



# Generation Connect GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT 2022

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## Innov4Youth-Missing Links Initiative

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## **Stand by the Youth-Accelerate their Resilience and Empowerment!**

Talented youths, eager to contribute to socio-economic development through innovation face the following challenges:

- Inadequate readiness of the education system to foster a tech-driven entrepreneurial culture
- Lack of support services and resources for innovation to thrive
- Limited opportunity for project pilot and testing
- Limited access to global markets to promote scaling up of innovation
- Lack of responsive policies, strategies and synergies that support innovation

ATU and ITU invite stakeholders in the ICT industry to join them in changing this narrative. Coordinated flagship initiatives are needed to create concrete projects that boost innovation. Pledge today to help ATU and ITU implement project in any of the following key areas:

- Build entrepreneurial universities
- Build an inclusive support service provider network
- Develop agile procurement for Startups/SMEs
- Enable global market access for innovation scale-up
- Strengthening ecosystem policies, strategies and governance to promote innovation

Share your commitment/pledge with the secretariat at [innovation@itu.int](mailto:innovation@itu.int) or [sg@atuuat.africa](mailto:sg@atuuat.africa)

## Overview

African youths are entering the workforce and dream of being the "captains" of current and future industries. However, they face several obstacles that inhibit their innovation journey as they take their ideas to the market. Sadly, this problem is not unique to the African continent.

To accelerate youth resilience and empower them to seize opportunities, take risks, and find resources to fulfill their dreams, we need to fill the Missing Links by providing solutions to these challenges. In partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other stakeholders, the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) will host the Innov4Youth-Missing Links session.

This session will relate real stories of challenges and opportunities for youths. It will focus on the following areas of inclusion that need to be unlocked for the young African talents: updating technical universities to entrepreneurial universities, building inclusive support provider service networks, developing agile procurement for startups and SMEs, enabling global market access for innovation scale-up, and strengthening ecosystem policies, strategies, and governance. Actors from governments, the private sector, development partners, and civil society will discuss concrete commitments to address these challenges.

ATU and ITU aim to launch and establish Innov4Youth to be a long-term interventional initiative. These mechanisms will provide a guiding principle for focused pledges that will unlock opportunities for young African innovators using the Partner2 Connect Digital Coalition framework.

**The following questions will be addressed in the session:**

- What are the key challenges and opportunities for young African innovators?
- How will addressing these challenges increase the resilience of Africa's young talent and empower them for growth and socio-economic development?
- As a way forward, what initiatives, commitments, and interventions are the public and private sectors making to help African youths?

**Moderator: Mr John Omo,**  
Secretary- General,  
African Telecommunication Union

