

AFRICAN TELECOMUNICATIONS UNION L'UNION AFRICAINE DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS

General Secretariat / Secrétariat Général : Nairobi

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Circular to Member States and Associate Members

Dear Sir/Madam,

Invitation to the Launch of the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2021

The Africa Telecommunication Union (ATU) wishes to invite you to participate in the launch of the 2021 ATU Africa Innovation Challenge on 25th May from 14:00 PM – 15:30 PM (EAT). The event will be guided by the theme; **"Youth Ecosystem - Best ICT Practices for Africa"**.

After a successful conclusion of the inaugural ATU Africa Innovation Challenge that recognized and awarded 11 finalists across Africa who had developed Mobile application (s) useful for benefiting the fight against COVID-19' and its effects; ATU and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have partnered for the Second edition of the Annual ATU Africa Innovation Challenge.

This year's Challenge will run under the banner, "Youth Ecosystem - Best ICT Practices in Africa", and will be focused on promoting youth empowerment across Africa through ICT tools. This is based on the premise that the full potential of young Africans remains unrealized due to factors such as unemployment, lack of exposure and gender stereotypes. Additionally, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on communities, and the youth are among the most vulnerable with challenges such as socioeconomic and workforce inclusion. Many innovators, including young innovators, are looking to tackle these issues, but often the problem owners, solution owners and resource owners do not come together to scale up and share their success stories or good practices.

As a result of the general minimization of movements across the continent brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch event will be held online.

Participants are kindly requested to register via a simple registration <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcuytqDIrHNNHrVp4bUZJgedHKd7NB_8I</u>. After registering, they will receive a confirmation email containing the login link to join the meeting.

It will be a privilege to have you on board as we launch the second edition of the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge, an initiative that will go a long way to contribute to Africa's future through the promotion of youth enablement across the region.

We look forward to your participation.

Yours Faithfully,

John OMO Secretary General

