



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of ICT and
Innovation

#TechHubChronicles

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A Word from the Permanent Secretary



It is a pleasure to greet you at the beginning of 2026. I assumed this office with a deep sense of responsibility, viewing this role not merely as a position, but as a mission to contribute to building a greater Rwanda for current and future generations.

The final months of 2025 showcased the maturity of our innovation ecosystem. We celebrated the fifth anniversary of Hanga Pitchfest, where startups like Re Banatex demonstrated that our youth are solving real-world industrial challenges. Hosting MWC25 Kigali and our engagements at UNGA80 further allowed us to champion a sovereign AI ecosystem built by Africa and for Africa. These milestones, alongside our candidacy for the ITU Council, reflect our commitment to ensuring Rwanda remains a leader in global digital cooperation.

Strategically, we are laying the foundations for 2026 by strengthening our policy frameworks and infrastructure. Our collaboration with the Chandler Institute of Justice and the Chandler Institute of Governance helped ensure our ICT laws are future-ready, while the Regional Communication Satellite initiative aims to expand affordable connectivity across the region. These efforts are essential to bridging the digital divide and creating a secure, innovation-friendly environment for all citizens.

These achievements are the result of dedication, teamwork, and a shared vision. Let us keep this momentum going to ensure every Rwandan can fully participate in a future defined by innovation and inclusivity.

Mr. Eraste Rurangwa
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of ICT and Innovation

Hanga Pitchfest Marks Five Years of Advancing Youth-Led Innovation



Front Row L-R: Hanga Pitchfest 2025 Top 5 Winners: Niyoguhimbazwa Ngoga Patrick (Ingoga Technologies), Nikuze Prisca (neem), Jonathan Shauri Kalibatha (Re-banatex), Loza Admassu (Ambucycle) and Nathnael Dereje Mengistu (Nabsil Grain Bank).

Rwanda's flagship innovation competition, Hanga Pitchfest, held its fifth edition finale on 14 November 2025 in Kigali, bringing together young innovators, investors, and ecosystem leaders to showcase solutions addressing pressing national and continental challenges. Organised by the Ministry of ICT and Innovation in partnership with UNDP Rwanda, the milestone edition reflected the growing maturity of Rwanda's startup ecosystem and the role of youth-led innovation in driving inclusive growth.

A key highlight was the recognition of Re-Banatex as the overall winner, earning RWF 50 million for its circular-economy solution that transforms banana stem waste into eco-friendly textiles. The startup's model addresses climate resilience, waste reduction, and green industrialisation, underscoring the competition's focus on practical, impact-driven innovation. Five years on, Hanga Pitchfest continues to serve as a national platform connecting innovators to opportunity while supporting Rwanda's broader digital transformation and entrepreneurship agenda.

Rwanda Announces ITU Council Candidacy at WTDC-25

Rwanda's delegation attended the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in Baku, Azerbaijan, where they announced Rwanda's candidacy for re-election to the ITU Council for the 2027-2030 term. The announcement underscores Rwanda's commitment to global digital cooperation and advancing universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity.

The delegation participated in high-level discussions on addressing connectivity gaps and shaping international telecommunication development. Rwanda's candidacy reflects its dedication to strengthening global digital ecosystems, promoting inclusive digital transformation, and bridging the digital divide.



L-R: Amb. Charles Kayonga, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava and Hon. Yves Iradukunda

Building Stronger ICT Policy Frameworks for Rwanda's Digital Future

From 17–20 November 2025, the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), in partnership with the Chandler Institute of Justice and the Chandler Institute, convened a four-day International Knowledge Exchange Workshop on ICT Policy and Law Design in Kigali. The workshop brought together national stakeholders and international experts to strengthen ICT policy capacity and support the development of responsive, future-ready legal and regulatory frameworks.

The engagement focused on examining how ICT policies and laws can keep pace with rapid technological change while promoting

trust, inclusion, and innovation. Drawing on global best practices and comparative experiences, participants explored approaches to regulatory reform that enable digital transformation, strengthen governance, and support sustainable growth across the digital economy.

The workshop marks an important milestone in advancing Rwanda's ICT policy and governance agenda, with its recommendations expected to inform the next phase of policy and legal reforms as the country continues to build a trusted, inclusive, and forward-looking digital ecosystem.



Front Row L-R: Xin Ping, Ron Chari, Eraste Rurangwa and Butera Michael.

MWC25 Kigali: Advancing Africa's Connected and Inclusive Digital Future



L-R: Hassan Jaber, Angela Wamola, Sunil Taldar, Vivek Badrinath, H.E. President Paul Kagame, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Hon. Paula Ingabire, Ralph Mupita and Yasser Shaker

MWC25 Kigali, held from 21 to 23 October 2025, brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators to accelerate Africa's digital transformation through connectivity, innovation, and collaboration. The event highlighted the mobile sector's growing impact on the continent's economy and its critical role in expanding digital inclusion, services, and opportunities.

A key focus was AI in Africa, by Africa, for Africa, with industry leaders committing to develop inclusive AI ecosystems that reflect African languages, data, and priorities. Discussions also centered on affordable connectivity, policy alignment, and partnerships needed to close the digital divide and ensure technology delivers real socio-economic impact across the continent.

Rwanda at UNGA80



Front Row L-R: Hon. Yves Iradukunda, Mike Sicilia, Tony Blair and Antoine Sebera

At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80), held in New York, Rwanda's ICT delegation engaged in high-level global conversations on digital transformation, cooperation, and innovation, positioning the country as an active contributor to shaping a people-centred digital future.

Through its participation in various multilateral dialogues, Rwanda emphasized the importance of accessible digital infrastructure, skills development, responsible

use of emerging technologies, and strong partnerships between governments, the private sector, and international organizations. These engagements reinforced the role of digital solutions in supporting economic growth, public service delivery, and long-term sustainability.

Overall, Rwanda's presence at UNGA80 underscored its continued focus on using technology to improve lives, strengthen institutions, and ensure that digital transformation delivers shared prosperity.

Regional Meeting Advances Partner States–Owned Communication Satellite Initiative



L-R: Hon.Yves Iradukunda, Dr. Aminah Zawedde, Steven Isaboke EBS and Eng. Thomas Gatkouth Nyak

At the Regional Meeting on the Development of a Partner States–Owned Regional Communication Satellite in Kigali on 11–12 September 2025, Partner States reaffirmed their commitment to jointly develop a shared satellite to expand affordable and reliable connectivity across the region. Convened under the Northern Corridor Integration Projects framework, the meeting brought together senior ICT officials from Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, and South Sudan to advance the project roadmap and feasibility study.

Stay Tuned

From AI breakthroughs to digital empowerment, Rwanda is making bold moves in tech and innovation. Stay updated for future editions of our newsletter, as we continue to bring you the innovations and initiatives shaping our nation's technological future.

Do you have a digital success story to share or feedback on stories highlighted in our newsletter? We'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at comms@minict.gov.rw.