



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON WSIS+20
OUTCOMES IMPLEMENTATION:
OPERATIONALIZING AND ALIGNMENT
OF WSIS+20 AND THE GLOBAL DIGITAL
COMPACT**

**Implementation Roadmap
Key Messages**

by

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July 01-02, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Africa Regional Consultation on the Implementation of WSIS+20 Outcomes: Operationalizing WSIS+20 and the Global Digital Compact (GDC) was held on 1–2 July 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, convened to advance a coordinated African approach to translating global digital commitments into concrete action. The consultation brought together Member States, Regional Economic Communities, UN agencies, and a broad range of stakeholders to discuss the Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap and strengthen alignment between the WSIS Action Lines, the GDC, Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Across the thematic sessions, deliberations reaffirmed Africa’s transition from policy dialogue to implementation, emphasizing the importance of harmonized reporting and underscoring the need for stronger regional cooperation, inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships, and interoperable governance frameworks.

The Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap is presented as a practical framework that operationalizes the 127 operative paragraphs of WSIS+20 Outcomes UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/173 into nine thematic implementation pillars covering (i) Universal Inclusion, Connectivity, and Energy Access; (ii) Digital Economy and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI); (iii) Social and Environmental Sustainability; (iv) Enabling Environment and Digital Sovereignty; (v) Security, Trust, and Human Rights; (vi) Capacity Development and Digital Skills; (vii) Artificial Intelligence; (viii) Linguistic Diversity and Local Content; and (ix) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Follow-up. Together, these pillars provide an integrated approach that addresses both foundational infrastructure gaps and emerging digital priorities, while ensuring that implementation is measurable, coordinated, and aligned with Africa’s broader development agendas. It is designed to address fragmentation in implementation by introducing phased actions, measurable indicators, and a Unified National Reporting Template to support harmonized tracking of progress by Member States through 2035.

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CONSULTATION

To accelerate the WSIS+20 outcomes implementation through the Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap, the regional consultation agreed on the following key messages for Member States and relevant stakeholders to:

1. **Establish** a unified national reporting template with harmonized priority indicators to address demand-side data gaps , strengthen evidence-based monitoring and ensure measurement of meaningful connectivity, service usage, inclusion, and citizen-level impact outcomes across Member States;
2. **Develop** an African digital implementation dashboard and analytical tools to consolidate national reports, highlight financing and resource needs, and guide data-driven interventions across the Roadmap cycle, while ensuring alignment with WSIS+20, GDC, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) frameworks;
3. **Advance** harmonized and operational legal and technical instruments to enable cross-border interoperability, including the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol, aligned data protection rules, cooperative cyber-threat intelligence sharing, and common open standards for interoperable digital public infrastructure;

4. **Accelerate** the operational implementation of cross-border interoperability systems, through coordinated national and regional measures, including integration into the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and the domestication of AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocols;
5. **Mobilize** domestic resources and adopt innovative financing models, including catalytic public financing, public-private partnerships, and blended-investment models, bridge digital infrastructure gaps, strengthen technical capacity, and improve data measurement;
6. **Promote** coordinated, harmonized African AI governance aligned with continental and global initiatives, advancing shared principles, ethical safeguards, and capacity for responsible AI that delivers inclusive development and public value;
7. **Strengthen** digital inclusion and resilience by expanding meaningful connectivity, empowering community-based solutions, and ensuring the active participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in digital governance and implementation processes;
8. **Undertake** periodic reviews of Roadmap progress through the agreed regional monitoring architecture, with regular implementation updates presented to subsequent Africa Regional Reviews of WSIS+20 and other relevant African Union and United Nations platforms;
9. **Measure** Africa's digital transformation by the translation of political commitments into action and impact, not by the number of policies adopted;
10. **Recognize** ECA primary role in monitoring and reporting, with multistakeholder forums serving as supportive, non-duplicative platforms for collaboration and knowledge-sharing, without duplicating ECA's formal role;
11. **Encourage** Member States, development partners, the private sector, civil society, academia, and regional financial institutions to align and scale their programs and investments in line with the expressed goals and priorities of UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/173.

The Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap was hence called for finalization, taking into consideration participants' reviews and key messages in advancing its refinement and operationalization.

02 July 2026, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia