



VISION STATEMENT

PREAMBLE

Africa stands at the threshold of a decisive digital transformation. Information and Communication Technologies have evolved beyond a mere economic sector to become the very foundation of our continental development, regional integration, and global competitiveness. The decisions we make today regarding our digital future will determine the prosperity and sovereignty of generations to come.

The African Telecommunications Union, as the specialized institution of the African Union for telecommunications and information and communication technologies, carries an immense responsibility and possesses extraordinary potential to shape this future. However, realizing this potential requires bold leadership, strategic vision, and an unwavering commitment to execution.

VISION

My vision as Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Union is to transform our organization into an agile, proactive, and results-oriented institution that drives inclusive, sovereign, and innovative digital transformation in service of African citizens and economies. Africa does not suffer from a shortage of ideas for the ICT sector. Our challenge lies in execution and trust. My mandate is dedicated to resolving both of these aspects.

This vision positions the African Telecommunications Union as a central actor in implementing the objectives of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The organization will evolve from its traditional coordination and advocacy role to become an orchestrator of continental digital initiatives, a trusted financial intermediary, and a hub for large-scale ICT project engineering

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of my mandate, I am committed to advancing Africa along three fundamental transformations.

First, our continent must transition from being a consumer of technologies to becoming a sovereign producer of digital solutions and artificial intelligence applications. This requires deliberate investments in local innovation ecosystems, research and development capabilities, and support for African technology enterprises.

Second, we must move from a fragmented digital landscape to an integrated pan-African digital market. The promise of the African Continental Free Trade Area cannot be fully realized without harmonized digital infrastructure and a regulatory environment that enables seamless cross-border data flows, digital services, and unhindered electronic commerce.

Third, we must convert our current deficits in connectivity and digital skills into an inclusive digital ecosystem powered by African youth. With the youngest population in the world, Africa possesses an extraordinary demographic advantage that must be harnessed through comprehensive digital literacy programs and skills development initiatives.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

The achievement of these objectives rests upon five interconnected strategic pillars that will guide the priorities and activities of the African Telecommunications Union throughout my mandate.

Pillar One: Foundational Digital Infrastructure

Robust, accessible, and sovereign digital infrastructure constitutes the bedrock upon which all other digital aspirations must be built.

Under my leadership, the African Telecommunications Union will champion the expansion of terrestrial and submarine fiber optic networks to connect landlocked regions and reduce dependence on international transit routes. We will advocate for the modernization of mobile networks, supporting the deployment of fourth-generation infrastructure in underserved areas while preparing the regulatory and technical framework for fifth-generation technologies. Critically, we will promote the development of local data storage facilities across the continent to ensure data sovereignty, reduce latency, and keep African data on African soil.

Pillar Two: Energy Security and Cybersecurity

Digital infrastructure without reliable power supply is unrealized infrastructure.

The African Telecommunications Union will actively promote the coupling of digital development with energy access, recognizing that electricity has become the primary constraint for data center operations and network expansion. We will advocate for renewable energy solutions capable of providing sustainable power for digital infrastructure while contributing to continental climate commitments.

Simultaneously, we must secure our digital public infrastructure against increasingly sophisticated threats. This requires establishing critical foundational elements, including robust digital identity systems, secure payment platforms, and protected data exchange mechanisms. The African Telecommunications Union will work tirelessly to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Malabo Convention across all member states, thereby establishing a continental framework for cybersecurity and personal data protection.

Pillar Three: Regional Integration and Regulatory Harmonization

The vision of a single African digital market demands concerted action on regulatory harmonization.

The African Telecommunications Union will lead efforts to harmonize national legal frameworks governing spectrum allocation, licensing regimes, and regulatory fees. Such harmonization is essential to create a unified, secure, and investment-attractive digital market.

We will support the development of cross-border terrestrial networks that facilitate intra-African data exchanges, directly contributing to the economic integration objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The organization will serve as the primary platform for developing common African positions in international forums, ensuring that our continent speaks with one strong and unified voice in institutions such as the International Telecommunication Union, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and the Internet Governance Forum.

Pillar Four: Financing and Capacity Development

The transformation we seek requires unprecedented levels of investment and a fundamental shift in how digital development is financed on our continent.

The African Telecommunications Union must evolve beyond its traditional role to become an active facilitator of investment flows. This means transitioning from dependence on grants and aid toward structured investment approaches that attract sovereign wealth funds, development finance institutions, and global institutional investors.

I propose the establishment of a dedicated project preparation unit within the African Telecommunications Union, capable of transforming political priorities into bankable projects that meet the due diligence requirements of major investors.

We will promote innovative financing mechanisms, including inclusive bonds, guarantee facilities for small and medium enterprises, and crowdfunding platforms that democratize investment in digital infrastructure.

Equally important is the development of African human capital. The African Telecommunications Union will champion comprehensive digital skills programs aimed at training African youth to build, maintain, and innovate upon our digital infrastructure. We must create attractive opportunities that retain talented Africans on the continent, reversing the brain drain that has historically weakened our technical capacity. The establishment of an African Artificial Intelligence Fund will support high-impact projects that develop local expertise while addressing pressing social and economic challenges.

Pillar Five: Organizational Effectiveness

The African Telecommunications Union must itself embody the agility and effectiveness we seek to promote across the continent. Internal transformation is not optional; it is essential to our credibility and impact.

I am committed to streamlining decision-making processes through appropriate delegation of authority and the establishment of rapid response teams capable of addressing urgent regional challenges.

We will leverage digital tools and artificial intelligence to monitor telecommunications trends in real time and enhance stakeholder communication. Robust feedback mechanisms with member states and private sector partners will ensure that the organization remains responsive to evolving needs. Regular consultative forums will enable proactive engagement with emerging challenges.

The professional development of our staff will receive particular attention. Training in cross-functional competencies will enhance versatility, while project-based team structures will improve operational flexibility. Enhanced knowledge management systems will ensure that best practices are systematically captured and disseminated across regions.

VALUE PROPOSITION

The African Telecommunications Union under my leadership will deliver distinct value to each category of stakeholders.

For member state governments and ministries, we offer concrete support for digital sovereignty through local data storage frameworks and sovereign regulatory models. We strengthen national security through enhanced cybersecurity capabilities and Malabo Convention implementation. We facilitate economic development through investment attraction and job creation in the digital sector. We enable seamless regional integration through harmonized frameworks aligned with continental trade objectives.

For telecommunications operators and the private sector, we ensure regulatory predictability through harmonized and stable legal frameworks. We unlock market access to a unified consumer base of over one billion Africans. We reduce operational costs through infrastructure sharing arrangements and economies of scale. We facilitate access to financing through innovative mechanisms tailored to the African context.

For development partners and international institutions, we guarantee measurable impact through clear performance indicators and regular reporting. We ensure transparency through strengthened governance and fund traceability. We promote sustainability through the transition from grant dependence to structured investment. We simplify coordination by serving as a unified focal point for digital development initiatives.

For African youth and civil society, we create employment opportunities through comprehensive skills training programs. We advance digital inclusion through extended connectivity to underserved areas. We enable meaningful participation through regular consultative forums. We support local innovation through dedicated financing for African startups and technology enterprises.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

My mandate will be characterized by disciplined execution organized in three distinct phases.

The first year will focus on establishing solid foundations. This includes conducting a comprehensive audit of organizational capabilities and processes, launching pilot harmonization initiatives with willing member states, establishing the project preparation unit, operationalizing the African Artificial Intelligence Fund, and implementing rapid response mechanisms for regional challenges.

The second year will accelerate implementation across all strategic pillars. Pilot initiatives will be expanded based on lessons learned. Regulatory harmonization will extend to additional countries. Large-scale training programs will be deployed. Regional security operations centers will become fully operational.

The third and fourth years will consolidate gains and institutionalize successful approaches. Harmonized frameworks will be generalized across the majority of member states. Proven initiatives will be scaled continentally. Innovative financing mechanisms will be fully institutionalized. African leadership in global digital governance will be firmly established. Throughout this period, progress will be tracked against specific and measurable indicators. Quarterly performance reports will be published and made accessible to all stakeholders. Transparency and accountability will be the hallmarks of my administration.

POSITIONNEMENT ORGANISATIONNEL

By the conclusion of my mandate, the African Telecommunications Union will be recognized across the continent and globally in five distinct capacities.

First, as the catalyst for extended integrated connectivity and critical digital infrastructure that reaches every African community.

Second, as the champion of digital sovereignty and cybersecurity, ensuring that Africa controls its digital destiny and protects its citizens and institutions against cyber threats.

Third, as the driver of sectoral digital transformation and local innovation, supporting the application of digital technologies across all economic sectors while nurturing African innovators.

Fourth, as the lever for mobilizing transformation resources, including transparent and traceable financing as well as the skilled human capital essential for sustainable digital development.

Fifth, as the reference organization for effectiveness and proactivity, demonstrating that African institutions can achieve excellence in governance and service delivery.

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Engagement

I commit to leading an African Telecommunications Union that is proactive, transparent, and resolutely focused on delivering results.

My leadership will be founded on permanent dialogue with member states, regulators, operators, and civil society. I will maintain strict accountability through regular and public performance reporting.

I will champion innovation in approaches and solutions while ensuring that no stakeholder is left behind in our collective digital journey.

I will strive to make the African Telecommunications Union the catalyst that enables every African citizen, every African enterprise, and every African government to seize the boundless opportunities of the digital era.

I respectfully request your confidence and support to transform this vision into tangible reality in service of our continent.

Submitted for Consideration by the Member States of the African Telecommunications Union