



The Africa We Want
“Enabled Through a
Thriving, Connected,
Intelligent, and
Sustainable Digital
Economy.”

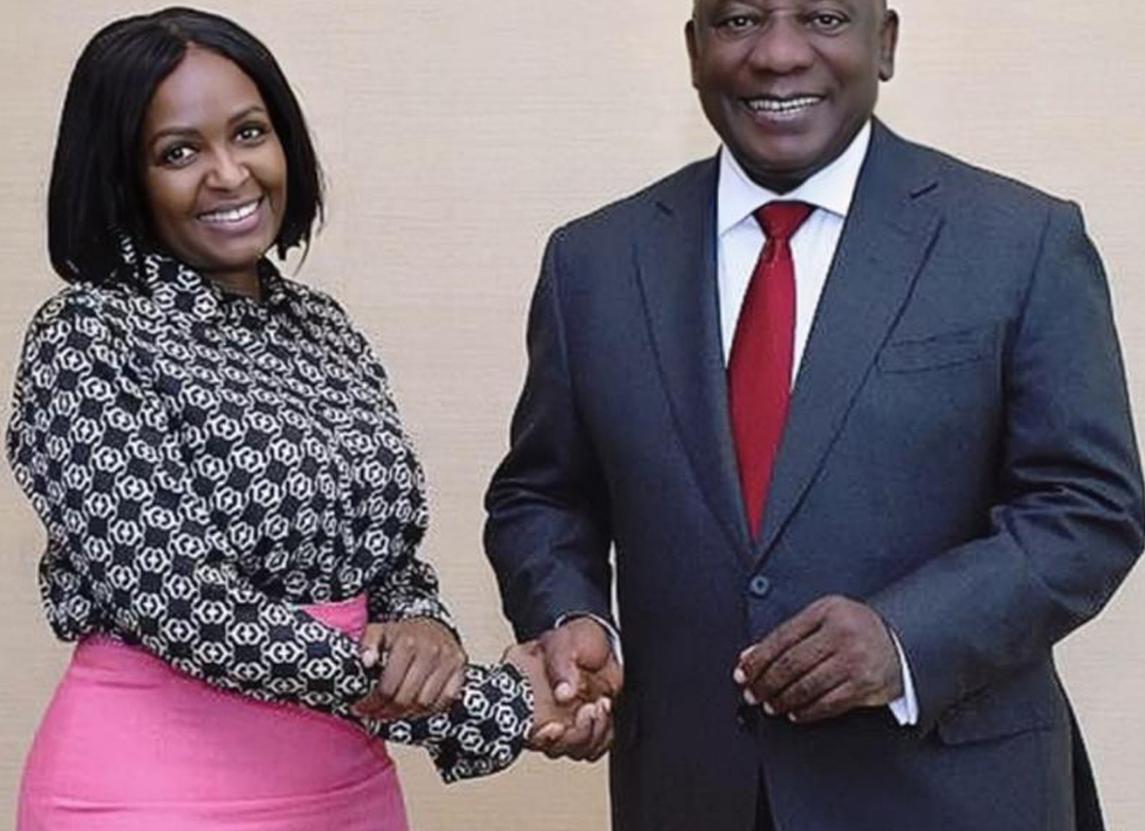
CYNTHIA LEUNGO LESUFI

**CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL
AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ATU)**



The Africa We Want

“Enabled Through a Thriving, Connected, Intelligent, and Sustainable Digital Economy.”



Africa stands at a defining moment in its digital transformation journey. Telecommunications networks are now the foundation of economic growth, innovation, and social development.

Yet significant challenges remain millions of Africans remain unconnected, digital infrastructure gaps persist, and the continent must scale its capacity to harness emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

At the same time, Africa’s opportunities are immense. With the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) creating the world’s largest integrated market and digital innovation accelerating across the continent, telecommunications will play a critical role in shaping Africa’s future.

As Secretary-General of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), Cynthia Lesufi envisions a Union that serves as a dynamic driver of Africa’s digital transformation, strengthening cooperation among Member States and ensuring that telecommunications infrastructure supports inclusive and sustainable development.





Africa's digital future

"Depends on expanding affordable connectivity and building AI-ready infrastructure to support innovation and economic growth."



Women
in tech

Her vision is anchored in four strategic priorities.

First, expanding digital connectivity and infrastructure. Universal, affordable, and reliable connectivity must become a reality across Africa. This requires strengthening policy frameworks that encourage investment, expanding broadband networks into underserved areas, and supporting resilient infrastructure capable of meeting Africa's growing digital demand.

Second, building AI-ready digital infrastructure. Africa must actively participate in the global AI revolution. Developing data centres, cloud infrastructure, and enabling policy environments will allow African innovators and enterprises to develop and deploy AI solutions locally while safeguarding data sovereignty and promoting responsible innovation.

Third, enabling digital trade and economic integration. Telecommunications networks are essential for unlocking the full potential of the AfCFTA. Harmonised digital policies, strengthened cybersecurity frameworks, and interoperable digital payment systems will help create a trusted environment for cross-border digital trade and investment.

Fourth, advancing digital skills and inclusion. Africa's digital transformation must empower all citizens. Expanding digital literacy programmes, strengthening STEAM education, and promoting greater participation of women and youth in the ICT sector will help build the next generation of African innovators.



To translate this vision into action, Cynthia Lesufi is committed to strengthening ATU as a results-driven institution that mobilises partnerships, supports Member States, and drives tangible progress. Through expanded infrastructure investment, strengthened policy coordination, and strategic collaboration, ATU can play a pivotal role in building a connected and competitive digital Africa.



“Together, we can unlock Africa’s digital potential and build a connected continent that drives innovation, prosperity, and opportunity for all.”





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