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UHURU GARDENS,
NAIROBI, KENYA

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Concept Note

**“SHAPING THE FUTURE OF A CONNECTED AFRICA:
Unlocking Growth Beyond Connectivity”**

Hosted by: The Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy, alongside the Kenya ICT Authority and prominent private sector allies, orchestrates the grand confluence of Africa’s technology and innovation at the Connected Africa Summit 2024.



Ministry of Information, Communications
and The Digital Economy



Africa has made impressive strides in the digital transformation, positioning itself as a leader in the adoption of digital technologies.

Various governments have prioritized the development of the digital economy, digitalizing services, launching various initiatives aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship to accelerate the transformation to create a better, smarter, more inclusive and sustainable digital Africa.

The summit aims to underscore the relevance of the digital economy in driving economic growth and development. It will provide an opportunity for African leaders, investors and businesses to come together and harness the vast opportunities presented by the digital economy while addressing barriers and pressing issues affecting our economies.

The Digital transformation strategy for Africa (2020-2030-Key commitments) overall objective envisage the use of digital technologies and innovation to transform African societies and economies to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, break the digital divide, and eradicate poverty for the continent's socioeconomic development and ensure Africa's ownership of modern tools of digital management.

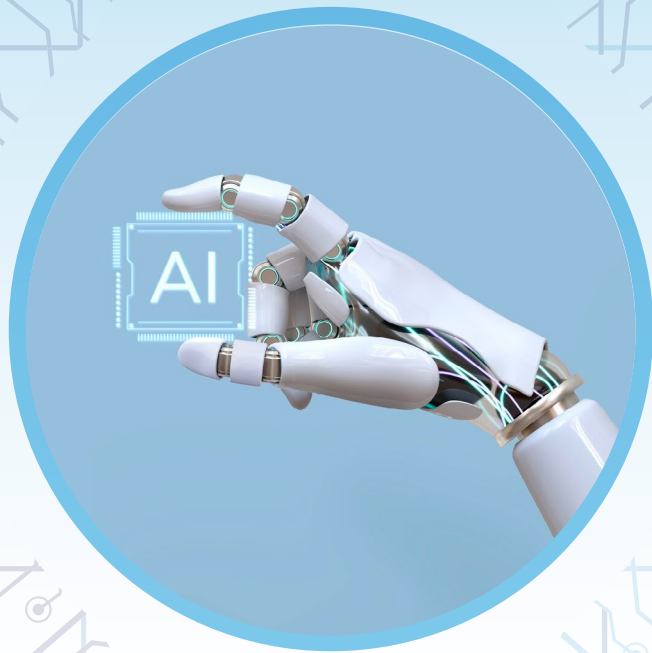
Policy makers are determined to ensure that no one is left behind in e-government and the process of digitalisation, with most African countries having a national digital government strategy - along with legislation for cybersecurity, data protection and Innovation.

The summit aims to promote greater collaboration and fuel investment towards the achievement of the Africa's Digital Agenda 2063 and Vision 2030



Vision

Envisioning a digitally sovereign Africa, the summit catalyzes over 10,000 delegates from diverse sectors to forge a collective path for a robust and connected digital economy, reinforced by REPUBLIC OF KENYA Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy sustainable practices and inclusive growth.



Strategic Context

Africa is currently experiencing a dynamic technological renaissance, driven by emerging technologies such as generative AI. While these advancements offer significant opportunities for transforming industries, they coexist with challenges. These challenges include a wide digital divide, fiscal constraints, and critical infrastructural deficits in areas like data, energy, electricity, skills and education.

Digital transformation is rapidly gaining momentum across Africa, with 19 of the world's fastest-growing countries and an internet economy expected to reach \$180 billion by 2025, contributing 5.2% to the continent's GDP. Most African nations have adopted national digital government strategies, alongside legislation addressing cybersecurity, data protection, and innovation.

Crucially, Africa's demographic profile is characterized by a young and vibrant population, representing the key to unlocking the continent's technological potential. The summit's objective is to harness the energy of this youthful population, aligning it with the rapidly expanding innovation sector. The aim is to enable Africa to leapfrog traditional development stages and position itself as a global tech hub.

This includes creating new job markets, particularly in green industries, and revolutionizing agriculture and food systems through sustainable and green industrialization. Furthermore, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents a transformative force that amplifies the potential for intra-African trade and economic integration. Combined with technological advancements, this sets the stage for Africa to pursue a development path that is less reliant on finite resources and more environmentally sustainable. The summit's focus is on leveraging these opportunities to bridge infrastructural, skills, data and educational gaps, paving the way for a development model that is both technologically advanced and environmentally conscious.

Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner: The summit will highlighting and Provide discussion on areas of inclusive growth and sustainable development through collaborations between various stakeholders bringing together governments, private sector entities, development partners, local communities to jointly work towards the objectives of Agenda 2063. Identify various investment opportunities across different sectors in Africa. Foster Regional Integration and continental cooperation by promoting cross-border investments and facilitating the creation of regional investment frameworks engage policies and initiatives that promote trade, investment, and connectivity among African nations. Showcasing sectors leveraging on technology such agriculture, manufacturing, renewable energy, tourism to accelerate growth . Promoting innovation and technology transfer across Africa partnerships between local businesses and foreign companies or institutions for knowledge and technology exchange.

Sustainable Cities and Communities: investment opportunities in sustainable rural development projects providing avenue for smart villages to reduce digital divide and accelerate economic growth. Strengthen the partnerships that create and facilitate collaboration platforms that bring together various stakeholders, including governments, private sector companies, non-profit organizations, and civil society, to work collectively towards achieving the SDGs, encouraging Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building , promote best practices, provide guidance on implementing sustainable development initiatives, and enhance understanding of the SDGs.

Leveraging digital technology to enable remote access to information, ensuring that it is easily accessible to all, including marginalized communities. Prioritize the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth that benefits all segments of society, supporting investments that prioritize job creation, especially in sectors that have the potential to provide employment opportunities to vulnerable and marginalized communities, address social inequalities and barriers to economic opportunities.



Objectives

- 1. Foster Integrated Digital-Green Growth:** Showcase strategies that for a green technology future that promotes sustainable economic growth and address disparities
- 2. Reform Investment and Finance:** Focus on adapting financial systems and frameworks to support Africa's digital development for public goods within a constrained fiscal space, mobilize finance, patient capital for entrepreneurs, and encourage partnerships, technology development cooperation and collaborations.
- 3. Showcase Tech Innovations:** Highlight the latest technological advancements across Africa's regions, facilitating an exchange of ideas and showcasing homegrown innovations at the expo.
- 4. Cultivate a Pan-African Digital Marketplace:** Use the conference as a launchpad for a digital marketplace that promotes interconnectivity and access to technology solutions across the continent
- 5. Accelerate Digital Infrastructure Projects:** Align stakeholders on actionable commitments to advance digital public infrastructure projects, with a focus on achieving tangible progress post-summit.
- 6. Formulate Action-Oriented Policy Directives:** Convene policy discussions aimed at producing concrete, actionable directives that support a conducive environment for technology growth and investment across Africa, with the focus on agile policy development such as AI Governance that does not stifle innovation, but ensure safety, security and inclusivity and builds public trust.
- 7. Enhance Cyber Resilience:** Develop a pan-African agenda for cybersecurity, aiming to establish common standards and protocols for collaboration and cooperation in light of new cross border challenges by state and non-state actors on critical infrastructures.
- 8. Champion Green Tech Initiatives:** Promote the adoption of green technology initiatives within the expo, highlighting their role in sustainable development and securing commitments for their integration into African economies.
- 9. Secure Commitments for Educational and skills Reforms:** Focus on educational reforms that cater to digital skill in a fast changing environment, aligning educational stakeholders to commit to curriculum agility and enhancements during the conference.
- 10. Catalyze Innovation and Collaborative Strategies:** Share innovative solutions and experiences, address unique challenges in technology adoption and environmental sustainability, and launch continental strategies for lowcost, sustainable development.



Program tracks and descriptions

1. **Digital Transformation and Trade:Unlocking Strength in OurNetwork:** Technology meets trade, this track navigates through Africa’s burgeoning AI and emerging technologies landscape and the digital mechanisms required to empower cross-border trade, envisioning a continent without economic barriers.
2. **Sustainable Tech-Driven Economies:** Delving into the nexus of technology and sustainability, discussions will pivot around powering digital infrastructures with renewable energy, fostering green industrialization, and the fiscal strategies seeding eco- tech innovations. Manufacturing, eWaste management, Green and circular economy.
3. **Inclusive Growth and Connectivity:** A tapestry of connectivity weaves through this track, emphasizing the expansion of digital reach to underpin economic prosperity,Monetizing Connectivity as a Service for Seamless Growth supported by governance that pivots with technological tides and a societal model where digital benefits cascade to all. Agile Leadership Enabling Smart Village-Opportunities and challenges.
4. **Skilling and the Future of Work:** This track spotlights the transformative impact of digitalization on the workforce. From the proliferation of BPOs to the normalization of remote work, it’s a forward-looking discourse on preparing Africa for the digital age’s vocational demands.Citizen participation enabled through Skills and Jobs beyond connectivity.
5. **Africa’s Digital Innovations & Enterprises** - Change makers championing Africa’Transformation. A forum to foster collaboration between Startups and Corporations Investors .Africa She-tech Forum with Africa women digital ministers & Africa First ladies: Naturing Africa Digital Future.
6. **Technology for Development and Security:** Technology as a development lever takes center stage, with a focus on using digital tools to meet continental goals and building digital societies that prioritize ethics, security, safety and inclusivity.
7. **7. Smart Governments and Smart Economies** - by AI Digitalizing Africa and revultionalisng service delivery, Emerging Technologies on Africa’s transformation and Policy relevance.





Delegates profile

The Summit 2024 will bring together : Heads of State and Government, Africa First Ladies and International Counterparts, Ministers in ICT, Finance, Trade & Industry, Education, Labour, Agri & Health, ICT Private Sector service providers, CEOs, CIOs- ICT industry Champions and Africa's business influencers, Banks and regulators & Fintech companies, Technology Manufacturers and experts (electronic vehicle, AI devices etc), Digital Health and Agriculture service providers, Artificial Intelligence firms, Block chain & experts, Telecom & IT Regulators, Government Ministers, Academia and policy experts, Chamber of Commences and e-Commerce , Development partners International & Multilateral organizations, Digital Entrepreneurs and Start ups & Tech innovators, Investment banks & Venture capitalists, AfricaShe - Innovators & Entrepreneurs, E-Waste and circular economy providers, Funders and experts, Space technology and experts, Media transforming Africa

Summit Format and Dynamic Segments:

In addition to high-level segments, tech CEO keynotes, and product showcases, the summit will feature:

- **Plenaries and Panels:** Thought leaders and experts assemble in plenary sessions and panels, dissecting the thematic tracks and crystallizing ideas into actionable blueprints for Africa's tech-empowered future.
- **Pitch Competitions and Expo:** A beacon for innovation, the summit's pitch competitions spotlight entrepreneurial ventures before investors, while the expo unveils technological marvels set to redefine the continent's digital narrative.
- **Workshops and Masterclasses:** Pragmatic and skill- centric, these sessions are conduits for knowledge, from the intricacies of digital fluency to the best practices that shape the contours of Africa's burgeoning remote work landscape.

- Ministerial Conference: Convening of government officials to discuss national strategies, regional cooperation, and the integration of digital agendas.
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- Industry Captains Leaders Dialogue: A platform where business leaders and industry veterans share insights, forecast trends, and explore collaborative ventures.
- Financial Stewardship: A specialized track engaging financial institutions, including pension funds, venture capitalists, and central banks, to discuss investment, financial innovation, and economic strategies for supporting Africa's digital transformation.
- Interact and network with key decision makers and deal makers
- Build relationships and learn from digital Education, Agriculture and health experts to scale your business.
- Engage investors across the globe to accelerate your business
- Get current issues on Artificial Intelligence for Africa, Learn from emerging technologies experts & what it means to you & your country and company.
- and how your business can benefit.
- Learn from leading experts and funders on e-waste, circular economy impact on Africa as connectivity and digitization increases.
- Engage and build relationship with Africa's Game changers-Innovators, Entrepreneurs, She-Entrepreneurs and scale your business

Value Proposition

The summit is a crucible for connections, ideas, and strategies, arming delegates with insights and networks to navigate and lead within the digital economy.

- Be part of Africa's high profile premier event on Africa digital transformation .
- Engage in thought leadership discussion that would broaden collaborations in Africa and shape the the future of ICT industry in Africa.
- Engage and build relationships to scale your business to Africa's single digital market. Build relationships and learn from digital Education, Agriculture and health experts to scale your business.
- Engage investors across the globe to accelerate your business
- Be part of Connected Africa membership and how your country and company can be a key player in the transformation.

Outcome Document:

An outcome document will be forming a key aspect of the conference declaration as a contribution to global digital policy such as the the Global Digital Compact (GDC), the United Nations AI advisory body and the Summit of the Future. At national level, it will provide strategic direction for Kenya.

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