



BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ

Kenya hosts fifth regional preparatory meeting for ITU's World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025

Nairobi, 9 April 2025 – The [Regional Preparatory Meeting](#) (RPM) for Africa was held from 8 to 9 April in Nairobi, Kenya. It was an opportunity for participants to gain insight and detailed reporting on the ongoing implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and propose the next Regional Initiatives in the area of information and communication technology (ICT) development strategies in the Africa region.

The Regional Initiatives will be considered by the next ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), which will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025.

"Going to the WTDC-25, Africa is not sitting on the periphery any more," said H.E. William Kabogo Gitau, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy of Kenya. "We are intentional with what we seek to achieve, and we must sustain this unity of purpose to a prosperous future, where ICTs/telecommunications remain the cornerstone of our progress."

"Africa is home to many of the world's Landlocked Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries: digital can turn their challenges into opportunities and, for this to happen, political will is key," said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau. "The Africa region, with its creativity, innovation, exceptional talent, rich resources and young population, is ready to excel in digital transformation. I thank the Government of Kenya and the Communications Authority of Kenya for generously hosting us in Nairobi."

Below are the proposed Regional Initiatives for Africa for 2026-2029.

AFR1: Meaningful connectivity and resilient infrastructure- for sustainable development including emergency telecommunications and multi-hazard early warning systems in the Africa region

AFR2: Developing an inclusive trustworthy AI ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development

AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technology and Data protection and privacy

AFR4: Digital infrastructure applications, SMEs Development and Emerging Technologies and Innovation Ecosystems

AFR5: Sustainable Funding Mechanisms for Africa's Digital Transformation

"Our readiness to leapfrog ICTs and telecommunications for our growth as a region has never been this urgent. I call on regulators in the region to seize the WTDC-25 as a turning point in our quest to remain at the cutting edge of the digital revolution," said Mr. David Mugonyi, EBS, Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya.

"The Regional Initiatives identified at the Regional Preparatory Meeting define the key focus areas for the Africa region for the period 2026-2029," said Emmanuel Manasseh, Regional Director of the ITU Regional Office for Africa. "Once adopted at WTDC-25, they will chart the path to universal meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the region."

The meeting was preceded by a [Regional Development Forum](#) (RDF) on 7 April.

Participants at the Regional Development Forum engaged in results-oriented debates and impactful Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtables. Discussions also explored the state of digital development and the implementation of the current Regional Initiatives.

The report on the "State of digital development and trends in the Africa region" launched at the meeting, examines connectivity expansion, innovation, affordability, and digital inclusion, outlining strategies to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity across the diverse region.

During the meeting, the following announcements were made:

- The selection of Kenya to host an Open Source Programme Office (OSPO) under the pilot Open Source Ecosystem Enabler (OSEE) project, in collaboration with UNDP and the European Union;
- The collaboration with ATU on the 4th edition of the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge to drive socio-economic development across the continent;
- The second co-cohort of the ITU-Huawei Generation Connect Young Leadership Programme, with almost 7000 applicants from 185 countries;
- The high-level framework for cooperation to develop a digital public infrastructure (DPI) roadmap for Kenya, in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ);
- The EUR 15 million project on Africa's National Broadband Mapping System, in collaboration with the European Union.

The Regional Development Forum also featured sessions on the Network of Women in ITU-D and a Generation Connect Youth Session.

This Regional Preparatory Meeting was the fifth in a series that are taking place across the world to identify priorities for each region in preparation for WTDC-25. The next Regional Preparatory Meeting will be for the Commonwealth of Independent States region and will be held in the Kyrgyz Republic from 24 to 25 April 2025. It will be preceded by a Regional Development Forum on 23 April.

WTDC-25 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025.

Resources and background information

- [“State of digital development and trends in the Africa region: Challenges and opportunities”](#)
- [Video](#) on the progress on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan in the Africa region
- [Schedule](#) of RPMs and RDFs
- The [ITU-D Events mobile app](#) allows users to access on their smart-phones and tablets all relevant information and documents related to the Regional Preparatory Meetings of the WTDC-25.

About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for digital technologies, driving innovation for people and the planet with 194 Member States and a membership of over 1,000 companies, universities, civil society, and international and regional organizations. Established in 1865, ITU coordinates the global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, establishes international technology standards, drives universal connectivity and digital services, and is helping to make sure everyone benefits from sustainable digital transformation, including the most remote communities. From artificial intelligence (AI) to quantum, from satellites and submarine cables to advanced mobile and wireless broadband networks, ITU is committed to connecting the world and beyond. Learn more: www.itu.int.