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eBulletin

Digital Centre for Excellence

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Cover photos: Ibrahim Mamma

Feature Story:

▼ ECA Executive Secretary at ID4Africa

ID4Africa, June 2019, Johannesburg.

The Executive Secretary was the keynote speaker and made remarks at the plenary session via a live video stream from Addis. Interviewed by a Digital Centre partner, Omidyar Network, the importance of following the Good ID principles, UN Legal ID and ensuring "no one is left behind" in the pathway to inclusive growth was emphasized. Following her intervention, a panel composing World Bank, UNECA, UNDP, UNSD, UNICEF and UNHCHR discussed key elements of digital ID as it relates to Legal ID. The Director of the African Centre for Statistics at UNECA who was also on the panel during the plenary session also moderated a high-level panel which included Zetes, UNICEF, Mali and South Africa. The panel tackled the perceived conflict of civil registration vs foundational identity vs UN Legal ID and it was able to

resolve the issues and create a framework for the smooth integration that meets the principles of all three.

Furthermore, the Executive Secretary highlighted the principles on identification for sustainable development which feature three main areas that are necessary to create an inclusive and empowering ID system, namely:

1. Inclusion which addresses the need for universal coverage and accessibility;
2. Design which addresses the need for a robust, secure, responsive and sustainable system; and
3. Governance which addresses building trust by protecting privacy and user rights. ■

ECA DIGITAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE MANDATE

The 3 core functions of the Digital Centre for Excellence are as follows:

1. Think Tank

- ▼ **Undertake Research:** On the multifarious dimensions of the Digital Trade, Economy and Identity.
- ▼ **Support the development of regulation:** To safeguard privacy and personal data, while freeing up knowledge & information.

2. Convening

- ▼ **Promote harmonization:** Of related standards & interoperability across Member States, through multi-stakeholder collaboration & partnerships.

3. Implementation

- ▼ **Provide Technical & Policy Advice:** To Member States on Digital Trade, Economy and Identity.
- ▼ **Increase investments:** In infrastructure, platforms and services.
- ▼ **Develop capacity and skills:** Of key actors in member countries, including the private sector.
- ▼ **Embrace Opportunities:** For innovation and job creation that digitalization presents.

Digital Centre for Excellence

▼ Why?

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in September 2018 embarked on a Digital Initiative to support African countries in fully harnessing the opportunities of digital identity (ID) to facilitate the provision of legal identity for all Africans, and to leverage digital trade in the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. Given the critical linkages between digital ID, digital trade, and digital economy, the scope of the work under this Initiative continues to evolve to address digital transformation. This expansion in the scope of the work is in response to the requests from member states to address the fundamental, cross-cutting, and complex impact of digitalization.

▼ How?

To meet the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation on a country, regional and continental basis, the Centre is undertaking critical initiatives that address the foundational areas required for digital transformation. However, rather than creating new, standalone initiatives, the Centre works on a collaborative and partnership basis, drawing together UN, public and private sector stakeholders. The Centre also directly harnesses ECA's deep expertise in infrastructure, trade, civil registration, and statistics. The critical initiatives that drive digital transformation are Digital Infrastructure; Digital Trade, eCommerce & ePayments; Digital ID, Registration & Legal ID; and Digital Governance & Capacity Building. These initiatives are pursued on an integrated basis at a country level based on the request of a member state, as well as on an interoperability basis regionally and continentally.

▼ Governance

The centre has an advisory board co-chaired by the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame and the Prime Minister of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed. Members of the board include: Ms. Rebecca Enonchong, Mr. William Ford, Mr. Eric Jing, Ms. Cina Lawson, Mr. Nandan Nilekani, and Ms. Amel Saidane. The Centre is coordinated by ECA Director of the African Centre for Statistics, working closely with other divisions of ECA including SROs. ■

▼ LIST OF POSSIBLE PARTNERS OF THE CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Infrastructure:

Africa 50
Cisco
ITU
Mobino (Groff)
UNIDO

eCommerce/ ePayments:

Ant/Alibaba
EcoCash/Cassava
Gates Foundation
Goh/Soriano
Mobino (Groff)
UPU
WE Forum

Digital / Legal ID:

ID4D
iSpirit India
Mastercard
Omidyar Network
Seychelles

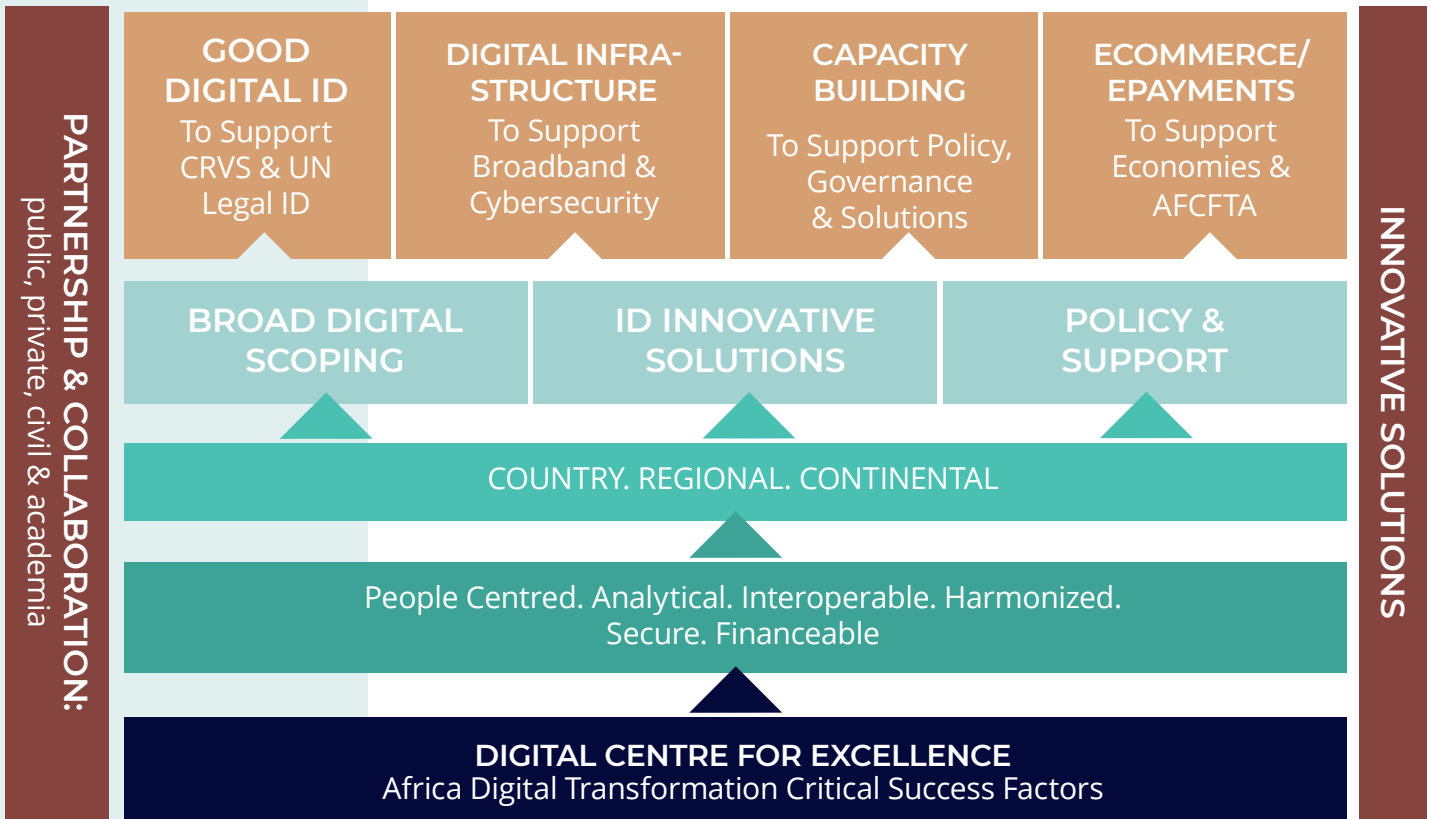
Governance/Capacity building:

FutureState
Gates Foundation
ID4D
iSpirit India
ITU
Omidyar Network
Pathways
Rockefeller
UNESCO
UNIDO
UPU
WE Forum

Digital Centre for Excellence

Continued

DEVELOPMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH



Country Updates

▼ CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

Le taux d'enregistrement des cartes d'identité nationales de la Côte d'Ivoire représenté 45% en 2017. La Côte d'Ivoire a la volonté de mettre en place le Registre National des Personnes Physiques (RNPP). C'est une base de données nationale biométriques qui sera rigoureusement construite à partir d'équipements biométriques modernes et d'un moteur d'analyse multi modal pour assurer la performance et la fiabilité optimale à court terme



et dans le temps et qui prendra aussi en compte à la fois la centralisation des données d'identification biométrique, la modernisation de l'état civil et sa gestion ainsi que le suivi optimal des flux migratoires.

▼ KENYA:

Kenya's national ID Registration Rate stood at 84% in 2017. Kenya's National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS) code-named Huduma Namba was established through the Executive Order No. 1 of (2018). Huduma Namba is a national programme



used to integrate biometric population database that will be used to create, manage, maintain and operate the national population registry as a single source of personal information of all citizens and foreign national's resident in Kenya with a unique national identification number. It is designed to ensure the preservation, protection and security of any information or data collected in the registry. In 52 days 37,724,521 people registered.

▼ NIGERIA:

Nigeria is reinventing its ID Ecosystem. The national ID Registration Rate stood at 6% in 2017. Therefore, the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) wants to reinvent the ID ecosystem and reach universal coverage of Robust Digital Identification for a lifelong ID for all Nigerians. The strategical approach of the ecosystem is to avoid duplicated data collection, for the Fed-

eral Government-led initiative to collect biometric data nationwide in one go, for Partners to collect data and to be paid for each successful enrollment and to facilitate collecting identity data (biometric & demographic data) and to store them by using a Unique ID. The ecosystem approach will increase enrollment, nationwide coverage, reduce cost in data collection, speed-up delivery and provide Digital verification of ID anytime and anywhere in Nigeria. Therefore, with a strategic partnership with Stakeholders, Nigeria has planned a 2 phase approach to the Ecosystem Implementation that will probably take 3-5 years.



▼ RWANDA:

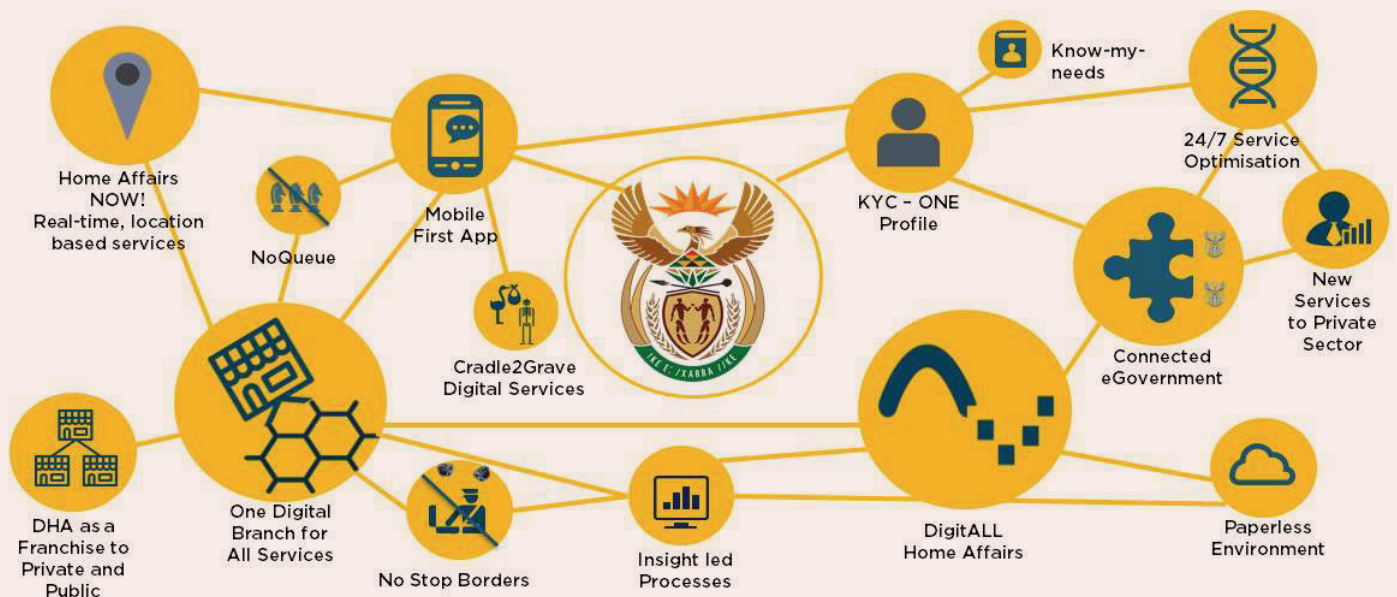
Rwanda's national ID Registration Rate stood at 95% in 2017. Rwanda's National ID Agency and its UBUDEHE social protection programme throughout the country has set several missions and visions for the ID system in the country. The National ID Agency envisions and plans to computerize the national population registry, real time ID verification and validation system, remote biometric data capture stations with an online upload system to be recorded in one Digital repository and to integrate the National ID System with the with National Public Key Infrastructure.



▼ SOUTH AFRICA:

South Africa's national ID Registration Rate stood at 99% in 2017; which has gone to full coverage at the moment.⁶ South Africa's identity documents have evolved over the years. The National Identity System (NIS) wants a new approach to identity management in South

Africa where the Government ensures that citizens data is secured and protected from threats of espionage, cyber-attacks, fraud and identity theft. The government is investing heavily in new identity, immigration policies and systems.



Events

Photos: Ibrahim Mamma

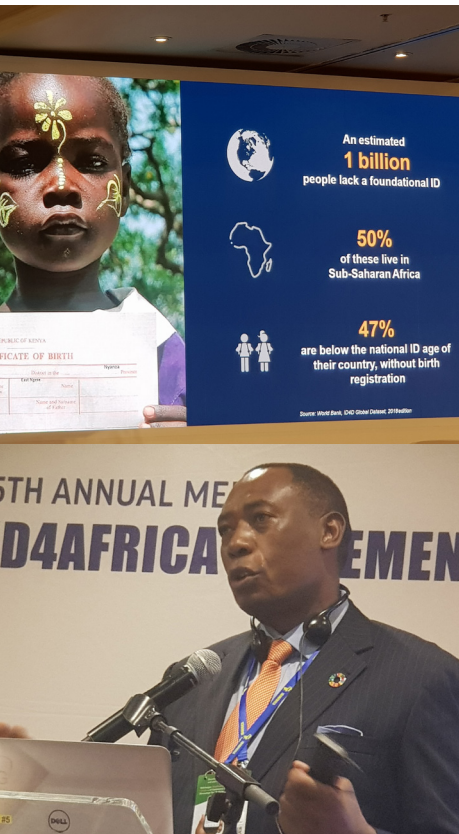


▼ ANNUAL INVESTMENT MEETING UNDERLINES DIGITAL AS A KEY SECTOR FOR DRAWING FDI APRIL 2019 IN DUBAI, UAE

The ECA Digital Centre for Excellence was actively engaged in the Global Leaders Debate on shaping the digital future of foreign direct investment and discussion on Digital Identity for Africa: Realizing the benefits for the continent's transformation also deliver the Invest in Africa Session during the Annual Investment Meeting on 9-10 April 2019 in Dubai, UAE. ■

▼ DIALOGUE WITH MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, JUNE 2019 IN JOHANNESBURG, SA

The Digital Centre contributed to the Pathways toolkit dialogue on "Globally Traded Services." The workshop session included South African public sector policy makers, industry associations, BPO businesses, and NGO's/civil society. The "opportunity area" identified that could create a breakthrough (or least a measurable difference) to the youth unemployment challenge, was Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). ■

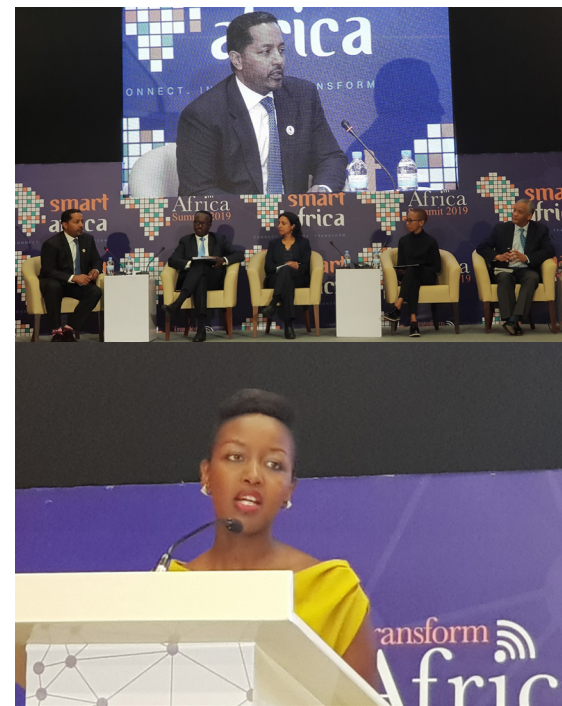


▼ ID4AFRICA MEETING JUNE 2019 IN JOHANNESBURG, SA

ID4Africa was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 18-20 June 2019. ID4A is a movement that accompanies African nations on their journey to develop robust and responsible ecosystems around digital identity. The UNECA Digital Centre for Excellence was actively represented during this annual summit. During the summit the Centre has lead two core discussions and side events on the "Integration of CRVs and legal Identity" with the UN-LIEG and member States; and a side event on the concept of interoperability as a key component of Good ID programmes and systems design for African countries. ■

▼ TRANSFORM AFRICA SUMMIT MAY 2019 IN KIGALI, RWA

Transform Africa Summit 2019 "Boosting Africa's Digital Economy" was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 14-16 May 2019. Transform Africa Summit is an annual leading African forum bringing together global and regional leaders from government, business and international organizations to collaborate on new ways of shaping, accelerating and sustaining Africa's on-going digital revolution. ■



Upcoming Event

▼ THE 5TH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION

The 5th Conference of Ministers will be held in Lusaka, Zambia in October 2019. The main objective of the Conference is to discuss possible ways of a holistic and integrated approach for innovative and accelerated improvement of CRVS systems and national identification management to close the identity gap in Africa, and contribute to the achievement of the SDG target 16.9. The conference will include discussions on new and emerging initiatives, namely, the UN Legal Identity Agenda and the Digital ID initiative in Africa, both of which rely on a functioning and efficient CRVS system.

Specifically, the objectives will be to chart the way forward by:

Identifying key challenges in the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems at the regional

and national levels and propose solutions;

Discussing on the importance of a holistic approach to civil registration, production of vital statistics, health information system and identity management to strengthen the institutional mechanism for accelerated improvement of civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems in the continent.

Reviewing the CRVS and ID management systems digitization process, uses of appropriate IT infrastructure and innovative business process improvement for universal civil registration and vital statistics systems interoperable with national ID management and with various government functions for efficient public services delivery and inclusive development. ■



Photos from the 4th Conference of Ministers at Nouakchott, Mauritania in December 2017: <http://www.apai-crvs.org/photo-gallery>



News

▼ ECA AND WORLD BANK ID4D ENGAGED COUNTRIES ON A CONTINENTAL FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL ID IN AFRICA

20 JUNE 2019

A meeting on the continental framework for digital ID and pertinent issues in relation to interoperability was organized by the ECA Digital Centre for Excellence and the World Bank Group ID4D Programme. On the meeting, presentation on the The African Digital Transformation Strategy and the role of interoperability was presented by the ECA Digital Centre for Excellence. With the aim of capturing global lessons learned, the European eIDAS framework for mutual recognition of digital identity and trust services was also presented and discussed. Potential options for mutual recognition of digital IDs in Africa were also presented by the World Bank ID4D and discussed in detail. The meeting was attended by national ID project managers and representatives from various African countries including: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guinea, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Togo, and Uganda were present. The meeting was also attended by partner organizations such as Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, Omidyar network, and technical system providers such as MOSIP. ■

▼ SESSION ON DATA GOVERNANCE AND PRIVACY

| CO-ORGANIZED BY THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

15 MAY 2019

While building digital economies, data becomes a commodity that drives innovation and matter of national security which must be jealously guarded to protect citizen/government information. This makes data privacy a critical issue and governments must ensure information is safeguarded to protect the privacy of citizens and sovereignty of nations. However, to realize the promise of the digital age, we capitalize on the wealth of data to drive innovation while ensuring privacy. This panel discussion examined emerging data governance and privacy approaches from around the world and explore the critical role of government in supporting innovation while safeguarding data privacy in Africa. ■

▼ SESSION ON GOOD' DIGITAL ID IN AFRICA: THE FOUNDATION FOR AN INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ECONOMY

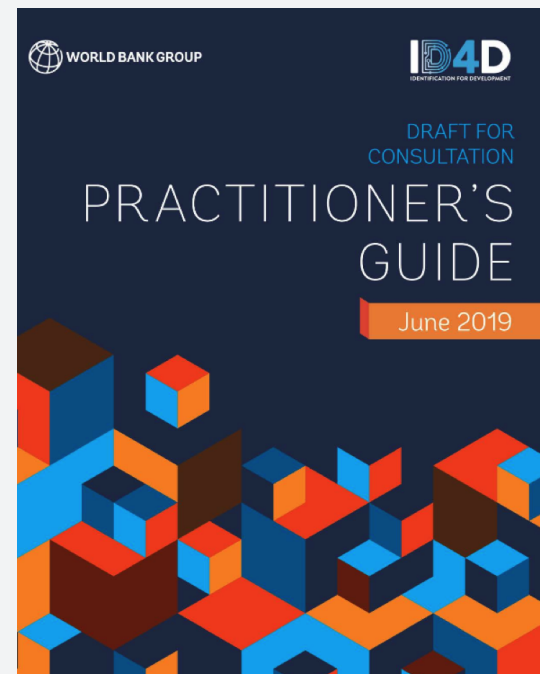
| ORGANIZED BY WORLD BANK

15 MAY 2019

This session brought key cybersecurity stakeholders from international organizations, public, private and academia sectors working in cybersecurity within the Africa region, to promote collaboration and identify strategic directions to harmonize their cybersecurity efforts and enable digital development across the Africa region. ■

▼ NEW PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO HELP COUNTRIES IN THEIR DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION JOURNEY¹

The World Bank Group's Identification for Development (ID4D) Initiative recently released a consultation draft of the ID4D Practitioner's Guide for public comments throughout June. The Practitioner's Guide is a comprehensive, user-friendly reference that will help governments, World Bank Group teams, the private sector, and other development partners design and implement foundational digital ID systems that align with the 10 Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development, now endorsed by 25 organizations. Rather than advocating for any specific model of digital ID system, the Practitioner's Guide walks readers through key decisions and best-practice technical options relevant for designing an entirely new system or improving an old one. It then offers analysis and links to more in-depth tools to assess the fitness of different design choices for different contexts and goals. ■



¹ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/new-practitioners-guide-help-countries-their-digital-identification-journey>

CAMEROON, ECA FORGE PARTNERSHIP FOR BOOSTING DIGITAL ECONOMY

4 JULY 2019

– “To fully succeed in, and become a sub-regional hub of digital transformation, Cameroon must very quickly move on costs, access, quality of services and on improving the sector’s competitiveness, while having its sight set on job-creation and accelerating innovation”.

These are the words of Antonio Pedro, Director of the Subregional Office for Central Africa of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), during a consultation with various stakeholders of Cameroon’s digital transition project, moderated by ECA’s Economic Affairs Officer Mactar Seck, and chaired by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cameroon, Ms. Minette Libom Li Likeng, on Thursday July 4th at the ECA premises in Yaounde.

Cameroon’s digital transition project is one of the fruits of the exchange between President Paul Biya and ECA’s Executive Secretary Ms. Vera Songwe during her first official visit to Cameroon in April 2019.

This support project focuses on four pillars, including: (i) Upgrading the legislative and regulatory framework and strengthening governance within the ICT sector; (ii) the development of broadband infrastructure to facilitate access by citizens, the administrative corps and enterprises to high-quality, reliable and cost-effective digital services; (iii) the development of e-Commerce, e-Government, digital financial services, and associated payment methods; and, (iv) the development of a digital entrepreneurship ecosystem.



Photo: UNECA

Speaking to the heads of telecommunications regulatory institutions, mobile phone companies, ICT startups and relevant public-sector officials who took part in the talks, Ms. Libom Li Likeng underlined the pivotal place of the digital economy in Cameroon’s development trajectory.

According to the Minister, the technical support provided by ECA, along with two other partners, namely: the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the infrastructure financing platform – Africa50, is in line with the government’s digital economy development strategy for Cameroon.

During a long and fruitful exchange with the various stakeholders of the digital economy and telecommunications sector, several young start-uppers described the challenges they face, and expressed their wishes for a better future. Many of them spoke of the need for better ICT policy framework and reduction in administrative bottlenecks to make life easier for startups.

Others evoked the need for a huge campaign to initiate learners right from primary levels into digital careers, while popularizing the digital culture which they defined as one in which people are conscious

of the daily-life benefits accruing from the digital economy.

After listening attentively to the young entrepreneurs, Minister Libom Li Likeng said while Government works towards improving the business climate and digital ecosystem, “you young people must seize opportunities and dare to innovate.”

“Together we can break walls to promote Cameroon’s digital economy,” she reassured them.

The Director General of Cameroon’s Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART, in French) – Mr. Philémon Zoo Zame, a representative from CAMTEL (the State-owned telephony company), Orange Cameroon and others, all made cases on their commitment to render better digital services to enterprises and the general public in the country.

Meanwhile, Messrs. Pedro and Seck of ECA said today’s encounter with multiple stakeholders could provide a pedestal on which to have regular exchanges on improving the health of Cameroon’s digital economy. ■



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**DIGITAL CENTRE
FOR EXCELLENCE**
– Identity, Trade
& Economy

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