

## **General Information**

Event Name: TransformAfrica2013  
Location: Kigali Rwanda  
Dates: 28 – 31 October 2013  
Organizers: Government of Rwanda & ITU  
Theme: The “Future Delivered Today”  
Website: [www.transformAfrica2013.org](http://www.transformAfrica2013.org)  
ICANN Staff: Pierre Dandjinou & Bob Ochieng

---

## **Event report**

It has been six years since the Government of Rwanda, the Africa Union, The World Bank, United Nations Global Alliance for ICT, African Development Bank, UNECA and the ITU hosted the Connect Africa Summit way back in 2007, a conference that aimed to champion broadband connectivity for the African continent (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/connect/africa/index.html>). The conference attracted over 1000 participants, including Heads of State and Ministers; Senior executives; Heads of leading organizations and other stakeholders.

TransformAfrica was aimed to pool together International participants to set a new agenda for Africa to leapfrog development challenges through the use and uptake of Broadband and related services. Under the underpinning theme, "***The Future Delivered. Today***", TransformAfrica offered a platform for dialogue between policy makers and industry players on leveraging Broadband for the socio-economic transformation of Africa; and offer a networking opportunity to all stakeholders as experience and information sharing is critical to the advancement of Africa

The summit gathered more than 2000 participants from 54 countries, including seven Heads of State and Government. Forty-three countries in Africa were represented, including at Ministerial level. Over 20 industrial leading companies also participated, along with development banks, international organizations and other stakeholders. The Summit was held under the patronage of the President of Rwanda, Mr Paul Kagame and co-hosted by Dr. Hamadoun I. Toure, Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Following the Opening Ceremony, the Heads of State and Government present, including Rwanda, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Mali, Gabon and Southern Sudan, addressed participants in a special session, each outlining their vision for the Summit and pledging their full support to the Connect Africa initiative and Transforming Africa specifically. Ugandan President Museveni in his address said that the application of ICT must be integrated into the whole social economic transformation process of national economies. “ICT must not only be used to assist agricultural development, manufacturing, education and the services sector but also handled as a sector by itself especially in out-sourcing of jobs' abroad.” President Kenyatta of Kenya reminded the august audience that Broadband in Africa today is yesterday's Railways, roads, subways in the developed world and Africa must stand up strongly in

embracing technology for it to compete with the rest of the world. This was a clear show of transformational leadership from the top

Over the course of three days, delegates participated in a series of interactive sessions and Panel discussions (<http://www.transformafrica2013.org/event-program/>) debating issues related to the themes of broadband ICT networks, rural connectivity, Cyber-Security, Open data, Smart Infrastructure / Business and / Cities / Agriculture and Youth Innovation etc.

*TransformAfrica2013 was a follow-up to the Connect Africa Summit, which came up with 5 key goals that reflect the challenges and opportunities in the Africa region. This was an opportunity to reflect on the progress on the implementation of those goals.*

---

### **Connect Africa Summit Goals**

#### **Goal 1:**

Interconnect all African capitals and major cities with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthen connectivity to the rest of the world by 2012.

#### **Goal 2:**

Connect African villages to broadband ICT services by 2015 and implement shared access initiatives such as community tele-centres and village phones.

#### **Goal 3:**

Adopt key regulatory measures that promote affordable, widespread access to a full range of broadband ICT services, including technology and service neutral licensing/authorization practices, allocating spectrum for multiple, competitive broadband wireless service providers, creating national Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and implementing competition in the provision of international Internet connectivity.

#### **Goal 4:**

Support the development of a critical mass of ICT skills required by the knowledge economy, notably through the establishment of a network of ICT Centres of Excellence in each sub-region of Africa and ICT capacity-building and training centres in each country, with the aim of achieving a broad network of inter-linked physical and virtual Centres, while ensuring coordination between academia and industry by 2015.

#### **Goal 5:**

Adopt a national e-strategy, including a cyber-security framework, and deploy at least one flagship e-government service as well as e-education, ecommerce and e-health services using accessible technologies in each country in Africa by 2012, with the aim of making multiple e-government and other eservices widely available by 2015.

## **Panel Discussions**

ICANN Participated in two key Panel discussions where Pierre was a distinguished Panelist. These included Smart Infrastructure: “Developing ubiquitous, secure and sustainable ICT infrastructure” panel and Cyber – Security panel. It is interesting to note that the critical resources of the Internet (Domains, IP - Addresses, AS numbers) continue to elude many people as part of the entire ICT infrastructure. This was evident in the entire discussion. Not many people gave this a thought, yet Africa is lagging behind in the uptake of some of these resources.

It is widely assumed that Infrastructure is limited to Broadband Infrastructure! Pierre Reminded the audience of the vital role played by ICANN in coordinating the Internet Critical Resources stressing that not only are they part and parcel of the critical ICT infrastructure but also that tackling Cyber Security must begin with DNS security. In this regard, Pierre outlined the different initiatives ICANN has taken to promote DNS security under the DNSSEC program and the ongoing DNSSEC roadshows in Africa specifically imploring leaders to embrace DNS security in ccTLDs and other registries.

We also took the opportunity to meet and network with various stakeholders attending the event including the Rwanda ccTLD management, Rwanda GAC member, Rwanda K-Lab as well as various Africa ICT ministers and Leaders.

## **Closing Ceremony.**

The Prime Minister for Rwanda officially closed the event; the Rt. Hon. Dr. Pierre Damien HABUMUREMYI

The Final Deliverable was Smart Africa Manifesto

[http://www.transformafrica2013.org/IMG/pdf/smart\\_africa\\_manifesto\\_2013\\_-\\_english\\_version.pdf](http://www.transformafrica2013.org/IMG/pdf/smart_africa_manifesto_2013_-_english_version.pdf)) for implementation by all African governments with strong collaboration with the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.

Overall, the manifesto is about taking action in order to connect, innovate and transform Africa and leadership as displayed by the President of Rwanda clearly matters on African Journey to a digital economy. The success of this manifesto will be reviewed at the 2015 edition of the summit in Kigali Rwanda.