

AFRICAN UNION

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**CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (CITMC)**

**3RD ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
BUREAU AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

CONCEPT NOTE

15 March 2011

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Conference of African Union Ministers responsible of Communications and Information Technology (CITMC) sector which include Telecommunication, ICT and post, set up in 2006 in Cairo is the high level political body in charge of policy and guidance for the development of the Sector in Africa.
2. In order to ensure a successful implementation of the agreed programme and projects, and the subsequent follow-up and coordination activities, it was set up a structure of governance composed with a **Ministerial Conference Bureau and a Steering Committee**.
3. In between sessions, the Ministerial Conference will work through the Ministerial Bureau composed of five member's representative of the five African regions and two AUC Commissioners.
4. A steering committee composed of two representatives from each region, and Associate members service the Ministerial Bureau and play an advisory role on all issues arising. Notably the Steering Committee is mandated to:
 - Prepare, review and make recommendations on documents prior to submission to the Ministerial Bureau;
 - Provide strategic overview of ongoing CIT projects across different sectors and discuss progress or problem encountered in the implementation of programme;
 - Make proposals on the allocation of financial, human and other resources to the development of business plans and implementation of projects.
5. In line with the aforesaid, the Third Ordinary session of the two structures of the CITMC Governance is planned to be held on 26 – 27 April 2011 in Khartoum, Sudan.

II. OBJECTIVES.

6. As per their mandate the main objectives of the Third meeting of the Steering Committee and the Bureau of the CITMC are to review the progress of ongoing activities, provide guidance and adopt recommendations for speeding up their implementation.
7. The specific objectives of the Conference may include the following:
 - Review the progress made in the implementation of activities in the fields of Telecommunications/ICT, Post and Broadcasting since the 3rd Conference held in May 2010 in Abuja august 2010.
 - **Review/consider** the Action Plan and various projects and programmes undertaken by key stakeholders to foster the development of the Communication and Information Technologies in Africa

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

8. The Meeting of the bureau is expected to produce the following major outcomes:

- Recommendation and guidance to speed up the implementation of the flagship projects and activities,
- Revised Action Plan for the implementation of decisions and declarations of CITMC and Heads of States and Government (HoS&G) Summits of the African Union related to CIT sector, in line with the Abuja 2010 delatation
- Rules of Procedures of the Steering Committee and the Bureau of the CITMC;

IV. PARTICIPANTS

9. For the Meeting of the Bureau, participants are:

- Representatives of the following countries elected by the CITMC3 held in Abuja on August 2010:
 - Republic of Sudan: Chair of the Bureau and the Steering Committee
 - United Republic of Tanzania: Member of the Steering Committee
 - Republic of Zimbabwe: First Vice Chair of the Bureau and the Steering Committee.
 - Republic of Angola: Member of the Steering Committee
 - Republic of Chad: Second Vice Chair of the Bureau and the Steering Committee.
 - Republic of Gabon: Member of the Steering Committee
 - Arab Republic of Egypt: Third Vice Chair of the Bureau and the Steering Committee.
 - Republic of Tunisia: Member of the Steering Committee
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria: Rapporteur of the Bureau and the Steering Committee,
 - Republic of Senegal: Member of the Steering Committee
- Representatives of the AUC: Director of Infrastructure and Energy, Director of Human Resource, Science and Technology and Representative of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA).

- Associate Members:.

- Invited participants

10. Participants in the Ministerial Bureau Meeting are following:

- Representatives of the following countries member of the Bureau elected by the CITMC3 held in Abuja on August 2010:
 - Republic of Sudan: Chair of the Bureau
 - Republic of Zimbabwe: First Vice-Chair of the Bureau and the Steering Committee.

- Republic of Chad: Second Vice Chair of the Bureau
- Arab Republic of Egypt: Third Vice-Chair of the Bureau
- Federal Republic of Nigeria: Rapporteur of the Bureau
- Representatives of the AUC

V. POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED

11. The following points will be debated by the meeting:
 - Progress report on the flagship projects and activities;
 - Revised /Updated Action Plan for the implementation of decisions and declarations of CITMC and Heads of States and Government (HoS&G) Summits of the African Union related to CIT sector;
 - Consideration and adoption of a Rules of Procedures of the Steering Committee and the Bureau of the CITMC;
12. This tentative list of items will be updated according to the contribution to be proposed by the different contributors such as ECA, AfDB.
13. However taking into consideration that the meetings are scheduled for only one day, number of presentation should be limited.
14. The African Union Commission and selected participants will prepare and present documents on the items of the agenda outlined above.

VI. VENUE AND DATE OF THE MEETINGS

15. The Meeting of the Ministers Bureau will be held on 27 April 2011 at Khartoum, Sudan. It will be preceded by a meeting of the Steering Committee on 26 April 2011 at the same venue.

VII. ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

16. In coordination with Sudan Government, the AUC will produce agenda, work programme and invitation letter. The working documents to be present in the meeting shall be drafted by the AUC Departments and the selected participants.
17. The Sudan Government will set up a local organizing committee and provide logistics and support as agreed upon with the African Union.
18. The organization and the format shall remain as usual. It is however, suggested to follow an appropriate time management as each meeting is scheduled for one day. Therefore after the official opening, work will progress in plenary strictly according to the adopted work programme.
19. In terms of proceedings, the presentation of each item /report calling for decision shall be concluded by a 3 - 4 Paragraphs summary and a maximum of one paragraph draft decision. This will facilitate the work of the drafting committee.