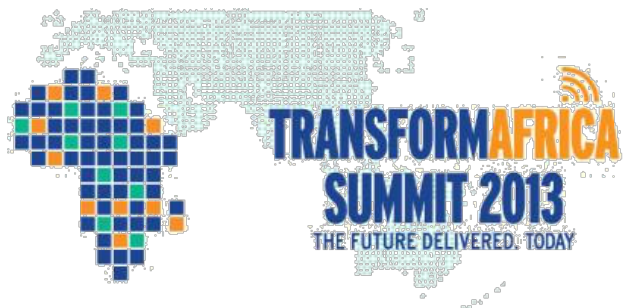
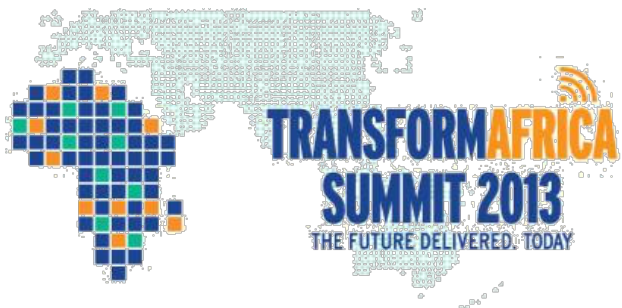


The Smart Africa Manifesto

*Endorsed by Heads of State and Government in Kigali on
29th October 2013*



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1. Preamble

The Transform Africa Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda on the 28th – 31st October 2013 culminated in the adoption of the Smart Africa Manifesto document by seven (7) African Heads of State (Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Mali, Gabon and Burkina Faso) in which they committed to provide leadership in accelerating socio-economic development through ICT.

On 30th – 31st January 2014, the Smart Africa Manifesto was endorsed by all Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa. The development places ICT at the heart of the ICT agenda in Africa beyond the original 7 signatories at the Summit to all the 53 African countries.

2. Manifesto

The Heads of State then pledge to move forward:

Appreciating that Information and Communication Technologies continue to play a fundamental role in the socio-economic development of Africa;

Mindful that Africa cannot afford to be excluded from participating in the opportunities that the knowledge economy brings;

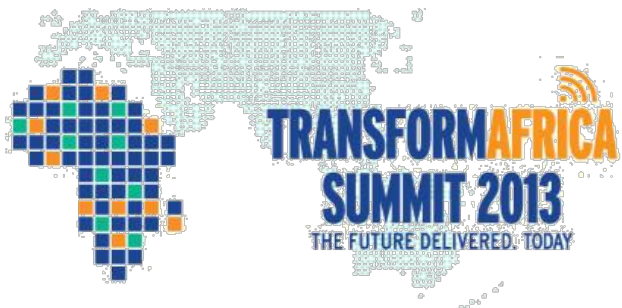
Keen to leverage on the progress registered in connectivity since the Connect Africa Summit and use technology to reduce poverty, enhance participation, improve service delivery and create prosperity for our people

SMART Africa is a bold and innovative commitment to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development on the continent and usher Africa into the knowledge economy through affordable access to Broadband and usage of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).

We, the Heads of State and Governments here present, commit support the socio-economic transformation of Africa through smart implementation and application of Information and Communication Technologies

We will provide leadership in the implementation of SMART country programs and hereby invite our development partners and private sector to join us in this endeavor.

We, the Heads of State and Governments here present, commit to the following principles.



The principles

Principle 1: To put ICT at the centre of our national socio-economic development agenda

As we prepare to implement the Post 2015 Agenda, we commit to integrating ICT in our development agendas to reduce poverty, create prosperity and increase productivity on the continent.

We will facilitate innovation and the creation of content and applications that are context-appropriate, development-oriented and scalable to deliver social and economic benefits in Education, Healthcare, Business, Agriculture and other key sectors.

We will develop capacity of our people to utilize ICTs and be fully empowered participants of the ICT-driven economy and society.

Principle 2: To improve access to ICT especially Broadband

We will build on the continent's progress in connectivity especially in underserved areas to realize our goal for quality and affordable access for all.

To achieve this, we will collaborate with the private sector and fellow African countries to continuously invest in the necessary infrastructure, including cross-border and regional networks.

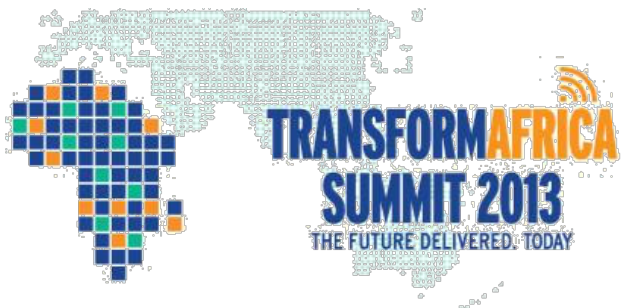
We will support these investments by continuously advancing and harmonizing our policy environments to ensure they are enablers, rather than constraints to universal access.

Principle 3: To improve accountability, efficiency and openness through ICT

We recognize the need for ICT adoption in the way we serve our citizens and will develop and implement national e-Government policies.

We commit to integrating ICT in service delivery and will develop and encourage the usage of government-to-citizens, government-to-business and government-to-government services online to improve efficiency.

We will promote, at a country level, Open Data initiatives to drive accountability, transparency and improve decision making while respecting country-specific confidentiality, privacy and national security considerations.



Principle 4: To put the Private Sector First

We recognize that economic transformation must be private sector driven and we will foster an enabling environment for private investments to drive job creation, productivity and competitiveness supported by technology and innovation.

We will especially promote the use of ICT to increase access to markets and information for business.

We will support efforts aimed to turn our continent from being largely a passive consumer, to a producer, of ICTs. We will increase the number of local innovation hubs with the requisite business development, financial and technological capabilities.

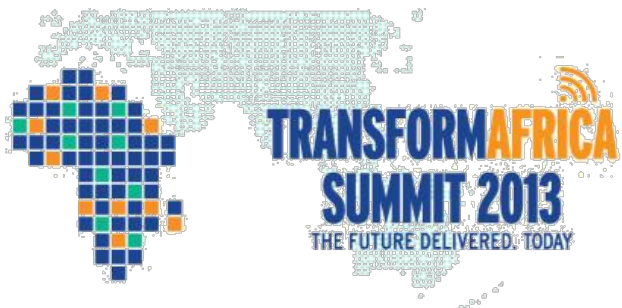
Principle 5: To leverage ICT to promote sustainable development

We will sustain gains made in socioeconomic development by leveraging ICTs to empower women and youth as well as social inclusion, particularly people with disabilities

We also recognise that pressure on environmental resources poses a challenge to our development and will adopt ICT to address climate change, clean energy, e-waste, urbanisation, disaster management and other risks.

Technology will also need to become more cost effective and protected in order to ensure sustainable achievements. We will therefore embrace suitable innovations in the fields of cyber security, cloud computing, mobility, shared infrastructure and, shared services.

We, Heads of States and Government resolve to propose the SMART Africa Manifesto to our peers for adoption at the next African Union summit.



Implementation Framework: The Smart Africa Alliance

The SMART Africa Alliance is a framework for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this Manifesto, designed to make it actionable.

The Heads of States and Government will propose the SMART Africa Alliance for adoption at the next African Union summit.

The Alliance will be a partnership between African countries adhering to the Manifesto, the African Union (AU Commission, NEPAD Agency, specialized institutions and Regional Economic Communities), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), The World Bank, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Private Sector. The objective of this partnership is to promote the SMART Africa agenda through three key interventions:

Support implementation of the SMART Africa Initiative

The Alliance will develop continent-wide goals and milestones as well best practices to guide the implementation of SMART Africa.

In light of the above, each adhering country will develop and implement SMART country programs with clear targets, milestones. These will need to be strongly aligned to the SMART Africa principles. The Alliance will provide technical support to countries in the development and implementation of SMART country program.

The Alliance will also assist governments mobilize funding from Development Partners and Private Sector in order to implement their SMART country programs.

Monitor and Evaluate the implementation of the Smart Africa Initiative

The Alliance will put in *place* a framework to evaluate and document progress and lessons learnt in the implementation of the SMART Africa initiative.

Promote the SMART Africa agenda

The Alliance will provide a platform for constructive dialogue among stakeholders that promotes the SMART Africa agenda by:

1. Organizing Annual SMART Country Days in all participating countries.
2. Organizing the Transform Africa Summit, once every 2 years in Kigali, Rwanda.