Report on the Implementation and follow up of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Africa 2022

'Information and Communication Technologies for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals'

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ideas
for a
prosperous
Africa

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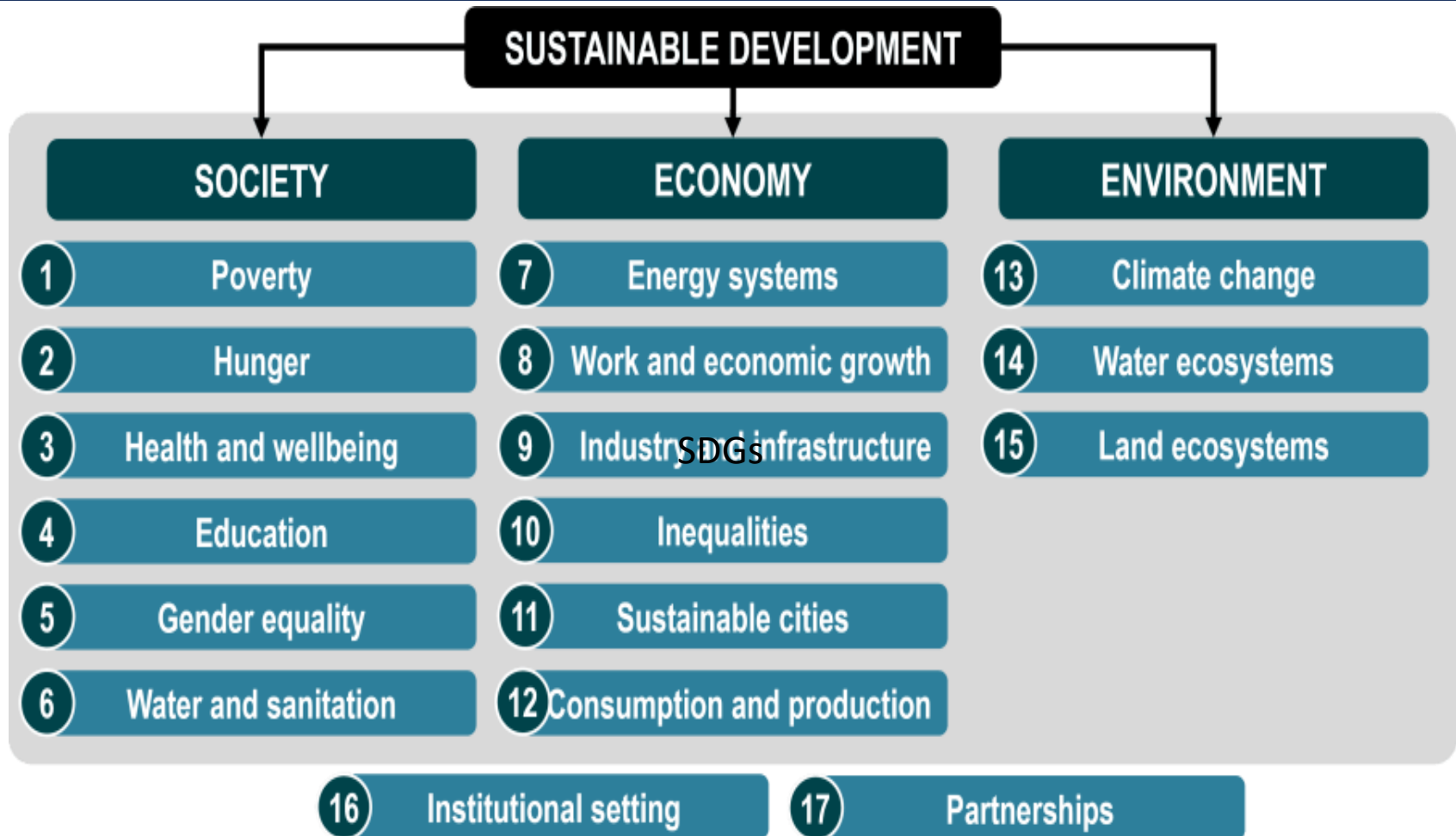
November 2022

Outline

Introduction

- ➤ African countries have improved their telecommunications infrastructure, as a foundation to accelerate   the transition to digital government;
  - ✓ However, this is undermined by the fact that the cost of mobile broadband subscriptions as a percentage of per capita gross national income remains significantly higher in Africa than in other parts of the world.

- ➤ Consequently the majority of African are still offline, 67 percent to be precise the highest compared to other regions.

- ➤ Deploying infrastructure for rural coverage is largely an economic challenge.

- ➤ Moreover even where there is mobile coverage the usage gap is greater than the coverage gap.
  - ✓ Other than coverage, affordability, literacy and digital skills remain a barrier for people in adopting Internet,

- ➤ This report highlights some of the initiatives with WSIS implementation in Africa in 2019 as it relates to the achievement of the SDGs and with particular on ECA's activities in the area.

WSIS Action Lines and SDGs

- Link between WSIS and SDGs

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SDGs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SOCIETY	ECONOMY	ENVIRONMENT
1 Poverty	7 Energy systems	13 Climate change
2 Hunger	8 Work and economic growth	14 Water ecosystems
3 Health and wellbeing	9 Industry and infrastructure	15 Land ecosystems
4 Education	10 Inequalities	
5 Gender equality	11 Sustainable cities	
6 Water and sanitation	12 Consumption and production	

16 Institutional setting   17 Partnerships

Action Lines and SDGs

WSIS Action Lines	SDGs
C1): The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development	*SDGs 1, 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17*.
C2): Information and Communication Infrastructure	*SDGs 1, 8, 9.*
(C3): Access to information and knowledge	*SDGs 1 - 17*
C4): Capacity building	*SDGs 1 -6, 12-14, 16 & 17*
C5): Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	*SDGs 1, 4-5, 7-9, 11, 16-17*
C6): Enabling Environment	*SDGs 4-5, 8-11,16,17*
C7): ICT Applications *(E-government, E-business, E-Learning, E-health, E-employment, E-environment, E-agriculture, E-Science*	*SDGs 1 - 17*
C8): Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	*SDGs 2, 4, 6, 8, 11-12*
C9): Media	*SDGs 5, 9, 12, 16*
C10): Ethical dimension of the Information Society	*SDGs 1-5, 8-13,16-17*
C11): International and regional cooperation	*SDGs 1 - 17*

C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

➤ Significant progress was made in this action line

➤ There have been efforts by several countries to align their national e-strategies in line with national development goals and SDGs

➤ Through the Digital Senegal 2025 strategy the government of Senegal has continued with its focus to raise the contribution of digital technologies to GDP by 10 per cent, create 35 000 direct jobs by 2025.

➤ Rwanda rolled out 4G and fiber connectivity to deliver online e-government and other services across   the country while making strides to become a major innovation hotspot in Africa, and pushing forward with digital development. According to the 2022 Global Startup Ecosystem Index, Rwanda ranks eighth among start-up ecosystems across the Middle East and Africa, and fourth in Africa as a whole.

➤ Kenya launched her digital national master plan in 2022 dubbed Kenya National Digital Masterplan 2022-2032.

➤ South Africa, one of the digital economy leaders on the African continent project digital economy to contribute 24% of the GDP by 2025.

➢ Africa made progress in implementing the 15 Agenda 2063 Flagship Projects

The greatest progress occurred with the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Currently, 54 AU Member States have signed the AfCFTA Agreement. As at October 2022, 44 of the 54 signatories (81.5%) had deposited their instruments of AfCFTA ratification namely: Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Niger, Chad, Eswatini, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Congo, Rep., Djibouti, Mauritania, Uganda, Senegal, Togo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Rep., Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, São Tomé & Príncipe, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Mauritius, Central African Rep., Angola, Lesotho, Tunisia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Malawi, Zambia, Algeria, Burundi, Seychelles, Tanzania, Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco and Guinea-Bissau.

➢ Development of continental frameworks such as **The Continental Data Policy Framework (Finalised), Interoperability Framework for Digital ID** (adopted), and the **Continental Approach for Artificial Intelligence (AI)** (WIP) progressed in 2022.

➢A continental Data Policy framework was launched in July 2022.
▪The framework recognizes, the huge opportunities for more interconnected and interoperable markets and offers avenues for tech start-ups and e-businesses to flourish in a secure and controlled environment.

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C2: Information and Communication Infrastructure

- Africa still has a long way to ensure meaningful connectivity for all.

- Foremost, access to secure digital infrastructure and affordability remains low.

- Gender digital divide and rural /urban divide remained significantly high.

- Only 34 per cent of women used the Internet, compared with 45 per cent of men. Moreover, 15 per cent of rural households had access to the Internet in 2021, compared with 50 per cent of urban households.

- Programme on Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) (11) projects on ICT adopted by the summit in 2021 among the total 69- and Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) output 1 focused on broadband access are relevant to this WSIS line of action

Percentage of the population using the Internet and fixed (wired) broadband, active mobile broadband, and mobile cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by

	Fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants		Active mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants		Mobile cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants		Percentage of individuals using the Internet	
	2020	2022	2020	2022	2020	2022	2020	**2022**
Africa	1.8	2.67	37	42.77	78.7	83.68	27	**33.01**
Americas	14.2	17.43	73	65.96	104.9	101.92	41	**67.81**
Asia	10.9	12.19	62	80.50	103.1	105.93	57	**63.21**
Europe	32.2	34.37	91	97.90	113.1	113.86	82	**85.52**
Oceania	7.2	7.80	40	43.15	81.6	72.53	61	**43.59**
Global average	**13.26**	**15.10**	**60.6**	**68.47**	**96.28**	**98.32**	**54**	**59.14**

- In Africa **82% of the population has access to at least 3G coverage**, however the **use gap is still high** – almost 50%.

- As the result, the region experienced only **13% annual growth** in internet penetration – resulting to around **33% internet penetration**.

- The region lags far behind other regions in terms of internet penetration compared to the Asia-Pacific – 61% and Americas – 81%.

C3: Access to information and knowledge

➢ Access to information (ATI) during COVID-19 pandemic in providing citizens with reliable, timely and independent information became critical

➢ Legal frameworks on access to information are an important aspect in enhancing access. To this end, the presence of gov info or laws on citizens rights access it online is key to ensure this right.

➢ As many as 26 African countries don't have government information or laws on citizens' rights to access it online

➢ A number of countries have been promoting access to information and knowledge through supporting access in academic institutions, public libraries and community public access points.

➢ The African national research and education networks (NRENs) have also been playing a critical role

➢ UN E-government Survey 2022 demonstrated that **54 countries** are **below the global average of E-gov development index.**

➢ Only 4 of the 54 countries in Africa have EGDI values above the global average (0.6102)

C4: Capacity building

➤ Capacity development has been ongoing in the last couple of years.

➤ Regardless, Africa represents the lowest region in ITU's ICTs skills indicators for all three skill categories, the highest being Europe..
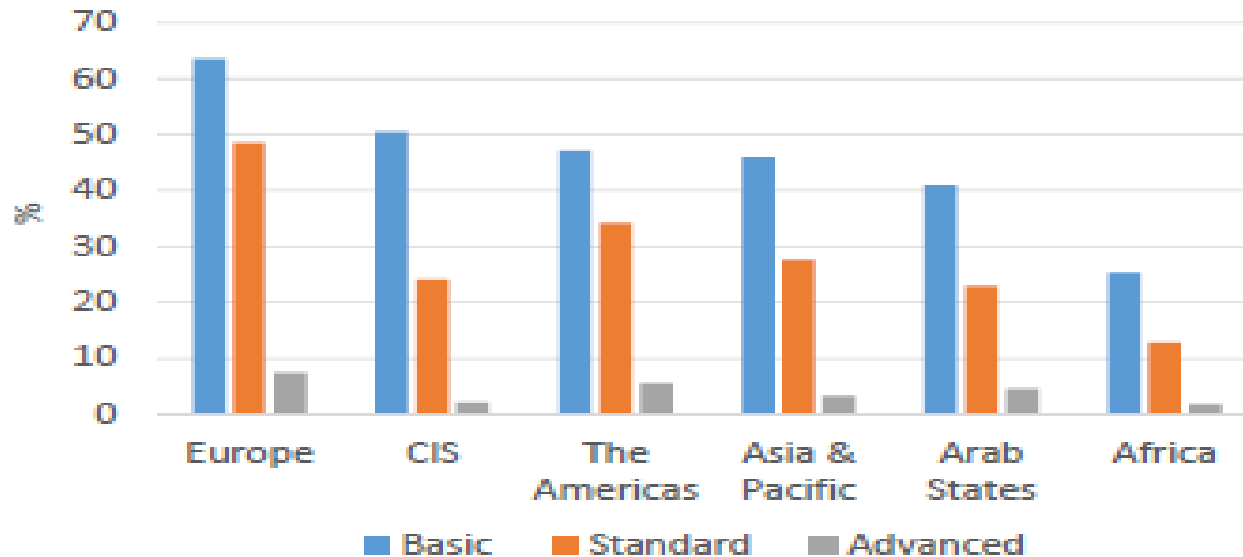
Basic skills – copying or moving a file or folder, using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move info within a document, sending e-mails with attached files and transferring files between a computer and other devices; **Standard skills** – using basic arthimetic formula in a spreadsheet, connecting and installing new devices, creating electronic presentations with ppt software, and finding, downloading, installing and configuring software; **Advanced skills** – writing a computer program using a specialised programming language,

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C4: Capacity building Cont..

➢ Targeted capacity building – Integrate ICT in education systems at national level
- ➢ Many countries have made ICTs in education strategies over the last two decades and have since been integrating ICTs at different levels of education from primary to secondary.
- ➢ Capacity development for the protection of Critical Infrastructure (CI) and Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) is needed.
- ➢ Mentorship targeting different groups

➢ There are various continental initiatives to leverage on such as:
- ✓ Connected African Girls Hybrid Coding Camp - Coding for girls across the continent aimed at addressing skills and gender gaps - UNECA (25,000? 52 countries
- ✓ PRIDA IG course – 1,500 trained – 29 schools
- ✓ Isoc capacity building initiatives

C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

- Mobile frauds on the rise with increased presence in the digital space
  - In March 2022, Lomé declaration on cybersecurity and fight against cybercrime was made
  - The Malabo Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection continues to be recognised in countries

- Need to share areas of weakness and vulnerabilities to be able to create confidence among our populations

- With the advancement and increasing use of the cyberspace, there is a parallel increase in the rate of cybersecurity attacks which clearly shows how the cyberspace is being use, not only for benefit and empowerment of societies, but also to exploit the weakness

- The need to ensure that children are safe online is also becoming very important. Cyber hygiene and empowering children. As access expands to more children in Africa every day, these identified and evidenced risks must be tackled and neutralised.

- The WePROTECT Global Alliance Global Threat Assessment 2021 reported that 44% of young people in the Middle East and Northern Africa, 31% in Central Africa, and 57% in Southern Africa, experienced at least one online sexual harm during their childhood.

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- Legislations alone will not be enough to ensure security of nation's communication network, establishing strong security features and increasing resilience against network attacks involving access, modification or service denial are important requirements of successful deployment of digital economy. To this end, governments should put in place technical measures through establishment of CERT, CSIRT, etc.

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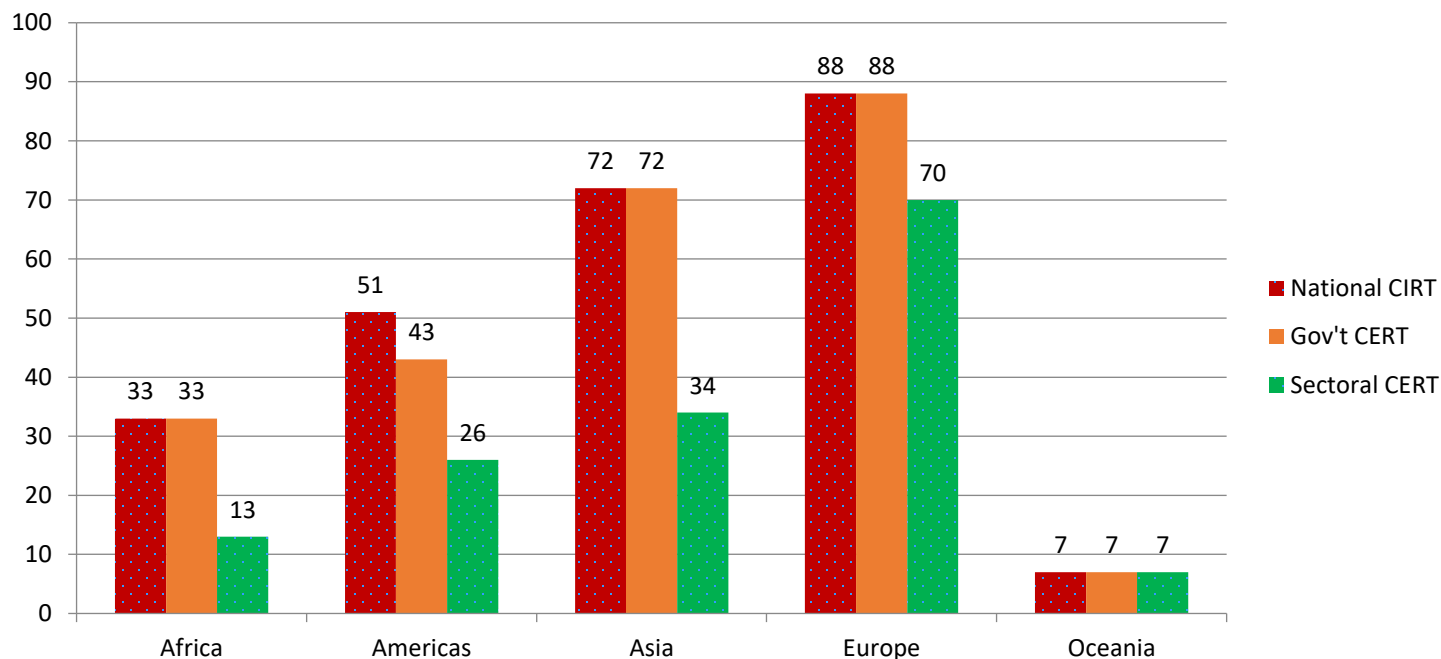
C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. Cont..

There are already several examples of child online safety initiatives across Africa to draw inspiration from. Some countries have documented safety initiatives such as status on Child Online Safety Initiative in Kenya, be cyber smart - tips to keep children safe online in Ghana and a campaign to boost internet safety that started in 2021 in Uganda and Zambia. Expert organisations exist across Africa to guide thought on online safety, including the Africa Digital Rights Hub, CIPESA and Research ICT Africa.

Finally there are examples of legislation within Africa to guide policy-making – Ghana's Cybersecurity Act criminalised online sexual conduct with children and imposed obligations on telecommunications services, and Rwanda has a well-developed policy on child online protection, incorporating an action plan to set out clear, actionable steps toward their goals.

➢ The legal frameworks are important measures for gov and other stakeholders to define basic response mechanisms to cyber-attacks.

➢ 2 countries still pending to ratify the Malabo convention to get the minimum 15 countries. However, countries have aligned their national laws to the Malabo convention. The case of Kenya

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C6: Enabling Environment

➢ According to the Entrepreneurial Index Report 2022, Sub Saharan Africa has one of the most entrepreneurial and youngest populations in the world.

➢ However, the report notes that entrepreneurial ecosystem such as mentoring, seed funding, office space, and even support with regard to service provision by startups are lacking in most countries https://www.gemconsortium.org/report

➢ First, the African Trade Exchange platform (ATEX) was launched in May 2022 in Senegal by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and current Chairperson of the African Union.

  ✓ The ATEX platform is the digital market place for business to business (B2B) and business to government (B2G) facilitating trading under the AfCFTA rules.

➢ In Africa, 61 per cent of the countries offer an average of 12 services online. The 2022 Survey results indicate that, for the first time, five countries in Africa (Nigeria, Rwanda, Angola, Egypt and South Africa) are offering 20-21 online public services. This is noteworthy, given that only 63 of the Member States offer 20 or more of the 22 services assessed (25 countries in Europe, 22 in Asia, 9 in the Americas, 5 in Africa, and 2 in Oceania).

Landscape of IPS in Africa

28 domestic-level IPS across 20 countries

5 countries with multiple IPS

18 more under development

Morocco
MarocPay

Tunisia
Tunisia mobile money

Egypt (2)
Egypt InstaPay
Ta7Wheel

Uganda
Uganda mobile money

Ghana (3)
GhIPSS Instant Pay (GIP)
Ghana mobile money
e-zwitch

Djibouti
Système de Règlement Automatisé de Djibouti (SYRAD)

Gambia
Gamswitch

Somalia
National Payment System

Kenya (2)
PesaLink
Kenya mobile money

Rwanda
eKash

Nigeria (3)
NIBSS Instant Payments (NIP)
Nigeria mobile money
eNaira

Democratic Republic of Congo
Flash DRC

Tanzania (2)
Tanzania mobile money
Tanzania Instant Payment System (TIPS)

Zambia
Zambia National Financial Switch

Malawi
Natswitch

Zimbabwe
ZIMSWITCH Instant Payment Interchange Technology (ZIPIT)

Namibia
NamPay

Mauritius
Mauritius Central Automated Switch (MauCAS)

South Africa
Real-Time Clearing (RTC)

Madagascar
Madagascar mobile money

Mozambique
Sociedade Interbancaria De Mocambique (SIMO)

Africa-wide
Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)
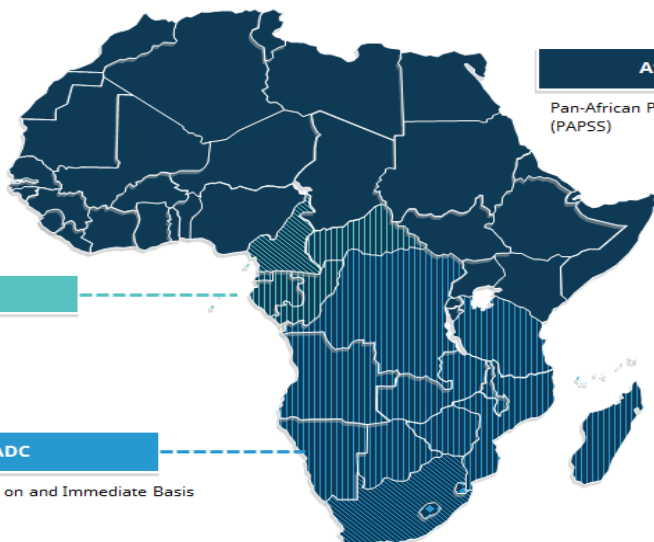
3 regional IPS, and 3 more in the pipeline

CEMAC
GIMACPAY

SADC
Transfers Cleared on and Immediate Basis (TCIB)
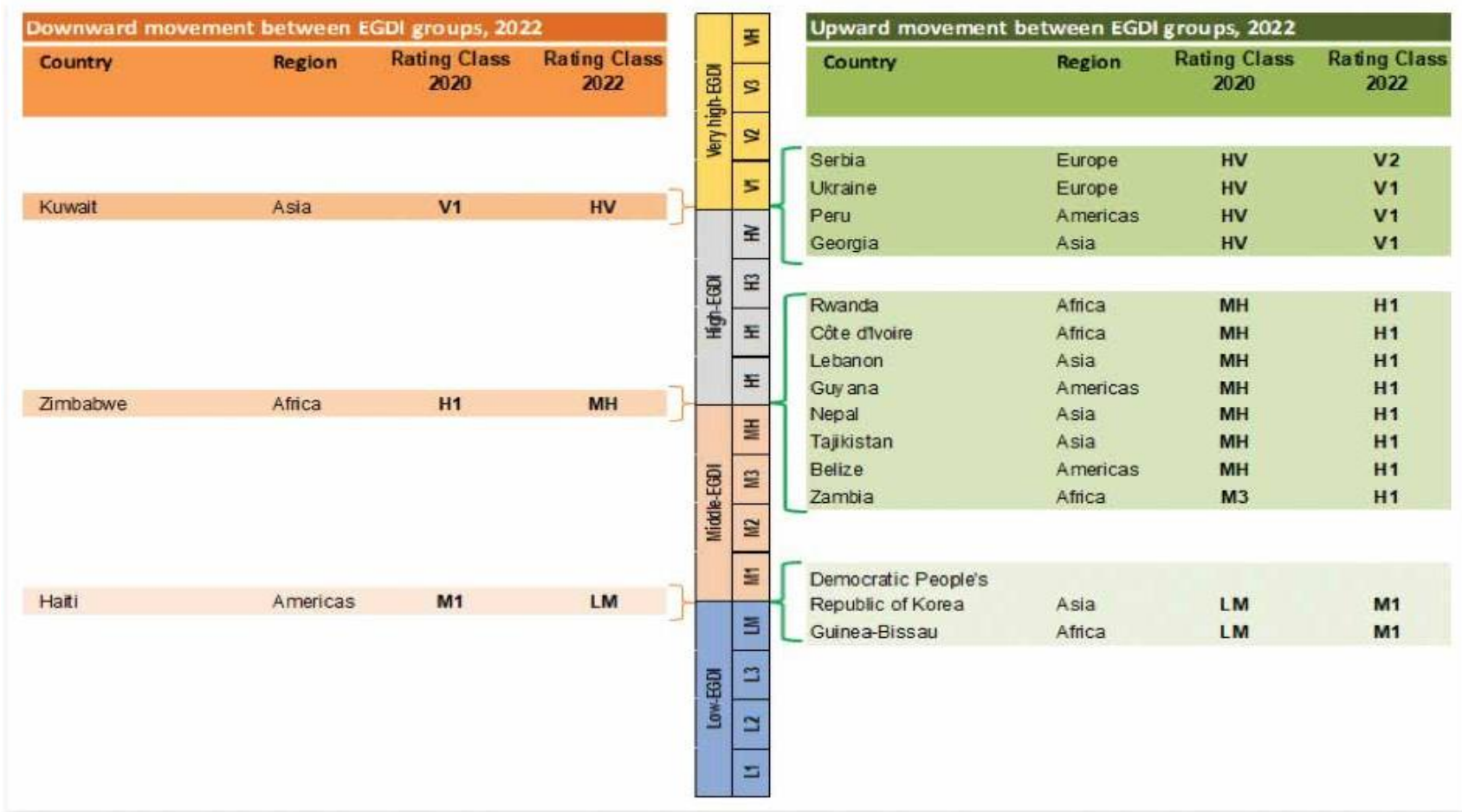
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C7. ICT Applications (E-government, E-business, E-Learning, E-health, E-employment, E-environment, E-agriculture, E-Science

➤ Digital Space is powered by applications – G2B, G2C, G2G, & B2C

➤ Only 18 African countries indicated that they have laws or regulations pertaining to digital identity (e-government survey 2022). Effort to ensure progressive laws that will support the development of digital identity should be put in place.

➤ Business-related services such as registration, licensing and filing company taxes are among the five government services offered most frequently. Followed by applying for government vacancies and business licences, requesting birth, death, and marriage certificates, and paying utility bills.

➤ The global average EGDI value has risen slightly, from 0.5988 in 2020 to in 0.6102 in 2022, largely because of the progress made in strengthening telecommunications infrastructure. Europe remains the leader in e-government development, with an average EGDI value of 0.8305, followed by Asia (0.6493), the Americas (0.6438), Oceania (0.5081) and Africa (0.4054).

➤ There are presently more than 3 billion people living in countries that have EGDI values below the global average, with most of these countries concentrated in Africa, Asia and Oceania. Only 4 of the 54 countries in Africa have EGDI values above the global average (0.6102); the others have EGDI values that are sometimes significantly lower.

➤ 6 of the 7 countries with EGDI below 2.5 are in Africa, namely (Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan)

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Countries in Africa with the highest EGDI values

Country	Rating class	EGDI rank	Subregion	OSI value	HCI value	TII value	EGDI (2022)	EGDI (2020)
South Africa	HV	65	Southern Africa	0.7487	0.7733	0.6850	0.7357	0.6891
Mauritius	HV	75	Eastern Africa	0.6282	0.7733	0.7588	0.7201	0.7196
Seychelles	H3	85	Eastern Africa	0.4424	0.7758	0.8198	0.6793	0.6920
Tunisia	H3	88	Northern Africa	0.6031	0.6911	0.6646	0.6530	0.6526
Morocco	H2	101	Northern Africa	0.4721	0.6350	0.6676	0.5915	0.5729
Egypt	H2	103	Northern Africa	0.5730	0.6375	0.5579	0.5895	0.5527
Ghana	H2	106	Western Africa	0.5361	0.6176	0.5934	0.5824	0.5960
Cabo Verde	H2	110	Western Africa	0.4965	0.6507	0.5507	0.5660	0.5604
Algeria	H2	112	Northern Africa	0.3743	0.6956	0.6133	0.5611	0.5173
Kenya	H2	113	Eastern Africa	0.6821	0.5641	0.4305	0.5589	0.5326
Gabon	H2	116	Middle Africa	0.3578	0.6706	0.6279	0.5521	0.5401
Botswana	H1	118	Southern Africa	0.2740	0.6932	0.6814	0.5495	0.5383
Rwanda*	H1	119	Eastern Africa	0.7935	0.5322	0.3209	0.5489	0.4789
*Côte d'Ivoire**	H1	120	Western Africa	0.5467	0.5748	0.5186	0.5467	0.4457
Namibia	H1	121	Southern Africa	0.4316	0.6516	0.5133	0.5322	0.5747
Zambia*	**H1**	**131**	**Eastern Africa**	**0.4414**	**0.6744**	**0.3909**	**0.5022**	0.4242

Movement between EGDI groups from 2020 to 2022

Downward movement between EGDI groups, 2022

Country	Region	Rating Class 2020	Rating Class 2022
Kuwait	Asia	V1	HV
Zimbabwe	Africa	H1	MH
Haiti	Americas	M1	LM

Upward movement between EGDI groups, 2022

Country	Region	Rating Class 2020	Rating Class 2022
Serbia	Europe	HV	V2
Ukraine	Europe	HV	V1
Peru	Americas	HV	V1
Georgia	Asia	HV	V1
Rwanda	Africa	MH	H1
Côte d'Ivoire	Africa	MH	H1
Lebanon	Asia	MH	H1
Guyana	Americas	MH	H1
Nepal	Asia	MH	H1
Tajikistan	Asia	MH	H1
Belize	Americas	MH	H1
Zambia	Africa	M3	H1
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Asia	LM	M1
Guinea-Bissau	Africa	LM	M1

Central scale (top to bottom):
- Very high-EGDI: VH, V3, V2, V1
- High-EGDI: HV, H3, H2, H1
- Middle-EGDI: MH, M3, M2, M1
- Low-EGDI: LM, L3, L2, L1

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E-business

➢ In September 2021, ICC-ECA Centre of Entrepreneurship was launched.

  ➢ In 2022 the first continental hubs were announced in Ghana, Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria to inspire innovation and improve the business environment for entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa.

➢ Tech Africa Women initiative (TAW) was jointly launched by UNECA and an implementing partner Betacube on August 17th, 2022 in Tunis.

➢ with regard to continental trade facilitation the African Trade Exchange (ATEX) an initiative of ECA, Afreximbank and AfCFTA Secretariat, was launched in May 2022.

➢ As at June and July 2022, 55 AU Member States had signed the AfCFTA Agreement, and the AfCFTA had 43 State Parties respectively.

E-health

➢ E-health is an area which is increasingly growing taking advantage of the new and emerging technologies.

➢ The infrastructure and connectivity gap in health centres and medical facilities across the continent remains a challenge largely due to the lack of a comprehensive digital health strategies.

➢ Motivated by the role of digital technology in tackling the effects and responding to the emergencies posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, some countries have started to develop comprehensive strategies

➢ There are also start-ups cropping to support health such as:

- **Bypa-ss**
  - Egyptian e-health startup Bypa-ss has developed an end-to-end health information exchange (HIE) platform called HealthTag where healthcare professionals and patients are able to securely access medical records stored in a cloud-based database.
  - The startup received support from Magic Fund, Acuity Ventures, Launch Africa Ventures Ventures, and Plug and Play.
  - Bypa-ss closed 2021 with a US$1 million pre-seed round intended to fund a host of product improvements and expansion plans, which makes us excited for the coming year.

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E-learning

- 2022 showed an expansion of the usage of digital technologies to support e-learning.

- During the COVID19 pandemic e-learning was predominantly used, only favoring those with digital infrastructure.

- As noted by ITU) in 2021, nearly 4.9 billion individuals used the Internet globally compared to 4.1 billion in 2019. With the increasing number of Internet users, more people will be able to access e-learning platforms for learning courses or completing degrees.

- The use of e-learning such as development of multimedia, information technologies and Internet in teaching, has resulted in radical changes in the traditional process of teaching.
  - Availability of the requisite infrastructure coupled with acquisition of digital skills by both the instructors and learners will go a long way.

E-employment

- ➢ Both the government and private sectors are actively involved in e-employment initiatives. Africawork.com, for example, has established recruitment platforms in 37 countries in Africa

- ➢ As noted in the UNCTAD 2021 report, frontier technologies are being used to provide services via digital platforms that have spurred the creation of a 'gig economy'.

- ➢ E-employment is also getting momentum with the increasing e-government development facilitating recruitment.

Government 2022 survey suggest that countries tend to assign priority to digitalizing the registration and licensing of businesses and the process of applying for government vacancies; more than half of the countries offering such services have them fully digitalized. The number of countries publishing government vacancies online rose from 156 in 2020 to 160 in 2022, and in 85 of those countries people can apply for government positions directly online. At the regional level, Europe has the highest proportion of countries recruiting for public positions online (41 of 43 countries), while Africa has the lowest (36 of 54 countries).

E-environment

➢ E-environment encompasses (1) using ICTs for environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, (2) action for sustainable production and consumption and environmentally safe disposal and recycling of discarded hardware and components used in ICTs, and (3) establishment of monitoring systems using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing and least developed countries.

➢ E-environment is closely linked to most of the SDGs including Goal 9 on resilient infrastructure, Goal 11 on cities and human settlement, Goal 13 on combating climate change, Goal 14 on conserving and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, Goal 15 on protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, managing forests, combating desertification and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss. It has received less emphasis though closely linked to SDGs

➢ Technologies with smart applications, intelligent controls, sensors, those related to big data and analytics, the Internet of Things (IoT), remote sensing, etc. are widely available and are being used to address the environment issues.

E-agriculture

➤ E-agriculture supports the implementation of almost all of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063

➤ Small-scale agriculture that accounts for about 80% of food production and nearly 70% of all jobs in Africa can be upscaled through the intervention of 4IR

➤ There have been a range of successful application of ICTs in the agriculture sector.

Lobu Small Stock Farm (LSF) in Botswana

UNECA is providing technical and financial support through a strategic partnership with IFAD to the Republic of Botswana in its digital transformation strategy for the Lobu small stock Farm (LSF). The support was initiated in February 2022 and work started in July 2022.
The strategy aims to transform the LSF into a center of excellence for small stock development, leveraging on smart agriculture technologies. To achieve this, LSF is being remodeled and upgraded to incorporate smart technologies in production, management, precision livestock farming, environmental management, farmer capacity building and training, animal health and welfare monitoring, sustainability and competitiveness of the farm, information management systems and farm sustainability.

E-Science

➢ The role of digital technologies in enhancing science and research worldwide and particularly in Africa is of paramount importance.

➢ Pan African university has created centers of excellence to deal with research on various aspects eg climate change issues

➢ There have been remarkable initiatives to realize Virtual Research and Education networks both at national and regional level including linking them to international networks.

    ➢ This has greatly contributed in improving the academic and research capabilities of African universities.

➢ In March 2022, the African Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (ARCAI) was launched in Brazzaville, Congo.

    ▪ ARCAI aims to provide technology education and skills to promote job creation, bridge the digital divide, enhance inclusive economic growth, and ensure Africa's ownership of modern digital tools.

    ▪ It will also boost research and growth in areas such as digital policy, infrastructure, and finance.

    ▪ Work on The African Union Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy for Africa already started. An experts consultative meeting on developing a continental strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Africa organised by the African Union High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) was held in May 2022 in Dakar.

    ▪ Egypt has the distinction of being the only African country to have developed a national strategy for artificial intelligence (AI) – in addition to having a well-developed national strategy for ICTs alongside specific strategies for cybersecurity and e-commerce.

C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

- Africa, as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and linguistically diverse continent, this action line is key in implementing the SDGs and AU agenda 2063 goals.
- Documenting indigenous languages, care for older persons, accessibility, quality inclusive education, youth inclusion, employment, gender empowerment, environment protection, infrastructure and innovation continue being relevant for the continent.
  - We need to ensure continuous integration of indigenous African culture, values and language into primary and secondary school curricula
  - Create a balance between regulation and Usage/presence in the digital space
- In the second review of agenda 2063 goals, there was moderate progress of 45% with regards to Aspiration 5 "An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics".
  - This is due largely to the weak integration of indigenous African culture, values and language into primary and secondary school curricula.
- UNESCO adopted a declaration on indigenous languages, including with regard to digital empowerment, language technology and indigenous media
  - are we aligning to that?

C10: Media

➢ The role of the media in the development of the information society in Africa is important as advancement in ICTs revolutionized the media sector as well as its role in raising the awareness of the implications of the digital age to all.

➢ During and post pandemic the role of journalism and risks of misinformation and disinformation have been a challenge.

➢ Innovative ways to enforce media guidelines and ethics by the journalists are being explored including emphasis to self regulation (mainstream, bloggers) etc

➢ There is also awareness on responsible journalism to all involved in digital journalism in whichever form

➢ On going work to promote the ethical dimensions of the information society as well as in promoting research in the area.

➢ In 2022, UNESCO continued advancing its work on Internet Universality Indicators Framework for Assessing Internet Development.

- By March 2022, 17 African countries had undertaken the assessment.

➢ The UNESCO Internet Universality National Assessments has some indicators related to assessing the ethical dimensions of the Information Society

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C11: International and regional cooperation

- The eleventh annual meeting of the Africa Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) was hosted by the Government of Malawi between 19th to 21st of July 2022 under the overarching theme of Digital Inclusion and Trust in Africa. This year's African IGF program was built around four broader thematic tracks (1) Affordable and meaningful access; (2) Cybersecurity, privacy, and personal data protection; (3) Digital skills & human capacity development; and (4) Digital infrastructure.

- The Forum was attended by more than 500 participants from over 35 countries involving high-level government representatives, representatives of the civil society and the private sector, academic, the youth and representatives of international organisations. As Pre events,
    - 2nd physical Africa youth IGF was held with over 350 participants.
    - AFriSIG which focused on the UNOEWG process and African Position
    - The Network of African Parliamentarian was launched
    - The Network of Africa Women in Cybersecurity was launched

- The PRIDA initiative earlier mentioned is being implemented in the spirit of promoting international and regional cooperation.

WSIS and Global Digital compact

➢ Global Digital Compact aims at facilitating the use of digital technologies for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for enhancing digital access for societies across the Globe.

➢ Issues of responsible use of the Digital space are relevant for the continent considering that **The Global Digital Compact** is expected to "outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all"

Recommendation

➢ Recognising the existing digital divide in all countries and the possibility of digital growth creating new forms of digital divide which has to be addressed in a holistic manner, following are the recommendations

- The infrastructure and services in the telecom and the availability of high-speed internet should be continually improved. The new and emerging including disruptive technologies require the enabling infrastructure and service to grow.

- The legal and regulatory environment should still be enhanced intensified to ensure the adaption of new technologies will not be comprised. Such legislative towards ensuring cyber security, privacy and data protection have become ongoing concern affecting adaption of the digital technologies.

- Attention has to be given to the digital literacy given the low level of the continent's performance in the digital skills and digital literacy measures.

- Multi-stakeholder participation has to be intensified particularly the participation of the private sector and CSOs which are key in promoting awareness and tackle the overall challenges of the public in adapting digital technologies. They also play a role in stimulating demand to the services of the government as supplier of services.
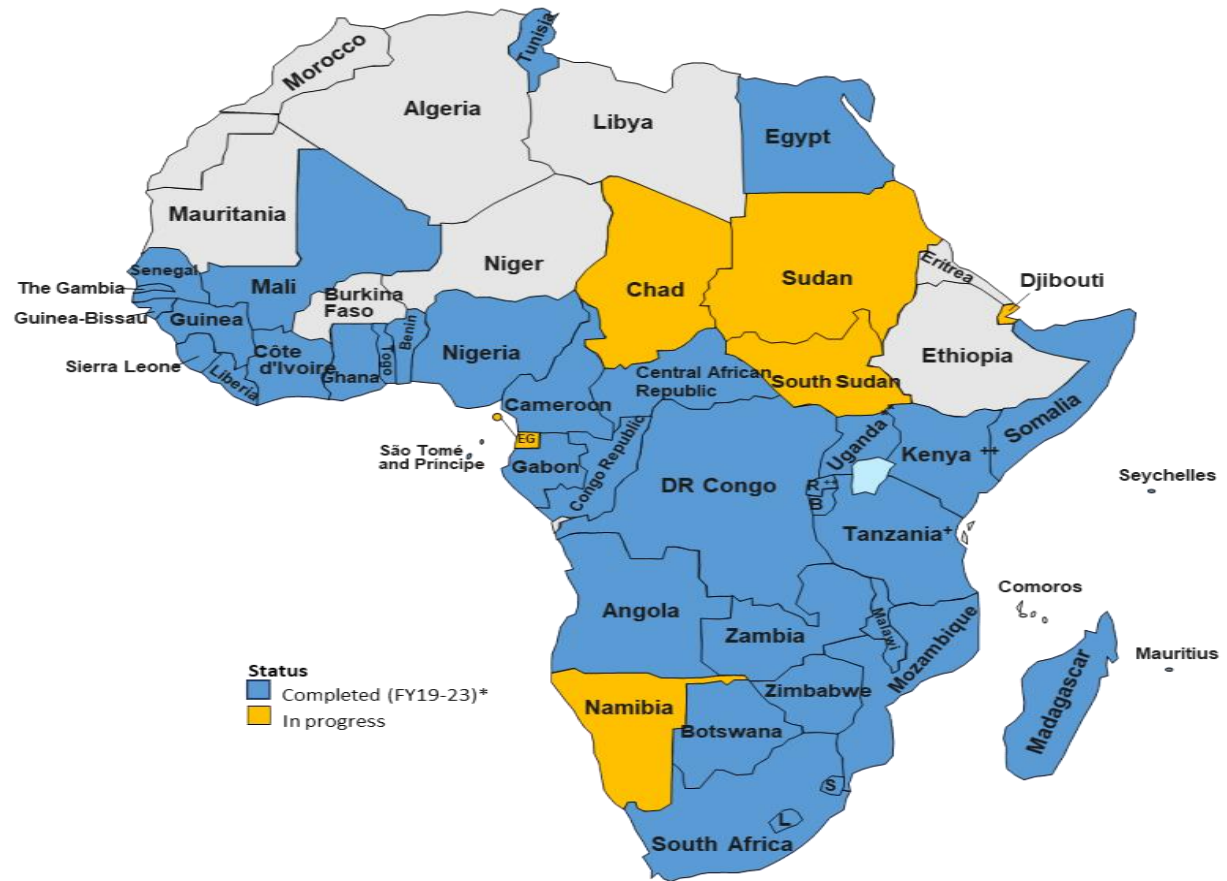
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Recommendation

- The African governments and stakeholders should actively participate in the discussions on the norms and confidence building measures going on at the UNOEWG whose current mandate is 2021-2025.

- More effort is needed to mainstream gender sensitivity in ICT & Digital space
  - Globally, in 2022, 62% of men were using the Internet compared to 57% of women. This translates to a global Internet use gender gap of 8%.

- Hasten the achievement of universal and meaningful connectivity by 2030 .
  - We need to **prioritize interventions, monitor progress**, **evaluate policy effectiveness**, and **galvanize efforts** around what is working for us

- Regional cooperation and integration through partnerships to create a larger market and benefit from economies of scale

- Implementation of Digital projects requires collaboration & partnership between diverse Multistakeholder groups.

- Collaboration by Partners working in WSIS aspirations &SDGs, needs to be optimal and complimentary.

Conclusion

➢ Africa has made great strides in implementing the WSIS action lines

➢ The digital inclusion agenda and the notion of the SDGs 'no one left behind' have moved beyond the issue of access to include others like availability and affordability.

➢ Demonstrated evidence shows that Multi-stakeholder approach to implementing the WSIS action lines is working. All the stakeholders have a role to play to support the implementation of the WSIS actions lines and achievement of the sustainable goals.

➢ With the continental Data Policy framework in place Digital Policy, Data Governance will take a central place going forward.

➢ Leverage on mobile money expansion and financial inclusion

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DE4A Country Diagnostics Status (Version July 2022)

Status
- Completed (FY19-23)*
- In progress

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THANK YOU!