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Session Titled

WSIS+20 Outcome Document: Fostering Digital Transformation in Africa

Co-organized By

AfICTA-NITDA

Africa ICT Alliance and National IT Development Agency, Nigeria

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<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/OfficialSubmissions/Submission/246e1106ec3545f5a017630797b60b77>

Key Issues discussed:

- The need to move from policy commitments and declarations to practical implementation of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document through coordinated national, regional, and continental action.
- Development and operationalization of the Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap as a mechanism for aligning WSIS+20 outcomes, the Global Digital Compact, Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Persistent challenges to digital transformation in Africa, including inadequate infrastructure, connectivity gaps, limited financing, weak policy harmonization, digital sovereignty concerns, and institutional coordination challenges.
- The importance of measuring implementation through harmonized indicators, reporting templates, implementation dashboards, and accountability mechanisms to track progress and inform decision-making.
- Digital skills development, including ICT, digital literacy, AI literacy, STEM education, workforce reskilling, and capacity-development initiatives to prepare Africans for the digital economy.
- Digital inclusion and bridging the digital divides, particularly for women, girls, youth, rural communities, and other underserved populations through improved access to technology, digital identity, connectivity, and digital opportunities.
- Strengthening Africa's AI ecosystem through investments in computing infrastructure, data centres, local innovation, AI governance frameworks, and the development of solutions that support African languages and contexts.
- The critical role of multi-stakeholder collaboration among governments, private sector actors, academia, technical communities, civil society organizations, and development partners in implementing digital transformation initiatives and achieving sustainable development outcomes.

Key Outcomes of the session

- Launch and presentation of the Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap by UNECA, providing a structured framework for translating the WSIS+20 Outcome Document, the Global Digital Compact, Agenda 2063, and the SDGs into coordinated implementation actions across Africa.
- Agreement on the importance of harmonized measurement and accountability mechanisms, including the proposed fifteen priority indicators and unified reporting framework to enable consistent tracking of digital transformation progress across African countries.
- Reaffirmation of Nigeria's leadership role in WSIS+20 implementation and African digital cooperation, with NITDA highlighting ongoing initiatives such as the African Digital Acceleration Cooperation framework, digital identity reforms, and the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) Programme.
- Recognition of digital skills, AI readiness, and inclusive digital access as critical enablers of Africa's digital transformation, with particular emphasis on women, youth, rural communities, and other underserved groups.
- Strengthened commitment to multistakeholder collaboration, with governments, private sector actors, academia, civil society, technical communities, and development partners encouraged to align programmes, investments, and implementation efforts around common priorities and measurable outcomes.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions

- Accelerate the domestication and implementation of the Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap by aligning national digital strategies, policies, and investments with the WSIS+20 Outcome Document, the Global Digital Compact, Agenda 2063, and the SDGs.
- Adopt harmonized monitoring and reporting frameworks, including the proposed priority indicators and implementation measurement tools, to track progress, strengthen accountability, and support evidence-based decision-making across African countries.
- Increase investments in digital infrastructure, connectivity, computing capacity, and digital public infrastructure, particularly in underserved communities, to support digital inclusion, innovation, AI readiness, and sustainable economic growth.
- Expand digital skills, ICT, and AI literacy programmes, with targeted interventions for women, girls, youth, and rural populations to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive participation in the digital economy.
- Promote African language inclusion and local content development in digital technologies and AI systems to ensure that digital transformation benefits diverse communities, strengthens digital sovereignty, and enhances accessibility for underserved populations.
- Strengthen academia-industry-government collaboration frameworks to support research, innovation, technology transfer, and practical skills development, ensuring that educational institutions produce graduates equipped to meet the evolving demands of the digital economy and emerging technologies.
- Strengthen multistakeholder partnerships and resource mobilization efforts among governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, technical communities, and development partners to coordinate implementation, share best practices, and scale successful digital transformation initiatives across Africa.