Objectives

(1) Demonstrate how essential technology is to both the rights and economic development agendas and in fighting inter- and intraregional inequalities.
(2) Underline the contribution of the AU-EU Youth Hub and its nascent Digital Cluster to this end.
(3) Foster the role of youth in augmenting both digital inclusivity as well as infrastructures to reach those most left behind.

Given the diversity of panellists, the panel structure is designed to be for quick exchanges and practical recommendations and not for long-wielding discussions about philosophical differences e.g. on values or rights. It is to be assumed that the audience may not be tech-savvy, and therefore language used in the panel will be accessible, simple, and avoid sophisticated aspects of ICT.

Session organization

After a quick introduction guiding questions will be asked by the moderator, to which each panelist will respond in round robin after each question, followed by a debate among panelists and with the audience on the merits of the concrete steps suggested, and takeaways, with a last call for action by the panelists. Questions will address the speaker’s personal experience/journey with technology as a tool for inclusion, real life examples of technology mainstreaming, steps to achieve positive change through tech.

Speakers

Moderator: Young Expert from the AU-EU Youth Hub

- **David Sengeh**: Sierra Leonean policymaker, Chief Innovation Officer turned cabinet member
- **Lacina Kone**: High-level speaker as the Director General Smart Africa
- **Zara Rahman**: The engine room - data + social justice from Europe (nascent German citizen)
- **Jessica Colaço**: co-founder of iHub, Kenyan bridge-maker: tech and entrepreneurship
- **Alternative speakers**: Amel Saidane, Haweya Mohamed, Nadia el-Imam

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