

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE
MEDIA ADVISORY



WHAT: 16th High-Level AU Private Sector Forum

WHEN: 8 – 10 December 2025

WHERE: Djibouti Palace Kempinski, Djibouti

STARTING TIME: 9:00 AM

WHO: Directorate of Industry, Minerals, Entrepreneurship and Tourism (IMET), Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTIM)

Objectives of the Forum:

- To foster strategic dialogue and action-oriented collaboration among key stakeholders in Africa's digital ecosystem, with the goal of leveraging digital economy and innovation to boost intra-Africa trade, accelerate economic transformation, and support inclusive, sustainable development.
- Promote Digital Trade: Identify mechanisms and policy actions to enable seamless cross-border digital commerce and integration under AfCFTA.
- Foster Innovation and Fintech: Advance inclusive fintech ecosystems and support innovation-driven entrepreneurship, especially among youth and women.
- Policy and Regulatory Harmonization: Build consensus on regional and continental digital regulatory frameworks to foster trust, security, and interoperability.

- Encourage Investment and Public-Private Partnerships: Strengthen collaboration between governments, private sector, and development partners to invest in digital infrastructure, R&D, and skills development.
- Advance Digital Inclusion and Sustainability: Ensure that digital transformation contributes to environmental sustainability and the empowerment of marginalized communities.

Expected Outcomes:

- Continental Action Plan on Digital Trade and Innovation with specific recommendations to scale digital commerce and platforms under the AfCFTA.
- Policy Briefs and Toolkits on regulatory harmonization, digital financing, and innovation ecosystems tailored to African contexts.
- Investment Framework for boosting digital infrastructure and innovation hubs across Africa.
- Strengthened Public-Private Dialogue Mechanism to sustain multi-stakeholder collaboration on digital transformation.
- Digital Inclusion Roadmap, including strategies to enhance digital literacy, gender equity, and youth engagement.
- Forum Declaration outlining shared commitments, principles, and priorities for action.

PARTICIPANTS:

- Private sectors, Government Officials, Regulatory authorities, Financial Institutions, International and Regional Organizations, Academia & Think Tanks, Youth and Women Entrepreneurs, Civil society & Digital Rights Advocates

Media Invitation:

- Members of the Press are invited for coverage of the forum from 8-10 December 2025

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