



**Charmaine Houvet**  
**Public Policy Director: Africa, Cisco Systems**

**Charmaine Houvet's** love and passion for the ICT industry comes from 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 holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree.

She is passionate about female and community development and serves on various boards and trusts whose objectives are aligned to her values.

Charmaine is a Trustee of the Cisco Charitable Trust Board which is headquartered in San Jose as well as a Board member of the Cisco Systems & Cisco Technology and Services in country.

She serves as a Chairperson of the South African Women in ICT Forum board and the South African Communications Forum (SACF). Charmaine is a member of the invitation only South African Chapter of the International Women's Forum of South Africa.

Charmaine is passionate about transformation and the advancement of women in the sector and is the recipient of a number of business awards in recognition of her vision, 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. CNBC Africa featured Charmaine as a disruptor in ICT in August 2017.

Charmaine serves on the Advisory Board of the Global Broadband Plan for Refugees Project to meet the broadband connectivity goal set by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR).