Contribution by DotConnectAfrica
Trust to ITU's Strategic Plan 2016-
2019

2014

Executive Summary

The ITU's Strategic Plan 2016-2019 is a welcome objective that shows the need to prepare carefully and widely to cope with the rapidly changing telecommunications landscape. This is considering the value that ICT's are placing on traditional telecommunications standards.

ITU's commitment is to connect, global communications infrastructure must therefore be continuously monitored to ensure that it runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible, and that enables everybody to access the benefits of ICTs while at the same time assisting in mitigating new risks.

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 Trust is an independent, non-profit and non-partisan organization that is based in Port Louis, Mauritius (Reg ID. CT8710DCA90) with its registry operations located in Nairobi, Kenya. 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.

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

In 11 July 2012, the ITU Council decided that the Draft of the future ITRS be made publicly accessible for an open consultation process, where all stakeholders could express their views and opinions on the content of the Draft of the future ITRs or any other matter related to WCIT. DotConnectAfrica as a concerned stakeholder in the ICT sector of the African continent submitted several recommendations to that effect. DCA's contribution has been published at ITU's Public Views and Opinions page

The ITU's involvement with the global stakeholders gives public consultation process a platform to contribute on the **development of a new ITU Strategic Plan for 2016-2019**, which will be approved at ITU's next Plenipotentiary Conference.

ITU convened the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 3-14 December 2012. This landmark conference reviewed the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), which serve as the binding global treaty designed to facilitate international interconnection and interoperability of information and communication services, as well as ensuring their efficiency and widespread public usefulness and availability. The results of the

conference gave an opportune moment for the entire world to be able contribute through delegations, the urgent need and benefit of a multistakeholder model of deliberations both for individuals, private organizations and governments.

Strengths of the ITU

The ITU has the advantage of being a global institution, at the helm of international matters that deal with multi-institutional policy making strategies. The increasing attention that is being given to the ITU to take leadership in matters that deal with ICT and globalization.

The ITU has the responsibility of being at the center and the platform of coalescing strategies and ideas from governments and private organizations and making acceptable strategies

Strategic Plan and Focus Areas and Future Joint collaboration

ITU is an institution that has been in existence for quite some time and is beginning to get attention from all quarters.

The youth are the major contributing group that is beginning to take a great portion of leadership in the ICT framework globally.

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.

 ITU's Strategic Plan 2016-2019 will succeed 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 ITU can focus more on increasing reach and empowerment to the youth and Women, ITU's Strategic Plan 2016-2019 will succeed

Points of focus by the ITU

Involving the youth in the future strategic plans, in areas such as awareness, technical, strategic and financial

Fund programs that empower the youth, that means increasing the tech-hubs

Empower women and young girls in the institution to increase their interest in technology

Produce regular research studies that show the levels of development