



2026 ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

*Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for
an inclusive and sustainable digital future*

**25-26 May 2026
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

Event website: <http://itu.int/go/RDF-AFR-26>

CONTRIBUTION FORM

This form is intended to collect inputs from stakeholders contributing to the implementation of the Baku Action Plan and the ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa (2026–2029).

ORGANIZATION: Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

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TITLE: [Universal Access for Socio-Economic Development]

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Namibia's vision of an inclusive digital society is supported by a strong policy and regulatory framework that aims to ensure that all citizens, regardless of where they live or their socio-economic circumstances, can participate fully in the digital economy. The Universal Service Fund (USF) plays a central role in this commitment. It was established to address persistent disparities in telecommunications access, particularly in rural, remote and low-income areas where private sector investment alone is not sufficient to ensure equitable connectivity.

Namibia's transition toward a digitally empowered society requires that all individuals have access to modern ICT services and the ability to use them meaningfully. Although network coverage has expanded significantly over the past decade, important gaps remain as a result of geographic isolation, limited infrastructure and socio-economic challenges. The USF was created to address these gaps by financing interventions that cannot be achieved through market forces alone.

The mandate of the Fund is built around three pillars.

1. Availability focuses on ensuring that telecommunications infrastructure and services are present across all regions so that no community is excluded based on location.
2. Accessibility aims to remove physical, technical and skills-related barriers that limit the effective use of ICT services.
3. Affordability seeks to ensure that essential ICT services remain within financial reach of all income levels, enabling broad participation in the digital economy.

To advance these objectives, the USF invests in infrastructure and essential services in unserved and underserved areas. Priority is given to institutions that create significant social and economic value, including schools, health facilities, small and medium enterprises and community centres. These interventions strengthen the foundations of inclusive digital transformation and reduce the digital divide across the country.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Namibia

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes]

☒ 2026

☒ 2027

☒ 2028

☒ 2029

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes]

☒ AFR1: Resilient digital infrastructure and universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for sustainable development

☐ AFR2: Developing an inclusive, trustworthy artificial intelligence ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development

☐ AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies

☐ AFR4: Development of digital applications, micro, small and medium enterprises and digital innovation ecosystems

☐ AFR5: Sustainable funding mechanisms for Africa's digital transformation

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2026-2029, as defined by WTDC-25, [here](#).

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2025 [Tick the relevant boxes]

☒ Affordable connectivity

☒ Digital Transformation

☐ Enabling policy and regulatory environment

☐ Resource mobilization and international cooperation

☐ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-25, [here](#).

RELATED PARTNER2CONNECT FOCUS AREAS [Tick the relevant boxes]

☒ Focus Area 1 – ACCESS: Connecting people everywhere

☒ Focus Area 2 – ADOPTION: Empowering communities

☐ Focus Area 3 – VALUE CREATION: Building digital ecosystems

☐ Focus Area 4 – ACCELERATE: Incentivizing investments

Please find more information on the Partner2Connect Focus Areas Action Framework [here](#).

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☐ C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
- ☒ C2: Information and communication infrastructure
- ☒ C3: Access to information and knowledge
- ☐ C4: Capacity building
- ☐ C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- ☐ C6: Enabling environment
- ☐ C7: ICT applications
- ☐ C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
- ☐ C9: Media
- ☐ C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society
- ☐ C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☒ 1: Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals
- ☒ 2: Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
- ☐ 3: Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights
- ☐ 4: Advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches
- ☐ 5: Enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity

RELATED SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ SDG 1: No Poverty | ☒ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities |
| ☐ SDG 2: Zero Hunger | ☐ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities |
| ☐ SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being | ☐ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| ☒ SDG 4: Quality Education | ☐ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production |
| ☐ SDG 5: Gender Equality | ☐ SDG 13: Climate Action |
| ☐ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation | ☐ SDG 14: Life Below Water |
| ☐ SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy | ☐ SDG 15: Life on Land |
| ☐ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth | ☐ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| ☐ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | ☐ SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs |

