



Charmaine Houvet Senior Director: Africa, Cisco

Charmaine Houvet has over two decades of telecommunications experience working with private and public sector organizations across Africa. She joined Cisco in March 2016 with several years' experience as a Senior Executive in diverse and transformative roles with high profile leading ICT companies. Charmaine leads Cisco's government affairs strategy, regulatory, and public policy efforts across Africa and partners with heads of state and various stakeholders in public, private, academia and civil society to advance the digitalisation agenda across the continent. This includes shaping and advancing strategies that foster innovation and digital technologies.

- Charmaine serves as Chair of the Electronic Communications Association the South African Communications Forum (SACF)
- She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Global Broadband Plan for Refugees Project whose objective is to meet the broadband connectivity goal set by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR)
- Charmaine serves on the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution under President Cyril Ramaphosa in South Africa. She chairs the Policy and Law reform workstream of the Presidential 4IR commission
- She serves on the advisory board of ZASpace a local platform to bolster the competitiveness of South Africa's burgeoning space industry
- She is a board member on the Cisco local board and acts as Chair of the Cisco charitable trust headquartered in San Jose

She is passionate about transformation and the advancement of the ICT sector especially women in the sector and is the recipient of several business awards in recognition of her vision, collaboration, leadership, and achievements in the ICT sector. In November 2016, she was named South Africa's Top Woman in ICT and in August 2017 Charmaine was awarded the MTN Ministerial Recognition Award for her outstanding contribution towards advancing the ICT industry in South Africa. In 2018 Charmaine was nominated by her peers in the ICT industry as a finalist for the IT personality of the year award.

She is a co-founder of the Mentorship Circle (2017) with the African Women's Chartered Accountant Association (AWCA) and Duke University CE providing free coaching, mentorship, and sponsorship opportunities for future leaders on jobs of the future. She recently founded Afriel; a non- profit organization that mentors, coaches, and sponsors young female leaders in the ICT sector.

Charmaine holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) qualification.