



**African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA)
Association Africaine des Bibliothèques et des Institutions d'Information
Associação Africana de Bibliotecas e Instituições de Informação**

AfLIA Statement in Support of African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy

The African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) supports the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy for an integrated inclusive digital society and economy in the continent: that improves the quality of life of Africa's citizens; strengthens the existing economic sector; enables diversification and development; and ensures continental ownership, with Africa as a producer, and not only a consumer in the global digital economy.

AfLIA recognizes the importance of digital skills as a key enabler for economic growth; quality education; bridging the digital divide; poverty alleviation; stimulating job creation; promotion of the creative economy and overall sustainable growth and development.

AfLIA asserts that digitally literate people bring forth enlightenment; are equipped to explore and exploit growing opportunities online; drive the 21st century creative economy; enable sharing of ideas among citizens and inclusiveness leading to a developed economy and national cohesion.

AfLIA believes that libraries are powerful knowledge partners in delivering services like literacy, ICT skills and local knowledge to communities and that through its wide membership structure can partner the AU in its transformation agenda through training communities to have the requisite digital skills that will drive the digitalization of the agriculture, health and education sectors to transform the entire African continent.

AfLIA affirms that harnessing digital technologies and matching skills can transform African societies and economies, promote Africa's integration through trade, movement of people, goods and services and ensure Africa's ownership of modern tools of digital management.

AfLIA encourages all African governments to support the inclusion of technology in African libraries, particularly public libraries, in terms of ICT facilities and free Internet access to speed up the development of people and communities.

AfLIA as the continental Library Association in Africa urges all African governments to fast-track implementation of continental innovative strategies to improve ICT and knowledge management to make African citizens enlightened, skilled, responsible e-citizens that assist in building an inclusive global digital economy.