



Building a Digital Africa through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Public Infrastructure



Wednesday, 26th -
Thursday, 27th Nov, 2025



The Conference Centre
University of Pretoria
South Africa

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INTRODUCTION

The state of e-governance in Africa reflects both notable progress and persistent challenges. Countries such as South Africa, Kenya and Rwanda among others have made strides in adopting digital governance frameworks, improving public service delivery, and investing in infrastructure. South Africa, for instance, has positioned itself as a leader in e-governance, demonstrating the impact of targeted investments in technology on government transparency and operational efficiency. However, many African nations still face critical barriers, such as inadequate internet infrastructure, low digital literacy, and limited access to electricity, particularly in rural regions. According to the 2024 UN E-Government Survey, Africa's average performance on the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) lags behind global standards, underscoring the need for more concerted efforts to bridge the digital divide (UN E-Government Survey 2024|Public Institutions). The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these challenges, as essential services moved online, leaving millions without access to critical resources.

Africa eGovernance Conference Initiative is therefore the Global eGovernance Conference Initiative with focus on Africa, set up to work with continental bodies and other international agencies of Government to connect, collaborate and collectively chart strategic pathways into the future of digital governance on the continent. This conference serves as a crucial platform to connect public and private sector leaders in driving forward the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy and Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want," while aligning with the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The Digital transformation of Africa offers many opportunities and holds great

potential for increased prosperity and improved social participation. At the same time, it is not without its own challenges and risks. Digital transformation in Africa continues to be a driving force for innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth in Africa. It holds great potential for increased prosperity and improved social participation; although it is not without its own challenges and risks. The Africa e-Governance Conference (AfreGov) held its inaugural edition in March 2024 at the Kigali Convention Center, Rwanda, under the theme "Digital Governance for Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development."

The 2nd edition of AfreGov is scheduled to take place at **The Conference Centre, University of Pretoria, South Africa on 26th – 27th November 2025**. This edition is centered on the theme: **"Building a Digital Africa through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Public Infrastructure."** This theme emphasizes the role of public digital infrastructure in improving governance systems, enhancing government service delivery, and fostering citizen engagement across the continent. By leveraging e-governance, Africa can strengthen transparency, accountability, and inclusion in its governance structures while driving sustainable socio-economic transformation.

The digital divide in Africa goes beyond internet access, encompassing critical issues such as electricity, literacy, and regulatory frameworks. Many African populations lack basic necessities, including electricity, clean water, and education, which prevents them from benefiting from available digital solutions. Conflict and food insecurity further complicate their circumstances, making daily survival their primary focus. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this divide, as essential services



services have shifted online, leaving millions isolated. Without strategic investment in digital infrastructure, skills, and inclusive policies, socioeconomic progress will remain limited to those with access to electricity and telecom services. This growing digital gap risks further marginalizing the vast majority of Africans, who remain disconnected from opportunities for development.

With Africa's growing digital economy and youthful population, AfreGov 2025 provides a unique opportunity to explore how digital infrastructure can support governance reform and sustainable development, positioning Africa to thrive in a rapidly evolving global digital landscape.

AfreGov 2025 will highlight the importance of building robust digital public infrastructure to support efficient

and accessible public services. It aims to create a platform for collaboration between governments, the private sector, and civil society to address key governance challenges such as the digital divide, public sector innovation, and improving citizen participation. These initiatives are critical to advancing both the AU's Agenda 2063 and the SDG targets, especially as the continent moves beyond the midpoint of the SDG timeline.

The conference will also showcase innovative solutions and international best practices that help governments implement effective e-governance frameworks. Exhibitions from ICT providers and development partners will offer a glimpse into the future of governance in Africa, demonstrating how technology can empower citizens and improve public administration.



Objective of the Conference

To create a collaborative platform for industry stakeholders to engage in discussions on the role of digital governance in promoting social inclusion, improving government service delivery, and fostering citizen engagement across Africa, thereby advancing the African Union's Agenda 2063 and contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

- **Enhance Social Inclusion and Service Delivery:** To explore how digital governance initiatives can improve social inclusion and public service delivery across Africa, in line with the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.
- **Develop Monitoring and Reporting Framework:** To establish a framework for monitoring and reporting that evaluates progress, success stories, and challenges in implementing Africa's digital transformation strategy, ensuring alignment with the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.



- Establish Peer Review Mechanism: To create a peer review mechanism for identifying successful digital governance models in Africa,

enabling countries to adapt and refine their strategies to better achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

The Venue

The Conference Center, University of Pretoria is infinitely a World-Class Conference center. It is one of the Africa's leading Conference destinations located in the northeast of South Africa, in the Gauteng province, specifically about 50 km north of Johannesburg. It sits in a warm, sheltered valley surrounded by the Magaliesberg mountain range. Its offers World-Class facilities in one of the most beautiful settings in South Africa. Its innovative designs, meticulous attention

to details, impressive service and dedicated staff enables the University of Pretoria Conference Center to consistently deliver unforgettable and unparalleled experiences. The center can cater for over 1,000 delegates. Theater-style in its exhibition center. Among the facilities in the auditorium include cutting-edge technology. Ergonomically designed seats. These are ideal venue for large formal gathering, lectures, award evenings and even theater productions.



Who Should Attend the Conference?

The AfreGov Conference is designed for a diverse group of stakeholders committed to driving Africa's digital transformation. Attendees include government leaders and policymakers such as ministers, members of parliament, and senior officials, as well as eminent persons like current and former heads of state. Private sector executives, CEOs, and innovators from ICT firms, development partners, and key agencies like AUDA-NEPAD, the African Union (AU), and Regional

Economic Communities (RECs) will also participate.

Additionally, representatives from international organizations, civil society, advocacy groups, academics, researchers, digital innovators/exhibitors and youth entrepreneurs are expected. This diverse representation ensures cross-sector collaboration to enhance e-governance, improve public service delivery, and align with AU Agenda 2063 and the UN SDGs.



This conference seeks to facilitate:

■ Keynote Presentations and Panel Discussions

There will be a lineup of distinguished speakers who are leaders in sectors that impact digital governance and public Infrastructure. These sessions will explore innovative approaches and practical solutions for leveraging digital infrastructure to drive transformation across Africa.

■ Open and shared dialogue

Structured dialogues and open forums will give participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and foster valuable collaborations at the conference experience.

■ Exchange and transfer of Knowledge

Access to cutting-edge research, case studies, international best practices and implementation strategies in the field of digital public infrastructure.

■ Technology collaboration and adoption

Highlighting successful adoption stories, showcasing how Digital Public Infrastructure has been successfully implemented and inspiring attendees to embrace innovation and apply technology effectively within their domains.

■ Showcase of digital Innovation products and solutions

Exhibition of the latest digital transformation products and solutions.



Networking

The conference is structured to provide a high level of interaction between speakers and delegates. There will be lots of opportunities for questions as well as

discussion in each of the sessions. This interactive conference provides an excellent opportunity for making contacts and networking.

Exhibition opportunities

In the margins of the event, there will be ample time to showcase innovative products and services during the networking breaks at the exhibition area; this is an excellent way for organisations to showcase their products, services and

expertise and raise their profile with a key audience of senior decision-makers from across Africa. There are a limited number of opportunities to become involved with this conference as an exhibitor.



Structure of the Conference

The conference and Exhibition will be presented in four parts



Plenary Session



Deep Dives Sessions



Fireside Chats



Exhibition



PLENARY SESSIONS

This session will feature the welcome remarks by the host, presidential speeches, keynote presentations by

industry experts and a ministerial panel session.

DEEP DIVE SESSIONS

The AfreGov Conference will feature deep dive sessions aligned with the AU Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030, focusing on critical areas where technology can address governance and socio-economic challenges in Africa. Thematic areas of deep dive focus include AI Governance - which will establish ethical frameworks to mitigate risks, Civic Engagement - aimed at exploring the Africa Union Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) from the perspective of empowering youth and enhancing democratic institutions. The Health Care session will develop a digital transformation framework to improve access in remote areas under the Africa Union Universal Health Coverage (UHC) program, while the Agriculture and Food Security session will explore innovative technologies to boost Africa Union's

AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030 thereby increasing food production and combating hunger. The Gender Inclusion session aims to explore the Africa Union's Women, Gender and Development (WGD) strategies to bridge the gender digital divide and promote gender-sensitive e-governance in Africa. Additionally, session on Digital Trade and Commerce will focus on enhancing market access and secure payment systems, while the Education session will create an EdTech framework to improve access for Tertiary Education and e-Learning in Africa. These initiatives aim to produce actionable recommendations for leveraging technology to drive sustainable growth across the continent.



FIRESIDE CHATS

This will be a series of moderated stage conversations between a high-profile moderator and a high-profile guest. Each

fireside chat will be distinct, presenting a unique opportunity to uncover the personal stories and ideas of the speaker.

AFREGOV LIVE

AfreGovLive is a grassroots initiative, created in the spirit of TED's overall mission to research and discover "ideas worth spreading." AfreGovLive will feature standup talks and sharing of experience by professionals, researchers, reformers

and anyone who has something to say that makes a significant contribution to the Afregov Agenda of fostering the development of digitalization and digital transformation of governance in Africa.

TOUR OF JOHANNESBURG

Explore the wonders of Johannesburg with the help of carefully selected tour guides. Enjoy curated experiences; visit iconic sites like Constitution Hill, a powerful symbol of South Africa's journey to democracy, and take a guided tour of Soweto's Vilakazi Street, once home to Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. Explore the thought-provoking Apartheid

Museum, wander through the Maboneng Precinct showcasing the city's creative Spirit, and visit the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO World Heritage Site showcasing the origins of humanity.

Enjoy the memorable encounters, Johannesburg has to offer.





Expected Outcome

The conference is set to produce the following key deliverables:

- An in-depth report encapsulating the insights and discussions from the conference.
- A curated collection of participant feedback and peer reviews that will be compiled into a comprehensive summary to be published post-conference.
- A dedicated publication featuring selected papers that resonate with the conference themes.
- Policy briefs that distill the core outcomes and recommendations, emphasizing governance and digital transformation as outlined in the conference objectives.
- A comprehensive international peer review mechanism developed to identify and assess successful digital governance models across Africa going forward.

CO-HOSTS



African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a specialized agency of the African Union that promotes good governance, democracy, and socio-economic development through a voluntary peer review process among member states. By fostering transparency, accountability, and institutional reforms, the APRM advances Africa's governance architecture. Its mission aligns with the broader objectives of AfreGov and, more specifically, with the theme of the AfreGov 2025 conference, which seeks to harness digital transformation as a driver of governance and sustainable development in Africa.



Department Public Service and Administration

The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) is a South African government department responsible for the organization and administration of the civil service. Its main area of focus is the development and implementation of e-government strategies and initiatives. The department also promotes the establishment of norms and standards for the public service, managing human resources, and promoting integrity and efficiency in government operations. The DPSA acts as the National Focal Point for the APRM, overseeing its implementation and domesticating its principles within South Africa. The DPSA also collaborates with the APRM Continental Secretariat to ensure alignment with AU and SADC agendas.



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD)

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency is the implementing arm for the AU's Agenda 2063 development strategy. The establishment of AUDA-NEPAD is part of the global reforms geared at improving the Union's impact and operational efficiency. Based on African Union

Executive Council Decisions, the AU Commission undertook to develop a comprehensive Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) which is aligned with the mission of Afregov and more specifically, with the theme for the Afregov2025 conference.



African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)

The African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) is a continental organization dedicated to strengthening public sector governance, leadership, and service delivery across Africa. Through policy research, capacity building, and knowledge exchange, AAPAM fosters

innovation and best practices in public administration. Its efforts contribute to Africa's broader governance and development agenda, which aligns with the overarching goal of the Africa eGovernance Conference to serve as a catalyst for purposeful digital governance on the continent.

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