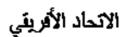**AFRICAN UNION**

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

**AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (CITMC-4)
4th ORDINARY SESSION
Khartoum, SUDAN
2nd - 6thSEPTEMBER 2012**

WORKING DOCUMENTS

List of Documents

Reference	Title	Related Annexes
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	Contributions of Key Stakeholders	
	Harmonization of Policies and Regulations:	
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	Specific Projects:	
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Doc-13/MC-IV/RASCOM	Support to acquire additional orbit/spectrum resources for RASCOM	Annex 13
Doc-14/MC-IV/AXIS	African Internet Exchange System- AXIS	
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	CIT Governance, Coordination, Popularization and Participation in International Forums :	
Doc-17 /MC-IV/CITM-Gov.	Draft Rules and Procedures of CITMC Bureau	Annex 17
Doc-18/MC-IV/Coordination	ICT Programs Coordination:	Annex 18
Doc-19/MC-IV/ICT Forum	CIT Popularization: African ICT week and Annual Forum	
Doc-20/MC-IV/Int. Events	Africa's Participation in International events: IGF(MAG), ICANN (GAC), ITU, PAPU, WSIS etc.	Annex 20

SECTION I:

PROGRESS REPORTS

Doc-01/ MC-IV/Bureau- Rpt-:
Report of the Outgoing Bureau

1. The Outgoing Bureau of the Conference met from 13 to 15 June 2011 in Khartoum (Sudan) and considered the following:
   - Overview of the status of previous decisions of the CITMC and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government
   - Progress report on the implementation of the major flagship projects and activities:
     - Harmonization of ICT policies in Sub-Sahara Africa (HIPSSA) project
     - Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)
     - Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA)
     - Dot Africa Project
     - The e-Legislation : Cyber-security
     - The African Space Agency
     - ARAPKE Projects
     - Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector
     - e-Applications Projects: e-Post, e-Transform, e-schools
     - NPCA ICT Broadband infrastructure Program
   - Consideration of the draft rules of procedures of the CITMC
   - Consideration of the Draft Action Plan for implementation of decisions and declarations of the CITMC and AU Organs

2. The report and declaration of the Bureau and the report of the Steering Committee are attached as **Annex 1a, Annex 1b** and **Annex 1c**

3. The Bureau decided to hold the CITMC-4 Conference in Khartoum, approved the Plan of Action for the implementation of the CITMC, the Heads of State and Government (HoS&G) Summit Decisions and Declarations (**Annex 1d**). The Bureau validated also the Draft Rules and Procedure (**Annex 1e**) of the Conference for approval by the present 4th session. Some amendments to these rules of procedure related to the mandates of the Bureau and steering committee are proposed to this conference.

4. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i. Note the reports of the Bureau and steering committee.
   ii. Adopt the amended rules of procedure and operation of the CITMC (Annexe 1e)
   iii. Request the Member States elected in the Bureau and Steering Committee to participate and coordinate Africa's position in all relevant CIT conferences, meetings and fora at regional, continental and International levels in coordination with AUC, NPCA, Specialized institutions and elected African representatives in these international fora and constituencies.

SECTION II:

CONTRIBUTIONS OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Specialized Agencies namely the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Partners namely UNECA, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and World Bank are requested to make their respective contributions.

SECTION III:

HARMONIZATION OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

<u>Doc-02/ MC-IV /Cyber- Conv.:</u>
Cyber Convention

5. The Extra-Ordinary Conference of African Union Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 2-5 November, 2009 requested the African Union Commission to develop jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, a convention on cyber legislation based on the Continent's needs and which adheres to the legal and regulatory requirements on electronic transactions, cyber security, and personal data protection [EXT/CITMC/MIN/Decl. (I)]

6. As Member States of the African Union increase access to broadband Internet, cybercrimes are leaping to new heights making it only rational to act now rather than later. Being wired to the rest of the world means that Africa is now within the perimeter of cybercrime, making the continent's information systems more vulnerable than ever before. Providing penal protection to the system of values of the information society is a necessity essentially made manifest in the need for appropriate legislation to combat cybercrime. The aim of the convention on cyber security is to provide guidelines for the development of such legislation at national level.

7. The UNECA took the lead in preparing the African Union convention as requested. It hired legal experts and with AUC organized consultation workshops for the five African Union Geographic regions in close collaboration with Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and HIPSSA project. The institutions of the Member States in charge of security and law enforcement institutions as well as Members of Parliament and international partners were part of the consultations process. The comments and input from these consultations and those received online have been included where necessary. A group of legal experts met and finalized the draft convention. The final draft is attached as **Annex 2a** and has been shared with all stakeholders. The Declarations resulting from the regional workshops are attached as **Annex 2b**.

8. The Honourable Ministers are invited to :

i. Consider and adopt the draft convention
ii. Call upon the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Commission (AUC), NPCA, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), specialized institutions (SI) and international partners to assist the Member States to accelerate the ratification and entry in force of the convention
iii. Call upon RECs, AUC, NPCA, UNECA, SI and International partners to assist Member States in elaborating national cyber legislation taking into consideration the AU Cyber security convention.

Doc-03/ MC-IV /ADM/ MC-4
Broadcasting: Analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television Transition

9. The digital television transition is a process in which analogue television signal broadcasting is replaced by digital signal television broadcasting. The process of the transition started around the world since 2000 and the Regional Radio-communication Conferences held in Geneva 2006 (RRC-06) approved the Regional Agreement (GE-06) for Region 1. This agreement includes frequency plans for digital terrestrial broadcasting and a deadline to switch off the analogue broadcasting service by 17 June 2015 in UHF band with the exception of some developing countries, for which the transition period shall end on 17 June 2020 for VHF band.

10. Thus, all countries in region 1, where Africa belongs, should switchover from analogue to digital television broadcasting before or on June 2015 in UHF and 2020 in VHF to comply with GE-06 Agreement and to realize the potential of the digital dividend.

11. In order to accelerate the transition and to make Africa the beneficiary of the digital dividend and thereby comply with the international commitment, the African Ministers, in their Abuja declaration of the third CITMC-3, AU/CITMC-3/MIN/Decl. (III) committed themselves to promote the transition from Analogue to Digital terrestrial broadcasting across Africa.

12. This decision enabled the AUC to assess the status of Member States towards the transition, the efforts of other organization to support the smooth transition process in Africa and to coordinate activities in a continental approach to avoid duplication of efforts and increase efficiency. **Annex 3** provides more details on the assessment.

13. As a result, The African Union Commission has adopted a strategy aiming mainly at meeting the following objectives:
    - To provide technical assistance to Member States to smoothly switch over to the digital terrestrial television broadcasting platform before June 17, 2015
    - Promote common transmission standard across the Continent
    - To customize and produce a specification for a low cost set-top-box that will allow African citizens to access the digital content at affordable cost
    - To produce digital dividend benefit estimation model and guideline for the harmonized and coordinated use across the continent
    - To develop a mechanism to promote local content production and conversion of existing analogue broadcast archives to digital
    - To encourage Member States to introduce e-waste management procedure in the transition. **Annex 3** provides more details on the subject matter.

14. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

    i. Adopt the principle of working together to have a common standard for both transmission and TV receiver(set-top-box) across the continent

ii.   Ban importation of analogue only transmitters and TV sets

iii.   Encourage bilateral and multilateral frequency coordination activities

iv.   Encourage the harmonized approach on the allotment of the Digital Dividend part of the spectrum

v.   Request AUC and NPCA to mobilize resources and coordinate activities at a continental level for the analogue switchover.

Doc-04/ MC-IV /Post
POSTAL SECTOR ACTION PLAN

15. The second session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communications and Information Technologies (CITMC-2) held in Cairo in 2008, recalling the importance and the role of Postal systems in Africa's political, economic and social development and realizing the need for Africa to develop policies and regulations in the area of postal systems capable of contributing to economic development and accelerating regional integration process, adopted an Action Plan for the development of the Postal sector in Africa. The Action Plan should be implemented within a period of three (3) to five (5) years.

16. The Action Plan (**Annex 4a**) defines the following major objectives:
    - Implementation of in-depth reform of the Postal sector in Africa
    - Development of the Public Postal service
    - Improvement and development of the postal network and quality of service
    - Include the improvement of the postal sector in national development plans.
    - Adopt a flexible long-term sectoral policy to make room for necessary adjustments
    - Elaborate and adopt a legislative and regulatory framework which has binding force.
    - Establish a well-defined universal service obligation and the application of its funding mechanism.

17. It is to be noted that the postal sector has been the subject of many decisions and declarations of the AU organs. **Annex 4b** provides the summary of these decisions and the status of their implementation.

18. Studies have been conducted on (i) Development of postal electronic payments, (ii) Enhancing of mail circulation by road in ECOWAS region, (iii) Model and Guidelines on Universal postal service and (iv) Strategies to increase financial inclusion of low-income population in Africa. The reports on the above are included as **Annex 4c** to **Annex 4e**.

19. A study on Guidelines on addressing and postcode systems and the elaboration of a postal master plan are going on.

20. The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

    i.   Take note of the progress made in implementing the Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa
    ii. Integrate postal services in the wider framework of communication and ICT services towards the establishment of a Universal Access Policy
    iii. Pursue and intensify the postal reform and to include postal sector in the landscape of financial inclusion
    iv. Request the AUC to (a) propose guidelines for liberalization of the Postal Sector (b) elaborate a Continental Protocol on the Development of Postal Policies and Regulations and (c) submit report on postal financial services

contribution to financial inclusion for the consideration of the African Ministers in charge of Economy and Finances

v.   Call upon International Partners to strongly support the implementation of the postal reform in Africa

vi.   Renew their recognition to ITU, UNECA, European Union, Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other partners for their support for the implementation of the e-Post Program, a joint initiative of PAPU, ATU, RASCOM, NPCA and AUC.

The African Union Framework for the development of Information Society
(**AfrISoc**)

21. In 2005, under the coordination of the AUC Department in charge of Science and Technology (HRST), the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-1) adopted The African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE). This Action plan was developed with the technical support of UNECA upon the request from the Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), held in Accra, Ghana from 2-4 February 2005.

22. ARAPKE aims at building a region fully benefiting from ICT services by the year 2015. It is based on the Geneva Action Plan adopted by the world leaders at the first phase of the WSIS and the "Accra Commitments for Tunis 2005" adopted by the African ICT Ministers as well as on the vision defined by both the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

23. In 2008, under the coordination of the AUC Department in charge of Infrastructure and Energy (Having the Telecoms portfolio), the CITMC-2 adopted a Reference Framework for the harmonization of policy Telecommunications/ICT policies and regulations in Africa.

24. This Reference Framework aims at addressing harmonization policies and regulations. It takes into account the AU vision and mission and several guiding principles such as solidarity, cooperation, etc. and is articulated around some main principles:
    • Broad objectives and related achievement strategies
    • Program of Action with broad objective, strategic objectives, and action item per strategic objective
    • Priority Studies consisting of Field of Study, Study and Deliverables
    • Priority Programs (activities at national, regional and continental levels. Among the various activities of the Program of Action, it is proposed that some activities constitute a priority program to be carried out at national, regional and continental level)

25. In 2011 and as part of its restructuring, the AUC merged the ICT Unit from HRST with the Telecommunications & Posts Division to form the new Information Society Division under the Infrastructure & Energy Department.

26. To further implement its restructuring and in order to remedy to the fact that the AU has two frameworks - ARAPKE and Reference Framework - and consequently two action plans to implement development of the ICT sector in the Continent, the AUC decided to merge all Reference Frameworks into a single one - The African Union Framework for the development of Information Society (AfrISoc). This will allow to articulate Africa's common objectives and commitments to collective actions to develop and use ICT for the socio-economic development and integration of Africa. This will ensure unity of action and avoid overlapping efforts and will also facilitate the development of a coherent and integrated approach to implement AU ICT programs. **Annex 5**-detailed paper- provides the concept note of AfrISoc.

27. The AfrISoc aims at supporting the achievement of AU vision which is to contribute to the development of Telecommunication and ICT sector and to make all the countries in Africa benefit from the knowledge economy by building up an information Society in Africa. It also aims at developing a harmonized Telecommunications and ICT regulatory strategic framework to be implemented at national, regional and continental level through Implementation of the needed actions to harmonize policies, strategies and the telecommunications regulatory frameworks and implementation of reliable integrated infrastructure systems and telecommunication services

28. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

    i.   Take note of the approach for a consolidated framework for CIT in Africa
    ii. Request the AUC in collaboration with NPCA, RECs, Specialized Institutions and UNECA to develop an updated, integrated, coherent AU strategic CIT framework for Africa taking into account existing frameworks of all African CIT stakeholders.

SECTION IV:

MASTER PLANS

Doc- 06/ MC-IV/PIDA
The Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)

29. Infrastructure plays a key role in economic growth and poverty reduction. Conversely, the lack of infrastructure affects productivity and raises production and transaction costs, which hinders growth by reducing the competitiveness of businesses and the ability of governments to pursue economic and social development policies.

30. The lack of infrastructure in Africa is widely recognized. Deficits of infrastructure have a clear impact on African competitiveness: African countries, particularly those south of the Sahara, are among the least competitive in the world, and infrastructure appears to be one of the most important factors holding them back. Deficient infrastructure in today's Africa has been found to sap growth by as much as 2% a year .This is a continental problem that requires a continental solution.

31. Because Africa's economic geography is particularly challenging, regional integration is the best, perhaps the only, way for Africa to realize its growth potential, participate effectively in the global economy, and share the benefits of globalization.

32. The essential benefit of regional infrastructure is to make possible the formation of large, competitive markets in place of the present collection of small, isolated, and inefficient ones. Shared regional infrastructure is the only solution to problems of small scale and adverse location.

33. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), a Multi sector programme covering four Transport, Energy, Transboundary water and Telecommunication/ICT is dedicated to facilitating continental integration in Africa through improved regional infrastructure and is designed to support implementation of the African Union Abuja Treaty and the creation of the African economic Community.

34. PIDA is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). PIDA is grounded in regional and continental master plans and action plans as well as other relevant work undertaken by the African Union (AU), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the regional and continental technical agencies (including the lake and river basin organizations (L/RBO) and power pools (PP)), and the concerned countries.

35. PIDA will allow countries to meet forecast demand for infrastructure services and boost their competitiveness by:
    • Increasing efficiencies
    • Accelerating growth
    • Facilitating integration in the world economy
    • Improving living standards
    • Unleashing intra-African trade.

36. PIDA assumes that the average economic growth rate for African countries will be 6% a year between 2010 and 2040, driven by a surging population, increasing levels of education and technology absorption[1].This growth implies that, over the 30 years to 2040, the GDP of African countries will multiply six fold, and the average per capita income will rise above $10,000 for all countries. This continuing growth and prosperity will swell the demand for infrastructure, already one of the continents greatest impediments to sustainable development. Assuming that this growth is achieved, Africa's infrastructure needs are as follows:

- Power demand will increase from 590 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2010, to more than 3,100 TWh in 2040, corresponding, to an average annual growth rate of nearly 6%[2]. To keep pace, installed power generation capacity must rise from present levels of 125 gigawatts (GW; comparable with the United Kingdom) to almost 700 GW in 2040

- Information and communications technology (ICT) demand will swell by a factor of 20 before 2020 as Africa catches up with broadband. Demand, around 300 gigabits per second in 2009, will reach 6,000 gigabits per second by 2018.

37. This growing infrastructure demand presents a critical challenge for Africa and is the main purpose of the PIDA .

38. The proposed infrastructure development programme articulates short- (2020), medium-(2030) and long-term (2040) priorities for meeting identified infrastructure gaps in a manner consistent with the agreed strategic framework - based on long-term social and economic development visions, strategic objectives, and sector policies – and buttressed by an implementation strategy for the Priority Action Plan (PAP), 2012–20.

39. Eighteen months after the launching of the study in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30 July 2010, the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) reached a milestone point. Indeed, the study ended, PIDA moves to implementation, following its adoption by both the 26th Summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) held on 28 January 2012 in Addis Ababa, and the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government (HoS&G), held in Addis Ababa, 29-30 January 2012. Both respectively have adopted decision and declaration on the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

40. The HSGOC decision and the HoS&G Declarations (i) approves the PIDA outcomes and the Institutional Architecture (**Annex 6**) for its implementation, (ii) requests the Commission to take all the necessary measures in coordination with NPCA, to ensure the accelerated implementation of PIDA and to report annually thereon notably an annual report on Priority Action Plan (PAP) status.

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[1]This growth rate would be similar to India's over the past three decades. Since 2005, the average annual rate of growth in Africa has exceeded 5%.

[2]According to the International Energy Agency Key World Energy Statistics 2009, demand of 590 TWh approximates that of Germany in 2007, and 3,100 TWh that of China in 2007.

41. Activities carried out in the framework of PIDA Implementation as of July 2012 are:
   - Establishment of Roles and responsibilities of AUC, NPCA, RECs and Members States in the implementation of PIDA;
   - Development of the Rules and Procedures of the Council for Infrastructure Development (CID) and Term of Reference (TORs) of the Infrastructure Advisory Group (IAG);
   - Evaluation of capacity building for RECs, Member States, and NPCA to carried activities for PIDA implementation.;
   - Resource mobilization:
      - ✓ Mobilization of financing is on-going to support Project Preparation and Coordination;
      - ✓ innovative funding strategy documents have been developed including the contribution of Member States,
      - ✓ Presentation of PIDA to partners (ICA, Africa-EU Infrastructure Partnership, Brazil, China, etc.)

42. The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

   i.   Note the progress on the implementation of the PIDA, the challenges and benefits expected;
   ii.   Urge Member States and RECs to participate in all phases of the programme and contribute to its implementation;
   iii. Further urge the CITMC Bureau to participate in the Council for Infrastructure Development (CID),
   iv.   Direct the African Union Commission to ensure adequate oversight and follow-up on the implementation of this important program.

SECTION IV:

INTERNET GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Doc-07/MC-IV/IPv4_6 :
IPv4-IPv6 Migration

43. The Internet architecture today is mainly built on the "Internet Protocol version 4" (IPv4) which works with defined identifiers (addresses) that are assigned to any router, server, hosts or simple Internet devices (such as mobile Internet phone or sensors and RFID devices) connecting to the Internet so that it can communicate with other similar devices (example of address: 196.2.1.1, 201.162.50.1 etc.). Address assigned to each equipment must be unique, to ensure uniqueness in global connectivity. The current version, IPv4, only provides for just 4.3 billion such addresses.

44. However, the remaining address space held by the 5 Regional Internet Registries (IANA having allocated all in its pool to them) is down to just less than 227 Million IPv4 addresses (or about just 5% of the total v4 space) as of June 2012. AFRINIC the Regional registry in charge of managing these resources for Africa Region holds about 31% of the total remaining, which is equivalent to 70.2 million unique IPv4 addresses. Nevertheless, IPv4 address space has become a scarce resource and will not be enough to sustain the continuing growth of the Internet. To anticipate this long-term problem the Internet community has developed an upgraded protocol, IPv6, which has been gradually deployed since the late 90s.

45. IPv6 provides a straightforward and long term solution to the address space problem. The number of addresses defined by the IPv6 protocol is huge. IPv6 allows every citizen, every network operator (including those moving to all IP - "Next Generation Networks"), and every organization in the world to have as many IP addresses as they need to connect every conceivable router, host, network and devices directly to the global Internet.

46. IPv6 was also designed integrating features which were not tightly designed into IPv4 originally. Those features included enhanced quality of service, auto-configuration, end-to-end security, built-in multicast/mobility and another two dozens of features too technical to list in this paper.

47. IPv6 is not directly interoperable with IPv4. IPv6 and IPv4 devices can only communicate with each other using translation gateways. However, IPv6 can be enabled in parallel with IPv4 on the same device and on the same physical network. There will be a transition phase/period expected to last for several years when IPv4 and IPv6 will co-exist on the same equipment (technically often referred to as "dual stack" configuration) but transmitted over the same network links.

48. In Africa unfortunately there are only a few networks that seem to have activated IPv6 for service (Recent measurement shows only 13% of Networks in Africa have IPv6 activated). Africa should build its long term ICT development on IPv6 testing so not to be left behind and take full advantage of the opportunity that the Mobile is offering the region for ICT development. Africa has a lot to gain, more than any other region in the world, if well prepared for IPv6.

49. This indicates that Africa clearly needs a good government leadership and IPv6 engineering to plan, test and deploy IPv6 not only for ISP but also on governments' Infrastructure. Government must ensure that consumers/users have access to the same information and content irrespective to the version of Internet protocol used.

50. It is now time to take concrete actions. Otherwise there is a risk that many actors will not be prepared in time to keep pace with an accelerating deployment of IPv6. Taking no action could also lead to a further delay of IPv6 adoption with disadvantages for all users and a weaker competitive position of African industry. Prompt and efficient adoption of IPv6 offers Africa a potential for innovation and leadership in advancing the Internet. Other regions, in particular the Asian region, have already taken a strong interest in IPv6.

51. Africa should set itself the objective to widely implement IPv6 by end of 2013 aligned with the worldwide adoption objectives. There is a need for an action plan with the following objectives:
     •   Timely implementation of IPv6 as the pool of IP addresses provided by the current protocol version 4 is being depleted down to just 4% and expected to run out by 2014. IPv6, with its huge address space, will provide a platform for innovation in IP based services and applications
     •   Set Africa in an earlier adopter position in the New Internet Economy sustaining its competitiveness in the global economy
     •   Set the stage for viral innovations and future Internet content and services based on two-way and interactive Internet paradigm.

52. The transition to IPv6 will take some time and will require operating a dual IPv4/IPv6 network, bringing up specific issues to be resolved. All actors will need to prepare themselves for developing and deploying IPv6 compliant solutions; the sooner the better. Organizations should not wait for their ISPs to provide native IPv6 connectivity but should begin to enable the protocol on their own network and use various technical mechanisms in place to communicate with IPv6 ready network in the world. More details are provided in **Annex 7**.

53. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

     i.   Request Member States, RECs, NPCA, AUC and UNECA in coordination with AFRINIC and Internet Community, regulators, operators and service providers to elaborate an African IPv6 Action Plan to be implemented over the next 3 years
     ii. Request the Member States to support the African IPv6 Task Force and AFRINIC in order to allow them to monitor the adoption of IPv6.

Doc-08/ MC-IV/ICANN:
Dakar Ministerial Round-Table

54. ICANN-42 was planned in Dakar from 19 to 21 October 2011 and there was an urgent need for Africa to present to the conference Africa's position on issues related to Internet Governance and resources. The PIDA study was completed and as part of its adoption process required to be considered by the Ministers in charge of Communications and Information Technologies.

55. This is why it was important to hold a ministerial round table to prepare an African agenda for ICANN and to adopt a resolution on PIDA and Dot Africa process. The round table took place on 21 October 2011, Dakar, Senegal. It was preceded by an experts' session held from 19 to 20 October 2011.

56. The meeting witnessed the participation of several African Ministers in charge of ICT, regulators and other decision makers. It was an opportunity to update these stakeholders on the challenges and political implications on the current internet governance at ICANN level and setup a platform for efficient and effective discussions among experts on specific matters and various initiatives for the development of internet in Africa. Both declarations on ICANN agenda and PIDA studies are attached as **Annex 8 a**.

57. In their declarations the Ministers made several key commitments on Internet related issues and called upon the AUC, RECs, UNECA, AfriNIC and ICANN for resolution and or implementation of many issues related to (i) Participation of Africa at ICANN meetings and constituencies, (ii) Promotion of Dot Africa gTLD, African ccTLD and DNSSEC, (iii) Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), IPv6 and IXPs, (iv) African IGF:

58. The AUC Commissioner in charge of Infrastructure and Energy, the Minister of Senegal in Charge of CIT and the Representative of Sudan as chair of the CITMC met with the Board of ICANN and presented the outcomes of the roundtable. ICANN committed to answer to the Ministerial roundtable declaration. The ICANN answer is attached as **Annex 8b.**

59. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i.   Request each of the 10 Members of the CITMC Steering Committee to send at least one expert to participate in the ICANN GAC meetings and report back to the Bureau, to the Region and to the Continent
   ii. Request the Bureau and Steering Committee of the CITMC to set up, in collaboration with AUC and NPCA, a coordination mechanism among the African representatives within each ICANN Constituency in order to formulate an African agenda at ICANN and to follow its implementation
   iii. Request the Member States and all stakeholders to participate actively in the formulation and implementation of the ICANN strategy for Africa.

Doc-09/ MC-IV/Dot Africa
Dot Africa

60. The Extraordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communications and Information Technologies (CITMC) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2009, recognized the need to "establish dotAfrica as a continental Top-Level Domain for use by organizations, businesses and individuals with guidance from African Internet agencies".

61. Following the endorsement of the outcomes of the conference by the African Heads of State and Government in the AU Summit and the African Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies at their third ordinary session in Abuja in 2010, requested the AUC, to "set up the structures and modalities for the implementation of the dotAfrica project".

62. To implement the above decisions, the AU Commission, embarked on identifying the best open and transparent approach, which led to the formation of the dotAfrica Taskforce comprising of respected African experts.

63. The Task Force and the assigned consultants provided the needed support to the AU Commission to launch the dotAfrica tender process to select a competent Registry Operator. Accordingly, the AU Commission selected UniForum SA (the ZA Central Registry Operator or ZACR), to administer and operate dotAfricagTLD on behalf of the African community. The endorsement of the ZACR is the only formal endorsement provided by the African Union and its Member States with regard to dotAfrica. **Annex 9** provides the profile of UniForum ZACR.

64. Shortly after its appointment, the ZACR, in consultation with Internet Community representatives from all over Africa at a meeting held in Johannesburg, established a Steering Committee to exercise moral and ethical oversight over the dotAfrica project. Representatives of the broader African Internet community are currently participating in the project through the Steering Committee which comprises of African Internet experts, Country Code managers, Registrars and others volunteering for a better Internet for Africa.

65. On the margins of the ICANN-43 meetings in San Jose, Costa Rica, March 2012, the AU Commission and ZACR have also formally concluded the dotAfrica Agreement to regulate the relation between the AUC and the ZACR for the application and operation of dotAfrica, which is to be administered in an inclusive and professional manner and in accordance with the project proposal submitted by ZACR during the tender process.

66. Support from minimum of 60% of the geo-Countries was required, fortunately following a very exhaustive efforts made by ZACR, UNECA and the AU Commission, the Application managed to secure the 60% support needed from the countries of the continent by the initial deadline on 12 April 2012.

67. The following countries have provided their support letters to dotAfrica as per the requirements made by ICANN in the Application Guide Book. The total is 39 Countries out of 54 representing 70%.

Burundi	Kenya	Swaziland	Niger
Cameroon	Djibouti	Zambia	**Nigeria**
Central African Republic	Comoros	Benin	Senegal
Chad	Egypt	Burkina Faso	Sierra Leone
Congo	Mauritania	Cape Verde	Togo
D.R.Congo	Algeria	Cote d'Ivoire	Mauritius
Gabon	Morocco	Gambia	Zimbabwe
Uganda	Tunisia	Ghana	Mali
Tanzania	South Africa	Guinea	Southern Sudan
Sudan	Mozambique	Liberia	

68. A Steering Committee (SteerCom) has been established to provide leadership and oversight over both the application process and the launch of the dotAfrica TLD,as well as to provide a vehicle through which the broader African community may participate in the dotAfrica project. The SteerCom is also the precursor to the dotAfrica Foundation that will oversee various developmental projects and initiatives relating to the African Internet and domain name industries. Steering Committee (SteerCom) is built on a multi-stakeholder model and comprises a diverse grouping of individuals and organizations that participate on a voluntary basis.

69. All surplus funds generated through the administration of the dotAfrica TLD will be channelled into a Development Fund, earmarked for African ICT developmental projects and initiatives. The Development Fund will be administered by the dotAfrica Foundation, which will ensure that the following core developmental objectives are addressed:
   - The development and support of African ccTLDs through the work of AfTLD
   - The development and support of a competitive and vibrant African Registrar market
   - Content development, and
   - The coordination and support of socio-economic and enterprise development initiatives relating to ICT.

70. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i. Request Members States to provide urgently the support letters to AUC for Dot Africa so as to minimize the risk of objection and secure the dot Africa TLD
   ii. Initiate the early warning system within the GAC and object to all other applicants for Dot Africa or similar strings in any international language.

Doc-10/ MC-IV/AfIGF
African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF)

71. The Internet Governance space in Africa has been very active during the WSIS process with regional meetings held from 2002 to 2005 in Bamako, Accra, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Johannesburg, Douala and Tunis. Within the IGF global initiative, Africa has hosted IGF in Egypt (2009) and in Kenya (2011).

72. Presently, there are four regional initiatives that are on-going in Africa; which include the West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), the East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF), Forum de Gouvernance de l'Internet en Afrique Centrale (FGI-CA), and the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF). These regional initiatives, though active in their operation, do not yet cover all the countries in their respective regions and some of the countries are not actively participating in the regional initiatives. North Africa does not yet have a sub-regional forum.

73. There is therefore a strong need for the establishment of an African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) that will support and promote the consolidation of the on-going regional initiatives. It shall also reach out to continental and global stakeholders and guide in their engagement in continental, regional and national initiatives. Accordingly, AfIGF was convened by the sub-regional IGFs in cooperation with the African Union Commission and the ECA at the 6th IGF in Nairobi. The workshop was attended by participants from all African sub-regions, including sub-regional IGF coordinators and Member States.

74. The AfIGF was launched on 30 September 2011 by participants with the aim of serving as a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular.

75. Membership to AfIGF is open to all stakeholder groups of all the African sub-regions. Members shall be conveners from the Sub-Regional IGFs of the five African sub-regions, individuals from Relevant African Government Institutions, African Civil Society, academic and technical communities, African Private Sector, and African based Regional and international organizations.

76. Like the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the global IGF, members serve in their personal capacity, but are expected to have extensive linkages with their respective stakeholder groups. The activities of AfIGF shall be coordinated by a Bureau which shall be composed of the conveners of the five African sub-regional IGFs and three other stakeholder representatives from each region.

77. The Bureau shall develop annual work plan of the AfIGF activities. In appropriate cases, the AfIGF may be held in the framework of one of the regional IGFs. AfIGF shall meet every year at different venue in each region. AfIGF shall also meet every year at the IGF venue and whenever possible during MAG consultations, which are held between two Internet Governance Forums.

78. **Annex 10** provides more details on the AfIGF TORs and the WSIS process as well. The TORs are expected to be approved by AfIGF participants in Cairo.

79. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i.   Request Member States to support the establishment of national IGF to create dialogue between all stakeholders on ICT for development issues and facilitate the countries' participation in the regional and African IGF processes as well as the global IGF
   ii. Request Member States and the CITMC Bureau to take part in the WSIS follow up activities, including participation in surveys on monitoring of WSIS Action lines and targets in order to gather evidence on ICT investment, infrastructure and applications development.

SECTION V:

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Doc-11/ MC-IV/PAeN:
The Pan African e-Network (PAeN)

80. The Pan-African e-Network project is an initiative of the Government of India, with the main objective of establishing a Pan-African telecommunications network by satellite and fibre optics to provide Tele-medicine and Tele-education and diplomatic communications (VVIP) services to all Member States of the African Union.

81. **At the level of the African** continent, the network is made up of a Hub Earth Station based in Dakar, Senegal linked via Satellite with:
    - 47 VSAT Stations installed in 47 National Hospitals (one hospital in each Member State) for Tele-Medicine, 47 VSAT Stations installed in 53 Universities (one university in each Member State) for Tele-Education;
    - 5 VSAT Stations installed in 5 African Universities called Regional Leading Universities and 5 VSAT Stations installed in 5 African Hospitals called Regional Super Specialty Hospitals contributing to provide respectively Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine services.

82. **In India,** the Network includes one (1) Data Center (Delhi) which is linked to 12 (the initial number was 6) Indian Hospitals and 7 (the initial number was 6) Indian Universities to provide the Network's Tele-Medicine and Tele-Education services, respectively.

83. India offered to fund the project with an estimated budget of US$ 125 - 150 million, to be used for the supply and installation of equipment and software, leasing of the satellite bandwidth and submarine fibre-optic cable, as well as for the operation and maintenance of the network for a period of five (5) years. In addition, India will be responsible for capacity building of participating Member States and the payment of fees to the Indian universities that will offer courses to students, doctors and nurses.

84. For its implementation, various Agreements have been signed. These Agreements specify responsibility assigned to each stakeholder of the project including the African Union Commission, India and AU Member States.

85. The implementation status is attached as **Annex 11** and is summarized as follows:
    - This agreement to participate has been signed by 88% of the Member States of the Union, that is, by 48 Member States
    - Six remaining countries (South Africa, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Algeria and Tunisia) yet to sign the agreement
    - Satellite HUB Earth Station in Dakar is Operational since April 2008
    - Up to 150 VSAT equipment has been installed and is fully operational
    - More than 8000 Graduate and post graduate Students are pursuing their education in different Indian universities through the network
    - 3000 medical consultations have been made in two years during which three African lives have been saved
    - 1650 Continuous Medical Sessions have been conducted for more than 5000 Doctors/nurses.

86. The AUC is pursuing the following ongoing activities:
- The management of the Hub
- Studies on communication plan to support the wide use of the PAeN services by Member States
- Study for the transfer of the VVIP component of the PAeN to the AUC VSAT e-Governance Network
- Capacity building: organization of the 8th meeting of National coordinators and experts on 22 and 23 November 2011 and regional workshop.

87. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

i. Note the progress on the implementation of the Pan African e-Network and the urgent need to ensure that countries support the increased usage of the Tele Education and Tele Medicine service provided by the Network;

ii. Urge Leading African Regional Universities and the African Regional Super Specialty Hospitals to start providing Tele Education and Tele Education services like their Indian counterparts

iii. Urge Member States participating in the project to widely use the Tele Education and Tele Medicine services of the Pan African e-Network as the Network has now entered into its operational phase

iv. Request the AUC to finalize the transfer of the VVIP Component to the e-Governance Network and to ensure its operationalization

v. Further request the AUC and NPCA to ensure the smooth implementation of the Work Plan on the transfer of the Network to Africa following the end of Indian technical and financial assistance.

Doc-012/ MC-IV/ALICT:
African Leadership in ICT Program (ALICT)

88. Following adoption of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) framework, the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-2) requested the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to mobilize resources to accelerate the implementation of the selected ARAPKE flagship projects.

89. The Executive Council Decision EX.CL/435 (XIII) further endorsed the eleven (11) flagship projects of the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE); one of these projects is the African Leadership in ICT Program.

90. The African Leadership in ICT program is a seven-month course that consists of seven (7) modules and aims at working with middle level policy makers in Member States to advance knowledge society with ICT as a cross cutting pillar.

91. The African Union Commission, the Government of Finland and Global eSchools and Community Initiative (GeSCI) have signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding to implement the first phase of the African Leadership in ICT Program (ALICT) starting with the Eastern and Southern Africa regions.

92. Efforts to mobilize resources to expand the program to other AU regions are ongoing. The Government of Finland plans to contribute additional funds to expand the ALICT program to Central and Western Africa regions.

93. A capacity building model and curriculum consisting of seven modules have been developed and over 80 participants were awarded African Leadership in ICT Certificates at the African Union Commission headquarters on 29th August 2012 upon completion of the course requirements.

94. CITMC Sessions on Internet Governance & Knowledge Society issues and migration to IPV6 are planned to take place during the CITMC-4.

95. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

    i.   Take note of the progress made to implement the African Leadership in ICT Program
    ii. Request AUC and NPCA to work with the Government of Finland, GeSCI and other international partners to extend the program to other regions of Africa.

Doc-013/RASCOM:
Support to acquire additional orbit/spectrum resources for RASCOM

96. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty of the United Nations stipulates that outer space (in contrast with air space which is under national sovereignty) is not subject to national appropriation by claim or by occupation but is free for exploitation and use by all states through governmental or non-governmental entities in conformity with international regulations. The orbit/spectrum resources, including the geostationary-satellite orbit, are limited natural resources which must be used in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, to guarantee equitable access.

97. Two major mechanisms for sharing orbit/spectrum resources have been developed and implemented:
    • A prior planning procedure (guaranteeing equitable access, for example the Allotment Plan)
    • Coordination procedures – for the non-planned bands.

98. The establishment of a Continental satellite Organization (RASCOM- the Regional African Satellite Communication Organization) is within the framework of decisions and resolutions passed by the OAU (AU). Africa arrived very late to the Geostationary Orbit (GSO) when most of the strategic orbital/resources which are ideal for the African continent have been allocated to other Administrations outside of Africa on the principle of "first come, first served".

99. The only means of acquiring orbit/spectrum resources for our present satellite was to use the Planned Band resources on a sub-regional basis. RASCOM's 45 member countries pooled together to achieve orbital resources to be used on a sub-regional basis. This made use of the Allotment Plan which is supporting the first Pan African satellite (RQ1R) launched in December 2010.

100. RASCOM needs more flexible orbit/spectrum resources in the non-planned band in order to meet present market demands and the business evolution and RASCOM, as a satellite Organization/Operator, also needs to launch additional satellites. To achieve this, RASCOM has embarked on this in the form of RASCOM-3G series of filings which are presently undergoing coordination. RASCOM has developed a strategy with a relevant component of securing such duly coordinated resources in order to be able to support the launching of additional satellites in line with its mission. **Annex 13** is the RASCOM's strategic paper for the orbit/spectrum resources.

101. The AU has expressed willingness to support RASCOM in the campaign to acquire orbit/spectrum resources for the RASCOM project which is a continental initiative. With the above background, some of the strategic objectives relating to securing orbit/spectrum resources are:
    • To use the African Union as a bloc to secure some of the resources that will be returned to the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) by Intelsat through International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO)
    • The African Union to request RASCOM member Administrations to act as a bloc, through RASCOM, to secure orbit/spectrum resources from the BR

which will be pooled together for the benefit of the whole continent in support of its mission.

102. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

i. Request all the African RASCOM member administrations to act as one bloc for securing duly coordinated orbit/spectrum resources from the ITU/BR for the benefit of the African continent

ii. Make a request to ITSO so that the orbit/spectrum resources of relevance to the African continent are assigned to RASCOM on behalf of its members once these resources are released from Intelsat.

Doc-014/ MC-IV/AXIS:
Internet Exchange Systems- AXIS

103. Following adoption of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) framework, the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-2) requested the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to mobilize resources to accelerate the implementation of the selected ARAPKE flagship projects.

104. The Executive Council Decision EX.CL/435 (XIII) further endorsed the eleven (11) flagship projects of the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE); one of these projects is the African Internet Exchange System.

105. Furthermore, as per the Addis Ababa Declaration on information and communication technologies in Africa "Challenges and prospects for development (Doc. Assembly/AU/11(XIV)", the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 31 January 2010, undertook to strengthen national programmes and regional cooperation for the development and interconnection of broadband infrastructures and the deployment of Regional Internet Exchange Points.

106. The African Internet Exchange System project aims to keep Africa's internet traffic local by providing capacity building & technical assistance to facilitate the establishment of Internet Exchange Points and Regional Internet Exchange Points in Africa.

107. Africa is currently paying overseas carriers to exchange "local" (continental) traffic on our behalf. This is both costly as well as an inefficient way of handling inter-country exchange of Internet traffic.

108. Lowering communication costs by facilitating the establishment of the African Internet Exchange System will reduce the cost of financing trade and ultimately the price of the goods. Affordable and accessible bandwidth will encourage regional trade integration and new "think work" industries like business process outsourcing (BPO) and call centres will emerge and create employment, reduce poverty and generate wealth.

109. It is therefore in the interest of all countries in Africa to find ways of optimizing internet traffic, to support intra-continental traffic flows and create opportunities for private sector investment in these areas.

110. Having regard to AU decisions related to the African Internet Exchange System project, the African Union Commission signed an agreement with the Lead Financier (Luxemburg Development and Cooperation Agency) to support implementation of the African Internet Exchange System project to be funded by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and the Government of Luxembourg.

111. The objectives of AXIS are as follows:
- To support the establishment of;
  - ✓ Internet exchange points (IXP) in Member States of the African Union
  - ✓ Regional Internet Hubs
  - ✓ Regional Internet Carriers
  - ✓ Continental Internet Carriers
- To establish a real-time and historical traffic data accessible via web-based visualization system
- To develop a certificate curriculum on Internet Exchange technologies

112. The following results are expected from the project:
- IXP Capacities in AU Member States
- Internet Exchange Points in AU Member States
- Regional Internet Hubs and Carriers
- Continental Internet Carriers
- Real-time and historical traffic data accessible via web-based visualization system
- Certificate Curriculum on Internet Exchange Technologies.

113. Activities related to Organization and Project Management such as constituting the Steering Committee and recruitment of staff are nearly complete. The 1st Steering Committee meeting was held on 7th May 2012.

114. An agreement between AUC and the Internet Society has beensigned (ISOC) to start conducting capacity building workshops in AU Member States with no Internet Exchange Points by the third quarter of 2012.

115. Workshops to kick start the process to establish Internet Exchange Points in seven (7) AU Member States has been confirmed to be conducted before the end of the year. The process will continue in other Member States next year.

116. Capacity building and technical assistance to support establishment of Regional Internet Exchange Points is planned to begin in 2013.

117. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

  i. Note the efforts made by the African Union Commission to implement the first phase of the African Internet Exchange System project, and
  ii. Call upon the African Union Commission, NPCA, Regional Economic Communities and Member States to accelerate its implementation.

Doc-015/ MC-IV/AfriSpace:
Feasibility study for the creation of an African Space Agency (AfriSpace)

118. Since many decades, space technologies are not only real tools of policy development for many countries but also provide commercial opportunity and strategic advantages for a tiny minority of countries controlling them. Indeed, outside of military applications where they derive part of their continuing evolution, space technologies are supporting the development of many sectors of human activity. The area of Communications and Information Technology, broadcasting, are among the known beneficiaries of space applications.

119. However, space applications are nowadays playing a major role in other areas such as meteorology, navigation, weather forecasting, management of natural resources and environmental monitoring, prevention and disaster management, health, education, agriculture, peace and security. Due to the diversity of covered areas, space applications are crucial in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

120. The scope of development challenges in health, climate change, demographic imbalances that humanity and Africa will face, will grow exponentially with time. These challenges require a collective regional or continental response.

121. Space technologies are complex and expensive and have high financial risk. Moreover, geographical and/or population size are often decisive factors for effective and efficient implementation of some space applications. Therefore, a common continental approach will allow the sharing of risks and costs and ensure the availability of skilled and sufficient human resources. It will also ensure a critical size of geographical area and population required in terms of the plan of action for some space applications.

122. This determination of Africa to exploit the tremendous potential of space technology for development was first demonstrated by the implementation of the RASCOM project. Since 2004, it was reinforced in the African Union Strategic Plan for 2004-2007 which adopted under the regional integration objective, a priority action calling for the "Assessment of RASCOM and other projects to launch satellites for Africa with a view to create an African Space Agency".

123. The basic purpose of the African Space Agency (AfriSpace) shall be to provide for and to promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among African States in space research and technology and their space applications, with a view to their being used for scientific and operational space applications systems.

124. The AfriSpace shall fulfill among other the following objectives: (i) Elaborating and implementing a long-term African space policy, (ii) Recommending space objectives to the Member States, (iii) Elaborating and implementing activities and programs in the space field, (iv) Coordinating the African space program,(v) Management and coordination of the use of space resources for Africa; Orbital slots, frequencies.

125. The third Ordinary session of the CITMC held in Abuja, Nigeria, August 2010 directed the African Union Commission (AUC) through the 2010 Abuja Declaration to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of the African Space Agency taking into account existing initiatives, and develop an African Space Policy in cooperation with the RECs, UNECA and ITU.

126. In 2011, the AUC has carried out the study aiming at:
   • Highlighting the current situation of the use of space applications in Africa and their impact on socio-economic development of the continent
   • Providing African policy makers with recommendations and roadmap for the creation of the African Space Agency including the missions of the Agency.

127. The outcomes of the report of the study attached as Annex 15 are focused on the following issues: (i) Scope and approach of the study, (ii) Current status of space organizations and activities, benchmarking and analysis (iii) Recommendations: process, policy, organizational form, programs (iv) Mandate and organizational structure of Afrispace (v) Schedule and costs: creation of a space secretariat/Afrispace interim unit, African Space policy, creation of Afrispace, financial aspects.

128. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i.   Note the report on the study on AfriSpace
   ii.   Request the African Union to implement the recommendations of the study starting by the definition of African Union Space Platform including notably Space Policy, Space governance and AfriSpace Agency
   iii. Urge all relevant Departments of AUC to participate in the implementation of this recommendation in cooperation with NPCA, UNECA, ITU and other relevant partners.

Doc-016/ MC-IV/ O. Access:
Open Access

129. The issue of Open Access is of high importance notably the timing of access to submarine cables in the context latest market developments with increased number of infrastructure projects (national and regional backbones, submarine cables, etc.).

130. Although the issue is part of Reference Framework adopted in 2008 in Cairo, the Extraordinary CITMC Session on the 5th November 2009 in Johannesburg directed the African Union Commission (AUC) through the Olivier Tambo Declaration to develop a common definition, understanding and guidelines on Open Access, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

131. As a first step toward the implement of the above decision, the AUC has initiated a project within the EU- Africa partnership projects. It has been included also in the activities of HIPSSA. The OECD has kindly prepared a document on the issue that covers:
   • A definition on Open Access principles that is consistent with the views of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the World Bank, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
   • The open access principles on Network layers, the supplier with different positions in the markets, the publicly availability, the infrastructure sharing, the transparency principles etc.
   • The project HIPSSA, initiated by EC and ITU, is currently supporting WATRA in the development of a regional guideline for West Africa with the assistance by Russell Southwood Consulting and the Bird & Bird law firm.

132. The Document presented by HIPPSA covers the following concepts:
   • Definitions of Open Access and the origins of the term
   • What is the layered network model?
   • What issues is Open Access designed to tackle?
   • Low overall levels of competition
   • Lack of access to investment
   • Lack of skills and capacity and trust in the provider
   • Restricting network use and opportunities to aggregate
   • Lack of clear ground rules for third party access
   • Absence of policies on sharing and passive infrastructure
   • Encouraging Open Access approaches

133. The work of these two partners is consigned in **Annex 16.**

134. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i.   Note the report on the Open Access
   ii. Request the African Union to prepare guidelines on Open Access and present it to the next CITMC

iii.   Request the AUC to organize Regional and Continental Workshops to disseminate these Guidelines in collaboration with NPCA, National and regional regulators.

SECTION VI:

CIT GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION, POPULARIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

Doc-17/ MC-IV/CITMC-Gov
Draft Rules and Procedures of CITMC Bureau

135. A draft Rules of Procedures was presented to the meeting of the Bureau of the Conference held in Khartoum (Sudan) from 13 to 15 June 2011. The key topics of the proposed draft consist of: Objectives, Composition and Functions of the Structure of the Governance, Decision-Making Procedures and Role of the Commission.

136. The Bureau commented on the proposed Rules of Procedures and decided to submit the revised version to the CITMC-4 for formal adoption. An amendment on the role of the Bureau is introduced in order to enhance and extend the role of the Bureau and Steering Committee in the coordination mechanism and participation of Africa in the international fora. The amendments are highlighted in bold in the **Annex 18.**

137. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i.   Approve the proposed Rules of Procedures
   ii. Call upon the elected members of the Bureau and Steering Committee to contribute efficiently in the participation, coordination and advocacy for Africa's position in the international and regional fora in collaboration with AUC, NPCA and other stakeholders.

138. Africa's economic and social development as well as its political and physical integration are seriously hampered by the inadequacy of infrastructure and associated service, which constitute an essential foundation for development process.

139. The lack of efficient and binding institutional arrangements and the dire necessity to provide an institutional framework for the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) have led the African Union Commission (AUC) to give high priority for the setting of a sustainable and consistent continental institutional framework. In 2009, AUC launched a study relating to the establishment of an institutional architecture for infrastructure development in Africa (IAIDA). The study report on situation analysis and mapping revealed a certain number of issues hampering infrastructure development in Africa that are among others:
    • The absence of strategic frameworks and policies for infrastructure development
    • The lack of Championship for spearheading major policies and programs in infrastructure development
    • The overlapping and duplication of mandates and missions and unclear reporting lines
    • The lack of enforcement mechanisms for the implementation agreed upon actions and decisions
    • The lack of Legal instruments formalizing relations between AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and poor Communication between AUC, RECs and other institutions involved in infrastructure development
    • The lack of synergy and institutional linkages across institutions/departments & divisions of each institution.

140. The necessity of coordination, cooperation and harmonization of policies, regulation and programs are encompassed in the major fundamental African Union document:
    • Article 15 of The Constitutive Act of The African Union which has been signed and ratified by the 54 African countries
    • The Treaty establishing The African Economic Community also known as Abuja Treaty: Articles 3, 4, 28, 62, 63 and 64.

141. To implement the above decisions for the benefit of the integration of the continent and to fulfil its mandate, the African Union Commission signed an MoU with 7 RECs out of 8 and with specialized institutions (SI). The Executives of these RECs (Presidents, Secretary Generals) meet with the Chairperson of AUC prior to each African Union (AU) Summit and discuss issues related to the development and integration of the continent.

142. As part of this coordination mechanism, the African Development Bank (AfDB), AUC and UNECA have formed a Joint Secretariat Support Office (JSSO). They meet also at every AU summit and discuss the coordination of Development programs of the continent. The Secretariat is active and is hosted by UNECA.

143. During its years of existence, the NEPAD has strengthened its program by transforming its secretariat into a more focused implementation agency, namely the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA). This development is the result of NEPAD's integration into the structures and processes of the African Union (AU) as per the AU Assembly decision at the February 2010 14th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

144. At the CITMC-3, in the 2010 Abuja Declaration, the Ministers committed themselves to "support the decision to integrate the Ministerial Commission and the Executive Committee of the NEPAD e-Africa Commission into the African Union CIT Ministerial Conference (CITMC)" and requested the AU Commission to "implement the integration of the NEPAD e-Africa Commission governance into the governance of the CITMC".

145. The objective of coordination should be sharing of information and common approach of the decisions on the development of the continent. There a vital need to understand the integration process of the continent and the role and responsibility of each entity. The coordination mechanism should come out with a plan of action, distribution of resources and a strategy for pooling resources and implementing programs.

146. One should also capitalize on the development process of Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA) and on lessons learnt from best practices. Due consideration for ensuring coherence, utility and efficiency of governance frameworks and organizational structures should guide the process.

147. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

   i.   Request AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized institutions (SI), AfDB and UNECA to set up a coordination mechanism for the CIT sector taking into account existing institutional architecture and to meet annually in the fourth quarter, on a rotational basis in different regions of the continent to harmonize their programs;
   ii.   Request the AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized Agencies, AfDB, ITU, UNECA, to coordinate their activities and events through a common Africa Calendar of ICT events;
   iii. Request AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized institutions (SI), AfDB and UNECA to produce a progress report on the implementation of regional and continental ICT programmes and projects.

Doc-19/ MC-IV/ICT Forum:
African ICT week and Annual Forum

148. The African Information and Communication Technologies Week (AICTW) was launched for the first time during the run-up to the second Phase of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis in November 2005. With the will to implement the WSIS commitments which invited all the Governments to adopt the ICT for a sustainable development while strengthening the national, regional and international co-operation, the African Union seized this opportunity to adopt the resolution to establish the AICTW as an AU activity to strengthen the Africa's Information Society.

149. The celebration of the AICTW was derived from the Declaration of the First African Union Ministerial Conference on Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-1) adopted on 20th April 2006 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. The CITMC-1 expressed its will to see this event celebrated every year from 14 to 20 November, with November 14 celebrated as "Paperless Day".

150. The Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.261 (IX) further endorsed it by calling upon Member States to implement all the commitments made in the CITMC-1 Declaration.

151. It is therefore important that AU Member States participate in the celebration of the AICTW in order to raise the awareness of African Citizens on the benefits of ICT.

152. Through the AICTW, the African Union would also take the opportunity to reinforce the capacities and increase confidence and safety in the use of ICT while taking into account African cultures and cultural diversity.

153. By organizing and participating in annual ICT forums, the AU will promote the use of ICT and popularize Africa's vision in building information and knowledge based economy. It's also an opportunity to share ICT's best practices in the Continent and globally. The key forums recommended for participation are:
   • WSIS Forums and the WSA (World Summit Award)
   • ITU forums
   • Internet Governance Forums
   • Cairo ICT Forums
   • eWorld Annual Forums

154. The AICTW and the ICT Annual Forums will provide a platform to create awareness about the opportunities, challenges and benefits derived by the adoption of ICT.

155. The AICTW activities will include the African Paperless Day, the AICTW Management Task Force, Online AICTW Week Forums and promotion of the AICTW. On the other hand, activities related to the annual IT Forum will consist of conferences and Exhibitions.

156. The expected results are:
  - Popularization of ICT tools and Services among African citizens
  - Increase IT literacy
  - Contribute to increased ICT usage by African Citizens
  - Generation of ICT Advocacy materials and Toolkits for AU citizens.

157. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

  i.   Request Member States to commemorate the African ICT Week during the 3rd week of November each year
  ii.   Request AUC and NPCA to set up a yearly African forum during which all the policy makers will interact with the private sector, operators and the industry in coordination with relevant partners and stakeholders
  iii. Call upon the African Union Commission to implement various actions in order to assist Member States to celebrate the African ICT Week.

Doc-20/ MC-IV/Int. Events:
Africa's Participation in International events

158. There are many international and regional, public and private events that decide on key issues related to communications and information technologies. Among those events and forums, the following are scheduled for the last quarter of the end of year 2012:
    - ITU Plenipotentiaries, Conference, Assemblies, Meetings and Forum,
    - Universal Postal Union congress and conferences
    - ICANN meetings
    - WSIS follow ups
    - etc.

159. Most of the time, the rate of participation and contribution of the African Union Member States is very low because of financial constraints and lack of staff especially within the Ministries where the budget is limited. The regulators still go to some ITU events but not those related to Internet Governance, WSIS forums and Broadcasting. Africa's position as a whole is not represented. This makes Africa to be always a follower rather than an active contributor to the world issues.

160. The Specialized Institutions and elected/representatives in different constituencies still coordinate Africa's position, while those who are present could participate fully or partially, those who cannot be present are not able to contribute to the issues. Some regional preparatory meetings are sometimes organized for the big conferences and their participation rate is still low. The Regional Economic Communities are still understaffed and do not participate too. The private sector and civil society are not fully contributing to the global issues.

161. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

    i. Call upon Member States to fully participate in all relevant events and coordinate their positions to speak with one voice
    ii. Request the Member States elected in the Bureau and the Steering Committee of the CITMC to participate in all relevant international events and fora in collaboration with the AUC, NPCA and Specialized Agencies, and report back to the REC and the CITMC Bureau
    iii. Request the AUC to share the consolidated reports with all Member States.

ANNEXES