



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: [Postal and Telecommunication Regulatory authority of Zimbabwe]

FOCAL POINT: [Hilda Mutseyekwa, Director Economics, mutseyekwa@potraz.zw, +263712865241]

TITLE: [Key initiatives and projects undertaken by Zimbabwe since WTDC 25]

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Since the conclusion of WTDC 25 in Baku in November 2025, Zimbabwe has started implementing the regional priorities that were agreed at the conference in line with ITU-D priorities.

Such initiatives include the launch of Zimbabwe's AI strategy by H.E President Mnangagwa on 13 March 2022. The launch kickstarted the country's focused AI journey with various activities, including the AI Grand Challenge lined up for the year 2026. The AI Grand Challenge is a structured national AI innovation programme proposed as a practical mechanism for stimulating demand-led problem-solving around national priorities.

On the Innovation front, momentum continued to build up with the successful hosting of the POTRAZ 2026 Innovation Product Launch and business Expo, where young innovators received coaching running business.

POTRAZ also developed a framework for ICT Regulatory Sandboxes aimed at enhancing innovation.

On the cybersecurity front, several activities were undertaken to enhance data protection and responsiveness to cyber incidents, including the Annual Data Protection Symposium during which POTRAZ signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA), marking a significant milestone in advancing cross-border regulatory cooperation. as well as the convening of the Technical Colloquium focused on Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) that was attended by over 100 cybersecurity experts from across Africa to strengthen regional cyber resilience, improve incident response capabilities, and develop national CIRT infrastructure. Meanwhile, collaboration with the ITU digital financial services clinic continued smoothly.

Efforts towards achieving universal meaningful connectivity through the Universal service fund continued with the deployment of more shared infrastructure in underserved and remote areas under the Tower Relocation Project. At the same time, the roll-out of digital Information Centres continued, as well as the deployment of various digital tools at such centres and schools.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Zimbabwe; SADC Region; African region

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]

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| ☒ 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 |