

# **Generation Connect Global Youth Summit**

**Opening ceremony, 2 June 2022**

**Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth & Culture,  
Republic of Rwanda**

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Right Honorable Prime Minister of Rwanda

Honorable Ministers,

Generation Connect Visionaries Board Members,

UN Youth Envoy who is with us remotely,

Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development  
Bureau,

Dear young people representing 110 countries

Distinguished guests,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the first ever  
Generation Connect Global Youth Summit as well as  
welcoming you to Rwanda.

Having you all here today is a strong commitment to not only  
prepare a better digital future for our young people but also  
ensuring their active involvement throughout the journey.

The theme of this year's summit creates a huge responsibility for governments, international organizations and other partners but most importantly for you the young people; therefore, connecting the unconnected efforts need your strength, passion and innovative minds to fully advance this great vision and ensure none is left behind.

With all the discussions and engagements that we are going to have for these three days, I invite everyone of you to let your voice be heard, be part of the conversations and provide your insights, so that we come up with comprehensive resolutions that better inform adaptable policies and programmes as well as be reflected in the call to action that will be handed over to the leaders within WTDC, next week.

The call for action embodies the call to government, development partners, private sector by making internet connectivity accessible, available, affordable through creating enabling environment as well as providing the requisite infrastructure required for the young people to invent and innovate.

Young people your generation transitions us from analog to digital era, you are the first tech savvy generation, therefore leverage technology into knowledge acquisition, pick out what is necessary because there is a lot out there. Leverage technological advancement to create content, you are the big content consumers but less content producers/ developers, build resilient businesses using technology. Build networks that will turn into markets needed for your innovations, create innovations that responds and solves solutions of our communities.

Covid 19 pandemic has accelerated adaptability and uptake of technology. Companies that adapted and responded to solve challenges of the community thrived therefore while you think about any innovation think about people before profit. When people are satisfied with your product profits follow.

This is also a great platform for each one of you to network and grow your aspirations, talents and innovations beyond borders; don't leave here without at least 10 new connections, either partners, investors or friends.

Enjoy our hospitality, explore the country beyond the conference settings and please plan to Visit Rwanda once more.

I wish fruitful deliberations

Thank you!