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Africa Technology Policy Tracker Glossary

SURVEY TERMS

Term	Definition
Focal Point	A country representative appointed by their government to support the development of the tracker as a contact for data collection.
Policy	A document used to set forth and define your government's vision for the development and implementation of digital technologies.
Law	A document prepared, approved, and enacted by your country's legislative body through its lawmaking processes regarding the digital economy.
Regulation	A document published by your country's relevant administrative agency that is used to clarify the agency's interpretation of a law and describe how the law will be enforced.

DIGITAL PILLARS

Key Pillar	Sub-Pillar	Definition
Digital Infrastructure		The availability of affordable and quality internet is instrumental to bringing more people online.
	Physical Infrastructure	Physical structures powered by technology to increase access and connectivity to the digital economy.
	Invisible Infrastructure	Systems that are not visible but underpin connectivity for the digital economy. These include cybersecurity, the electromagnetic spectrum, digital networks, personal data, and the cloud.
Digital Platforms		Any software-based infrastructure that facilitates online exchanges, transactions, and access to public and private services.
	Digital Government	The use of data and technology to optimize and transform digital government services.
	Digital Business	Businesses that leverage digital technology as a fundamental part of their business model and operations.
	Digital Financial Services	The ability to pay, save, borrow, and invest through digital means, which is key to accessing digital services and increasing the rate of online transactions.

DIGITAL PILLARS CONTINUED.

Key Pillar	Sub-Pillar	Definition
	Basic Skills	The skills, digital competence and confidence required to use information and communication technology (ICT) for work, leisure, learning, and communication.
	Advanced Skills	These are skills that empower a country's citizens to contribute advanced digital skills to the domestic and international digital economy.
Digital Innovation		The presence of an ecosystem that supports firms to generate new products and services leveraging new technologies and business models, which help widen and deepen digital economic transformation.
	Technological Hubs	A network of systems, environments and stakeholders that foster technological innovation.
	Digital Entrepreneurship	Access to channels that support the launch and scale-up of innovative digital businesses and innovations.

KEY DATA POINTS

Artificial Intelligence	The simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems, to perform tasks such as learning, reasoning, and problem-solving.
Broadband Internet	High-speed, constant internet access that is faster than traditional dial-up access.
Broadcasting and Multimedia Services	The distribution of audio, video, or multimedia content to a wide audience through various means such as radio, television, or online platforms.
Child Protection	The measures, policies, and practices implemented to ensure the safety and well-being of children in digital environments.
Cloud Services	Digital services that provide computing resources and capabilities over the internet.
Competition	The rivalry between businesses providing goods or services in a digital economy.
Consumer Protection	Measures that safeguard buyers of goods and services, and the public, against unfair practices in the marketplace.
Cybersecurity	The practice of protecting systems, networks, and data from digital attacks and unauthorized access.
Data	The vast amount of information generated by digital interactions, including online activities, transactions, and user behavior.
Data Centers	Facilities and services that provide storage, processing, and management of data and applications over the internet.
Data Protection	Measures and practices aimed at safeguarding personal data from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure.

Digital Identification	A document or data element associated with the identity of an individual that is stored online or through other electronic means.
Digital Payments	Electronic transactions for goods or services conducted over digital channels, often using digital currency or online payment platforms.
Digital Signatures	Electronic signatures that authenticate the identity of the signer and ensure the integrity of digital documents or messages.
Digital Tax	Tax imposed on the gross revenues of certain digital services, rather than on profits, sales, or value-added.
Drones	Aircraft without a human pilot aboard, operated remotely or autonomously.
E-Agriculture	The use of ICT and digital solutions in innovation ways to boost the agricultural sector.
E-Commerce	Commercial transactions conducted electronically over the internet, involving the buying, and selling of goods or services.
E-Customs	The automated exchange of customs information between different economic operators and customs authorities.
E-Education	The use of ICTs to accelerate the delivery of educational content.
E-Government Services	The use of digital technologies, particularly the internet and information and communication technologies (ICTs), by government institutions to provide services
E-Health	The use of ICTs to accelerate the delivery of health services.
End User Subscriber Service	The specific regulations and protections provided to individual customers by a service provider outlining their rights and access to services.
E-Waste	Discarded electronic devices and equipment, often containing hazardous materials, which require special handling and disposal methods.
FinTech	The integration of technology into offerings by financial services companies to improve their use and delivery to consumers.
First Mile	The initial segment of the internet infrastructure (Undersea/Submarine Cables, Satellite) connecting end users or local networks to the broader internet backbone.
Inclusivity	The process of ensuring all underrepresented groups can participate in the digital economy
Internet Resources	Various resources and services necessary for the functioning of the internet, including IP addresses, domain names, and registration systems.
Last Mile	The final segment of the internet infrastructure (ISPs, Fixed/Mobile Network) that delivers connectivity from the service provider's network to end-users' premises.
Open Access	The free and unrestricted availability of digital information.
Postal Services	Systems and services for the digital delivery of mail, parcels, and packages between senders and recipients.

Quality of Service	The performance and reliability characteristics of a telecommunications service or network, including factors like speed, latency, and availability.
Sandboxes	Controlled regulatory environments for conducting live tests of innovative products, solutions, and services with the potential to develop certain markets.
Second Mile	The intermediate segment of the internet infrastructure that connects regional networks to the core internet networks.
Smart Cities	Urban areas that leverage technology and data to improve efficiency, sustainability, and quality of life for residents and businesses.
Spectrum and TV White Spaces	Frequencies used for wireless communication, including television broadcasting and unlicensed use for various applications. White space refers to the unused portion of the unused spectrum between TV stations.
Startups	Entrepreneurial ventures that bring new and innovative technology-based products and services to the market.
Tech Hubs	Ecosystems or geographical areas that serve as crucial points for technology innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration.
Universal Access	Ensuring equitable and affordable access to information and communication technologies for all individuals and communities.
Voice Over Internet Protocol	Technology that allows voice communication and multimedia sessions over the internet rather than through traditional telephone lines.

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