Press Release

AFRICAN NETWORKS JOIN FORCES FOR INNOVATION & DEVELOPMENT
AfriLabs and ICT 4 Social Innovation Network enter a partnership for African technology to lead the continent's progress

Abuja/Nairobi/Stockholm, June, 2017: AfriLabs*, the largest network of African technology labs, joins forces with the pan-African ICT 4 Social Innovation Network*, founded by SPIDER* and iHub* to unite key sectors for digitally advancing development in health, education and rights across the continent. The Networks share a common goal of promoting African technology solutions to bridge divides in access to quality education, health and rights and to bring social innovation to scale for greater good under SDGs and AU's Agenda 2063.

"Social Innovation is borne out of creatively approaching the hindrances which stall development, whether in making sure that children access quality education irrespective of where they live, online security for rights advocates, or professional development for health workers. The ICT 4 Social Innovation Network already shares some of its members with AfriLabs, we are delighted to extend this partnership and confident that our alignment will bring new innovative solutions to the table", Anne Salim, Network Manager for ICT 4 Social Innovation /iHub.

ICT 4 Social Innovation Network has a membership of over 35 organisations/companies working in private, public, academic, technical and civil society sectors, with a key focus on sustainable development goals through information and communication technologies (ICTs). The network showcases innovation and provides a platform for collaboration and organisational development.

AfriLabs Head of Secretariat, Anna Ekeledo explains the stimulus for the partnership "African tech hubs are at the forefront of technical solutions tailored for the African continent, by joining forces with the ICT4SI Network, we make sure that synergies of knowledge, opportunities and resources are strategically joined for greater impact and sustainability".

The partnership is timely formed as the ICT4SI Network will host its 3rd Annual Conference in Abuja, Nigeria, the city home to AfriLabs headquarters on 26th October 2017. Visit www.ict4si.org for more information.

For more information email ict4si@spidercenter.org or contact the organisations through the telephone numbers above.

*About ICT4 Social Innovation
ICT4SI is network of professionals from the African telecom industry, public administration, civil society organisations, researchers and skilled technical professionals that join forces to affect change in our communities across the African continent. With a common goal, we aim to, in practical ways, foster collaboration that enhances development within the African continent with information and communication technology (ICT) as an instrument for opportunities and innovation.

*About AfriLabs
AfriLabs is a pan-African network of over 50 technology innovation hubs in over 20 African countries. AfriLabs was founded in 2011 to build a community around the rapidly emerging tech hubs in Africa. Each hub serves as a nexus for entrepreneurs, technologists, investors, tech companies and web/mobile engineers in its community who are set to build the innovation economy across Africa. Visit www.afrilabs.com to learn more about AfriLabs.

*SPIDER
SPIDER has the mission to decrease the global differences in the use of ICT. SPIDER promotes the use of ICT as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as established by the UN in 2015. Our work includes support to projects, research and capacity building in developing regions. SPIDER also acts in networks and brings together actors from different parts of the ICT-arena: Civil Society Organisations, Universities, private sector companies, technical experts as well as Governmental Agencies in our partner countries.

*About iHub
The iHub, founded in 2010, is a globally recognised organisation that is deeply steeped in the local tech innovation culture. It is fair to say that the iHub has been both the main catalyst for regional tech acceleration and a role model for tech hubs across emerging markets. We serve the tech community, by connecting organisations and people, building market-relevant solutions and being ahead of the curve of innovation.