

# Eng. Kezias Kazuba MWALE

Candidate for the ATU Secretary General elections 2026

*Endorsed by the SADC ICT Ministers*



*currently*

ATU Director for Spectrum since 2012

## MY COMMITMENT & VISION

*“Advancing ATU Transformation – Deepening its Contribution to the Digital Transformation Agenda”*

## MY CANDIDATURE ANCHORS

Track Record, Competency, Credibility, Innovation, People

## VISION STATEMENT

### *“Advancing ATU Transformation – Deepening its Contribution to the Digital Transformation Agenda”*

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) is a key continental institution: it is both the African Union’s specialised institution in the field of ICTs & digital technologies, and the International Telecommunication Union’s regional telecommunications organization for Africa.

The institution has undergone remarkable transformation in the recent past transitioning from questionable relevance/visibility to delivering real value worth billions of US dollars. The institution is now highly relevant/visible and quite crucial given the strategic nature of the ICT/digital sector.

The statistics on ATU's transformation are clear, including transitioning from questionable impact to delivering real, measurable value worth millions of USD to Member States via 5G spectrum and recovery of high-value satellite resources, as well as, 13 countries joining the institution as Member States and tripling the annual operating budget since 2012.

By closely supporting the immediate past SG (Mr. Soumaila) and the current SG (Mr. Omo) over the past 14 years in my capacity as Director for Spectrum, I have actively contributed to ATU's transformation journey.

While this transformation is commendable, more needs to be done. ATU must continue on its transformation path to address the outstanding challenges while fully exploiting high impact opportunities. Challenges include acute understaffing at the Secretariat which is critical in positioning ATU to ably fulfil its vast and ever-expanding mandate. At the same time, significant opportunities exist including pursuit of an African NGSO (LEO) satellite network and deepening rural digital inclusion by eliminating the mobile broadband coverage gap, amongst other high-impact opportunities.

I strongly believe, that the institution ought to remain on its transformation path. This conviction is anchored on my 14-years of impactful service at ATU itself, a combined 23-years of impacting the digital sector, and more importantly profound situational awareness of where we are and where we ought to be.

Therefore, under my leadership, the institution will focus on the next transformation phase by: (1) *protecting* the transformational gains registered thus far, (2) *progressing* the current initiatives, and (3) *pursuing* new ones in vigorous and innovative manner, with the ultimate objective of deepening its contribution to the digital transformation agenda. It is utterly imperative that ATU does more in accompanying Member States and Sub Regions in developing their digital sectors as the bedrock for building sustainable and more inclusive economies and societies. And hence my candidature theme: *“Advancing ATU Transformation – Deepening its Contribution to the Digital Transformation Agenda”*.

Africa's internet usage currently stands at 43% of the population, way below the global average of 68%. This gap underscores the urgency of accelerating Africa’s Digital transformation. Clearly, our continent cannot continue to be the least connected yet with so much potential including the highest youth population globally.

With a remarkable Membership of 52 Member States and 54 private sector entities as at end of 2025, the ATU has the potential to do more. My vision is deeply rooted in identifying and meeting the expectations of Member States and key stakeholders - including the AU, ITU, Sub-Regional organizations, Associate Members, Partners, Experts, and Staff. At the heart of this vision is a commitment to driving Africa’s digital transformation agenda with strategic leadership, vigor and innovation.

A vision without the capacity to deliver is merely a dream. My vision is supported by solid track record, strong credentials, extensive hands-on experience, a diverse technical skill set and the support of key stakeholders across and beyond Africa. I, therefore, remain confident to steering ATU towards a more dynamic and impactful future.

The key to unlocking advanced ATU transformation and render the institution more impactful lies in your support of my candidature. Thank you.

## MY 10-POINT AGENDA: THE PRIORITIES

### 1. ENHANCE VALUE DELIVERY TO MEMBER STATES

Expand tangible benefits by implementing flagship projects that deliver measurable significant economic impact by fostering optimal use of digital resources, leveraging the transformative power of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and providing robust technical assistance. Thus far, we have delivered tangible monetary value in millions of USD to Member States in form of 5G spectrum. This priority area will seek to enhance such tangible benefits.

### 2. ENHANCE LEVERAGE OF THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION

Focus on high-value, high-impact programmes that require collective continental action i. e. programmes that are beyond the full control of any single Member State and/or Sub-Region. Thus far, we have used this power to achieve significant achievements notably the recovery of high-value satellite resources. This priority area will seek to enhance such leverage, notably in the quest for an African NGSO (LEO) satellite system.

### 3. STRONGER SUPPORT TO AU, AfCFTA, RECs, ITU, AfriNIC, and MORE

Enhance collaboration with AU, AfCFTA, RECs, AfriNIC, ITU and Sub-Regional organizations to support their digital transformation initiatives, with the ultimate aim of maximizing benefits to Member States. Thus far, we have supported the SADC sub-region in their quest for a SADC Regional Satellite System. This priority area will seek to render even stronger support to similar high-impact initiatives.

### 4. ENHANCE AFRICA'S EQUAL PLAYING ROLE IN GLOBAL DIGITAL MATTERS

Enhance Africa's effective, preparation coordination and meaningful participation in matters of the ITU and other key forums, notably internet governance forums, to ensure our continent remains an equal player in global decision-making. Thus far, we have positioned Africa as an equal player in global digital matters resulting in significant achievements for Africa including securing the highest amount of spectrum for broadband connectivity amongst the six regions of the world. This priority will seek to enhance this critical aspect for even greater gains.

### 5. DEEPEN DIGITAL INCLUSION & MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY

Contribute considerably towards deepening internet rate usage to more than 50% of Africa's population by 2030, and more so improve meaningful connectivity rate. The current rate of 43% is unfortunately much lower compared to the global average of 68%. Special effort will be given to promoting the financing of digital infrastructure. Thus far, we have contributed to deepening digital inclusion and meaningful connectivity, by among other initiatives, promoting 5G implementation. This priority will seek to deepen our contribution to the fundamental issue of digital inclusion and meaningful connectivity such as optimal use of universal service funds.

### 6. GREATER PROMOTION OF DIGITAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Vigorous promotion of digital innovation and entrepreneurship as a key driver to addressing Africa's unique challenges by exploiting its equally unique opportunities such as the youth innovation & dividend. Thus far, we are actively promoting digital innovation and entrepreneurship via our Annual ATU Innovation Challenge. This priority will seek to enhance digital innovation by innovative financing initiatives for digital startups.

### 7. PROMOTE DIGITAL TRUST, INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Stronger promotion of programmes that foster digital trust including enhancing cybersecurity, privacy, network resilience and combating cybercrime, as well as, stronger support to programmes on digital investment and infrastructure development. Thus far, we have actively promoted digital trust by promoting internet resilience. We will double these efforts. In the area of investment and infrastructure development, this priority area will seek to promote the establishment of an African NGSO (LEO) satellite network.

### 8. STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND PARTNERS

Foster win-win collaborations with the ATU Associate Members and other partners to drive mutually beneficial projects such as digital inclusion initiatives. Thus far, we have a number of active partnerships including IPv6 Migration with ICANN under grant funding. This priority will seek to forge even stronger partnerships such as with GSMA with respect to our collective pursuit for eliminating mobile broadband coverage in Africa by 2030.

### 9. ENHANCE SPECIALIZED NEEDS-BASED HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Enhance the development of Africa's expert cadre through specialized need-based training programmes to empower the continent to lead complex ICT projects, and actively engage experts in strategic roles to drive impactful initiatives. Thus far, our specialized and needs-based capacity building have directly empowered Member States in the IPv6 Migration agenda. This priority will seek to enhance such need-based specialized capacity building, notably capacity for AI high-impact initiatives.

### 10. ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY CAPACITY

Enhance delivery capacity of the ATU Secretariat by innovatively enhancing staff levels, and pervasive use of digital platforms/tools in engaging Membership and stakeholders. Over the past decade, the number of technical staff has been enhanced. However, more needs to be done. This priority will seek to enhance institutional capacity by, among other initiatives, innovatively enhancing levels of technical staff and pervasive use of digital platforms/tools.

TOGETHER, LET US PROGRESS AFRICA. I WELCOME YOUR IDEAS



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