



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# ESCWA-LAS Joint Workshop on Developing the Arab Digital Agenda / ICT Strategy

Date: 23 March 2021

**AFRICA DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY (DTS)  
2020-2030**

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# Africa's key continental strategies/Programmes (1)

Strategies/ Initiatives	Periode	Key actors	Objectives	Key digital deliverables
<b>1. Digital Transformation for Africa Strategy (DTS)</b>	2020-2030	AUC UNECA Smart Africa AUDA-NEPAD ACBF AfDB RECs ITU ATU	The DTS aims to harness digital technologies and innovation to transform African societies and economies to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, bridge the digital divide and eradicate poverty for the continent's socio-economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital single market in Africa by 2030</li> <li>• Harmonised policies, legislation and regulations and establish and improve digital networks and services</li> <li>• 99.9% of people in Africa with a digital legal identity as part of a civil registration process by 2030</li> <li>• A vibrant sector approach to digitalisation of industry, trade and financial services, education, agriculture and health</li> <li>• Enhanced capacity and knowledge for all digital trade and digital economy stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>2. Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)</b>	2018-2022	AUC, European Commission ITU	PRIDA aims to accelerate regulatory harmonisation and regional co-operation for digitalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common positions across Africa on Internet governance</li> <li>• PRIDA Digital Platform</li> <li>• Harmonisation of ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks</li> </ul>
<b>3. Cybersecurity (digital security)</b>	2014	AUC UNECA	To protect African citizens, governments and businesses from issues relating to cybersecurity and cybercrime as information systems and digital infrastructures become more vulnerable in the midst of the growing digital economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection</li> <li>• Development of a strategy and action plans to address the African cybersecurity needs and gaps in resources and know-how</li> <li>• Development of data protection guidelines</li> </ul>

# Africa's key continental strategies/Programmes (2)

Strategies/ Initiatives	Periode	Key actors	Objectives	Key digital deliverables
4. <b>Digital ID Blueprint for Africa</b>	2019-2021	SMART Africa AUC UNECA AU member states RECs	A blueprint for a continental concept for digital identity – named the Smart Africa Trust Alliance (SATA) – to establish institutional ownership and accountability combined with a trust framework based on standards and trust assurance mechanisms to facilitate cross-border interactions and cross-border interoperability of digital ID schemes across the public and private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMART Africa Trust Alliance Roadmap</li> <li>• Field-testing and country alignment</li> <li>• Pan-African Trust Framework</li> <li>• Digital ID implementation plans</li> <li>• Digital single market</li> </ul>
4. <b>DotAfrica (.africa)</b>	2017 (launched)	AUC	To create a new African Internet identity for users and businesses with the .africa geographic Top-Level Domain (gTLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa domain for users and businesses</li> </ul>
4. <b>Digital Economy for Africa initiative (DE4A)</b>	2020-2030	AUC World Bank	The DE4A aims to ensure that every individual, business and government in Africa is digitally connected by 2030 as outlined in the AUC Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal, affordable and good quality broadband access by 2030</li> <li>• At least 250 000 km of fibre across the region, satellites, Wi-Fi based solutions and other innovations</li> <li>• Greater financial inclusion and availability of cashless payments</li> </ul>

# Overview : Main policy areas for digital

<b>Central Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-ordinate investment in digital infrastructure regionally to expand coverage and ensure inclusive and reliable access.</li><li>• Equip the workforce with the adequate skills to facilitate the school-to-work transition and reduce the skills mismatch.</li><li>• Leverage digital technologies to promote entrepreneurship and foster the digital transformation of regional value chains.</li><li>• Implement, monitor and evaluate digital strategies at the regional and national levels</li></ul>
<b>East Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitate the school-to-work transition, notably through digital literacy and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes and monitor technological developments to anticipate future skills requirements.</li><li>• Nurture digital entrepreneurship and innovation by adapting the regulatory environment, and promote technology parks, notably through easier financing.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen regional co-operation on digitalization, and mobilise public and private resources for regional infrastructure.</li></ul></li><li>• Set up a single digital market by promoting seamless connectivity, harmonizing regulations and facilitating the interoperability of cross-border payments</li></ul>
<b>North Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the development of financial technology by loosening regulatory constraints and experimenting with new regulations (e.g. sandboxes).</li><li>• Modernise education and training systems by monitoring and evaluating digital literacy and programmes for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and promote lifelong learning and reskilling of the workforce.</li><li>• Encourage digital entrepreneurship by fostering innovation through public-private partnerships and improving governance in the region.</li></ul>

# Main policy areas for digital transformation (Contnd)

<b>Southern Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the digital divide by developing reliable and affordable digital infrastructure beyond urban centres.</li><li>• Improve the quality of education and promote lifelong learning to meet future skills demand.</li><li>• Harmonise existing digital initiatives at the national and regional levels, and accelerate their implementation, targeting the digital transformation of strategic value chains.</li></ul>
<b>West Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen government support to technology parks and start-up incubators, and monitor progress.</li><li>• Implement supportive regulatory frameworks to develop fintech, foster financial inclusion and diversify sources of financing for private sector development.</li><li>• Support entrepreneurs and SMEs in using digital technologies, especially in agricultural sectors, to strengthen their integration into regional and global value chains.</li><li>• Invest in human capital to align skills with future market needs, and promote TVET through strategic partnerships with the private sector</li></ul>

# Methodology

- **The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa** is key to unlocking transforming Africa
- [The Digital Transformation Strategy \(2020-2030\)](#) is the blueprint and master plan that will guide a common, coordinated digitalization agenda to enhance synergies among a wide range of implementing partners and avoid duplication of effort and optimize utilization of the available limited resources
- **Informed by previous initiatives and documents:** The strategy takes into account the broad and diverse range of previous activities, initiatives, directions and mandates at the continental level
- **Collaborative/Multi-stakeholder:** The AU Commission developed the strategy in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Smart Africa, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities, African Development Bank, Africa Telecommunications Union, Africa Capacity Building Fund, International Telecommunication Union, World Bank and other partner institutions. In addition, input and consultations with the private sector and civil society were sought.

# Drafting Team



## Departments

- Peace and Security
- Infrastructure and Energy – **LEAD**
- Trade and Industry
- Rural Economy and Agriculture
- Human resources Science and Technology
- Africa CDC
- ATU



Economic Commission  
for Africa

## Divisions

- ACS
- Digital CoE- **LEAD**
- RITD
- TCND



African Capacity  
Building Foundation  
(ACBF)



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



# Various decision steps in the AU Organs

- **African Union Executive Council Decisions related to ICT**, ECA Resolution (812 –XXXI) on the African Information Society Initiative and the Smart Africa Board meeting held on the margins of the 32nd African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, from 10 to 11 February 2019
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee of the Ministers of ICT** - ICT (CCICT-3)- Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 22 to 26 October 2019.
- **1st Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Industry and Minerals (STC-TIM)**, 9 to 10 December 2019 in Accra, Ghana.
- **36 Extraordinary Session of the Heads of States Summit 9-10 February 2020 Addis Ababa , Ethiopia.** Executive Council Decision [EX.CL/Dec. 1074(XXXVI)]
  - Endorsed the Digital transformation Strategy

# I. Introduction

## VISION

- An integrated and inclusive Digital Society and Economy in Africa that improves the quality of life of Africa's citizens.

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- To harness digital technologies and innovation to transform Africa's societies and economies to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, erase the digital divide and eradicate poverty to secure the benefits of digital revolution for socio-economic development.
- There are Seventeen(17) Specific Objectives in the strategy

## II. Principles

### **Solidarity and Cooperation**

Solidarity between African Union Member States; Cooperation between the AUC, RECs, African Institutions and International organizations; and Linked to Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### **Comprehensive**

Adopting an ecosystem approach that avoids a silo approach and is comprehensive in defining and applying the requisite elements and foundations for digital transformation;

### **Transformative**

Fully leverage, harness and accelerate impact on society by accelerating Africa's socio-economic development through digital transformation;

### **Inclusive**

Digital Transformation for everyone, everywhere, that is affordable and ubiquitous, creating equal access to opportunities and mitigating risks of exclusion;

## II. Principles (Contd)

### **Homegrown**

Led and owned by Africa's Institutions, it will be embedded in Africa's realities and unleashing the African spirit of enterprise and creativity, to generate homegrown digital content and solutions, while embracing what is good and relevant;

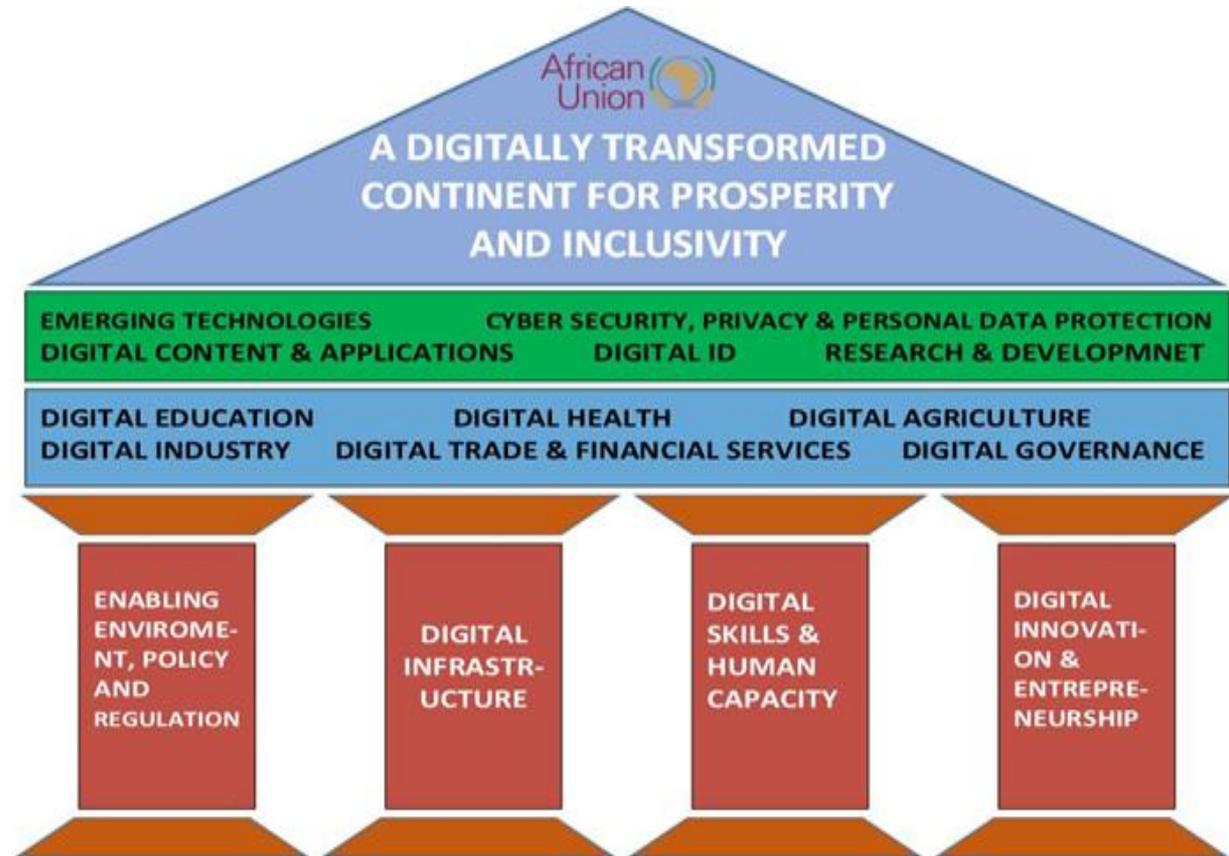
### **New Mindset**

Benefitting from the digital transformation requires a mindset change and new types of collaboration among stakeholders, and across sectors, with facilitation and retooling;

### **Safe**

Society that is well informed about both the opportunities and risks arising from a digital economy and society, and that healthy disruption to markets and business models is ensured;

# III. Conceptual Framework



# III. Foundational Pillars

## *Enabling Environment, Policy & Regulation*

- Realizing the vision of digital transformation for Africa requires appropriate policies and an enabling environment with critical policy reforms to the foundation pillars and critical sectors to drive digital transformation.
- Governments have a responsibility to create an enabling environment with policies and regulations that promote digital transformation.



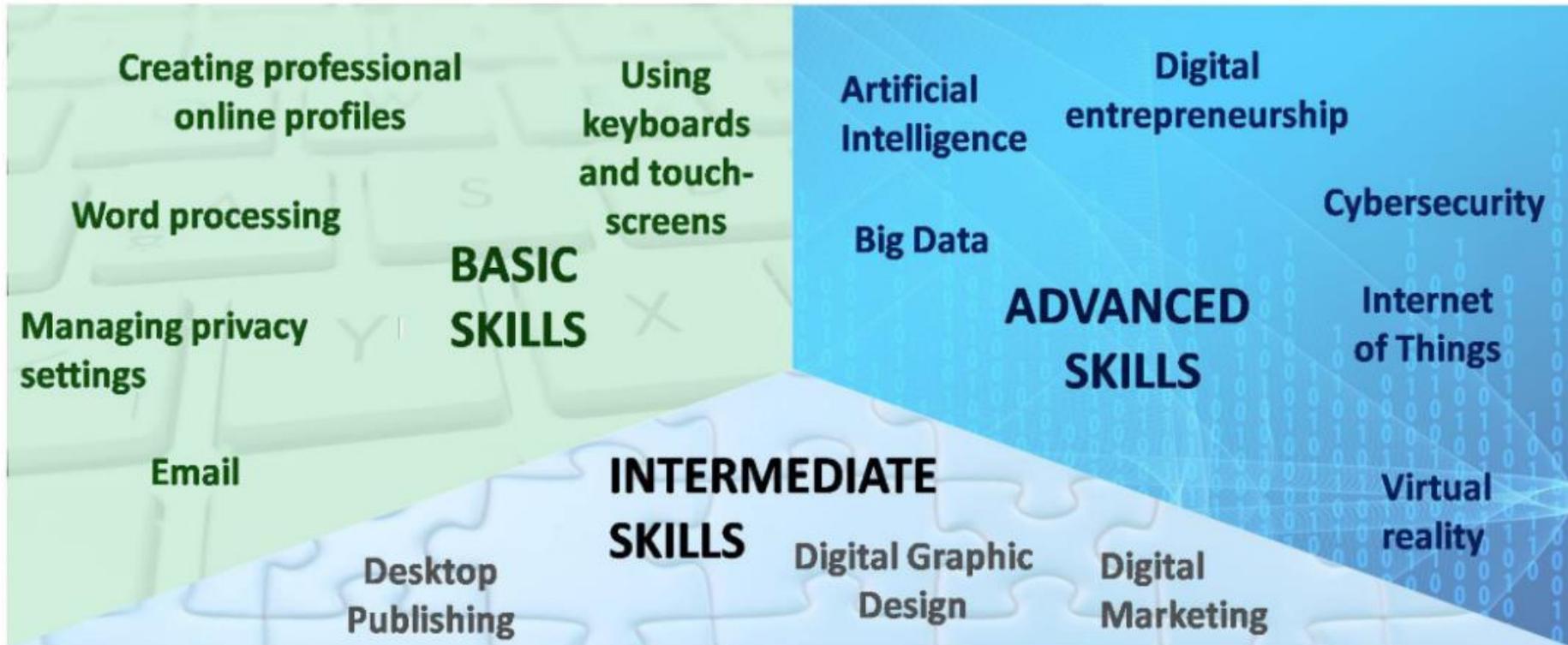
# IV. Foundational Pillars (Contd)

## *Digital Infrastructure*

- Digital Infrastructure facilitates the development, provisioning, use and sharing of digital systems (products and services). These include Telecommunications fixed and wireless networks including broadband and high speed networks; Digital platforms; Data Centers; Software and programming language; Digital and smart devices (personal computers, smartphones,...).
- This foundation pillar looks at hard and soft infrastructure as well as Logistics (Postal and Courier services), affordable Devices and Digital Platforms

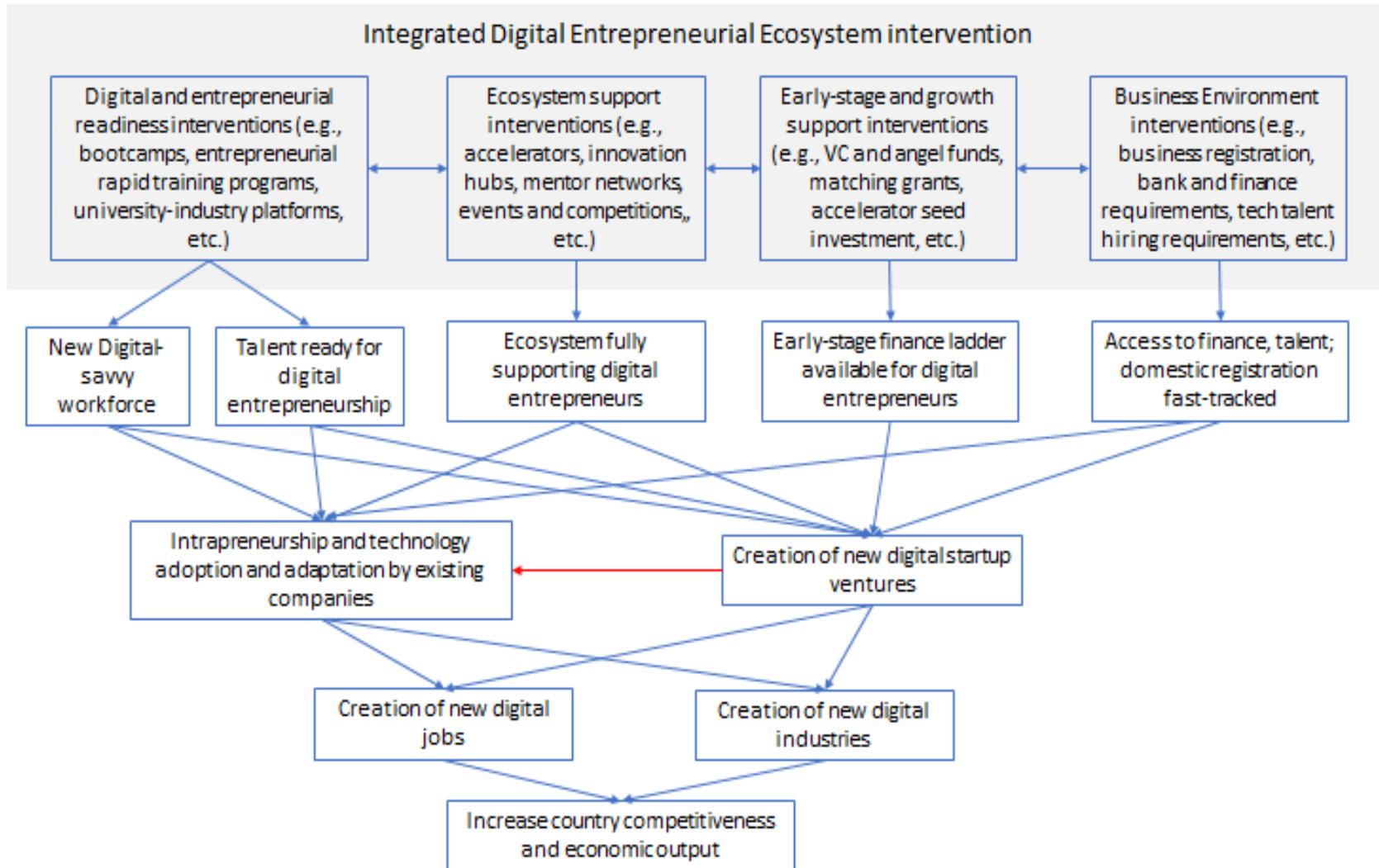
# IV. Foundational Pillars (Contd)

*Building digital skills and Human Capacity*

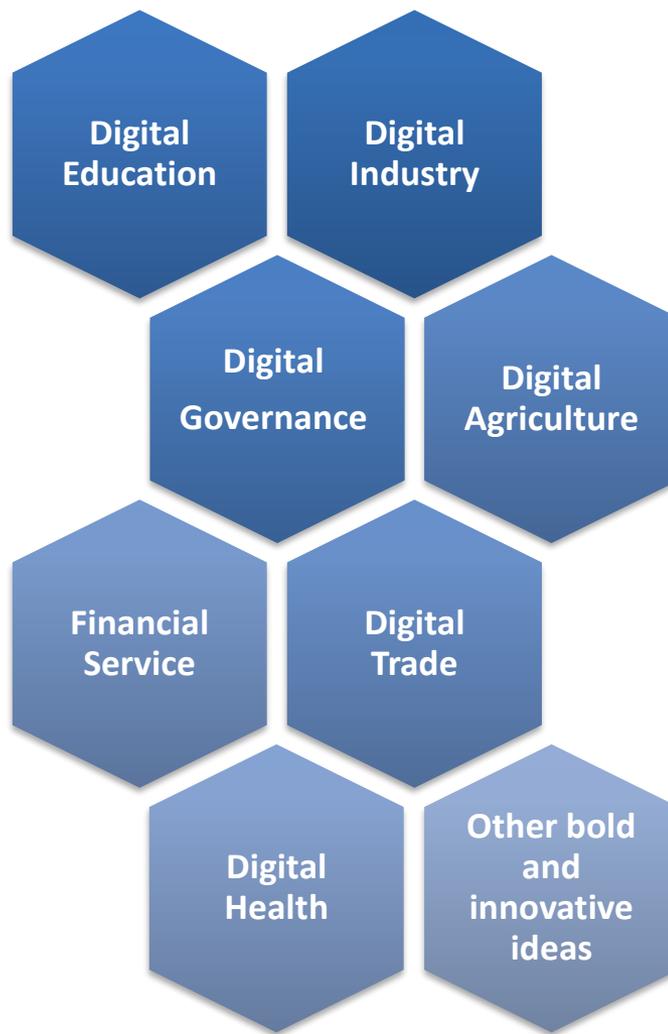


# IV. Foundational Pillars (Contd)

## Fostering Digital Innovation & Entrepreneurship



# V. Critical Sectors to drive Digital Transformation



# VI. Cross-Cutting Themes

**DIGITAL CONTENT AND APPLICATIONS**

**DIGITAL ID**

**EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

**CYBERSECURITY, PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION**

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**



## VII. Strategic Enablers

# Political Commitment

Financing and  
Investment

Private Sector  
engagement

Regional and  
International  
Cooperation

Capacity  
Development

Advocacy and  
Awareness



**THANK YOU!**