Annex 3
Contribution Form

ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific (RDF-ASP)

Digital transformation and innovation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Supporting the SDGs

organized by the International Telecommunication Union

13-15 September 2023

Bangkok, Thailand

Bangkok Time (GMT+7)

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-ASP P2C Roundtables and it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Coalition.

Once completed send to ITU-RO-AsiaPacific@itu.int

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT)

FOCAL POINT: Lefaoali'i Unutoa Auelua-Fonoti, Chief Executive Officer, +685-26117

TITLE: Samoa's Digital Transformation journey to drive progress and enhance the well-being of all Samoans.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

The Government of Samoa is in the process of approving its Digital Transformation Strategy 2023 – 2030. This ten year whole-of-society strategy will bring opportunities and benefits to all. As such, Digital connectivity and services will reach the most remote areas, and all Samoans will have the opportunity to access the right tools and necessary digital skills they need to participate in a digital globalized economy. A thriving innovative and entrepreneurial private sector will increase employment, business, and market opportunities, as well as attract private investment, increase the productivity and output of the private sector and raise Samoa's GDP. Digital technologies will be used to foster accessibility, transparency, confidentiality and accountability of government services, increase services efficiency and effectiveness, and invest in the development of a skilled public services workforce.

Under the Digital Transformation Strategy 2023 – 2030, 18 initiatives are identified to address specific challenges and support the achievement of the government's strategic goals for digital transformation. These are:
1. Establish a Digital Transformation and Innovation Unit (DTIU)
2. Create an enabling legislative environment
3. Whole-of-Government IT plan
4. Enhance National cybersecurity
5. National Connectivity Plan
6. National Digital Skills Development Plan

7. Establish District Community centers as Digital Community Centers
8. Digital strategic framework for Samoan Education Sector
9. Connect all schools and revise education curricula
10. Establish Public Service ICT training center
11. Develop Digital Government Roadmap
12. Private Sector Investment Strategy
13. Digital Agriculture and Fisheries Strategy
14. Digital Health Strategy
15. Digital Transportation Strategy
16. Digital Tourism Strategy
17. E-Commerce Strategy and Digital Financial Inclusion Policy, and
18. E-waste and circular economy policies

To achieve Samoa's success in digital transformation, digital literacy/digital skills as well as infrastructure investment is of key priority as this stage. Digital skills and digital literacy gap exists in Samoa, and it threatens future economic stability hence, the foundation for Samoa's digital transformation agenda lies with the ability of citizens and the workforce to participate in the digital uprising. In addition, limited infrastructure investment results in high prices and limited availability of internet could potentially impede Samoa's progress towards a fully digitalized economy.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: [Name countries to be impacted by this action]

Samoa

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

✓2023

✓2024

✓2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

✓ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states,

including Pacific Island countries, and landlocked developing countries

✓ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and

inclusive digital societies

✓ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the

unconnected

✓ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation

✓ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology

environment

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22,

https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/v2/2023/ITU-Asia-and-the-Pacific-Regional-Initiatives-(2023-2025).aspx

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

✓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-22, here.

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

✓Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services

✓International telecommunication numbering resources

✓Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services

✓Digital applications

✓Enabling environment

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, here

Once completed send to ITU-RO-AsiaPacific@itu.int