Contribution by DotConnectAfrica Trust

Agenda2063

The Future we want for Africa by 2063,Input to achieve the African Union's vision of "An Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena"

Executive Summary

Agenda 2063 is both a Vision and an Action Plan that seeks to place an ambitious 50 Year Agenda into the changing global context where globalization and the information technology revolution run the schematics and the dynamics.

DotConnectAfrica Trust is a millennial organization that has the African Vision embedded in its inception and looks to create a continental domain and registry that will not only revolutionize but also create a platform that will nurture all other facets of African socio-economic development.

Some of the critical areas (but not limited to) that may need focus are listed bellow

- Public Private Partnerships (PPP)
- Increasing touch with ICT's
- Structured Continental Management team
- Track records of existing and past development initiatives
- Financial projections and Self/Internal Funding requirements

Introduction of DotConnectAfrica

DotConnectAfrica (DCA) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that has its base of operation in Nairobi, Kenya and headquartered in I/F River Court 6th Denis Street Port Louis, Mauritius, Africa, Reg.ID CT8710DCA90). Its main charitable objects are: (a) for the advancement of education in information technology to the African society; and (b) in connection with (a) to provide the African society with a continental Internet domain name to have access to Internet services for the people of Africa as a purpose beneficial to the public in general. DCA is well represented in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, London United Kingdom, and California, USA.

DotConnectAfrica (DCA) has been spearheading the proposed new Top Level Domain (TLD) .africa (DotAfrica) Initiative since 2006. DotAfrica is one of the new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) that will be delegated into the root zone of the Internet Domain Name Structure (DNS) by the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a US-based institution that is at the apex of Global Internet Governance.

As an independent Non-Profit, non-partisan entity, DCA Trust intends to utilize surplus proceeds from the registry operation accruing to the Trust Fund for Charitable projects. Funds will be regularly allocated to different corporate social responsibility programs. Specific projects will be identified, and supported. As the first gTLD for Africa, it will aim at bridging the digital divide that exists between other regions of the Internet community and Africa by promoting the use of ICT for development.

Therefore, DCA intends to focus on development projects that will aid the increased use and penetration of the Internet in Africa, including provision of low-cost/affordable computers, Internet bandwidth, and user training for disadvantaged groups, target local communities and focus groups in Africa.

Some of the programs that DCA has already initiated and continues to support include the Youth Demographic in Africa.

DotConnectAfrica and its Principal and Members have in the past worked with African Continental organizations such as Organization for Africa Union (OAU) aka Africa Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa UNECA), and International and regional organizations such as the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and (ICANN), The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), The Internet Society (ISOC), Internationalized Domain Resolution Union (IDRU), Internet Business Council for Africa (IBCA), and Safaricom among others with a view to increase synergy that encourages all stakeholders to participate in this dialog, in particular the African Diaspora.

Past collaboration with DCA Principles by the AU includes successfully commissioning the Campus Area Network information technology infrastructure for the General Secretariat of the AU at the Addis Ababa Head Quarters.

Back ground and past projects

Agenda 2063 is a good point to start rejuvenation and should be seen as the logical continuation of recent developments. While it's good to chart a fresh agenda and mandate all together, it's also important to properly scrutinize and analyze the past achievements and challenges.

Several treaties have been formulated and ratified in the bid to strengthen strategic planning efforts at the regional and sub-regional level. Such include the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and the NEPAD, to address new and emerging issues in the continent over the short, medium and long-term. However these treaties despite their critical planning may not have achieved its optimum and as such a different approach is welcome at this Vision 2063 formulation juncture

Africa has several economic regions whose economics dynamics are affected by their geographic, linguistic, political and religious individualities and this affects how any strategy can work to create a proper platform that can be an inclusive fabric. As such It will be prudent to put all these unique identities of the regions that make up the African nation into perspective in order to formulate a working formula.

Strengths of the continent

Africa is endowed with different resources that are largely unexploited, such include natural resources such as Oil, Gas, Precious stones. Africa has a largely unpolluted atmosphere that needs to be protected and conserved.

Apart from the naturally occurring minerals, Africa's rich culture, languages and human capacity remains one of our most potential and strong assets that can be harnessed to create a self generating sustainable resource.

The Vision 2063 is a 50 year strategy that can be structured in manageable and feasible phases that will be specific and target specific areas for focus, measurable to be able to quantify or at least suggest indicators of progress. Attainable set realistic goals for the continental level of skills and available resources and also realistic in order to state what results can realistically be achieved, given available resources, the said strategies can also importantly time bound.

Focus Areas and Future Joint collaboration

African unions vision is that of "An Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena"

ICT's remain as the most useful and dynamic force that is driving the worlds agenda and it has penetrated all facets of geo-political and economic frontiers of every nation.

DotConnectAfrica Trust was founded on the platform of ICT development for Africa. The company has always sought to bridge the digital gap that is still enormous in the continent despite the huge developments that are being experienced in other developed continents across the globe.

According to DCA's vision, the **youth and women** are the greatest assets of any organization or community and as such the most formidable way to catalyze growth is to partner to increase ICT's expertise and reach to these groups.

 The Vision 2063 is a function of time and by involving youth and women in the blue print and providing means and mechanisms that will empower them; Africa will be assured of a growth curve that is steep and fast.

The African demographics suggest that the number of Women and youth constitute the largest population matrix as such DotConnectAfrica has through its own initiatives. The **Miss.africa** program is a gender-focused initiative targeted mainly at female youth audiences in Africa to increase their personal involvement in early technology use and adoption with a view to improving their digital self-awareness and empowerment, and overall self-esteem and

Another initiative **Generation.africa** is a youth focused program launched by DCA to empower a new generation of Internet users in Africa using its Generation.africa theme. It is intended to target different youth audiences and encourage them to be involved in discussions that define and increase their common stake-holding in the development and evolution of the Internet and how this affects them

Trough these initiatives DotConnectAfrica Trust attests to these facts that indeed if the African Union can focus more on increasing reach and empowerment to the youth and Women, Africa vision 2063 will be successful.