**AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF
COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (CITMC-4)
4th ORDINARY SESSION
KHARTOUM, THE SUDAN
02-06 SEPTEMBER 2012**

AU/CITMC-4/MIN/Decl.(IV)Rev2

2012 KHARTOUM DECLARATION

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PREAMBLE

WE, the African Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies meeting in our Fourth Ordinary Session (CITMC-4) in Khartoum, Republic of The Sudan, from 5 to 6 September 2012;

Guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

Recalling the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.283 (XIV) adopted by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February 2010 on integration of NEPAD into African Union (AU) structures and processes and on the establishment of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA);

Bearing in mind the Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XIV) adopted by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on Information and Communication Technologies in Africa, Challenges and Prospects for Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 2 February 2010;

Considering the Assembly Declaration, Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII) adopted by the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2012, on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);

Re-affirming that Information and Communication Technologies are key to Africa's development and economic competitiveness and in the attainment of the African Union Vision and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Welcoming the streamlining of Communication and Information Technologies governance within the African Union Commission;

Taking note of the Report of the Experts' Session held in Khartoum, Republic of The Sudan, from 2 to 4 September 2012;

HEREBY COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

1. **CONTINUE** to promote the implementation of previous Decisions and Declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Union and the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies, particularly those relating to the:

   - Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
   - Reference Framework for Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa;
   - Africa Regional Action Plan for the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);
   - Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa.

2. **WORK** together towards adopting a common standard for both TV terrestrial transmission and receiver across the Continent and encouraging a harmonized approach on the use of the Digital Dividend;

3. **COOPERATE and FOLLOW-UP** with relevant stakeholders to secure the

orbital/spectrum resources required to accommodate continental satellites including applying as a unified block for the allocation of unused International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) orbital resources to Africa as a priority;

4. **INTEGRATE** postal services in the wider frame of ICT services and work towards its integration in the universal service access policies at national level;

5. **STRENGTHEN** the cooperation among our institutions in the area of ICT and mobilization of resources taking in to account African capacities

HEREBY REQUEST MEMBER STATES TO:

6. **ACCELERATE** the transition from Analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting;

7. **ACCELERATE** the development of National Cyber-Security Legislation ;

8. **PROVIDE** DotAfrica project with the required support where needed and **URGE** Member States which are yet to provide the support letter to African Union Commission (AUC) to provide such support in order to minimize the risk of objections and secure the DotAfrica gTLD;

9. **PARTICIPATE in and CONTRIBUTE** to the implementation of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PAP) projects;

10. **SUPPORT** the African IPv6 Task Forces and AfriNIC to monitor the deployment and implementation of IPv6;

11. **PROMOTE** the organization of national Internet Governance Forums (IGF) aimed at facilitating dialogue between all stakeholders on ICT for development issues and facilitate the participation of their respective countries in regional and African IGF (AfIGF) activities as well as in the global IGF;

12. **INCREASE** the use of Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine services of the Pan African e-Network (PAeN);

ALSO REQUEST:

13. The CITMC Bureau and Steering Committee members to participate and coordinate Africa's positions in relevant CIT events/forums at regional, continental and international levels in close coordination with AUC, NPCA, Specialized Institutions and elected African representatives in the constituencies of these international events/forums;

FURTHER REQUEST THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO:

14. **SUBMIT** the draft African Union Cyber-Security Convention for adoption according to African Union rules of procedure;
15. **ENCOURAGE** collaboration with International Partners in advancing ICT

leadership programs in all regions of the African Union;

16. **IMPLEMENT** the recommendations of the feasibility study on the African Space Agency (AfriSpace) and **DEVELOP** a space policy for the Continent in collaboration with relevant stakeholders; taking in to account remote sensing applications and satellite imagery processing.

17. **DEVELOP** a comprehensive African Action Plan to migrate from IPv4 to IPv6 over a three year period and in coordination with AfriNIC, Internet Community, regulators, operators, service providers, Member States, RECs, NPCA and UNECA;

18. **DEVELOP** guidelines for the liberalization of the Postal Sector and template for legal frameworks for postal policies and regulations;

REQUEST ALSO:

19. The AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized Institutions (SI), AfDB and UNECA **TO SET UP** a coordination mechanism taking into account the existing Institutional Architecture, and **TO MEET** annually on rotational basis in different regions of the Continent to harmonize their programmes;

20. The AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized Institutions (SI), AfDB and UNECA **TO DEVELOP** an updated, integrated and coherent AU strategic CIT framework for Africa taking into account existing frameworks of all African CIT stakeholders, and coordinate the convening of an ICT investment forum ;

21. The CITMC Bureau to participate in the Council for Infrastructure Development (CID) created for the implementation of PIDA;

22. The AUC in collaboration with UNECA and other partners to support the formulation of the cyber legislation at the national level;

APPRECIATE the role of African institutions, UN Agencies, African and international development partners and the private sector in supporting AU efforts to develop the ICT sector in the Continent;

WELCOME AND APPRECIATE the initiatives and the leadership of His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir in the development of ICT sector in the Republic of The Sudan.

EXPRESS our profound gratitude to His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, the Government and People of the Republic of The Sudan for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of this Conference;

Done at Khartoum, the Republic of The Sudan, on 6 September 2012.

The Ministers.