AFRICAN REGION PRESENTATION

ITU GCBI VIRTUAL MEETING, 20-21 May 2021

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AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Digital priorities in Africa
3. Digital capacity and skills needs
4. Regional strategies and priorities
5. Challenge and opportunities
6. Recommendation for ITU

INTRODUCTION
COVID-19 IMPACT IN AFRICA

❏ **Low impact in terms of contamination and deaths**

❏ **Great economic and social impact**

Capacity Building in ATU Agenda

Capacity building*:*

"Ensure the upgrading of the existent human resources to meet the needs of technological evolution and academic curricula to meet the needs of ICT growth and the new labor market"

ITU Centres Of Excellence In Africa

- *Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications (ESMT), Senegal*
- *Ecole Supérieure Africaine des Technologies et de la Communicatyion (ESATIC), Côte d'Ivoire*
- *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Postes, Télécommunications et TIC (SUP-PTIC), Cameroun*
- *African Advanced Level Telecommunicationss Institutre (AFRALTI), Kenya*
- *Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius/National Computer Board (NCB), Mauritius*
- *DBI*

2- DIGITAL PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

- Internet infrastructure capacity and resiliency including national/regional IXPs, data centers and cloud computing to address the needs of emergency
- National Emergency communication plans to manage crisis situations (frequency spectrum, emergency number, …),
- Affordable access and connectivity particularly for emergency, health, education and media services
- Mobile payment and digital finance services
- Develop Tele-working platforms and digital local services to maintain the economy activities and social interactions
- **Develop elearning platforms**
- The need of enhanced frameworks for data regulation, cybersecurity and privacy
- Accelerate the rural areas coverage using universal service funds

- The need to develop specific training programmes on digital technologies to address the need of the other sectors such as health, education,etc. including emerging technologies Artificial intelligence, …
- Data processing, …
- Development of digital content and services,
- Cybersecurity

4- REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES (1/2)

The digitization of telecommunications networks and the full connectivity of all African countries through:

Access by all African countries to current and future submarine cables.	Absolute priority to landlocked countries that do not take sufficient advantage of the capabilities of submarine cables.	Digital solidarity within the framework of the ease of creation of interstate digital terrestrial transmission arteries.	The assistance of the African Union in achieving these objectives through the implementation of its Agenda 2063 in which telecommunications development component occupies an important place.

Covid 19 will contribute to compromising the framework of this agenda due to the freezing of all international activities.

4- REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES (2/2)

ATU is preparing an e-skill framework including e-learning for Africa to assist its Members to address the challenges of the AU digital transformation strategy for Africa.

5- CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The global Covid19 crisis highlighted the importance of the ICT infrastructures and digital technologies it's an opportunity for Africa to strategize to accelerate the digital transformation and to give the priority to build adequate infrastructures, develop enhanced regulation and legal frameworks as appropriate, promote the creation of digital local content and services and uses of emerging technologies.

✓ Telephone and Internet traffic on a universal scale.
✓ Excessive use of bandwidth.
✓ Socio-economic activities though the use of digital telecommunications tools.
✓ The development of digital telecommunications associates with various public utility applications

✓ Creation of applications and other IT solutions.
✓ Emergence of start-ups.
✓ Increasing the incomes of telecom operators and others access providers.
✓ The significant increase in distance and online trainings

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6 - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITU
To facilitate the process of bridging the digital divide in Africa, ITU should:

- Set a clear action plan with a timeline to address the connectivity gap in Africa

- Collaborate closely with the ATU in the telecommunications component of Agenda 2063 and make proposals for assistance, especially in terms of regulatory aspects, training and capacity building

- Provide specific assistance to countries that are lagging behind in the digitalization and connectivity process through training and all other forms of assistance

Thank you

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