

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**FOURTH CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN  
MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATION  
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES  
02 - 06 September 2012  
Khartoum, SUDAN**

**AU/CITMC-4/MIN/Rpt/(IV)**

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The 4th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference for Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-4) was held from 5 to 6 September 2012, in Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan. The experts' meeting held from 2 to 4 September 2012 preceded the Ministerial Conference. The Ministers deliberated on the report of the experts' session and other agenda items.

## **II. PARTICIPATION**

2. The following Member States participated in the meeting:  
Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC), Egypt, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, The Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: South Africa Development Community(SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).
4. The following African and International Organizations and Agencies were also in attendance: African Telecommunication Union (ATU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Bank, African Development Bank(AfDB), International Satellite Telecommunications Organization (ITSO), Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM) and Universal Postal Union (UPU), the East African Communications Organization (EACO), Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
5. Representation also included Members of Parliament, Academia, Private Sector and Civil Society from Sudan, UniForum SA, and Intelsat.

## **III. OPENING CEREMONY**

### **Statement by Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director, ICT, Science and Technology, UNECA**

6. On behalf of the United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director, ICT Science and Technology Division of UNECA congratulated the Ministry of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan and the African Union Commission for organizing the conference.

7. She narrated the progress made in building an inclusive information society since the launch of the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) in 1996 and further highlighted the institutional, policy, legal and regulatory environment challenges in matching the speed and evolution of societal and technological developments.

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission**

8. The Commissioner expressed her gratitude to H.E. Field Marshal M. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, to the Government and the People of The Sudan, for the warm welcome and excellent organization of the conference. She further thanked the experts for the hard work and input to the ministerial session which will facilitate the deliberations.
9. After highlighting the achievements of the 3rd Conference of Ministers under the Chairmanship of The Sudan, the Commissioner presented items to be considered and activities to be addressed by the 4th Conference.
10. The Commissioner concluded by underscoring the importance of Africa to develop ICT infrastructure that will enable deployment of e-services for the benefit of our people.

**Statement by Hon. Dr. Eissa Bashari Mohamed Hamid, Minister of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan**

11. In his remarks, Dr. Eissa Bashari Mohamed Hamid, Minister of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan, extended his greetings and thanked the participants for attending the CITMC-4 in Khartoum, Sudan.
12. He encouraged the African states to make use of the untapped potential of using technological advancement in improving health and education opportunities for African citizens, and boosting agriculture and business opportunities.
13. In conclusion, the Hon. Minister, urged the participants to work together to achieve the dreams and aspirations of the African people and expressed the need for exchanging information and ideas in order to take full advantage of the available technology trends.

**Statement by H.E. Field Marshal M. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan**

14. H.E. President of the Republic of Sudan after welcoming the delegates, expressed his confidence in the conference to come up with plans that meet the aspirations of the continent to benefit from the use of Information Communication Technologies.
15. His Excellency further indicated to the conference, the key areas that need due attention, to be the development of ICT policies and legislations, ICT security and establishment of the African Space Agency.
16. In conclusion, H.E. President of the Republic of Sudan called on participants to coordinate on information security issues and expand collaboration on joint cooperation projects.

#### **IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

17. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

##### **Procedural Matters**

##### **Working Sessions**

- Consideration of the Experts report
- Consideration of Ministerial Declaration
- Ministerial Session on Internet Governance and Knowledge Society issues
- Adoption of Ministerial Declaration
- Election of the incoming Bureau and Steering Committee for 2012-2014
- Date and venue of the next CIT Ministerial Conference (CITMC-5)
- Any other business
- Consideration and adoption of the Ministerial session report

##### **Closing ceremony**

18. H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission presented the election process of the Bureau and Steering Committee

#### **V. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

19. Ministerial statements were made from Algeria, Burundi, Burkina Faso,

Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria and Zambia.

20. In their statements, the Hon. Ministers highlighted the achievements and challenges in the ICT sector at national and continental level.
21. The Hon. Ministers further noted the need for coordination , mobilization of finance and pursuing collective actions to develop and use ICTs for the socio-economic development and integration of the Continent.

## **VI. STATEMENTS FROM RASCOM, ITSO, AfDB, ICANN AND DOTAFRICA/UNIFORM**

22. The conference was informed of the Ministerial resolutions that led to the creation of RASCOM and gratitude expressed to the 3rd Conference of Ministers for committing to secure allocation of unused ITSO orbital resources to Africa as a priority
23. The origin and mission of ITSO, its Assembly of Parties decisions, the ratification of the amendment to the ITSO Agreement and the resolution on satellite orbital slots by the World Radio Conference (WRC-12) were brought to the attention of the participants.
24. The Conference was briefed on the ICT Strategic Plan of the African Development Bank which focuses on national and regional fibre optic networks, enhancing the policy, and regulatory circumstances, ICT applications and Capacity Building. The various financial mechanisms and the readiness of the African Development Bank to provide technical and financial assistance to AU Member States were highlighted.
25. The ICANN presentation provided an overview of the evolution of global internet governance ecosystem, stressed the message of ICANN internationalization and briefed the conference on the work in progress for the new Africa strategy.
26. The dotAFRICA presentation recalled the history and status of the project and underscored that it provided an opportunity for Africa to play a more meaningful role in the global Internet and engage with the organizations that oversee critical Internet infrastructure while facilitating African innovation and to promote African socio-economic development.

## **VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS SESSION**

27. The Experts' Session report was presented by Nigeria as the Rapporteur of the outgoing CITMC Bureau.

28. Following the presentation, delegates adopted the report with amendments.

**VIII. SESSION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY ISSUES**

29. The conference welcomed the presentations on Internet Governance and Knowledge Society issues from DIPLO Foundation and Global eSchools and Community Initiative

**IX. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION**

30. The Ministers adopted the “2012 Khartoum Declaration”

**X. ELECTION OF CITMC-4 BUREAU AND STEERING COMMITTEE**

31. The Ministerial meeting elected the following Members to the Bureau and Steering Committee of the CITMC-4:

<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA</b>	
<b>Zambia</b>	Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
<b>South Africa</b>	Member of Steering Committee
<b>CENTRAL AFRICA</b>	
<b>Gabon</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
<b>Central Africa Republic</b>	Member of Steering Committee
<b>NORTHERN AFRICA</b>	
<b>Egypt</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
<b>Algeria</b>	Member of the Steering Committee
<b>WESTERN AFRICA</b>	
<b>Guinea</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
<b>Nigeria</b>	Member of the Steering Committee
<b>EASTERN AFRICA</b>	
<b>Sudan</b>	Rapporteur of the Bureau and Steering Committee
<b>Tanzania</b>	Member of the Steering Committee

**XI. CLOSING SESSION, CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMUNIQUÉ AND VOTE OF THANKS**

32. H.E Dr. Eissa Bashari Mohamed Hamid, Minister of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan extended his gratitude to all delegations for their constructive deliberations and concluded by reading out the communiqué
33. H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission thanks the participants, the Government of The Sudan and reiterate the commitment of the African Union to continue to deploy efforts to develop the CIT sector.
34. The Head of Delegation of The Gambia extended the vote of thanks on behalf of all participants.
35. H .E. Sakeni Kennedy Mumba, Chair of the CITMC and Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services expressed commitment to pursue the realizations of the recommendation and called on Member States to take ownership of all the resolutions.
36. The meeting was adjourned at 16:00 hours local time on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2012

**Khartoum, 06th of September 2012**