



Secretary General's Opening remarks for the 1st Webinar on ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2020 – 9th September 2020

Representatives from Member States,

Representative of our Title Sponsor - Huawei, Mr. Adam LANE

Partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to welcome you to the 1st Capacity Building Webinar of the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2020.

Thank you for joining us today and for your interest in the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2020.

I recognize the presence of our Members whose unwavering support is sincerely appreciated.

I also acknowledge the presence of our partners, Huawei Technologies Company Limited, Intel Corporation and GSM Association whose support and commitment to this initiative is immeasurable.

To our title sponsors, Huawei Technologies Company Limited who have made this capacity building session a reality, we owe you immense gratitude.

The theme for this webinar, as we may all be aware, is: ***“TECH4ALL: ICT Trends and Business Models for Successful Innovation”***. It is our conviction that by the end of this conversation that we are building here today, the motive of the theme shall be achieved and embedded in our productivity as innovators going forward.

When we conceptualized the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2020, it was and still is our vision to recognize, support and empower young ICT innovators in Africa especially those that have dedicated their time and resources to develop solutions that can help the continent combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. It is in this regard that we as ATU and our partners have committed to sharing knowledge, experience and expertise with young ICT innovators in Africa in order to build the potential and capacity to develop quality innovations. We are persuaded that this is the proper direction forward.

Just like the rest of the world, African countries are struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, apart from the shared challenges, Africa faces its own unique challenges. It is therefore imperative that as a continent, we need to position ourselves to fully adapt and

harness the power of newer technologies that have the capacity to aid us in adapting and confronting the rapidly evolving ICT industry with regard to mitigating COVID-19.

The future of the ICT industry is bright and filled with endless opportunities. Today, it is our hope to provide a better understanding of how these opportunities can be accessed through this session with our partner Huawei.

The youth are the future of Africa and we do not only depend on you to propel ICT development in the continent, but we also desire to systematically support you.

It is therefore our encouragement to you, to be part of this conversation, both by actively listening and actively engaging.

Welcome and once again I thank you for your participation.