



## 2020 Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

### Digital transformation to accelerate achievement of the SDGs – Digital development, partnerships and funding

6-7 October 2020 (12:00 – 15:00 CAT time) (*Virtual meeting*)  
with preparatory sessions on 5 October 2020 (12:00 – 15:00 CAT time)

#### Draft agenda

The 2020 Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR), under the theme of **Digital transformation to accelerate achievement of the SDGs – Digital development, partnerships and funding**, will focus on digital development activities, projects, and Regional Initiatives in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the innovative partnerships that are required to launch and implement them, and ensure that they are sustainable. While progress is being made in many places, overall, action to meet the SDGs and related national target is not advancing at the speed or scale required. A decade of ambitious action is required to deliver on the Goals by 2030. It is to this backdrop that RDF-AFR is held.

#### Monday, 5 October 2020 RDF-AFR preparatory meeting

##### 12:00 – 15:00 CAT (GMT+2)

11:30 – 12:00 Video viewing and final testing of audio and video for interventions testing

##### 12:00 – 12:15 OPENING AND WELCOMING REMARKS

- Opening of the preparatory sessions
  - Andrew Rugege, Director, Regional Office for Africa, ITU
- Welcome by virtual host of 2020 RDF-AFR
  - Patrick Mutimushi, Director General, Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority, Zambia
- Practical information shared on the conduct of the preparatory sessions
  - Mohamed Ba, Senior Coordinator, Digital Innovation Ecosystem, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

##### 12:15 – 13:45 PREPARATORY SESSION 1: Taking stock of projects, initiatives and activities in the region that contribute toward digital transformation

###### Guiding questions for interventions and focused presentation of contributions:

- 1) What projects or activities related to regional initiatives have been undertaken in the country(ies)?
- 2) What progress has been made so far and what impact have these activities at national (and regional) level?
- 3) What are major issues or challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of such activities?
- 4) Who have been your partners in the mentioned projects and what has been the nature of the partnership (funding, outreach, implementation, etc.)

**Thematic focus:** Digital economies and innovation ; Emerging technologies ; Trust and security ; Capacity development ; Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting



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**13:45 – 14:50 PREPARATORY SESSION 2: Co-creating solutions toward digital transformation**

**Main guiding question to co-create solutions to address the identified gaps:**

- 1) What do we need to do to be better going forward, to have more impactful projects and programmes, in terms of content, sharing, coordination and collaboration, and mobilization of partners and resources?

**Perspectives on partnerships and resource mobilization**

- 2) Which sectors, institutions, organizations, etc. should be engaged in the implementation of the projects and other related activities to strengthen co-ordination and promote synergies at national and regional level?
- 3) How could we mobilize resources for the project going forward?
- 4) What is the level of engagement of UNCTs at national level and how can it be strengthened?
- 5) What projects may be required to support the adoption of new tools and platforms to address the impact of COVID-19 in a holistic manner?
- 6) List three key areas around ICTs that you would consider as priority in response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7) In the context of WTDC-21, what needs to be done to support the preparation and co-ordination at national and regional level to effectively engage different stakeholders in the region?

**14:50 – 15:00 WRAP-UP AND CLOSING OF THE DAY**



Tuesday, 6 October 2020

**12:00 – 15:00 CAT (GMT+2)**

11:30 – 12:00 Video viewing and final testing of audio and video for interventions testing

**Digital transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Digital development, partnerships and funding**

**12:00 – 12:40 OPENING AND WELCOMING REMARKS**

- Master of Ceremony
  - Grevazio Zulu
- Opening of meeting
  - Andrew Rugege, Director, Regional Office for Africa, ITU
- Welcoming addresses
  - John Omo, Secretary-General, African Telecommunications Union
  - Doreen Bogdan, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
  - Honorable Minister Mutotwe L. Kafwaya, Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Zambia

**Group photo**

- Election of the 2020 RDF-AFR Bureau and introduction of RDF Chair
- Remarks by the RDF Chair
  - Patrick Mutimushi, Director General, Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority, Zambia
- Setting the scene: The RDF as a platform for collaboration on ICT and SDG related project implementation in Africa
  - Andrew Rugege, Director, Regional Office for Africa, ITU

**12:40 – 13:50 VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE ONE: Collaboration for results and impact oriented regional actions from WTDC-17 and toward WTDC-21**

**Moderator:** Stephen Bereaux, Deputy Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau

- Nicholas Williams, Manager, ICT Operations, Industry and Trade Development Department, African Development Bank
- Paul Landers, Head of Strategic Partnerships, Connect To Learn, Ericsson (TBC)
- Alfie Hamid, Regional Manager, Corporate Affairs for Africa, Cisco
- Helge Brochmann, NORAD, Norway
- Lacina Koné, Director-General, Smart Africa
- Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, ILO Assistant Director General and Regional Director for Africa
- Chenge Munyadzi, Regional Director, UN Development Coordination Office (DCO)

**Discussion**

**13:50 – 14:00 Reporting by Rapporteur from day of preparatory sessions**



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**14:00 – 14:55 VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE TWO: Implementation, collaboration and funding - Regional projects, initiatives, and partnerships contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, WSIS Action Lines and regional priorities**

In focus ITU development thematic priorities: **Networks and digital infrastructure, Cybersecurity, Emergency telecommunications, Environment, Digital policy and regulation**, together with the related regional initiatives.

**Moderator and fire-starter:** Anne-Rachel Inné, Senior Vice-President, Government Affairs Department, American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)

- Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou, Director, International Cooperation, L'Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications/TIC de Côte d'Ivoire (ARTCI), Côte d'Ivoire and Chair of ITU-D Study Group 1
- Dawit Bekele, Regional Vice President for Africa, Internet Society (ISOC)
- Fargani Tambeayuk, Lead for Access and Connectivity in Anglophone Africa, Facebook
- Ruth Berry, Acting Director for Bilateral Affairs, International Communications and Information Policy, U.S. Department of State and Thomas Koutsky, USAID, United States of America
- Maria Ribeiro, UN Resident Coordinator, Zimbabwe

**Discussion**

Strategic Partnerships | New Projects | Resource Mobilization |  
Broadband Infrastructure Mapping | PRIDA | Cybersecurity

**14:55 – 15:00 WRAP UP OF DAY 1**

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

**12:00 – 15:00 CAT (GMT+2)**

11:30 – 12:00 Video viewing and final testing of audio and video for interventions testing

**12:00 – 12:05 OPENING OF DAY 2**

- Patrick Mutimushi, Director General, Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority, Zambia

**12:05 – 13:30 VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE THREE: Implementation, collaboration and funding - - Projects, initiatives, and partnerships contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, WSIS Action Lines and regional priorities**

In focus ITU development thematic priorities: **Capacity development, Digital services and applications, Digital inclusion, Digital innovation ecosystems, Statistics and data for evidence-based decision making** together with the related regional initiatives (Regional Initiative 1 and Regional Initiative 3).

**Moderator and Fire-starter:** Elizabeth Migwalla, Senior Director and Head of Government Affairs, Middle East and Africa, Qualcomm

- Honorable Minister Ibrahima Guimba-Saidou, Minister, Special Advisor to the President and Director General, National Agency for the Information Society (ANSI), Niger
- Bakary Doumbia, UN Resident Coordinator for Senegal
- Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Digital development projects

**Discussion**

Strategic Partnerships | New Projects | Resource Mobilization | Smart Villages | Decent Jobs and Digital Skills | Digital Financial Inclusion | Digital Innovation and Ecosystem Building | Digital Empowerment and African Girls Can Code | Giga – School Connectivity | Connect2Recover



**13:30 – 14:00 Connected Youth in Africa**

**Moderator:** Caecilia Nyamutswa, Director, Legal, Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ), Zimbabwe and ITU-D Study Group 1 Question 5/1 Rapporteur

- Anaëlle Cathelineau, student from Ferney Voltaire, France
- Ruth Mulu, student from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Sylvia Poll, Head, Digital Society Division, BDT/ITU – ITU Youth Strategy with projects and approach for Africa and WTDC-21

**14:00 – 14:45 VIRTUAL REVIEW: Next steps for digital development, partnerships, collaboration and funding**

**Moderator:** Andrew Rugege, Director, Regional Office for Africa, ITU

**Building back better with digital in Africa – Roadmap development and journey ahead (digital development, partnerships and funding)**

- Perspective: Oyeronke M. Oyetunde, General Manager, Regulatory Affairs, MTN and Vice-Chair, ITU Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (IAGDI-CRO)
- Perspective: Ana Graça, UN Resident Coordinator for Cape Verde
- Perspective: Catherine Sozi, UN Resident Coordinator for Ethiopia

**Discussion**

**14:45 – 15:00 CLOSING OF MEETING**

- Closing remarks
  - Andrew Rugege, Director, Regional Office for Africa, ITU
  - Eng. Misheck Lungu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Government of Zambia

