



ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop: Building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria

Date: 23-24 August 2022

Place: Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

Website: <http://itu.int/go/2022-roundtable-nigeria>

Introduction

In 2021, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) partnered to promote effective regulation, greater investment, and innovative models for school connectivity in underserved communities and for broader digital inclusion in Digital Access Programme (DAP) countries, including Nigeria. ITU and FCDO share a vision for digital inclusion and a keen desire to implement a diversity of programmes in service of this vision. ITU focuses on providing technical assistance in its core areas of strength, including ICT policy and regulation, sustainable connectivity business models, and digital skills, working closely with FCDO's digital development experts and the UK Digital Access Programme (DAP) team to build on its digital inclusion outcomes and existing stakeholder engagement. It is in the context of this partnership that the ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop around the theme of *Building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria* is held.

Background

As of January 2020, 119,538,000 people, an estimated 42% of Nigeria's population, were offline. Low incomes pose a challenge for access to broadband while low literacy limits the potential to acquire digital skills that citizens require to participate in online government services and leverage opportunities in the digital economy. Limited and unequal access to electricity lowers the potential to provide Internet connectivity and related services to schools and communities in underserved areas.

Recognizing the need to adapt to change, in 2019, the Federal government renamed the ministry supervising the ICT industry as The Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMoCDE) to reflect broader socioeconomic goals and advances in digitalization. It developed the Nigerian National Broadband Plan (NNBP) 2020-2025 to serve as a tool for operationalizing the country's digital economy strategy prioritizing ICT infrastructure, policy, demand drivers and funding incentives. The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has the primary function of developing regulatory frameworks and standards for the telecommunication industry, and the design of universal digital access strategies as well as implementation of the Government's general policies on telecommunication industries and related digital development plans. Accordingly, NCC in coordination with FMoCDE are key actors in driving the NNBP goal of delivering minimum download speeds of 25 Mbps and 10 Mbps in urban and rural areas respectively. In this goal, Nigeria seeks to achieve broadband coverage of at least 90% of its population and lower the cost of 1GB of data to no more than N390 (less than USD1, around 1% of national minimum wage) by 2025. The country recognizes that efforts to provide internet-enabled services to improve digital literacy, grow its economy, create jobs and enhance public service delivery require pooling local and external resources through partnership building.

The ITU-FCDO DAP project aligns with Nigeria's digital transformation goals and efforts. To support the ongoing efforts of the Government, the first phase of the ITU-FCDO partnership in Nigeria (2021-2022) focuses on four key pillars:

1. Regulatory analysis, framework and tool development to support digital inclusion objectives in Nigeria
2. Promoting sustainable models to expand school connectivity in underserved communities
3. Promoting a more conducive environment for (private and public) investment in digital inclusion
4. Advancing digital skills for decent jobs, especially for young people

Accordingly, the ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop is organized by the ITU and NCC in the context of the ITU-FCDO partnership on the implementation of the United Kingdom's Digital Access Programme (DAP) activities.

Objectives

The ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Workshop themed "**Building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria**" serves as a platform to gather partners to explore, share and present on the work that has been undertaken to date across the different pillars. The event is organized to provide stakeholders an opportunity to reflect upon Nigeria's digital transformation, the impact that initiatives aimed at contributing towards the country's digital inclusion goals like the ITU-FCDO DAP partnership has in the country, and allow stakeholders to share their plans for future work to scale the impact in a joint effort.

The first day of the event will take the form of high-level panel sessions while the second day will be dedicated to technical workshop session that allow experts to go deeper into some of the topics with a view to developing guidance that may inform further interventions and project activities.

The event will cover the following sub-themes and topics:

1. Business models and enabling environment for meaningful and affordable digital connectivity;
2. Development of digital skills and complementary capabilities in Nigeria's digital economy;
3. Forward-looking approaches, policies and regulation to keep pace with the fast evolution of technologies and innovations that power digital transformation.

Expected outcomes

The roundtable and technical workshop aim to deepen the understanding of business models and regulatory frameworks for promoting digital inclusion in Nigerian context, with emphasis on expanding last mile connectivity and its accompanying infrastructure and services in unserved and under-served communities. Stakeholders will share and gain insights for leveraging broader trends in digital transformation with lessons learned for advancing digital skills and opportunities for young people. Insights from the panel discussions of the first day and the co-created ideas and suggestions of the second day of the roundtable will serve as input for the development of a policy brief on the building of capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria.

Participants

The event aims to bring together ITU and FCDO DAP partners in Nigeria, officials in charge of telecom/ICT such as those in the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Education, among others. The roundtable and technical workshop sessions also target stakeholders in the organized private sector and regulators with focus on mobile network operators, Internet service providers, telecommunication infrastructure companies, finance, digital skills training institutes alongside academia, NGOs and community

organizations, especially those who work in connectivity, digital inclusion and digital capacity related projects.

Practical information

Format of the event: The roundtable will be a face-to-face discussion at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. Limited remote participation will also be made available to accommodate participants who are unable to travel to Abuja from other parts of the country and in the region.

Languages: The working language of the event will be English.

Registration: All participants will need to bring their confirmation of online registration to the venue of the event. The online registration form is available on the [event website](#). All participants who wish to attend virtually will need to contact the organizing committee who will share more information about how to connect.

Arriving at the venue: All participants are expected to arrive at the venue before 8:45 am to ensure that the event can start on time.

Website: The event's website [here](#) is being updated with all information relevant to the event.

Contact:

The organizing committee can be contacted at: itu-ro-africa@itu.int