

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure, to introduce the “#SmartDevelopmentFund” to you. It is funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. My organization GIZ<sup>1</sup>, as a federal enterprise, supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation and is implementing this project.

With the #SmartDevelopmentFund, we refine digital solutions to counter COVID-19 challenges in and with our partner countries.

We provide tech start-ups, NGOs and social businesses with the tools they need, to scale their innovations successfully.

Our currently nine innovative projects are implemented across Africa, Asia and Latin America through international and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Today, we would like to present two of them:

First, the Digital Enquirer Kit, which aims to provide users with the skills and knowledge to successfully counter misinformation online. It specifically empowers journalists, civil society activists and human right defenders to make the global information and communication space a safer place while protecting themselves and their content online.

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<sup>1</sup> Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
STI Forum; 4-5 May 2021      Statement by: Germany (GIZ), Stefan Weyler  
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At the core of the project is a modular set of online trainings that provide the skills to identify, verify and create trustworthy information and identify and debunk misinformation. The content is optimized for learning on-the-go and will be available in 12 languages.

Localization and long-term sustainability are ensured through building an extensive partner network of civil society and media organizations across four continents.

Our second approach, called “Yoma powered by atingi”, is a digital marketplace for youth across the world to build and transform their futures. The multi-stakeholder project lead by UNICEF, Generation Unlimited (GenU), Botnar Foundation and my organization GIZ, places youth at the center surrounding them with digital opportunities to grow, impact and thrive.

A very successful first iteration of the marketplace was launched in July 2020 where youth started participating in activities on the platform. Since then, more than 200.000 young people have been engaged. Currently, yoma is being incubated by the NGO RLabs in South Africa and expected to expand globally as a separate not for profit entity in 2021. By the end of 2021, the ambitious project yoma aims to reach 1.5 million young people.

Thank you for your attention.