United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance - AfICTA

Concept note of the Livestream Session on "Unlocking Africa's Digital Potential Amid COVID-19"

1. Background

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in collaboration with the Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA) convenes the 4th edition of its e-Conference to discuss issues pertinent to the Africa digital economy landscape in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impending aftermath of the pandemic that needs to be addressed through ICTs and policies that engenders African Countries to invest more in digital infrastructure and the broadband sector. However, the COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated that ICTs are at the forefront of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Africa is faced on several challenges to fully leverage digital technologies in the fight against the pandemic. Africa has been lagging in exploiting the full potential of the digital age albeit the continent just started exploring the opportunities provided through ICT but clearly, the need for more intensive and meticulous efforts geared toward improving the economy through digital technologies is quite evident in the economic meltdown we are currently facing amid the lockdown.

2. Objective

The objective of this livestream session is to bring together key main actor in the ICT sector across the continent to discuss how we can fully exploit the benefits of broadband to provide viable, affordable and accessible internet connectivity and to better prepare for imminent threats in the future.
More particularly, the session will address the following topics:

- Some Best Implemented Solutions In Africa That Proved Useful During Covid 19.
- Bridging the digital divide in the connectivity through more universal, accessible and affordable internet
- Improving Service delivery in Health & education through ICTs
- Data security, integrity and confidentiality
- Ways to be more digitally prepared for future shutdown contingencies.
- Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs through better collaboration

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3. **Expected Outcomes**

- Opportunities and challenges of Africa's digital potential for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identified.
- Understanding the need for change
- Shaping the path towards a digital Africa

4. **Date: Tuesday May 26, 2020: 10:00-11:00 GMT**

Register on Zoom:

Attendees would have the opportunity to submit their questions for immediate response.

5. **Guest Speakers**:

Mr. Jean Paul Adam, Director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Mr. Lacina Kone, CEO Smart Africa
Mr. Sunil Geness, Former President Information Technology Association SA
Ms. Fatoumata BA, CEO Janggo
Mr. Segun Olugbile, CEO Data Analytic Privacy Technology Ltd.
Ms. Rebeeca Enonchong, CEO Afrilabs &Afrilabs (TBC)
Mr Inye Kemabonta, CEO, Tech Law Development Services

Moderator: Mactar Seck, UNECA

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