

ABOUT TECH OUTLOOK 2026

THE STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE FOR FORESIGHT

Nigeria's digital economy is no longer peripheral; it is structurally embedded in national growth.

According to recent data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the ICT sector contributed 11.18% of Nigeria's real GDP in the second quarter of 2025.

This level of contribution confirms that digital infrastructure, platforms, telecommunications, software services, and digitally enabled enterprises are central drivers of the economy.

As digital systems increasingly influence finance, trade, governance, education, health, and industrial productivity, the question is no longer whether technology matters.

The question is whether its growth is being shaped deliberately.

When a sector contributes more than 10% of national GDP, it demands structured national reflection, not fragmented adoption.

Tech Outlook 2026 responds to that structural reality by providing a disciplined foresight platform for reviewing 2025 performance and projecting strategic priorities for 2026 and beyond.

NIGERIA IN THE GLOBAL DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

Digital Economy & Contribution to GDP

Nigeria's ICT sector continues to play a measurable and growing role in economic output.

As reported by the National Bureau of Statistics, the sector contributed 11.18% of Nigeria's real GDP in Q2 2025, reinforcing the scale and maturity of digitally enabled economic activity.

This contribution reflects:

- Telecommunications expansion
- Digital financial services growth
- Platform-enabled commerce
- Software and IT services
- Infrastructure-driven digital productivity

The continued economic weight of ICT signals that digital transformation in Nigeria is measurable.

However, economic contribution alone does not guarantee:

- Sovereign infrastructure control
- Institutional resilience
- Organisational absorption capacity
- Competitive positioning

This is why structured foresight is required — to interrogate not just growth, but direction.

WHY TECH OUTLOOK 2026?

Tech Outlook 2026 is Nigeria's national technology foresight platform, delivering a data-driven review of 2025 and evidence-based projections for 2026 and beyond.

Structured in the manner of an Economic Outlook, the platform connects policy, industry, and innovation to shape Nigeria's:

- Digital competitiveness
- Sovereign capability
- Institutional positioning

Co-created with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and delivered through the SATH Foundation, Tech Outlook operates as a neutral, public-interest initiative ensuring institutional integrity, policy alignment, and clear separation from commercial participation.

As Nigeria's digital economy deepens, foresight becomes a necessity for governance.

WHY SEVEN THEMATIC FRAMES?

The seven thematic frames reflect structural questions that must be addressed if Nigeria is to consolidate and strengthen its digital competitiveness.

They were selected based on:

- Measurable digital economic contribution
- Organisational transformation realities
- Governance and trust pressures
- Infrastructure sovereignty considerations
- Global platform concentration dynamics

- Long-term competitive viability

Each frame interrogates a foundational dimension of digital transformation.

THE SEVEN THEMATIC FRAMES

1. AI-Native & Autonomous Systems

What does AI-native adoption really look like in Nigeria beyond pilots and hype?

Artificial Intelligence is widely recognised as a transformative economic force.

According to PwC's Global AI Study, AI could add up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, through productivity gains, automation, and innovation-driven growth.

This frame examines whether Nigerian organisations are structurally prepared to move from experimental AI adoption to AI-native systems — where intelligence is embedded into operations, workflows, and governance.

The central question is whether Nigeria builds AI capability or remains primarily an AI-consuming market.

2. Security, Privacy, Governance & Trust

Can Nigeria scale digital systems without collapsing public trust?

As digital systems expand across finance, identity, commerce, and public service delivery, governance and trust architecture become foundational.

This thematic frame examines:

- Regulatory alignment
- Data protection maturity
- Cyber resilience posture
- Institutional trust mechanisms

Trust is not a peripheral issue; it is economic infrastructure.

3. Infrastructure Platforms & Compute

Who controls compute, cloud, and platforms—and what does that mean for competitiveness?

Cloud and platform infrastructure are central to 21st-century competitiveness. As compute concentration grows globally and cloud adoption expands, questions of cost, sovereignty, and resilience emerge as strategic imperatives.

This frame examines whether Nigeria's infrastructure foundation supports long-term digital sovereignty or embeds long-term dependency.

4. Human Capital, Skills & Organisational Change

Why do Nigerian organisations struggle to absorb technology even when talent exists?

Digital competitiveness is not achieved through tools alone.

Organisational redesign, leadership alignment, governance reform, and workflow integration determine whether technology produces measurable value.

This frame interrogates the absorption gap between acquiring digital tools and embedding them into institutional performance.

5. Sustainability & Green Technology

Is green technology an economic opportunity or a compliance burden for Nigeria?

Digital expansion intersects with sustainability priorities from energy infrastructure to regulatory expectations and capital allocation frameworks.

This frame examines whether sustainability becomes:

- A strategic investment lever
- A cost burden
- Or a competitiveness differentiator

It situates sustainability within Nigeria's long-term digital competitiveness agenda.

6. Globalisation & Sovereignty in Technology

How does Nigeria balance openness with control in a fragmented global tech order?

Technology is no longer geopolitically neutral.

Export controls, digital trade tensions, platform dominance, and data localisation pressures are redefining globalisation.

Nigeria must navigate:

- Foreign platform dependency
- Local innovation ecosystems
- Cross-border regulation
- Digital trade strategy
- Sovereign infrastructure protection

This frame examines how Nigeria balances openness to global ecosystems with long-term digital sovereignty.

7. Industry Transformation & Business Model Innovation

Which Nigerian business models will survive the next 10 years of tech acceleration?

Technology acceleration is compressing business model lifecycles.

Industries face AI disruption, platform consolidation, automation-driven cost shifts, talent restructuring, and consumer expectation volatility

The question is not who adopts technology, but whose business model survives.

This thematic frame examines how Nigerian enterprises must evolve to remain viable in the next decade of accelerated digital transformation.

THEMATIC LAB FORMAT

Tech Outlook 2026 is not a conference.

It is a structured foresight platform conducted under the Chatham House Rule, ensuring non-attributable, evidence-led dialogue.

Each thematic lab is a 30-minute structured deep dive, organised as:

- Framing provocation
- Diagnostic interrogation
- Scenario exploration
- Implications and strategic recommendations

The format prioritises discipline, analytical rigour, and forward-looking insight over surface-level discussion.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

A formal Technology Insight Report will be published, serving as a reference for:

- Policy makers
- Enterprise strategists
- Innovation investors
- Think tanks
- International development partners

The report is intended to influence:

- National strategy
- Organisational roadmaps
- Regulatory frameworks
- Investment priorities

NIGERIA'S INFLECTION POINT

Nigeria stands at a critical juncture:

- Growing digital infrastructure demand
- Rising AI and cloud adoption
- Increasing policy maturity
- Talent potential unmatched in the region

But without disciplined foresight, acceleration risks fragmentation, dependency, and loss of sovereign control.

Tech Outlook 2026 ensures that acceleration is deliberate, evidence-led, strategically positioned, and nationally impactful.