AFRICA INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES ALLIANCE (AfICTA)

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 14TH AfICTA SUMMIT

THEME:

"Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth: The Role of Security, Digital Skills and Indigenous Content in Regional, National and SME Development"

Date: October 13–14, 2026

Venue: Dr Aribisala Auditorium, RMRDC, Abuja & Virtual via Zoom

Host: AfICTA in collaboration with High-Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youth

Participants: Government representatives, regional stakeholders, and members across African nations

1. PREAMBLE

The 14th Annual Summit of the Africa Information and Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA), hosted in collaboration with the High-Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youth at the Dr Aribisala Auditorium, RMRDC, Abuja, and virtually via Zoom, convened government representatives, ICT industry leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and regional stakeholders.

Held during the observance of the International Day of the Girl Child, the Summit emphasized gender inclusivity, youth empowerment, senior citizen inclusion, and cross-sector collaboration among government, academia, and technology enterprises to drive sustainable regional development.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & KEY THEMATIC OBSERVED REALITIES

The Summit noted that while Africa's internet economy and cross-border data flows continue to expand rapidly—generating immense economic value surpassing traditional goods trading—significant infrastructure gaps, cybersecurity risks, and regulatory hurdles remain.

> **CORE SUMMIT DECLARATION**
>
> *"Inclusive economic growth across Africa requires secured digital infrastructure, cross-border regulatory*

> *harmonization, robust digital identity ecosystems, and uncompromised support for indigenous innovations and women-led enterprises."*

3. PILLAR-BASED RESOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Pillar 1: Security, Cyber Resilience & Data Governance

- **1. Malabo Convention Ratification:** Accelerate ratification and implementation of the Malabo Convention on cybersecurity across all African Union member states to bolster collective incident response and threat intelligence sharing.
- **2. Data Privacy & Interoperability:** Promote data localization, privacy protection, and regulatory interoperability (such as participation in the global CBPR forum) to secure trusted data mobility and cross-border trade.
- **3. Infrastructure Security:** Establish sectoral Security Operations Centers (SOCs), critical infrastructure mapping, and risk-based regulations to protect vital digital assets against mounting cybercrime.

Pillar 2: Digital Skills, Capacity Building & Inclusivity

- **1. Targeted Upskilling:** Equip youth, women, and underserved communities with practical, future-ready digital skills through autonomous training academies, certification frameworks, and industry partnerships.
- **2. Localized Training:** Expand technical training initiatives in local languages and contexts to bridge the digital divide and foster grassroots innovation.

Pillar 3: Indigenous Content, Innovation & Sectoral Transformation

- **1. Made in Africa Policies:** Encourage 'Make in Africa' and 'Made in Africa' policies to create, protect, and retain value in digital engagements and enterprise development.
- **2. Sectoral Tech Integration:** Leverage digital technologies and smart systems across key sectors—including solid minerals mining, agricultural intelligence, soil programs, and tourism—to boost GDP and export success.

Pillar 4: Regional Trade, SME Development & AfCFTA Integration

- **1. AfCFTA Digital Trade:** Leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) digital trade protocol to expand market access for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and women-led businesses.
- **2. Export Standards & Literacy:** Enhance agricultural nutritional literacy, sanitary compliance, and trade enforcement to ensure local goods meet international export standards.

4. ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

To translate the strategic resolutions of the 14th AfICTA Summit into concrete outcomes, delegates adopted the following execution matrix:

Pillar / Focus Area	Key Action Item	Target Responsible Body	Timeline
Security & Data	Deploy Sectoral SOCs and Enforce Data Protection Policies	NIMC, Regulators & Security Agencies	Q2 2027
Digital Skills	Expand Youth & Women Digital Training Academies	High-Tech Centre, Cisco & Partners	Q3 2027
Indigenous Content	Implement 'Made in Africa' Sourcing & Mining Tech Standards	Ministries of Solid Minerals & Trade	Q4 2027
Regional Trade & SMEs	Operationalize AfCFTA Digital Trade & Export Compliance Hubs	AfICTA SME Committee & NACCIMA	Q1 2028

5. APPRECIATION & CALL TO ACTION

The General Assembly expresses its profound gratitude to the host organizers (AfICTA and the High-Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youth), partnering institutions (including RMRDC, NACCIMA, NIMC, Cisco, and Evergreen Nigeria), and all delegates for their valuable contributions.

AfICTA calls upon all African governments, regional economic communities, and private sector leaders to commit the required political, financial, and technical resources to execute the resolutions contained in this Communiqué.

6. ADOPTION & SIGN-OFF

Done and unanimously adopted on this 14th day of October, 2026 at Abuja, Nigeria and via virtual connection.

Dr. Segun Olugbile
Chairman, AfICTA Executive Board

Dr. Jimson Olufuye
Founder & Advisory Board Chair, AfICTA