions 90, 89 and 85 (Kigali, 2022) providing clear guidance on the role of innovation in digital transformation of society;

ITU Regional Initiatives for all regions further calling for greater attention to this area;

PP Resolution 205 on 'Fostering ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society' reiterated the leading roles of BDT in innovation for digital development;

ITU Strategic Plan (PP Resolution 71, Rev. Bucharest, 2022).

### The Alliance - Vision and Mission





#### Vision

Support ITU-D Membership with new, more resilient, and forward-thinking approaches to guarantee they can safely navigate a digital world that is increasingly Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) and achieve outcomes of the Kigali Action Plan.



#### Mission

- Bridge the Digital Innovation Divide and empower ITU-D membership to overcome challenges on their path through digital transformation
- Accelerate their ecosystems' impact on cross-cutting sectors for an inclusive and sustainable society.



### **Opportunities**

- Build local capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship
- Develop new organizational and human excellence capabilities
- Deliver new products and services for ITU Membership.

### Strategic objectives of the Alliance



1 Trends research readiness

Enables countries to be ahead of the curve and make sense of the evolution of technology, policy and innovation dynamics.

2 Open technology innovation

Harnesses technological know-how into global goods through open innovation and multistakeholder mechanisms, accelerating access to emerging technology for all.

3 Entrepreneurship and SMEs growth

Accelerates the uptake of digital innovation-driven entrepreneurship and opportunities for talent to achieve socio economic inclusion in their communities.

4 Policy experimentation

Develops agile policies that provide stakeholders with safe space for experimentation, encouraging innovation and attracting investment in the digital ecosystem.

**Ecosystem initiatives acceleration** 

Promotes collaboration and synergies that scale digital innovations and achieve cross-cutting sectoral value for a competitive digital economy.

### Three main vehicle of the Alliance





### Digital Transformation Lab

- The Lab will support the design and implementation of the network of centers and provide technical assistance, upon request, to enable countries currently lacking key capabilities in sandboxing and developing initiatives to accelerate digital development.
- BDT will benefit from improving its products and services to enable the Bureau to be the premier agency supporting developing countries in digital transformation.



### Network of Acceleration Centers

- The Network will enhance global, regional, and national innovation capabilities for technology, policy and flagship initiative development.
- The various centers will accelerate digital transformation through a unique ecosystem-thinking approach.
- The centers will also amplify local capabilities to accelerate local innovation, entrepreneurship, and the digitalization of economies to improve the competitiveness of economic sectors.

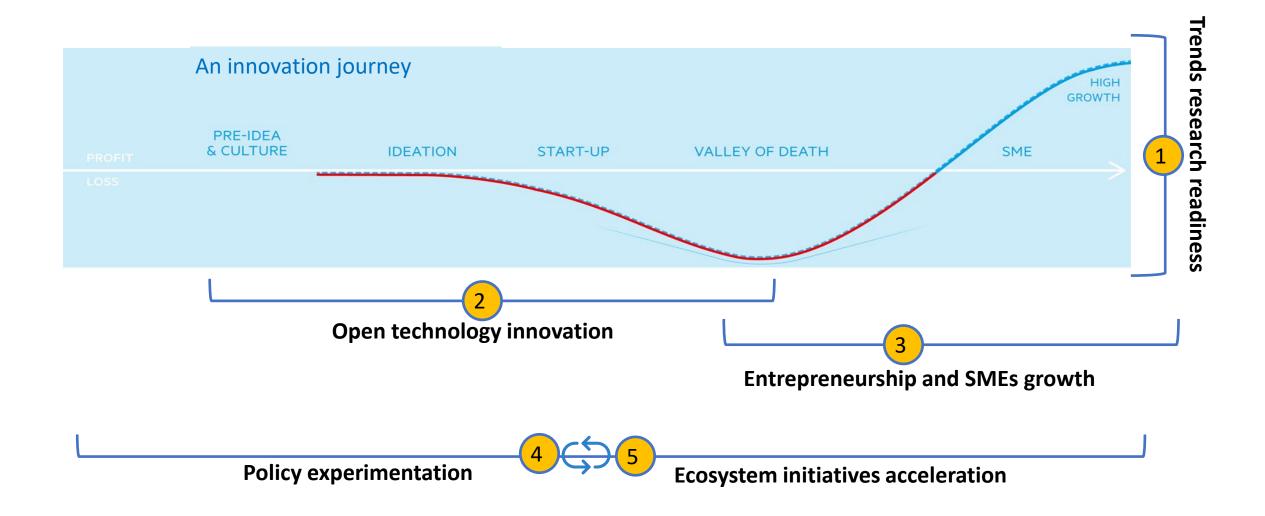


### Digital Innovation Board

- This Board will guide the work of the Alliance and ensure its effectiveness, accountability, and sound decisionmaking.
- The Board will facilitate high-level coordination and engage in global advocacy at the UN level and with regional and international organizations.
- Leveraging its reach, it will help mobilize resources and partnerships, share lessons learned and create a global learning community.

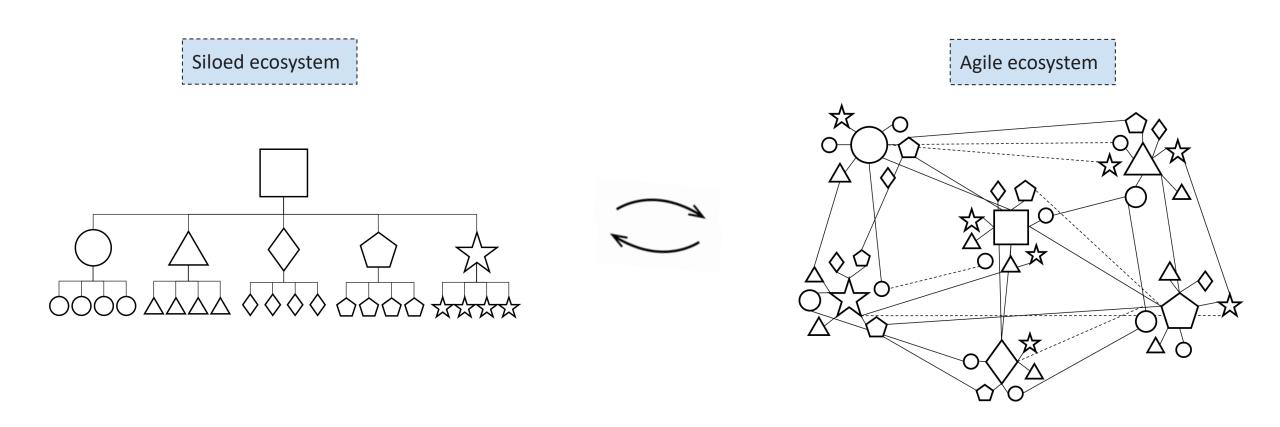
### Centers will be accelerating digital transformation journeys through the objectives





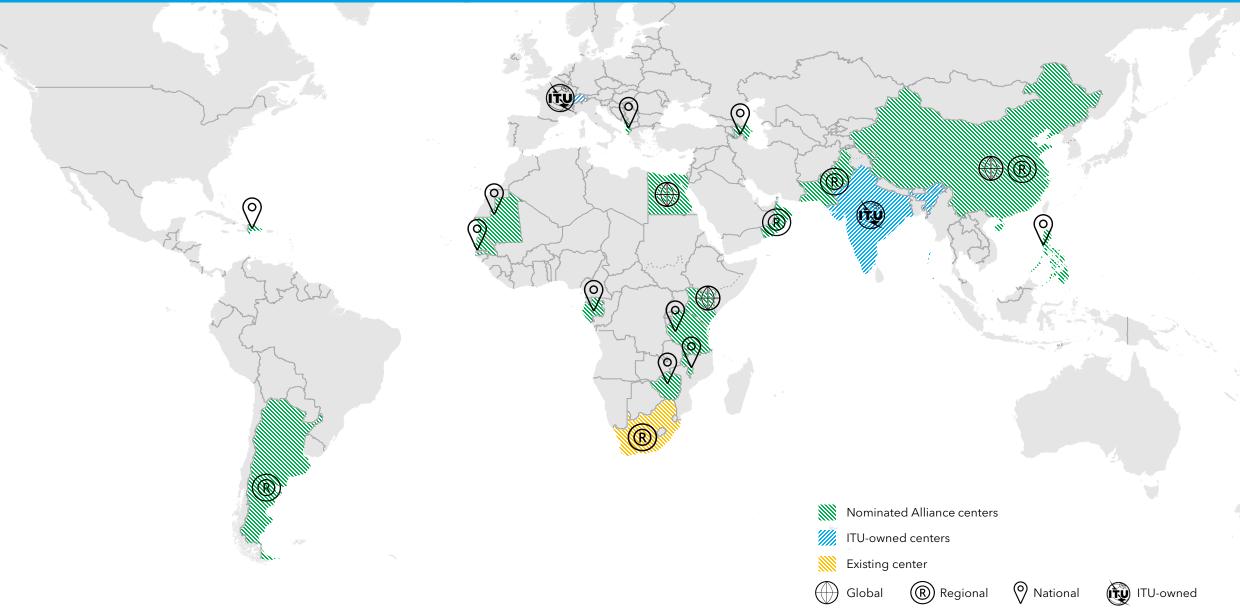
### Centers will enable agile environments to lead in our VUCA world





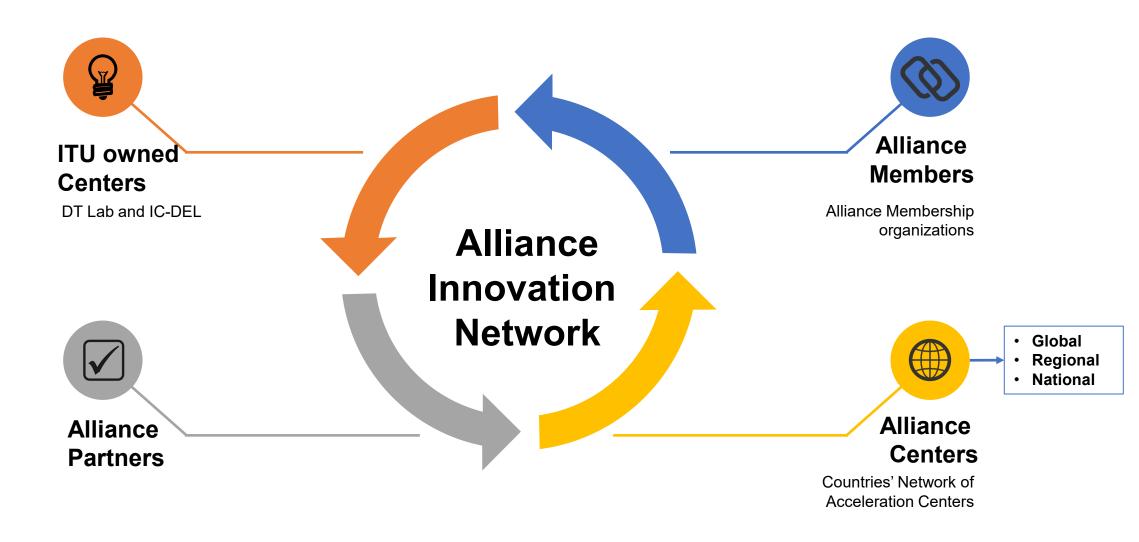
### A constellation of cooperating centers - First cohort announced September 2023





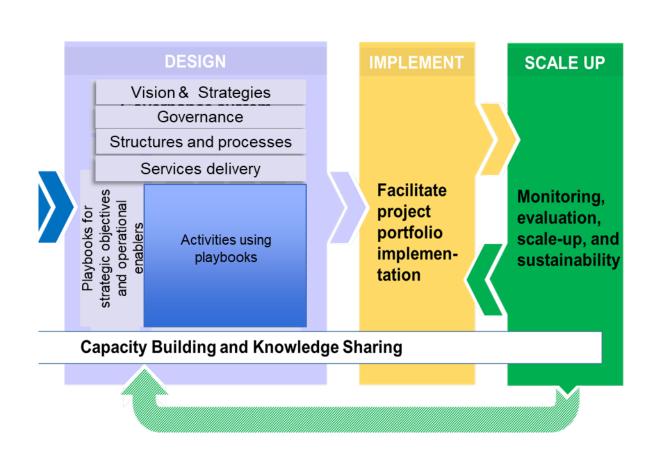
### Alliance Innovation Network is the key to scale and impact



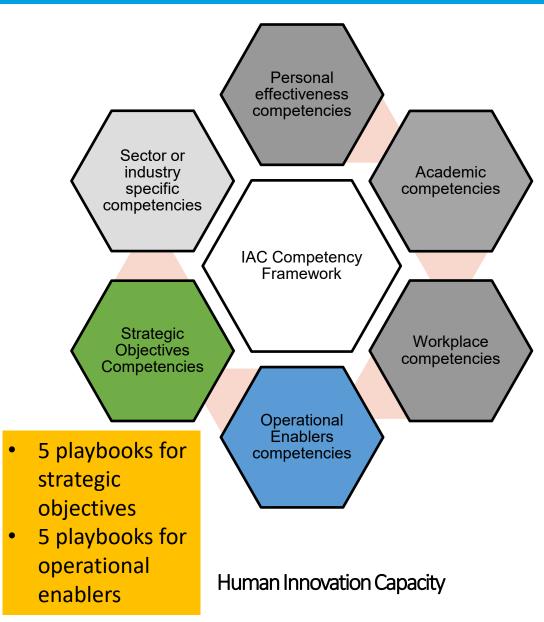


### Strengthening Human and Institutional and Innovation Capacity





Institutional Innovation Capacity

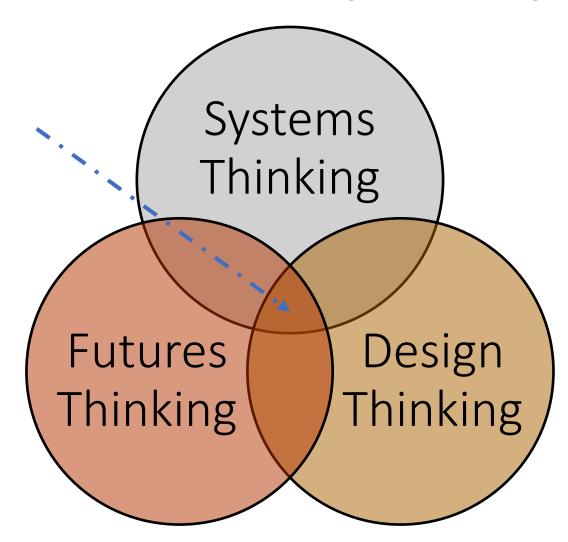


### Alliance approach to achieve impact



Frameworks and operational models give countries new approaches to address complex problems in our volatile, uncertain, ambiguous and changing digital world.

Ecosystem Thinking



### **Key Milestones**



25 January: Public announcement

15-16 March: WSIS events

4 April: Community Event

15 April: Deadline for expression of interest (for Network of Acceleration Centers)

September: Network of Acceleration
 Centers announcement



Open Source Software for SDG (OSS4SDG) Hackathon for Gender Equality by EC, UNOICT, ITU EQUALS &

Deadline: 15 September 2023



ITU - Smart Africa Declaration of Intent on Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Capacity Building



Community Event - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development

4 April 2023



Accelerating Innovation and Entrepreneurship for

15 March 202



Launch of the Network of Acceleration Centers

1 September 2023



Session Facilitation at ITU-D Study Group 1 Cross-Cutting Workshops on Meaningful Connectivity

8 May 2023 and 10 May 2023



ITU - OICT Declaration of Intent on Digital Transformation and Technology Innovation



Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance - Power

16 March 2023



#### Our aim



Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation and digitalization in their national development agendas and to develop strategies to promote innovation initiatives, including through public, private and public-private partnerships.

Enhanced human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership in telecommunications/ICTs to foster digital transformation.



## Partners with us for a more equitable future for all

### **Thank You**

Contact us at <a href="mailto:innovation@itu.int">innovation@itu.int</a>
Visit us <a href="https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/innovation-alliance">https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/innovation-alliance</a>

