



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**TALKING POINTS OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
DURING THE CONNECTED AFRICA SUMMIT 24 AT
UHURU GARDENS, NAIROBI, ON APRIL 25, 2024**

Honourable Ministers;

Principal Secretaries;

Excellency Ambassadors;

Heads of Missions and Delegations;

ICT and Innovation Thought Leaders;

Distinguished Guests;

Business leaders;

- 1. It is a pleasure joining you today for the closing of this highly insightful Connected Africa Summit 2024.**
- 2. The four-day Summit has been a vibrant conversation of the stakeholders from Africa and beyond on a renewed dedication to shaping a connected, inclusive, and more prosperous Africa.**

3. This year's theme: *Shaping the Future of a Connected Africa: Unlocking Growth Beyond Connectivity*, has framed our discussions, reminding us that digital transformation is not just about technology in infrastructure.

It is about the diversity in people and meeting their needs. It is also about Governments providing enabling policies and equitable partnerships that deliver value for everyone- Leaving No One Behind.

- 4. Together, we have explored various dimensions of this transformation, from digital trade and e-commerce to innovative solutions for public health, education, among other sectors of the economy.**
- 5. As H.E President William Ruto noted, Africans are not just participants in the digital economy; they are the very designers of the current and future digital landscape.**

And this Summit has represented the best and unique convergence of sectors, showcasing what is possible when we work together while connected.

- 6. Let me congratulate the organisers and participants of this Summit for anchoring the discussions on the African Union's Africa Digital Compact and the Africa Digital Economy Strategy, underpinning Agenda 2063.**

These important frameworks reflect our collective vision and actionable plans that are shaping our approach to digital integration.

They are the basis of transforming Africa into a global hub of technology and innovation, riding on the demographic advantages, mineral wealth, green energy capacity, among other resources.

**7. Indeed, inclusive technology is no longer the Future.
It is the Present.**

Our continent is not designed and destined to be an endless consumer of digital innovations. Africa must make digital innovation a lifestyle.

8. Our people, especially the youth are a potent resource that we are investing in for our Continent to be an equal player in the global digital and innovation space, including in Artificial Intelligence.

This underscores why this Summit is timely and strategic in propelling the dream of Africa Rising- where No One is Left Behind.

9. Cultivating and strengthening partnerships in developing and enhancing the digital infrastructure of the continent places us on the path to overcoming various barriers. It also enables us to exploit the Digital Economy as the foremost opportunity for the youth to be job creators, not seekers.

This is in addition to driving commerce under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, which has been ratified by 87% of the African States- effectively creating a market of over 1.2 Billion people.

10. Digital innovation is also a key enabler to addressing food insecurity, combating Climate Change, ending armed conflicts, among other challenges.

Innovation facilitates development of industries, besides improving quality of life through the various sectors as Governments embrace electronic service delivery for efficiency and effectiveness.

That is why I am excited that the Summit is heavily represented by key Government decision-makers, implementers and influencers on enhancing skills of the Civil Service on unique technologies.

11. What remains now is how we move from talking, to action, with concrete measurable milestones achievable before the next Connected Summit.

We must be measured by the value of the connectivity: how many businesses have been created, how many young Africans have access to meaningful and gainful opportunities, how value chains in Agriculture, Health or Education have been transformed.

12. For a sustained connected continent in digital innovation for socio-economic growth, we call on our sister countries to align their education systems to build a strong base of technocrats firmly grounded on talent and contemporary needs-driven inventions.

This is in addition to reviewing and standardising policies for safety, security and efficiency of investment past the borders of one country.

13. On the other hand, cooperation and collaboration with partners beyond the continent cannot be gainsaid.

We are ready to work together in research to gain insights from data to inform and guide transformative innovations.

We invite investments to ignite ideas into impactful innovations.

14. To this end, I am pleased to learn that this Summit has established a Connected Africa Secretariat that will take the resolutions and the practical actions forward.

In this regard, I thank the Ministers of ICT for holding a dedicated session whose outcomes include a capacity building facility for leaders, an Artificial Intelligence Ministerial Council to lead the charge on Africa in emerging technologies.

15. This is in addition to an agreement of a follow up at the margins of the Africa Development Bank annual meeting- a convening of Finance Ministers, Ministers of Trade and Ministers of ICT, the European Union, foundations and development partners on how to Finance Africa's Digital Transformation.

I, therefore, look forward to welcoming you in Nairobi in the next few months.

16. On this note, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organisers- the Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy, The ICT Authority, who have been our gracious hosts.

I thank the participants and the partners for their invaluable contribution, which has led to the Connected Africa Summit 2024 Nairobi Declaration gives us a way forward on delivering the Africa We Want.

**17. I now have the pleasure of declaring the
Connected Summit 2024 Officially Closed.**

ASANTENI SANA; THANK YOU