



RE: AfICTA Chairman Acceptance Speech 25 November 2020 by Thabo Mashegoane.

Good afternoon esteemed AfICTA members, our chairman Hossam Elgamal, and our founder Dr Jimson Olufuye. Your leadership is highly appreciated. It is a privilege to get the nomination to stand on the shoulders of those who came before me, and it's a great privilege to serve a prestigious organization such as AfICTA as chairman.

AfICTA is an organization with vast network, impact on critical policies, and reputation that took years and hard work to build. Mine is to take the baton and continue where the honourable Engr. Hossam Elgamal has taken this organization to. Of importance is the platform to enable African countries to collaborate and share best practices and lessons learnt with an objective of not leaving anyone behind in development. This is a vision we will continue to uphold.

As we have experienced in our 8th Summit, we stand in a critical position to influence attainment of Sustainability Development Goals 2030 through ICT. Our challenge and opportunity is to be that central organizing body for African voices to international structures such as ICANN to ensure impact. We stand to be an imperative body to facilitate the vision of digital inclusion through our intervention. It is within this backdrop that I want to continue the good work that has been started by:

- having certain focus on practically transferring / sharing the lessons from one successful country to another through our hub,
- ensuring that our programme of action is collectively agreed upon and that we proactively find both funding/donor partners for our initiatives,
- we closely measure and monitor the impact of our initiatives, and
- Put mechanisms to have both ex-members and veterans engaged in our program of action.

For us to strategize and ensure we collectively influence the way forward, to induct new members on the ethos and protocols of AfICTA, we propose to have a retreat (lekgotla, bosberaad). The details will be communicated in due course by the secretariat.

It is again a privilege to serve this organization and I will expend all my abilities in executing AfICTA's vision of "fulfilling the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa", by encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogue fostering accelerated and ICT enabled development in Africa and the use of cutting-edge innovative technologies.

Esteemed Members, I thank you!