Ministry of Innovation and Technology

Ethiopia Digital Foundation Project

Project No.: P171034

Report on Ethiopia Digital Transformation Workshop,

Organized by Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA) and the World Bank.

August 21-22, 2022

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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1. Background

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Finance (MoF), has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ethiopia Digital Foundations Project. The Digital Foundations project will be financed through an SDR 138.9 million (US$200 million equivalent) IDA credit that will involve a range of stakeholders through five components having as leading implementing partners the Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA), Ethiopian Education and Research Network (EthERNet), the Ministry of Peace, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) as the main coordinating and beneficiary institution.

The project is intended to lay the building blocks to develop Ethiopia's digital economy through support to the policy and regulatory environment, improving infrastructure and quality of broadband connectivity and supporting the digitalization of services, and promoting digital entrepreneurship. The project development objective is "to improve Ethiopia's competitiveness in the digital age through increased inclusiveness and affordability of digital services and through digital job creation."

2. Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the two-day workshop is to share ideas between different stakeholders on areas like Spectrum, Universal Access, National ID, Data Protection, etc. Just to list some.

- ➢ Share the National initiatives in the sector,
- ➢ Share international best experiences in the areas, and
- ➢ Discuss the best practices to leapfrog in the future implementation.

3. Welcome Speech

Eng. Balcha Reba, Director General of the Ethiopian Communications Authority welcomed the participants by indicating the major objective of the workshop organized to discuss with the

stakeholders. In these two days' workshop, several topics are planned to be presented ranging in National Spectrum Plan and Priorities, in best practice for spectrum fees and recommendations for Ethiopia, Spectrum licensing best practice, unlicensed spectrum 5G, Future spectrum, universal service, Data Protection, Digital ID, just to list some.

On the second day of the Workshop, Dr. Abiyot Bayou, Director, Digital Transformation Program, Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT), has given a welcoming speech to the participants explaining the Digital Ethiopia 2025 and in relation to the objective and topics planned to be presented in the workshop.

4. Participants of the Workshop

A Total No of participant from 9 Ministries and Organizations is 36 participants from - World Bank Group, Global System for Mobile Communication (GSMA), Ethiopian Communication Authority, Ministry of Innovation and technology, Ministry of Education, National Bank of Ethiopia, Ethiopian National ID Program, Ethio telecom and Safaricom Ethiopia.

The table below shows the gender aggregated data of the workshop participants.

Gender	No Participants	Percentage
Male	28	78%
Female	8	22%
Total	**36**	**100%**

5. Presented Topics

In this workshop, the following major topics were discussed in brief, followed by question and answers sessions.

- National Spectrum Plan and Priorities
- Overview and best practice for spectrum fees and recommendations for Ethiopia,
- Spectrum licensing best practice

- Licensing conditions, roadmaps, and technology neutrality.

- Best practices for unlicensed spectrum,

- Ushering in the 5G era in Africa

- Future spectrum: WRC23 preparations,

- Universal Access Fund,

- Comparative country examples for universal service

- Horn of Africa Regional Digital Integration Project

- Impactful subsea cable around Africa (2Africa),

- Ethiopia's Fayda digital ID system, Overview, pilot and where we are today, Fayda Platform and eKYC,

- SIM Registration and mobile ID, Comparative country examples, and

- Spotlight on the regulatory environment, Data Protection, Digital ID.

6. Discussion:

In this two days' workshop, several questions were raised by the participants and the presenters responded to each of the questions. Most of the questions raised by participants attending the two days' workshop face-to-face and virtually are reflected by the presenter case by case. The Q&A session is arranged in such a way that after each presentation, the audience will be asking, and the responses are given directly from the presenter.

7. Annex I. Workshop Schedule

DAY 1 – Thursday July 21st, 2022		
Time	**Session**	**Presenter(s)**
9 :00 – 9:30	*Welcoming remarks*	Engineer Balcha, Director General, Ethiopian Communications Authority
9:30 – 10:00	*National Spectrum Plan and Priorities*	Peter Lange, Consultant, World Bank Group
10:00 – 10:30	*Overview and best practice for spectrum fees and recommendations for Ethiopia*	Peter Lange, Consultant, World Bank Group
10:30 – 11:00	**Tea Break**	
11:00 – 11:30	*Spectrum licensing best practice* Licensing conditions, roadmaps, and technology neutrality.	Ross Bateson, Special Adviser, Government Affairs, GSMA
11:30 – 12:00	*Best practices for unlicensed spectrum*	Fargani Tambeayuk, Head of Connectivity Policy, Africa, Meta
12:00 – 13:00	**Session and Panel Q&A, Moderator: Victor Kyalo**	
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**	
14:00 – 14:45	*Ushering in the 5G era in Africa*	Kenechi Okeleke, Director Social and Regional Research, GSMA
14:45 – 15:30	*Future spectrum: WRC23 preparations*	Ross Bateson, Special Adviser, Government Affairs, GSMA
15:30 – 16:00	**Tea Break**	
15:30 – 16: 30	**Session and Panel Q&A, Moderator: Tim Kelly**	
16:30 – 17:00	*Wrap up and close*	Victor Kyalo, Senior Digital Development Specialist, World Bank Group

Day 2 – Friday July 22nd, 2022		
Time	**Session**	**Presenter(s)**
9:00 – 9:30	*Welcoming remarks*	Dr. Abiyot Bayou, Director, Digital Transformation Program, Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT)
9:30 – 10: 30	*Universal Access Fund*	Andy Dymond, Consultant, World Bank
10:30 – 11:00	**Tea Break**	
11:00 – 11:30	*Comparative country examples for universal service*	Caroline Mbugua, Senior Policy Manager Sub Saharan Africa, GSMA
11:30 – 12:00	*Horn of Africa Regional Digital Integration Project*	Tim Kelly, Lead Digital Development Specialist, World Bank Group
12:00 – 12:30	*Impactful subsea cable around Africa (2Africa)*	Kemi Adeyanju, Africa Public Policy Manager, Connectivity and Access, Meta
12:30 – 13:00	**Session and Panel Q&A, Moderator: Victor Kyalo**	
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**	
14:00 – 15:00	*Ethiopia's Fayda digital ID system* – Overview, pilot and where we are today – Fayda Platform and eKYC	Yodahe Zemichael, Executive Director, National Identity Program Elias Debebe, Biometric Systems Lead, National Identity Program
15:00 – 15:30	*SIM Registration and mobile ID* – Comparative country examples	Caroline Mbugua, Senior policy Manager Sub Saharan Africa, GSMA

15:30 – 16:00	**Tea Break**	
16:00 – 16:45	*Spotlight on the regulatory environment* – Data Protection – Digital ID **Session and Panel Q&A** **Moderator: Tim Kelly**	Dr. Mandefro Eshete, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Innovation and Technology Dilnesa Israel, Legal Advisor, National Identity Program
16:45 – 17:00	*Wrap-up and close*	Engineer Balcha, Director General, Ethiopian Communications Authority

8. Collaborators of the Workshop

9. Selected Pictures from the Workshop