



**Charmaine Houvet**  
**Public Policy and Government Affairs Director: Africa, Cisco**

**Charmaine Houvet** has over 24 years' telecommunications experience working with private and public sector across Africa.

Houvet 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.

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

She 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. As a co-founder of The Mentorship Circle, she mentors professionals and start-ups including 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.

Houvet 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.

In 2016, Houvet was named South Africa's Top Woman in ICT and was recently appointed as a member of the International Women's Forum of South Africa.