

Room 2

SESSION 2: Mozambique as the Indian Ocean's Digital Gateway to Southern African Corridors: Strategies for Inclusive Connectivity and Sustainable Investment

Day 2 – 10 June 2026 – 08:30-10:00

Summary

Digital connectivity is now a fundamental pillar of economic infrastructure, on par with energy and transport systems. For Mozambique, expanding accessible and secure connectivity is essential to accelerate economic transformation and inclusive growth. Mozambique's geographic position at the crossroads the Indian Ocean's and Southern Africa's digital corridors also presents a unique opportunity to turn the country into a regional connectivity hub, linking Southern Africa, East Africa, and global submarine cable routes. For Mozambique, this is more than just technical access, it is the foundation for a deep digital transformation.

Context

Under the leadership of President Daniel Chapo, Mozambique has accelerated its digital transformation by centralising governance through the creation of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation (MCTD) in 2025. Supported by key institutions such as INCM (National Institute of Communications of Mozambique) and INTIC (National Institute of Information and Communication Technologies), the government is driving an ambitious modernisation agenda. This includes the "Internet for All" programme, aiming for universal connectivity by 2030, and the expansion of e-government services and rural digital skills. Urban connectivity in Mozambique reaches 70% with 3G/4G dominance, while rural access stays at 35% via basic 2G/3G services.

These institutional changes, complemented by updated 2025 telecommunications regulations (focusing on cybersecurity and infrastructure protection), are designed to foster a stable, investment-friendly ecosystem that boosts economic diversification and public sector efficiency.

Mozambique's strategic location along the Indian Ocean's digital corridor offers a unique opportunity to position the country as a regional connectivity hub, linking Southern and Eastern Africa with global submarine cable routes. This role is particularly vital for

landlocked countries in the region, which rely on Mozambique for access to global networks. A key milestone in this strategy is the Baobab Agreement and the development of the Angola-Mozambique link, establishing a transcontinental data axis. In the north, significant opportunities exist for submarine cable companies to connect Nacala to Malawi, strengthening regional integration.

Despite recent progress, Mozambique's digital landscape remains marked by a significant divide: urban centres enjoy expanding 4G services, while rural areas struggle with basic connectivity. The market, dominated by Vodacom, Movitel, and Tmcel, faces structural barriers, including limited national fibre-optic networks and high costs. However, the digital sector (requiring less physical capital investment) presents a fast track for local innovation. Overcoming these challenges will require targeted infrastructure investment and a concerted effort to improve digital literacy among the population and SMEs.

Mozambique's digital infrastructure market is emerging as a high-potential destination for international investment, focused on bridging the connectivity gap and positioning the country as a regional data hub.

Key opportunities include: (i) Expanding open-access fibre-optic networks connecting major cities (e.g., Maputo and Pemba); (ii) Implementing "last-mile" solutions in rural areas (including satellite and infrastructure-sharing models); and (iii) Developing carrier-neutral data centres to support growing demand for cloud services.

This connectivity foundation enables a deep and inclusive digital transformation. Led by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation, this evolution focuses on modernising governance through e-government and expanding public digital infrastructure, such as national identification systems. Investing in this transformation is vital to foster local innovation, empower SMEs, and ensure sustainable, resilient economic growth, fully integrating Mozambique into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) and promoting a robust digital economy.

The EU's Global Gateway strategy acts as a strategic catalyst for Mozambique's digital transformation, mobilising public and private investment in secure, sustainable connectivity. This commitment is built on four key pillars:

1. Expanding backbone and rural network infrastructure.
2. Strengthening regulatory and cybersecurity frameworks.
3. Modernising public digital services (e-government and identification systems).
4. Fostering local innovation through skills and entrepreneurship programmes.

Session Objectives

- Identify strategic areas for investment in Mozambique's digital infrastructure and define priority projects.
- Discuss policy reforms and market incentives needed to attract long-term European private capital.
- Explore Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models for expanding connectivity and accelerating digital transformation.
- Assess business environment opportunities and challenges in Mozambique's digital sector.

Session Format

The session will have a total duration of 90 minutes and will proceed as follows:

- Moderator's introduction and panellist presentations – 5 minutes
- Keynote address – 10 minutes
- Panel discussion – 50 minutes
- Audience Q&A – 25 minutes

Moderator

Claudia Manjate (CTA & Vodacom) holds a degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and currently serves as Director of Government Relations and Institutional Engagement at Vodacom Mozambique. In this role, she leads the company's strategic communications and institutional positioning as a key partner in Mozambique's national digitalization agenda. With over 20 years of experience in public affairs, corporate diplomacy, legislative advocacy, and reputation management (particularly in the energy and agri-food sectors) she has played a key role in strengthening collaboration between the private sector and government. Her work has contributed to policy reforms, governance models, and high-impact national initiatives. She is known for aligning institutional interests, fostering multi-sector partnerships, and building strong connections between businesses, government entities, and civil society. She also mentors young people and supports initiatives focused on digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and skills development for the future economy.

Keynote Speaker

H.E. Américo Muchanga, Minister of Communications and Digital Transformation, previously served as Chairman of the Board of Mozambique Airlines (LAM) and Chairman of Mozambique Airports, INCM (National Institute of Communications of Mozambique), and held senior positions at INAM (National Institute of Meteorology), University Eduardo Mondlane and Standard Bank Mozambique. He was also a consultant at MCNet and led Mozambique's Digital Migration Commission for Telecommunication. With over 37 years of experience in ICT and digital transformation, he holds a PhD in Telecommunications from the Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden) and a degree in Electronic Engineering from Eduardo Mondlane University.

Panel

- **Helena Fernandes, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Mozambique Communications Regulatory Authority (INCM)** has played a leading role in strengthening Mozambique's telecommunications and postal sectors through strategic reforms, financial oversight, and infrastructure development. Since September 2021, she has also served as Executive Board Member for Corporate Affairs, building on earlier leadership roles at INCM and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Higher Education. Internationally, she has held several influential positions, including Chairwoman of the Council and Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO), Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee for both CTO and Communications Regulatory Association of Southern Africa (CRASA), and leadership roles at major International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conferences. With a degree in Economics and an MBA, she is widely recognized for advancing regulatory standards, governance, and institutional reforms across the telecommunications sector.
- **Harri Mansikkamäki, Gofore** – Finland's digital transformation experience, the Head of International Business Development, Digital Society. Acknowledged professional with over 25 years of experience in digital business, and with 10 years mostly working with public administration organisations in international settings, helping them to develop digital societies and services. Supports clients with their strategic digital transformation projects especially in the areas of digital public infrastructure, cloud services, AI adoption, cyber security, governance models for continuous development and operations.
- **Vasco Guerra, Bravantic** – Investment Insights is an operations and digital transformation executive with more than 20 years of experience leading multicultural teams and businesses across Europe and Africa. Currently serving as COO of Bravantic

Mozambique and Head of PMO, he is responsible for driving operational efficiency, governance, business transformation, and innovation through technology. Throughout his career, he has held executive and C-level positions in the technology, services, logistics, and consulting sectors, leading high-impact transformation programs and complex project portfolios. With strong expertise in digital transformation, cybersecurity, cloud solutions, automation, and data-driven decision-making, Vasco combines strategic vision with hands-on execution to optimize operations, improve performance, and accelerate business growth. He is also recognized for building high-performance teams, fostering a culture of accountability, and delivering sustainable results across organizations in Mozambique, Portuguese-speaking African countries, and Portugal.

- **Emidio Amadebai, Raxio Group** – Investment experience in the sector and future perspectives. A Mozambican technology and infrastructure executive with over 14 years of experience delivering large-scale data centre, telecoms, and energy projects across Africa. He currently serves as General Manager at Raxio Data Centres, where he led the development of both Angola and Mozambique's first Tier III, carrier- and cloud-neutral colocation facilities, a cornerstone for the country's digital economy and data sovereignty agenda. Emídio has previously held senior leadership roles at Huawei Technologies, ENGIE Energy Access, and Société Générale, managing large-scale investments in national fibre networks, government data centres maintenance, mobile infrastructure, and rural electrification. He is recognized for working closely with public institutions, development partners, and investors to build resilient infrastructure aligned with Mozambique's long-term development priorities.