



9th ECONOMIC EXPERTS ROUNDTABLE **“Economic and Fiscal Incentives to Accelerate Digital Transformation”**

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Alison Gillwald (PhD) is the Executive Director of Research ICT Africa (RIA), an African digital policy and regulatory think-tank that works across 20 African countries. She is also adjunct-professor at the University of Cape Town’s Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance where she supervises doctoral students undertaking transdisciplinary research in digital policy, regulation and data governance. A former regulator she was appointed to the founding Council of the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) in 1997, having headed the policy department at the first broadcasting regulator, the Independent Broadcasting Authority established in

1994. She has advised the South African Presidency, the National Planning Commission, the Competition Commission and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, in addition to the African Union Commission, SADC, CRASA and the SADC Parliamentary Forum. She has been commissioned by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Bank and the African Development Bank to undertake research and provide technical assistance to inform policy across several Africa countries and collaborates with networks across the Global South to build an evidence base for policymakers and regulators. She sits on the ITU Indicators Expert Group, is a UNESCO nominee to the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence and serves on the contact group of the Internet & Jurisdiction. She was appointed to the first

ITU Task Force on Gender Issues in 1999 and has served as the chairperson of the South African Digital Broadcasting Advisory Board from 2000, the Expert Advisory Group to African Ministers of Communications and as the deputy-chairperson of the SA Ministerial Broadband Advisory Council in 2014. She has served on the board of the public broadcaster, the SABC; a publicly listed media company, AVUSA; the Media Monitoring Project and Womensnet. She is the deputy-chairperson of Giganet, the only international academic conference dedicated to internet governance and serves on several journal editorial committees including being an inaugural associate editor of the ITU journal, Discoveries. She currently co-leads the Data Justice workstream of the Data Governance working group of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and serves on the Digital Inclusion Roundtable of the UN Secretary General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.