To:
− Ministries, Departments and Regulatory Agencies in Nigeria
− UK DAP Partners in Nigeria
− ITU Sector Members in Nigeria and Academia
− Invited Partners

Subject: **ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop: Building Capabilities for Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Transformation in Nigeria, 23-24 August 2022 at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop which will take place on 23 and 24 August 2022 at Transcorp Hilton in Abuja, Nigeria. The event, which is held under the theme "Building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria", is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) in the context of the ITU and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) partnership on the implementation of United Kingdom's Digital Access Programme (DAP) activities in Nigeria.

The ITU-FCDO DAP partnership seeks to address digital connectivity gaps and promote meaningful and sustainable digital connectivity to unconnected and underserved communities, development of skills to leverage opportunities in the digital economy and strengthening of regulatory frameworks for digital access and inclusion.

The collaboration between ITU and FCDO further supports the ITU and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Giga initiative that promotes digital connectivity access and use in schools and communities with the goal of connecting every person to information, opportunity and choice. In the strand of digital skills and opportunities, ITU is collaborating with International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote digital skills development and decent jobs for young people in Africa as part of a broader national and regional initiative, supported by the African Union.

The ITU-FCDO partnership has made progress in connectivity mapping to identify gaps in information and communication technology (ICT) access and use in schools, as well as business models and regulatory guidelines to promote the expansion of affordable last mile Internet services to populations in remote areas. The ITU-ILO initiative in Nigeria has further co-produced a nation-wide digital skills supply and demand assessment to inform the development of interventions for digital skills development and jobs, especially for young people. In line with the exploration of the current state of digital skills, evidence-based skills training and job-market initiatives are being developed and implemented with partners to realize socioeconomic opportunities in the digital economy. The initiatives are aligned with Nigeria's digital economy strategy and plan which prioritize expansion of high-speed Internet connectivity and opportunities to at least 90% of the population in the next 10 years.

The event comprises high-level panel sessions on the first day and technical deep dive co-creation sessions on the second day. It will assemble participants from Government, ICT regulator, private sector, academia, international development organizations, non-governmental organizations, local communities and under-represented groups to contribute to thematic discussions.

The topics and discussions will build on ongoing ITU-FCDO initiatives and activities as well as broader trends in the Nigerian ICT ecosystem. The discussions will be conducted around three subthemes: business models and enabling environment for digital connectivity, development of digital skills and complementary capabilities in Nigeria's digital economy, and policy/regulation to keep pace with technologies, solutions and innovation that power Nigeria's digital transformation. The expected outcome is co-created knowledge that will help to strengthen digital development policies and programmes, promote investment in digital inclusion, and inform decisions on realizing meaningful connectivity and opportunities in Nigeria's digital economy.

Considering that your presence at the event is important, we look forward to receiving your confirmation of participation before 19 August 2022. Please contact the organizing committee for further information about the event at itu-ro-africa@itu.int Practical information about the event, including how to register, is available on the event's website.

Looking forward to welcoming you to the event.

Sincerely,

 [*original signed*]

 Anne-Rachel Inné
 Regional Director for Africa and
 Liaison to ECA and AU

Annex: Event concept note and agenda

ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop:

Building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria

Date: 23-24 August 2022, 10:00-17:00 West Africa Time

Place: Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

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

The ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop around the theme of *Building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria* will take place on 23-24 August 2022 in Abuja. The event is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Nigerian Commissions Commission (NCC) in the context of the ITU-FCDO partnership on the implementation of the United Kingdom's Digital Access Programme (DAP) activities.

AGENDA	
Day 1 (Tuesday, 23 August 2022)	
08:00 – 10:00	*Arrival and badging at event venue*
10:00 – 10:10	**Welcome note**
10:10 – 10:35	**Opening remarks**
10:35 – 10:45	**Overview of the ITU-FCDO Digital Access Programme (DAP) Project in Nigeria**
10:45 – 11:00	**Keynote address on Nigeria's digital transformation journey (opportunities, challenges and milestones ahead)**
Tea break (11:00 – 11:30)	
11:30 – 13:00	**Panel session 1: Business models and enabling environment for meaningful and affordable digital connectivity**
	At the core of digital transformation are people, digital technologies and data. Their interactions power the economy and society and can be considered under the streams of access, adoption and value creation. Access is about creating the enabling governmental, economic and technological environment for everyone and everything to connect.
	This session considers the access dimension of connectivity and explores digital connectivity gaps, with the use cases of schools and the communities around them. Promoting access to all and enabling last mile connectivity through the expansion of affordable broadband services and complementary infrastructures such as sustainable energy solutions are key to reach unserved and under-served communities. The panelists will discuss innovative financing and operational approaches to lower the cost and increase the reach and use of internet services. The panelists will elaborate the role of policy and regulation in supporting solutions for meaningful connectivity, innovative business models for inclusive connectivity and ensuring no one is left behind.
Lunch break (13:00 – 14:00)	
14:00 – 15:00	**Panel session 2: Development of digital skills and complementary capabilities in Nigeria's digital economy**
	For inclusive digital transformation, having the necessary skills to participate meaningfully in the digital environment is needed. Adoption is about making sure everyone is

	empowered to use digital technologies.
	This session explores trends in the digital economy, digital entrepreneurship as a key driver for digitalization of the economy, and Nigeria's preparedness for the changing world of work. It will focus on identifying digital skill gaps and how the country can effectively develop capacity development, digital learning and educational programs to realize the gains of digital transformation. The panelists will discuss the how to enhance the capabilities of stakeholders at the national level while supporting local initiatives and how to foster partnerships to access and maintain the resources required for a sustainable approach.
15:00 – 16:00	**Panel session 3: Forward-looking approaches, polices and regulation to keep pace with the fast evolution of technologies and innovations that power digital transformation**
	A whole-of-government and society approach is needed to further digital transformation that is inclusive and sustainable. Adapted approaches to expand inclusive, affordable, and meaningful connectivity, its access and uptake can be facilitated by enhanced coordination and collaboration amongst the various stakeholders. Value creation in a digitalized society and economy can be accelerated when everyone is involved and capacitated to contribute and benefit.
	This session discussed the opportunities and challenges in the face of advances and cross-sectoral trends in in digital business models and enabling policy and regulation. The discussion will draw on examples from the telecommunication/ICT and finance industries, and the rising platform and gig economy domain to highlight where prospects exist but also the extant barriers to be addressed. The panelists will consider progress made, essential collaboration between and within sectors and enablers that would allow for an inclusive and strengthened ecosystem while bridging gaps and accelerating digital transformation.
16:00 –16:30	**Summary and reflections on panel discussions towards building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria**
16:30 – 17:00	**Wrap up, next steps and closing remarks**
Day 2 (Wednesday, 24 August 2022)	
08:00 – 09:00	*Arrival and badging at the venue*
09:00 – 09:15	**Introduction and overview of the technical workshop agenda**
09:15 – 09:30	**Overview of tools and outputs of ITU-FCDO Digital Access Programme (DAP) project in Nigeria**
09:30 – 11:00	**Deep-dive session 1: Co-creating sustainable solutions for digital connectivity in communities**
	The interactive session aimed towards co-creating solutions that will allow communities to reap the benefits of digital transformation is facilitated by a focused presentation on topic to set the state of play and introduce interesting case studies.
	The presentation and group discussion will consider the following issues and questions, among others:
	– What technologies and operational models are available and what are their advantages and drawbacks?
	– To what extent do the existing models integrate broader infrastructure and resource constraints in promoting affordable and sustainable connectivity?
	– How can exemplary use cases these be scaled to benefit more people (taking into account affordability, access, inclusion, and uptake)?
	The session will allow participants to gain a deeper understanding of the enablers and barriers to sustainable digital connectivity in Nigeria, and will have put forward some solutions for further consideration.
Tea break (11:00 – 11:30)	

11:30 – 13:00	**Deep-dive session 2: Beyond infrastructure: Lessons learned from selected cases of digitally-enabled service delivery** The interactive session aimed towards exploring lessons learned in the provision of digital services will highlight the importance of digital technologies and local content in service provision. Through a focus on selected use cases of digital service delivery at federal and state levels, the session will explore their work, impact, and constraints as well as lessons learned. The session will allow participants to develop an understanding of not only the technological component of ICT-enabled service delivery but also how platform content can drive uptake, as well as the roles the various actors play and the importance of coordination. Participants will put forward key considerations to improve digital service delivery.
Lunch break (13:00 –14:00)	
14:00 – 15:30	**Deep-dive session 3: Leveraging emerging channels of digital skills development and opportunities: Lessons from tech hubs and others** The interactive session aimed towards exploring innovative approaches to developing the necessary human capacity to realize the potential of digital transformation will share insights into Nigeria's digital skill needs and gaps, and showcase skill development and entrepreneurial opportunities from emerging channels. The use case of technology hubs will also be shared and their supporting activities discussed. Through a discussion around current conditions and directions for the future of work and entrepreneurial opportunities, the session will allow participants to share their observations and findings on what works and what does not work in the Nigerian context. Proposals will be explored for further consideration.
15:30 – 16:00	**Reporting back: Takeaways from the deep-dive sessions**
16:00 –16:30	**Coordinated participants' matching, exchanges and exploration of opportunities for future partnerships**
16:30 –17:00	**Wrap up, next steps and technical workshop closing**

ITU-FCDO Roundtable and Technical Workshop:

Building capabilities for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in Nigeria

Date: 23-24 August 2022

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, polices 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-severed 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