



Durban 10–13 September



# ITU TELECOM WORLD 2018 **POST EVENT REPORT**

# BETTER. SOONER.

The global event for governments,  
corporates and tech SMEs.



# ITU TELECOM WORLD 2018



ITU Telecom World 2018 took place from 10–13 September in Durban, South Africa, on the theme of “Innovation for smarter digital development”.

As the global platform for accelerating ICT innovation for social good, it brought together governments, corporates and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from emerging and developed markets around the world.

It combined an exhibition for digital solutions, a forum for sharing knowledge, an Awards programme recognizing excellence and innovation in ICT solutions with social impact and a networking hub for nations, organizations and individuals. By accelerating ICT innovation to improve lives faster, ITU Telecom World 2018 aimed to make the world better, sooner.

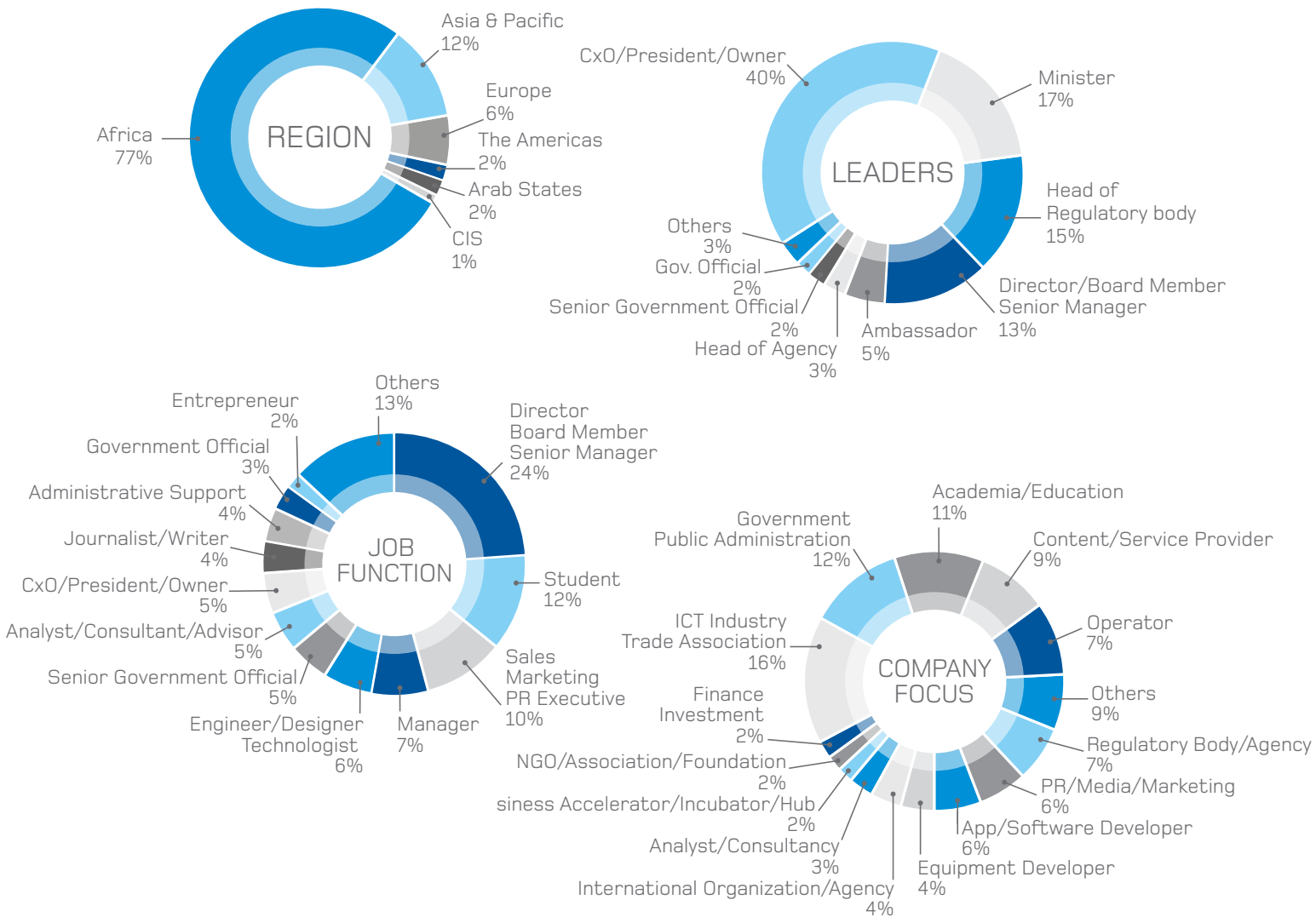
## ITU TELECOM WORLD 2018 IN NUMBERS

- **3,700** participants from 94 countries
- Approximately **300 exhibitors**, sponsors and partners from **32 countries**
- **157 speakers** from 47 countries
- 43 panel sessions, workshops and partner sessions in the Forum Summit and Forum
- **+200 leaders** from 74 countries
- **125 SME exhibitors** from 19 countries
- **65 shortlisted SMEs** for the ITU Telecom World Awards 2018 in 5 different categories
- **233 accredited media** from over 15 countries

“Government leaders from all over the world converge here and have discussions with top industry players and CEOs, sharing their experiences and what they are doing to overcome challenges, helping us to move faster than on our own.”

Siyabonga Cyprian Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, South Africa

# AUDIENCE



“We have big challenges which we cannot confront on our own, so this combination of the operators, the policy makers, the governments and civil society has to work together — and what ITU does is bring everyone together at the same time, which I think is hugely powerful.”

Rob Shuter Group President & CEO, MTN

ITU Telecom World 2018 brought together nations, leading players and SMEs from around the world, from public and private sectors. The event was opened in the presence of highest level participants including President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President, South Africa; Siyabonga Cyprian Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, South Africa; Nomvula Paula Mokonyane, Minister of Communications, South Africa; Sihle Zikalala, Acting Premier of KwaZulu Natal; Abdulaziz Bin Salem Al Ruwais, Governor, Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Rob Shuter, Group President and CEO, MTN. Participating leaders at the event spanned ministers and regulators, C-level executives from major ICT players, heads of international organizations, ambassadors, academics and SMEs.



# EXHIBITION



Approximately 300 exhibitors, sponsors and partners from 32 countries including National Pavilions, Thematic Pavilions, world famous tech brands and SMEs joined the event, demonstrating innovation, talent and investment opportunities from around the world. Technologies on show included e-health, e-agriculture, e-education, digital government services, digital finance, smart city solutions and more.

Exhibitors and sponsors included Amazon, Ericsson, HP, Huawei, GEW Technologies, GSMA, LS telcom, Microsoft, MTN, Nokia, Rohde & Schwarz, Samsung, Tata, Telkom, TDIA, Terjin Radio, and Vodacom.

32 countries were represented including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Botswana, Eswatini and Mali joined ITU Telecom World with pavilions for the first time. Pavilions showcased their country's ICT industry, key national projects, best and brightest tech SMEs, investment and partnership potential.

Thematic pavilions providing a focus on specific industry areas included China Satellite Application Industry Association (CSAIA), FTTX Council Africa, Telematics Industry Application Alliance (TIAA) and the South Africa SME Pavilion.

[List of exhibitors](#)

“You bring international expertise from all over the world to one single event, showcasing products and solutions, but more importantly it is an opportunity to engage with people from all over the world, policy makers and international players, finding areas of cooperation.”

Shameel Joosub, CEO, Vodacom

“This shows us that we are a global village — coming together with different opinions, you can exchange ideas, you see a lot of your customers which helps, and ITU did a great job in bringing the people together.”

Dirk Czepluch,  
Managing Director & CEO,  
Rohde & Schwarz ipoque GmbH

## FORUM SUMMIT



Launching the debates was the Forum Summit on “Digital everyone”, moderated by Damon Embling of Euronews, which convened heads of government, leading representatives of industry, major regional organizations, regulators, analysts and representatives from academia and the media. The Summit explored the importance of digital literacy, innovation, training, public-private partnerships and the creation of compelling local content.

### Speakers included:

- Cesar Alierta Izuel, Executive Chairman, ProFuturo Foundation
- Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union
- Rob Shuter, Group President and CEO, MTN Group
- Siyabonga Cyprian Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, South Africa
- Elisabeth Medou Badang, CEO, SVP African & Indian Ocean, Spokesperson for Middle East and Africa, Orange
- Jianjun Zhou, Vice President of Carrier Business BG (Emerging Market VP), Huawei



It is a fantastic gathering bringing together professionals from the industry, the public, the UN organizations, the officials to talk to each other, to have heated discussions... This is how you get new ideas, this is how you identify opportunities and challenges.

Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner,  
African Union Commission





# FORUM



Debates tackled the challenges and opportunities of the digital age including technological developments and impacts in 5G, IoT and AI; expanding rural connectivity; spectrum challenges; smart cities; digital literacy; and supporting tech SME growth.

Highlights included Ministerial Roundtables on government-enabled smarter digital development, addressing the risks of a smarter world and financing digital development; influential Host Country sessions on African investment and on promoting ICT opportunities for the empowerment of women; and a full day workshop on “The rise of the MVNOs: leveraging MVNOs in an ‘everything connected’ world”.

Partner and co-hosted sessions from key names such as CSAIA, GTI, China Mobile, TDIA, GSMA, Huawei and SITA debated unified planning of 4G/5G spectrum, African mobile market opportunities, spectrum pricing to drive mobile broadband investment, rethinking broadband, bridging the information gap between ICT SMMEs and market opportunities in public and private sectors.

“You can catch up with colleagues from industry or from other sectors, you can share best practices, and everyone is on the same page related to 5G, some countries are more advanced than others but there is big progress also in developing markets, that’s great to hear.”

Marc Vancoppenolle, Global Head of Government Relations, Nokia



# ITU TELECOM WORLD AWARDS



The ITU Telecom World Awards – now in its fourth successful year – showcased innovative digital solutions with social impact from SMEs and corporations alike. Innovative solutions spanned areas from digital agriculture, mobile learning, education and healthcare, to virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR), training, motion sensors, automotive repair and more.

Winners and finalists in several categories were presented with trophies and certificates by ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao in a high-profile ceremony in the presence of government ministers, industry leaders, representatives of media and other high-level delegates from across the globe. Participants took part in an adrenaline-filled live pitching session during the ceremony, showcasing the innovative approach and potential social impact of their solutions.

“ We have won an award for a citizen engagement platform, and essentially this is saying as SMEs we can really create impact that changes lives in communities. The week has been fantastic, we have been able to interact with different stakeholders and potential partners, as well as other SMEs within the exhibition. ”

Tshepo Thlaku, CEO, Pulego, winner,  
ITU Telecom World Award 2018,  
Greatest Social Impact





# ITU TELECOM WORLD AWARDS



The Global SME Awards recognized the best innovative ICT-based solutions with social impact from SMEs present at the event in five classes – Best Business Model, Most Scalable, Most Innovative Use of ICT, Greatest Social Impact and the Global SME Excellence Award for the SME with the highest all-around score.

Corporate Awards were presented for the most promising innovative solutions with social impact in the areas of sustainable development and smart emerging technologies. The government with the most innovative SMEs included in their National Pavilion at ITU Telecom World 2018 was recognized with the ITU Telecom World Government Award; and the Host Country Awards recognized the most promising SME solutions at the event from South Africa.

All SMEs in these categories underwent a rigorous application and selection process, with an external jury of social entrepreneurship and tech experts assessing each entrant on the basis of business model, scalability, innovation and social impact.

[See the full list of winners and finalists](#)

“This week has been a whirlwind, literally buyers from all over the world, decision makers in ICT in a number of verticals, it’s been not only overwhelming but very, very rewarding.”

Co-founder, Tuse; winner of Best Business Model at the ITU Telecom World Awards 2018





# SME PROGRAMME



As well as competing in the ITU Telecom World Awards, participating SMEs also took part in a special SME Programme of pitching, masterclasses, matchmaking, networking, and debate. Pitching sessions gave SMEs the opportunity to showcase their innovations professionally and field challenging questions from an international panel of experts. A masterclass explored how to best communicate value propositions, whilst SME-focused panel sessions debated the targeted potential of tech SMEs and SME growth, opportunities and challenges.

“ It is a great honour for me, as small company with lots of potential. I saw a lot of companies like us here, we would like to come here every year if we have the chance, all the ICT system is here to cooperate with, and there are many ceremonies and festivals to have fun together, it is very good.

Sujeong Park, Manager, iKoob



# ITU BUREAUX AT ITU TELECOM WORLD 2018



ITU's three bureaux Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) — were active at the event.

ITU-T hosted a number of initiatives at ITU Telecom World centred on emerging technologies and innovation, including a workshop on mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) focused on “The Rise of the MVNOs — Leveraging MVNOs in an ‘everything connected’ world”. The Smart ABC Programme hosted discussions sharing on advances in AI, banking and cities, with particular reference to their importance to digital inclusion and sustainable development. ITU also launched a new Smart ABC Incubator with the backing of Rwanda and Saudi Arabia, countries providing considerable institutional support for the growth of start-up tech cultures. The incubator will assist young innovators in converting ideas and software into start-ups able to attract investment.

The tenth annual Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Meeting brought CTOs together to discuss industry needs and associated standardization priorities. The meeting issued a communiqué summarizing ICT trends of growing relevance to ITU standardization.

ITU-D organized a session focused on digital innovation ecosystems and enabling smart digital development and skills development in the digital era. This included the launch of the report “Setting the Scene for 5G: Opportunities & Challenges”; and the “National Cybersecurity Strategy Guide”, which can assist countries in the development and implementation of national cybersecurity strategies. Additionally, the “m-Powering Development Report 2018” was launched, highlighting many initiatives and projects demonstrating the real progress being made in countries around the world.

“It’s been a wonderful event, I think that everyone has benefitted, I hope it will help businesses to move forward and through that bring this wonderful technology to everyone everywhere — and I hope to see you all at ITU Telecom World next year!”

ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Malcolm Johnson





# NETWORKING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Networking was at the heart of the event thanks to a full programme of networking activities and social occasions, including the vibrant Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception, networking lunches and breaks, and LeaderSpace Happy Hours. Ghana Day and Zimbabwe Night enabled delegates to meet with high-level representatives from the ICT sectors of these countries. Delegates also connected online via the ever-popular Event App, and onsite through the Business Matchmaking Service, a professional platform for targeted face-to-face meetings.

A number of launches and announcements took advantage of the event's global platform. The 2018 Broadband Commission [State of Broadband report](#) was launched following the session from ITU, UN Broadband Commission and Huawei on "Rethinking broadband: from national asset to civic right".

“It is great value, the only downside is that I am being overworked! It is a great networking platform from the private sector to government, ministers, regulators. The biggest value is the working group sessions, the great conversations happening there – I look forward to it every year.”

Patrick Nyirishema, Director General, RURA, Rwanda

“It's very green! We have only had to travel hundreds of metres up and down the hall to meet regulators, ministers, important people – it has saved me so much time and effort, very, very worthwhile.”

Jack Buechler, Chief Operating Officer, Quika

The host country, South Africa, also highlighted its African Digital Transformation Centre which will support entrepreneurs and lead work on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

A number of partnerships were forged during the week. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between CSAIA and ICDO (International Civil Defence Organization), covering satellite application technology for emergency communications. MoUs were also signed between Republic of Korea's Frontis and South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Azerbaijan to provide virtual reality/augmented reality (VR/AR) content; and Republic of Korea's Victory with the Burundi Innovation Hub to provide e-education content.

# HOST COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA



**ITU Telecom World 2018 was hosted by the Government of South Africa, in the vibrant city of Durban, KwaZulu Natal.**

The event opened in the presence of South Africa's President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, and welcomed many other distinguished representatives from the Host Country, including ministers and CEOs of top ICT players.

South African innovation, be it from some of the country's brightest SMEs or leading corporates such as MTN, Vodacom and Telkom, was on show across the exhibition, giving delegates the opportunity to explore the cutting-edge technologies and solutions being deployed across the region.

In the forum, a number of Host-Country sessions included Ministerial Roundtables, a high-level African Investment Dialogue and the high-level Panel Discussion: Promoting ICT opportunities for women empowerment. Many vibrant networking opportunities including the Welcome and Farewell Receptions highlighted amazing South African hospitality.



“ ITU Telecom World provides a guide and in some ways a compass to the future. The deliberations that take place here concern the economy and society of tomorrow that we are building today. What you are talking about here has a bearing on the future of our economies as well as the wellbeing of society and humanity.”

Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President, South Africa



# ITU TELECOM WORLD 2019



**ITU Telecom World 2019 will take place in Budapest, Hungary, in September 2019**, building upon successful innovations from ITU Telecom World 2018, bringing together ITU Member States, regulators, heads of international organizations, global media, digital experts and visionaries, leading ICT corporations and cutting-edge tech SMEs from the region and across the globe. **See you there!**

Register your interest today

## ITU Telecom World 2018 Resources

Daily Highlights offering session summaries and news from the showfloor

Explore the event Photo Gallery

Get expert insights and views in our Executive Interviews

Latest news and views in the Newsroom

Read more from key participants in our blog

Watch the highlights of the ITU Telecom World Awards here

Catch up with all the forum debates or revisit your favourites with our Session Videos (coming soon)

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