



## ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR) 2025

### *Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

organized by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the Communications Authority of Kenya and in cooperation with the Africa Telecommunications Union (ATU)

**7 April 2025**  
**Nairobi, Kenya**

Public webcast accessible via the [RDF-AFR 2025 website](#)

RDF-AFR 2025 is held back-to-back with the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa (8-9 April 2025)

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

#### Monday, 7 April 2025

8:30 – 9:00	Networking Coffee
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr David Mugonyi</b>, EBS, Director General and Chief Executive Officer, Communications Authority of Kenya (CA)</li> <li>- <b>Mr John Omo</b>, Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union (ATU)</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava</b>, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU</li> <li>- <b>Hon. William Kabogo Gitau</b>, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, Kenya</li> </ul>
<b>9:30 – 10:00</b>	Official Group Photo followed by Coffee Break
<b>10:00 – 11:00</b>	<b>ROUNDTABLE ONE: State of Digital Development and Trends - Challenges and Opportunities</b> <p>This is a high-level roundtable, with the objective to discuss regional and country specific challenges and opportunities arising from digital development and transformation. The focus will be on Africa and how the region could accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through digital.</p> <p>Moderation: <b>H.E. Dr. Bosun Tijani</b>, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Federal Republic of Nigeria</p> <p>Setting the Stage: <b>Presentation by BDT, ITU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>H.E Ms. Nthathi Moorosi</b>, Minister, Ministry of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation, Lesotho</li> </ul>





- **Eng. John Tanui**, MBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for ICT and Digital Economy, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, Kenya
- **Ms Bernice Edande Otye**, Permanent Secretary, L'Assemblée des Régulateurs des Télécommunications de l'Afrique Centrale (ARTAC)
- **Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba**, Executive Director, East African Communications Organisation (EACO)

Announcement of new initiatives

**11:00 - 12:30**

### **ROUNDTABLE TWO: Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering Partnerships on Infrastructure Development for Universal Connectivity**

This roundtable will explore strategies to accelerate digital infrastructure development, leveraging the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) to advance universal and meaningful connectivity. Speakers will share insights on innovative solutions, financing models, and policy frameworks, highlighting progress on P2C pledges and their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through inclusive digital transformation.

Moderation and setting the context: **ITU Regional Office for Africa**

State of Play – Partner2Connect Coalition: **Presentation by BDT, ITU**

- **H.E. Samuel Nartey George**, Minister of Communication, Digital Technology, and Innovations, Ghana
- **H.E. Dr Michel Boukar**, Minister, Telecommunications, Digital Economy and Digitalization, Chad
- **Mr Mike Silber**, Group Executive Regulatory Affairs, MTN Group
- **Mr Min Fang**, Managing Director for Southern Africa, ZTE Corporation
- **Mr Carlos Riopedre**, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director, Sateliot

Announcement of a new initiative

**12:30 - 13:00**

### **NoW EVENT: Network of Women for Africa: Building connections, empowering futures**

The Network of Women for Africa will delve into the profound impact of fostering strong professional networks among women in the telecommunications and information technology sectors. Discussions will focus on strategies to create inclusive environments that support women's growth and leadership, the significance of mentorship and sponsorship in empowering female professionals, and the ways in which collaborative efforts can drive innovation and transform the industry. Attendees will share experiences, best practices, and





actionable insights to build connections that not only empower individual careers but also shape a more equitable future for all.

Moderation: **Ms Caecilia Nyamutswa**, Director of Legal Services, Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ)

Opening Remarks: **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

- **H.E. Mr Peter Maddens**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Kenya
- **Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou**, Technical Advisor of the Director General, Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications de Côte D'Ivoire (ARTCI), Côte d'Ivoire
- **Ms Magano Katoole**, Legal Advisor for Legislative Drafting, Communications and Regulatory Authority of Namibia
- **Ms Meriem Slimani**, Development Coordinator, African Telecommunications Union

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

**14:00 – 15:30**

### **ROUNDTABLE THREE: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering Partnerships for Development**

This roundtable will serve as a dynamic platform to facilitate meaningful collaboration and strategic partnerships for development across the Africa region and beyond. By aligning resources with real-world needs, the session will highlight innovative approaches to building sustainable, high-value partnerships that unlock transformative opportunities. It will focus on catalyzing impactful initiatives to accelerate the region's digital agenda, driving inclusive and impactful capacity-development efforts to support digital transformation and regional growth.

Moderation and setting the context: **ITU Regional Office for Africa**

- **Dr. Cheikh Amadu Bamba Koté**, Directeur General, Autoridade Reguladora Nacional das Tecnologias de Informação e Comunicação (ARN), Guinea-Bissau
- **Mr Lakoun Ouattara**, Directeur General, l'Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications/TIC de Côte d'Ivoire (ARTCI)
- **Mr Kennedy Kipkemboi Sawe**, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Mobile Money Programme, GSMA
- **Mr Andile Tsibiyane**, Fixed Network Senior Solution Architect, Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Mr Idrissa Dia**, Director, Economic and Social Infrastructure, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- **Mr Charles Juma**, Kenya Country Lead and Adviser, United Kingdom's Digital Access Programme, British High Commission





## Nairobi

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

**16:00 – 17:30****ROUNDTABLE FOUR: Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa**

In WTDC-22 held in Kigali Rwanda, four regional initiatives were adopted on themes relevant to digital transformation, emerging technologies and infrastructure, cybersecurity, and innovation ecosystems. Over the past three years the ITU Regional Office for Africa has collaborated with a spectrum of stakeholders on projects and activities across the region in implementation of these regional initiatives. This session will shed light on some of the key achievements in implementing these regional initiatives. Moreover, in preparation for WTDC-25, the region has already started shaping the new Africa Regional Initiatives. This session will also discuss regional priorities that could contribute to the new Africa Regional Initiatives.

Setting the stage: **ITU Regional Office for Africa**Moderation: **ITU Regional Office for Africa**

- **Ms Stella Erebor**, Deputy Director, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Nigeria
- **Dr Salomão David Cumbula**, Director, Communication Services, Instituto Nacional das Comunicações de Moçambique (INCM), Mozambique
- **Mr Koffi Fabrice Djossou**, Senior Expert in Charge of Innovation, Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)
- **Mr John Omo**, Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union (ATU)

**Presentation on Regional Initiatives Acceleration Framework** by BDT

Announcement of the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge finalists and training

**17:30 – 18:00****GENERATION CONNECT EVENT: Intergenerational dialogue on challenges and opportunities in the field of digital development in Africa**

The event will serve as a pivotal event for the Africa youth in the lead-up to the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for the Africa Region, which is part of the preparations for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25). This event will focus on fostering dialogue between youth, ministries, ITU leadership, and other key stakeholders to reflect on regional priorities and initiatives.

Moderation and setting the context: **Ms Damaris Mabeya**, Founder, Aminia Dada Innovations, Kenya





## Opening intervention

- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

## Panellists:

- **Dr. Isaac Sissoko**, Director, Veille Stratégique et de la Coopération Internationale, Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications et des Postes (ARTP), Senegal
- **Mr Syed Mohammad Shaharyar Jawaid**, Senior ICT Specialist, Economic Infrastructure, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- **Ms Valarie Waswa**, Generation Connect Youth Envoy Alumni, Kenya, ITU-Huawei Generation Connect Young Leadership Programme Fellow 2024
- **Ms Gheida Abdala Omar Al-Mashjery**, Generation Connect Youth Envoy
- **Mr Keith Clinton Nyaburi**, Generation Connect Youth Envoy

**18:00 - 18:30****CLOSING CEREMONY**

- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau
- **Hon. William Kabogo Gitau**, Cabinet Secretary, Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, Kenya

**END OF RDF****18:40 - 19:00****Regional Preparatory Meeting - Informal Heads of Delegation Meeting** (by invitation only)**19:30 - 21:30****Social Event**