



Concordial – Newsletter

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Newsletter: Legislative Developments in the Communications, Multimedia & Consulting Sector in 12 African Countries (2024–2025): Morocco, Algeria, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Angola, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia

Date : 20 February 2025

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Overview

The telecommunications, multimedia, and consulting sectors are undergoing rapid transformation across the African continent. In this first half of 2025, we are witnessing an unprecedented wave of regulatory reforms and technological innovation that is reshaping the African digital landscape. From North to Southern Africa, governments are accelerating their efforts to modernise infrastructure, enhance connectivity, and create a favourable environment for the development of digital services. This newsletter analyses the main legislative and technological developments in twelve African countries and outlines the outlook for 2025–2026.

Morocco (in association with Concordial Morocco): 5G Rollout and Infrastructure Modernisation

Recent Developments:

In April 2025, Morocco finalised its regulatory framework for the commercial deployment of 5G, scheduled for November 2025. The National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ANRT) completed the validation phase for equipment and frequency allocations for operators. This schedule marks the final technical and regulatory phase, also including the finalisation of operator specifications.

A major development was the creation, in March 2025, of two joint ventures between operators Maroc Telecom and Inwi: TowerCo, dedicated to 5G passive infrastructure, and FiberCo, responsible for expanding the fibre optic network. This strategic partnership aims to pool resources to accelerate the rollout of critical digital infrastructure.

2026 Outlook:

The national “Digital Morocco 2030” plan sets ambitious targets, with 25% of the population to be covered by 5G by the end of 2025 and 70% by 2030. For 2026, the government aims to extend coverage to peri-urban and strategic industrial zones.



Morocco also aspires to become a regional hub for digital transformation consulting services, with the planned establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence in Rabat by mid-2026 to train experts and develop market-specific solutions.

Algeria: Initial Phase of 5G Rollout and Regulatory Modernisation

Recent Developments:

In April 2025, the Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Sid Ali Zerrouki, officially announced preparations for Algeria's 5G rollout—marking a pivotal milestone in the modernisation of the country's telecom infrastructure in line with President Abdelmadjid Tebboune's agenda.

In January 2025, the Algerian government launched an ambitious digital strategy to modernise media and increase influence, embracing the rapid evolution of information technologies.

2026 Outlook:

Impact assessments are planned for the 5G project, covering technical, financial, and regulatory aspects. Algeria aims to complete the first phase of its 5G network by the end of 2026, mainly in major cities and strategic economic zones.

The government also plans to launch a national training programme in advanced digital technologies to train 10,000 young experts by 2026, in collaboration with international consulting firms.

Senegal: Digital Transformation and Innovative Regulatory Framework

Recent Developments:

In 2025, Senegal continued to implement its “Digital Senegal 2025” strategy, reflecting the country's ambition to maintain its position as an innovative leader. The strategy is structured around three pillars: a robust legal and institutional framework, human capital, and digital trust.

A key focus is the strengthening of professional training to develop essential digital skills and drive creativity and innovation.

2026 Outlook:

By 2026, Senegal aims to finalise nationwide fibre-optic coverage and establish infrastructure to ensure access to high-quality telecom services throughout the country.

The government also aims to increase the digital sector's contribution to GDP to 10% by 2026 and create 35,000 direct jobs. Special emphasis will be placed on developing the digital consulting industry, with tax incentives for local and international firms establishing themselves in the emerging tech hubs of Dakar and Diamniadio.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Digitalisation of Services and Rural Infrastructure

Recent Developments:

In 2025, the DRC continued to modernise its telecommunications regulatory framework, including launching a feasibility study for the African Risk Reduction Agency (ARMA), which will establish the legal and operational foundations for this innovative institution.

The government also reinforced the universal telecommunications service—a right to access telecom services throughout the national territory.

2026 Outlook:

The DRC plans to overhaul its Telecommunications Code by mid-2026, focusing on universal access and funding for public services linked to the development of telecom and ICT.

A large-scale digital infrastructure programme is planned, with the aim of covering 80% of the territory by the end of 2026, through public-private partnerships and international funding.

Congo: Fibre-Optic Network Expansion and Regional Connectivity

Recent Developments:

In February 2025, Silicone Connect announced plans to complete Congo's fibre network coverage by mid-2025. Founded in 2020 under a public-private partnership with the Congolese government, the company operates and markets the national fibre network.

Since its inception, Silicone Connect has significantly boosted network capacity from 10 Gbps to 400 Gbps in 2024, ensuring ultra-fast and reliable connectivity.

2026 Outlook:

The Congolese government plans to extend the fibre network to priority rural areas by the end of 2026, aiming to connect 60% of the population.

At the same time, Congo intends to develop a regional digital services hub by creating a business-friendly environment for digital transformation and AI consulting firms, supported by fiscal incentives to be announced by early 2026.

Cameroon: Digital Governance and Shared Infrastructure

Recent Developments:

In January 2025, Cameroon's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications held national consultations to design a roadmap under the theme: "Collectively meeting the challenge of governance in the postal, telecom and ICT sectors for an emerging Cameroon."

This initiative aimed to strengthen governance, boost the sector's contribution to national development, and involve all stakeholders in shaping development strategies.

2026 Outlook:

Cameroon plans to implement a shared infrastructure programme for telecom operators in 2026 to reduce operating costs and improve rural network coverage.

The government also plans to launch a national incubator for start-ups specialising in digital consulting services, aiming to build a dynamic local ecosystem to support the digital transformation of Cameroonian businesses and public services.

Nigeria: Regulatory Reform and 5G Network Expansion

Recent Developments:

In March 2025, the Nigerian Data Protection Commission (NDPC) issued the General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID) 2025 to operationalise communications sector regulations.

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) also introduced new regulations under the Nigerian Communications Act 2003 to strengthen consumer protection and improve service quality in the telecom sector.

2026 Outlook:

Nigeria aims to complete the overhaul of its regulatory framework by mid-2026, placing particular emphasis on stricter quality-of-service standards and fines of up to ₦15 million for non-compliant operators.

The country also plans to extend 5G coverage to 40% of its population by end-2026, focusing on urban and strategic economic hubs. A training programme will be launched to equip 50,000 young Nigerians with skills in digital communications and transformation consulting.

Kenya: Legislative Modernisation and Digital Infrastructure

Recent Developments:

In March 2025, Kenya published the 2025 Information and Communications Amendment Bill to modernise the sector's legal framework.

This legislative reform is part of Kenya's strategy to solidify its position as a tech leader in East Africa by creating an enabling environment for digital innovation and advanced communication services.

2026 Outlook:

The Kenyan government plans to launch a national digital infrastructure programme in early 2026, aiming for 90% broadband coverage.

Simultaneously, Kenya intends to establish a special economic zone for digital services and IT consulting to attract foreign investment and position the country as a regional hub for high-value digital services.

Angola: Combatting Disinformation and Enhancing Cybersecurity

Recent Developments:

In April 2025, the Angolan government launched a public consultation on two key legislative proposals: one targeting the spread of fake news online, and the other focusing on strengthening cybersecurity measures.



Led by the Ministry of Telecommunications, Information Technologies, and Social Communication (MINTTICS), these initiatives aim to protect democratic processes, ensure national security, and create a safer digital environment for citizens.

2026 Outlook:

Angola plans to adopt its cybersecurity law by early 2026, establishing a robust national framework with a cyber defence operational plan, the creation of specialised cyber units, and the training of qualified personnel.

The country also intends to launch a national digital transformation strategy by mid-2026, with a focus on developing local skills in digital consulting and artificial intelligence to reduce reliance on foreign expertise.

South Africa: Regulatory Developments and 5G Infrastructure Growth

Recent Developments:

In January 2025, South African mobile network operators anticipated regulatory changes that would impact their activities during the year.

Operators particularly expected changes to numbering regulations, spectrum allocation plans, and increased scrutiny by the information regulator regarding spam calls and telemarketing.

2026 Outlook:

South Africa is expected to clarify its position on the Wholesale Open Access Network (WOAN) by early 2026—a single network aimed at selling high-demand spectrum to telecom operators on a wholesale basis.

The country also aspires to become a continental leader in digital transformation consulting, with the planned launch of a national incubation programme for companies specialising in advanced digital services, supported by partnerships with universities and international tech firms.

Côte d'Ivoire: New Electronic Communications Law and Digital Transformation

Recent Developments:

In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire enacted a new Electronic Communications Law (Law No. 2024-356 of 6 June 2024), repealing Ordinance No. 2012-293 of 21 March 2012 relating to Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies.

This new law introduces major innovations, including a modern legal framework for activities in the electronic communications sector and effective rules for the protection of network infrastructure.

2026 Outlook:

Côte d'Ivoire plans to complete the implementation of its new electronic communications law by mid-2026, including the adoption of all implementing decrees and the establishment of the required governance structures.

The government also plans to launch a national programme to develop high-value-added digital services, with the aim of positioning the country as a regional hub for digital transformation and artificial intelligence consulting by the end of 2026.

Ethiopia: Sector Liberalisation and Digital Infrastructure Development

Recent Developments:

In 2025, Ethiopia continued liberalising its telecommunications sector, issuing new licences to private operators and modernising its regulatory framework to promote competition and innovation.

The country also made significant investments in digital infrastructure, including expanding its fibre-optic network and preparing for the deployment of 5G in major urban areas.

2026 Outlook:

Ethiopia plans to launch its commercial 5G network by the end of 2026, initially in the capital Addis Ababa and other major cities, followed by a gradual expansion to rural areas.

The government also intends to establish a Centre of Excellence in Digital Technologies by mid-2026, to train local talent and develop an ecosystem of companies specialising in digital transformation and artificial intelligence consulting.

Conclusion: Africa on the Brink of a Digital Revolution

The year 2025 marks a turning point for the communications, multimedia, and consulting sectors in Africa. Countries across the continent are intensifying efforts to modernise legal frameworks, develop digital infrastructure, and foster innovation and digital transformation.

The deployment of 5G, expansion of fibre-optic networks, modernisation of legislation, and development of digital skills are central to national strategies. These initiatives aim not only to improve connectivity and access to digital services but also to position Africa as a key player in the global digital economy.

The outlook for 2026 is promising, with ambitious targets for network coverage, job creation in the digital sector, and development of high-value services. The rise of an African ecosystem for digital transformation and AI consulting is a major trend, reflecting the continent's determination to reduce reliance on foreign expertise and promote its local talent.

In this fast-moving environment, companies and organisations that anticipate these developments and adapt to the specificities of African markets will be best placed to seize the opportunities presented by this ongoing digital revolution.