

African Union



Digital Education Strategy **FACT SHEET**



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VISION

The African Union envisions a *“peaceful and prosperous Africa, integrated, led by it’s own citizens and occupying the place it deserves in the global community and the knowledge economy.”* Digital education will continue to contribute to this AU vision and enhance access, quality, relevance, and education affordability. Digital education (competencies, literacy and skills) will be built at all levels to promote digital citizenship, facilitate ICT use for teaching, learning and research, and enhance Africa’s competitiveness.

MISSION

The mission of AU Digital education Strategy is to **harness digital technologies to achieve the strategic objectives at the Continental Education Strategy for Africa** – namely: revitalising the teaching profession, improving learning outcomes, inclusion and equity, adult literacy, promotion Technical and Vocational Education and Training for employability and expansion of tertiary education, research and innovation and **providing all citizens with the digital competencies and skills needed to thrive in the digital age.**

The African Union Digital Education Strategy proposes the need for:

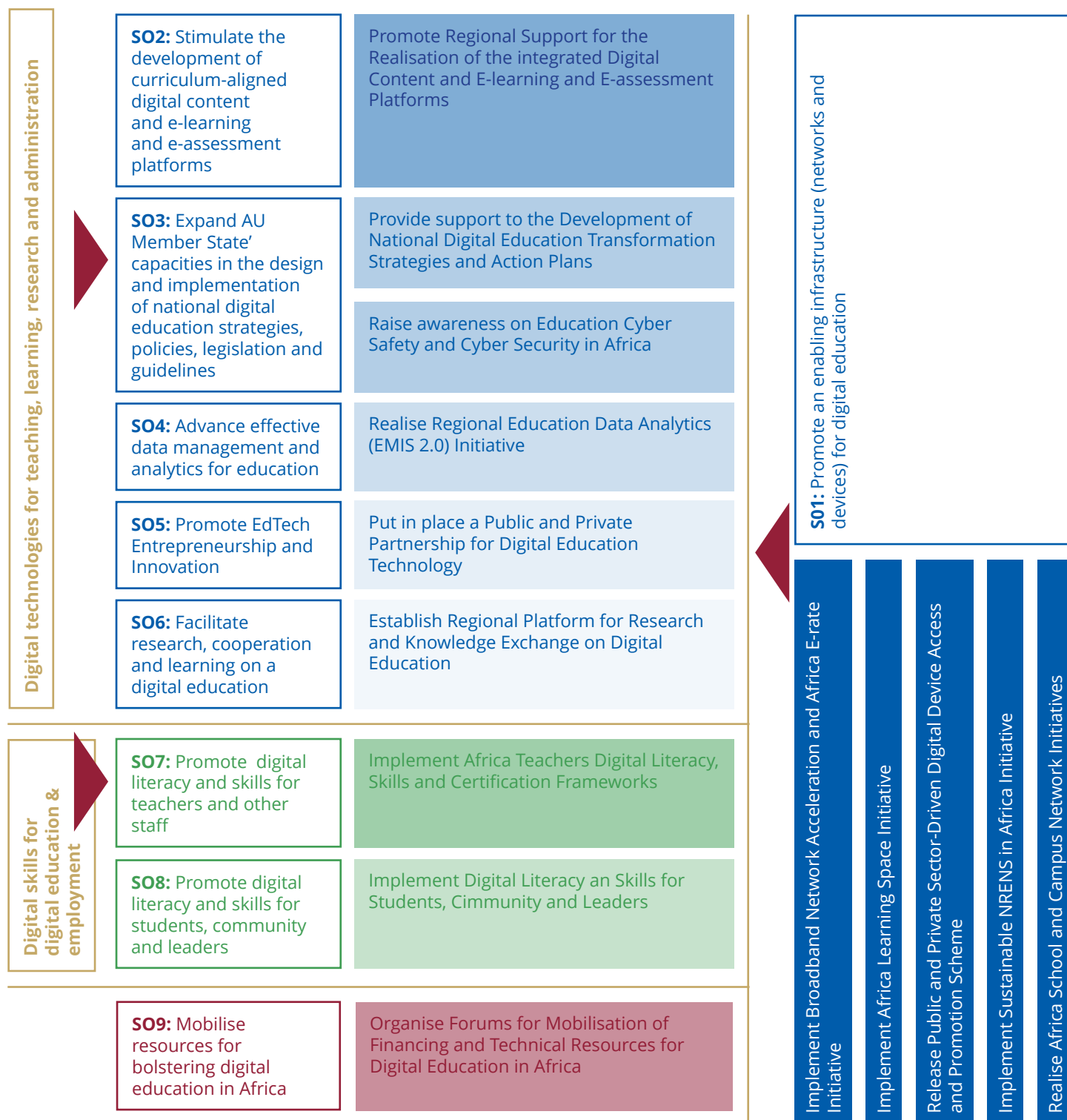
1. **Digital technology appropriation in education** – accelerating the adoption of digital technologies for teaching, learning, research, assessment and administration, and
2. **Education in digital technology for digitally empowered citizens/ for the digital economy and society** – strengthening digital literacy and skills for all, especially for teachers and students.
3. **Building the capacity of AU Member States in digital infrastructure (networks and devices) for digital education.**

Building digital Infrastructure is considered the main Strategic Objective (SO1) of the Digital Education Strategy. Digital Infrastructure is a critical building block and cross-cutting element. The AU Digital Education Strategy proposes five strategic action areas for promoting digital infrastructure for the education sector, namely:

- Africa broadband network acceleration and e-rate initiative
- Africa learning space initiative,
- Public-private sector-driven device access scheme for students and staff
- Sustainable NREN initiative
- Africa school and Campus Network initiative.

The Strategic Objectives (SOs) and actions are shown in the figure below.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS



The AU Digital Education Strategy and Implementation Plan recognise that essential supporting functions at the AU's Department for Education Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) and RECs levels need to change to achieve success at the Member States level. Implementing the different building blocks of digital education requires considerable communication, advocacy, coordination, convening, resource mobilisation, knowledge mapping, management and sharing at AU and RECs levels. The AU will ensure that digital education is funded and sustained to guarantee that every child and adult has access to learning opportunities available through information and communication technologies.

Digital Coordination Capacity of the AU/ESTI	Building RECs' Capacity in Digital Education	Building the Capacity of Member States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to strengthen internal digital education programme formulation and implementation capacity Strengthen staffing in the digital education domain to provide ongoing technical assistance to Member States and coordinate different initiatives with its partners Strengthen knowledge mapping, management and sharing expertise on the different building blocks of digital education to serve as a knowledge hub for Member States. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop internal capacities of RECS to support Member States' efforts to design and implement national digital education strategies Strengthen staffing in the digital education domain, Interact with peer RECs in other continents, especially in the south, on digital education planning and implementation support at the national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Member States to articulate national digital education strategies that respond to their context. Support Member States' efforts to mobilise financial and technical resources for priority digital education programmes.

The Digital Education Strategy Implementation Plan proposes a five-year time frame between 2023 and 2028 to carry out the fourteen actions divided into three horizons, as shown figure below. Horizon 1, which will start in early 2023, will focus on setting the foundations. Horizon 2 (2024-2026) will roll out all the proposed strategic actions in the Digital Education Strategy in coordination with RECs and development partners. Horizon 3 (2027-2028) will consolidate all the initiatives.

	HORIZON 1 Preparation and Mobilisation	HORIZON 2 Core Action Roll out	HORIZON 3 Consolidation and Scaling
ACTIVITIES & INITIATIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa E-rate initiatives Regional/sub-regional/national Public and Private Sector-driven Digital Access Schemes Sustainable NRENS in Africa initiatives Regional/sub-regional digital content and e learning platforms Support to the Development of National Digital Education Transformation Strategies and Action Plans Africa Education Sector Safety and Cyber Security Initiative Regional Education Data and Analytics (EMIS 2.0) Initiative African Teachers Digital Literacy Skills and Certification Framework First Forum for Financial Digital Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa Learning Space Initiatives Africa School and Campus Networks Initiatives Public and Private Partnership for Digital Education Technology Regional Platform for Digital Education Research and Knowledge Exchange Digital Literacy, Skills and Coding Framework for Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Forum on Financing Digital Education Mid-term review of Digital Education Strategy
AU, REC & MEMBER STATES CAPACITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Assistance for AU and RECS Co-design of digital education programmes with AU, RECs and Member States Engagement with the Member States on the development of national digital education strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and Staffing at AU and RECS Further capacity development of Member States in designing and implementation of national digital strategies Co-design and co-implementation of different digital education programmes with partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge sharing In-depth studies and further planning of digital education programmes in Member States
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital education knowledge mapping 		
	2023 - 2024	2024-2026	2027-2028