

DRAFT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (2020-2030)

VISION

An integrated and inclusive Digital Society and Economy in Africa that improves the quality of life of Africa's citizens.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To harness digital technologies and innovation to transform Africa's societies and economies to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, erase the digital divide and eradicate poverty to secure the benefits of digital revolution for socio-economic development.

PRINCIPLES

1 Solidarity and Cooperation

Solidarity between African Union Member States; Cooperation between the AUC, RECs, African Institutions and International organizations; and Linked to Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2 Comprehensive

Adopting an ecosystem approach that avoids a silo approach and is comprehensive in defining and applying the requisite elements and foundations for digital transformation;

3 Transformative

Fully leverage, harness and accelerate impact on society by accelerating Africa's socio-economic development through digital transformation;

4 Inclusive

Digital Transformation for everyone, everywhere, that is affordable and ubiquitous, creating equal access to opportunities and mitigating risks of exclusion;

5 Homegrown

Led and owned by Africa's Institutions, it will be embedded in Africa's realities and unleashing the African spirit of enterprise and creativity, to generate homegrown digital content and solutions, while embracing what is good and relevant;

6 New Mindset

Benefitting from the digital transformation requires a mindset change and new types of collaboration among stakeholders, and across sectors, with facilitation and retooling;

7 Safe

Society that is well informed about both the opportunities and risks arising from a digital economy and society, and that healthy disruption to markets and business models is ensured;

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Build a Digital Single Market in Africa by 2030
2. **By 2030 all our people should be digitally empowered and able to access safely and securely to at least (6 mb/s) all the time where ever they live in the continent at an affordable price of no more than (1cts usd per mb) through a smart device manufactured in the continent at the price of no more than (100 usd) to benefit from all basic e-services and content of which at least 30% is developed and hosted in Africa;**
3. Establish and improve digital networks and services with a view to strengthening intra-Africa trade and the socio-economic integration of the continent, while maintaining a relational balance with other continents in the context of networked economies (Digital economy, collaborative economy)
4. Generate the environment necessary to secure investment and financing to close the digital infrastructure gap and achieve an accessible, affordable and secure broadband, across gender, and geography;
5. Implement policies and regulations required to stimulate and accelerate digital transformation for national, regional and continental development;
6. Enable the coherence of existing and future digital policies and strategies at regional and national levels and mobilize effective cooperation between institutions;
7. Entry into force of the African Union convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection by 2020 and for all Members States to adopt a complete set of legislation covering e-Transactions, Data Protection and Privacy, Cybercrime and Consumer Protection;
8. Promote open standards and interoperability for cross-border trust framework, personal data protection and privacy;
9. Adopt and use the African Peer Review Mechanism as part of a continental wide Digital Governance;
10. Build inclusive digital skills and human capacity across the digital sciences and education, both technical and vocational, to lead and power digital transformation including coding, programming, analysis, security, block chain, machine learning, artificial intelligence, robotics, engineering, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology policy & regulation;
11. Deliver a Massive Online Digital Skills for All program that provides basic online knowledge and security and privacy skills for 100 million African a year by 2021 and 300 million a year by 2025;
12. Foster the policies that create an enabling environment for productive digital trade and digital payment systems to advance opportunities for digital work, fair competition for digital businesses, and contribute to an advantageous position of Africa in the global digital economy;
13. Create a vibrant and inclusive “digital culture” that stimulate, ideas, innovation, cooperation, and partnerships, in various forms and configurations between public sector, business & the private sector and civil society to drive the socio-economic benefits of digital nationally and regionally.
14. Support the Agenda 2063 flagship Pan-African “E” programme through providing policies and strategies that lead to transformative e-applications and services thereby making the digital revolution the basis for service delivery and ultimately transform Africa into a Digital Society.
15. Build a vibrant sector approach to digitalization of the agriculture, health and education sectors
16. Promote the use of Country Codes Top Level Domains as they are critical national resources whilst ensuring that technical and administrative operations are at international standards to foster trust and use of African Domain Names in order to bring financial, economic and sociocultural benefits to Africa
17. 99.9% of people in Africa to have a digital legal identity as part of a civil registration process by 2030
18. Design and implement innovative financing models to digitally transform Africa with an incremental investment of \$20 billion from 2020 – 2025, growing to \$50 billion a year from 2026 – 2030.

4 FOUNDATION PILLARS (1/2)

A. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT, POLICY & REGULATION

Policy Recommendations

- Support the development and implementation of national, regional and continental digital transformation strategies to create demand and enable scaling up of digital initiatives
- Establishment of harmonized policy, legal and regulatory frameworks
- Integrate the provision of eServices, developed by both the public and private sector, with adequate legal acts and regulation at all levels, ensuring that data needed to provide eServices for the community is openly available while fully respecting data protection rights.
- Strengthen collaboration with African Institutions and regulators in charge of digitalization

B. DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy Recommendations

- Promote national, regional and intra-continental interconnectivity
- Promote infrastructure sharing
- Boost investment in telecom infrastructure at national, regional level to an interconnected continent, and develop financial instruments through partnerships between investors, government, financial institutions and international partners
- Promote a favourable regulatory environment for competitive and harmonised regional and continental connectivity markets
- Promote measures that increase affordability of broadband and technology devices & services
- Commit to undertake or strengthen ICT and postal policies reforms.
- Facilitate postal services access to funding for investment and infrastructure development and capacity building
- Facilitate the coordination efforts to migrate to digital terrestrial broadcasting and harmonized use of the digital dividend at regional and continental level

4 FOUNDATION PILLARS (2/2)

C. DIGITAL SKILLS & HUMAN CAPACITY

Policy Recommendations

- Review education curricula in accordance with the evolving needs and trends in the digital economy and society.
- Develop partnerships through a multi-stakeholder African Alliance for Digital Skills and Jobs
- Mainstream digital skills and responsible online behaviour among all citizens to enable them to be active and successful participants in the digital society and raise awareness of risks in terms of digital rights, online safety and security
- Facilitate digital skills development across all sectors of the economy that use technology with a specific focus on governments, administrations, service providers and civil society

D. DIGITAL INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Policy Recommendations

- Improve the policies for digital innovation and entrepreneurship
- Create a conducive environment to empower people to innovate and facilitate access to finance and funding mechanisms for digital enterprises
- Create an enabling ecosystem that addresses all interrelated barriers and needs and improve advisory services to stimulate digital entrepreneurship for digital enterprises
- Establish and strengthen partnerships among African actors, to harmonise efforts related to digital entrepreneurship at the continental, regional and national level

6 CRITICAL SECTORS

A. DIGITAL INDUSTRY

Policy Recommendations

- Support the development and growth of the ICT industry to facilitate the production, distribution and provision of ICT products, goods and services
- Promote and attract investment to spur the digital industry in Africa
- Create conducive environment to promote growth of the digital industry

B. DIGITAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Policy Recommendations

- Promote intra-African integration in digital trade to achieve wider participation by enterprises in national, regional and international e-commerce (especially cross-border)
- Create a conducive environment for the development and uptake of digital financial services

C. DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Policy Recommendations

- Develop Policies, Strategies, Standards and Guidelines to facilitate the deployment of Digital Governance services
- Deploy the essential enabling building blocks of eGovernance services
- Promote Private Public Partnerships in developing digital services

D. DIGITAL EDUCATION

Policy Recommendations

- Promote the use of ICTs for both formal and informal Education
- Improve both formal and informal Education in ICTs
- Raise Public Awareness of ICTs
- Help Educational Institutions Improve their Business Processes

E. DIGITAL HEALTH

Policy Recommendations

- Support the development of the necessary prerequisite elements to realize the full potential of digital health that responds to national health priorities and drives progress toward universal health coverage
- Put in place regulations and policies needed to protect patient safety and privacy to foster trust in digital health solutions and facilitate their adoption while allowing innovation to continue to unfold
- Ensure interoperability to allow the integration and leveraging of different digital health solutions and data sources among government programs, hospitals, community health workers and patients

F. DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

Policy Recommendations

- Create conducive environment to foster the development of digital agriculture
- Provide farmers with reliable marketing information that helps them reach their markets more effectively, at lower cost and with wider opportunities
- Promote the deployment of digital solutions in Agriculture

5 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

A. DIGITAL CONTENT AND APPLICATIONS

Policy Recommendations

- Establish a conducive policy and legal framework
- Support multistakeholder, partnerships and marketing activities

B. DIGITAL ID

Policy Recommendations

- Ensure inclusion, security, privacy and data ownership in digital identity systems
- Support interoperability and neutrality of digital identity systems

C. EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Policy Recommendations

- Establish a conducive policy and legal framework
- Support multistakeholder, partnerships and marketing activities

D. CYBERSECURITY, PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

Policy Recommendations

- Support interventions to strengthen cybersecurity at national level
- Support interventions to strengthen cybersecurity at regional and continental level

E. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Policy Recommendations

- Build and strengthen cooperation between stakeholders (including governments, private sector and citizens) on research and development
- Improving resource development capacity for research and development