



Biography



Charmaine Houvet
Public Policy Director Africa
Cisco South Africa

Charmaine has over 24 years telecommunications experience working with governments, private and public sector across Africa.

Charmaine joined Cisco in March 2016 with several years' experience as a Senior Executive in diverse and transformative roles with leading ICT companies. She is responsible for supporting Cisco with country digitization programmes and enabling public sector policy reform across Africa.

Charmaine has a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of South Africa and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from the University of South Africa.

Charmaine serves as a Chairperson of the South African Women in ICT Forum board. SA Women in ICT works with businesses across the ICT industry and government to drive the development of women in ICT roles.

She recently founded Afriel; a non-profit organization that mentors young female leaders. She is also a mentor for the NGO Company Girl Code za that works with government, private and public sector to empower young girls seeking a long term career in ICT by teaching girls how to code and design.

Charmaine represents Cisco on the board of the South African Communications Forum (SACF). SACF facilitates dialogue and policy review between the public, private sector and government to drive reform across the ICT sector with the objective of bridging the digital divide.