

AFRICAN UNION

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

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REPORT OF EXPERTS' SESSION

02-04 SEPTEMBER 2012

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Experts' Session of the Fourth African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies(CITMC-4) was held in Friendship Hall in Khartoum, Republic of The Sudan, from 2 to 4 September 2012 under the chairmanship of Dr Izzedin Kamil Amin, General Manager of National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) of The Sudan.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. In attendance were the following Member States: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte 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. Apologies were received from Kenya, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Seychelles, and Togo.

4. SADC and COMESA were represented.

5. 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).

6. The following were represented: UniForum SA, Kemilinks International, Intelsat the Civil Society, Members of Parliament, the academia and Sudanese Private Sector.

7. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

8. At the opening ceremony, the following remarks and speeches were made:

Welcome Remarks by the Representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

9. Mr. Mohamed Timoulali, Regional Advisor, UNECA, thanked the AUC for the fruitful partnership and collaboration in promoting the digital agenda in the Continent.

10. He noted the achievements and progress made in harmonizing national ICT policies and plans and in the development of frameworks to support regional economic integration in the Continent.

11. He concluded by highlighting the fact that development of the Draft Convention on Cyber-security was based on the Continent's needs. The draft Convention represents a milestone in laying the foundations for a reliable and safe cyber environment in Africa.

Remarks of the Representative of the African Union Commission

12. After conveying his gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of The Sudan, Mr. Moctar Yedaly, Head of the Information Society Division representing the Director of Infrastructure and Energy, highlighted the achievements made in the implementation of CITMC decisions.

13. He also underscored the key issues to be discussed during the CITMC experts' session.

14. In conclusion, he called for the support of Member States to address the challenges facing the ICT sector.

Opening Speech by Prof. Zouheir EL Fadil AABJAR, Under Secretary, Ministry of Science and Communications, Republic of The Sudan

15. On behalf of The Sudan's Ministry of Science and Communications, the Under Secretary heartily welcomed the African experts and other stakeholders to the 4th Ordinary Session of the CIT Ministerial Conference.

16. The Under Secretary underscored infrastructure and cyber security as the major challenges facing ICT development in Africa.

17. Prof. Zouheir EL Fadil AABJAR concluded by expressing the hope that the Conference would avail the opportunity to deliberate and recommend solutions that would advance the development of ICT in Africa.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

18. The meeting adopted the Agenda and the Work Programme attached as Annex II.

V. PROCEEDINGS AND FORMAT OF THE EXPERTS' SESSION

19. On the proceedings and format of the Experts' Session, the AUC led the participants through the sets of working documents prepared by AUC/NPCA, submitted for consideration. Each agenda item would be the subject of a paper and/or a presentation with pertinent background information and proposals.

20. Draft recommendations would be considered by the experts. After experts' consideration and adoption, these recommendations would be submitted to the Ministers for consideration and adoption.

21. The outgoing Bureau members are:

The Sudan (Chair), Zimbabwe (1st Vice Chair), Chad (2nd Vice Chair), Egypt(3rd Vice Chair) andNigeria(Rapporteur). The process for electing the incomingBureau was also presented to the session.

VI. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OUTGOING BUREAU

22. Dr Izzedin Kamil Amin, representing the Chair of the CITMC Bureau highlighted the activities performed during The Sudan's tenure which included the following:

- Organization of the CITMC Bureau meeting in Khartoum, The Sudan, from 13 to 15 June 2011;
- Implementation of the major flagship projects and activities;
- Participation in continental and international meetings;
- Organization of CITMC-4.

SESSION 1: AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION REPORT

23. Mr.MoctarYedaly, Head of Information Society Division (ISD), presented the African Union Commission activity report.

24. Following the presentation, the participants :

- Commended the AUC for its efforts to implement CITMC decisions and declarations;
- Noted the resource mobilization challenges faced during implementation of ICT activities in Africa and requested the AUC to identify suitable solutions;
- Noted that there were challenges on the establishment of the African regulation forum;
- Requested the AUC/NPCA, UNECA,specialized institutions and other key African stakeholders to coordinateand to ensure optimization of resources;
- Interconnecting and roaming to be improved in the interest of cost reduction.

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency(NPCA) Report

25. Dr. Edmund Katiti, Head of NEPAD e-Africaprogram, presented the NPCA activity report.

26. Following the presentation, the participants welcomed the activities being implemented by the NEPAD e-Africa program and the presentation on the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA).

SESSION 2: HARMONIZATION OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa

27. The status of implementation of the Action Plan and the subsequent decisions taken were presented.

28. The presentation highlighted the conclusions of the Studies 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 (UPS) and (iv) Strategies to increase financial inclusion of the low-income population in Africa.

29. The reports of the various studies underscored the challenges, indicated the need to increase the contribution of the sector to GDP, and in particular suggested as follows: (i) intensify the reform of the sector including the transformation of postal financial services, (ii) integrate universal communication provision into a wider communications and ICT framework through the definition on UPS and revise the scope of the reserved area of the UPS, and (iii) take into account postal services with strategy for financial inclusion.

Analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television Transition

30. The process of the transition started around the world in 2000 and the Regional Radio-communication Conferences held in Geneva 2006 (RRC-06) approved the Regional Agreement for Region 1. This agreement includes frequency plans for digital terrestrial broadcasting, and a deadline for switching off analogue broadcasting services 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.

31. Thus, all countries in Region 1, to which Africa belongs, should switchover from analogue to digital television broadcasting by 17 June 2015 in UHF and on 17 June 2020 in VHF to comply with GE-06 Agreement and to realize the potential of the digital dividend.

32. As a result, the AUC has adopted a strategy aiming mainly at meeting the following objectives:

- Provide technical assistance to Member States to smoothly switch over to the digital terrestrial television broadcasting platform before 17 June, 2015;
- Promote a common transmission standard across the Continent;
- Customize and produce a standard for a low cost set-top-box and built-in television set that will allow African citizens to access the digital content at affordable cost;
- Produce a digital dividend benefit estimation model and guideline for the harmonized and coordinated use of the digital dividend across the Continent;
- Develop a mechanism to promote local content production and digitize existing analogue archives;
- Encourage Member States to develop procedures to introduce analogue television transmission and receiver equipment future disposal procedure and sensitize the population accordingly.

African Information Society Framework-AfriSoc

33. In 2006, CITMC-1 adopted the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE). In 2008, the CITMC-2 adopted a Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa. In 2011 and as part of its restructuring, the AUC merged the ICT Unit in the Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) Department with the Telecommunications & Post Division to form the new Information Society Division (ISD) in the Infrastructure and Energy Department.

34. To further implement its restructuring and remedy the existence of two frameworks - ARAPKE and the Reference Framework -, and consequently two action plans to implement the ICT sector in the Continent, the AUC decided to merge both Reference Frameworks into one - the African Framework for the Information Society. This would allow for articulation of Africa's common objectives and commitments to collective actions to develop and use ICTs for the socio-economic development and integration of the Continent.

Open Access

35. The issue of Open Access is of high importance in the context of latest market developments with increased number of infrastructure projects (national and regional backbones, submarine cables, etc.). The Extraordinary CITMC Session meeting in Johannesburg on 5 November 2009 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. With the support of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a document has been prepared on the issue, covering:

- A definition of 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, supplier with different positions on the markets, public availability, infrastructure sharing, transparency and equity principles, etc.
- The ITU-EC project-HIPSSA- is currently supporting RECs in the development of regional guidelines. .

Draft- Africa Union Cyber-Security Convention

36. As Member States of the African Union increase access to broadband Internet, issues relating to cyber security and cybercrimes are emerging and there is a need to ensure that citizens, governments and businesses are protected. Being connected to the rest of the world means that Africa is now within the perimeter of cybercrime, making the continent's information systems vulnerable. Providing sanction-based 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 and ensure cyber security. The aim of the draft Convention on cyber security is to provide guidelines for the development of legislation on electronic transactions, personal data protection, cybercrime and cyber security to Member States.

37. The draft Convention was developed with the technical support of UNECA and was discussed at the regional workshops organized in the five African Union geographic regions in close collaboration with Member States, RECs and the HIPSSA project.

38. The institutions of Member States in charge of trade, internal security, law enforcement, regulators as well as Members of Parliament and international partners were part of the consultation process.

39. Taking into account the input from Member States, a group of legal experts met and finalized the draft Convention as presented to the CITMC-4 for consideration and submission for adoption according to AU rules and regulations.

Comments and Recommendations on the presentations on the Action Plan for the Development of Postal Services in Africa, Analogue to Digital Transition, African Information Society Framework, Open Access and Cyber Convention

40. Following the presentations, the meeting made the following comments:

- Need to underscore the importance of a strong regulatory framework for the postal sector including issues such as extra territorial, financial and digital inclusion, as well as protection of consumers to guide liberalization of the sector;
- Work with relevant authorities to address issues of licencing and security to ensure the sustainable development of postal financial services;
- Need to identify strategies for mobilization of resources for implementation of priority projects in the postal sector;
- Importance of an enabling environment and adequate human resources for the postal sector in the context of a fast changing world;
- Request for advocacy and awareness raising in the analogue to digital terrestrial television transition process and the deadline of analogue switch off date;
- Work on the possibility of manufacturing low-cost integrated digital TV;
- Emphasize the need for capacity building for both experts and policy makers to accelerate the transition;
- Need to ensure coordination of analogue to digital transition activities between AUC/NPCA, ATU and RECs to avoid duplication of efforts;
- Welcomed the proposal to develop a consolidated framework with the involvement of all stakeholders to articulate Africa's common objectives and commitments to collective actions to develop and use ICTs for the socio-economic development and integration of the Continent;
- Consider the development of a policy and regulatory framework on Open Access;
- Notes with satisfaction the draft AU Cyber-security Convention.

Recommendations

41. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:
- i. Take note of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa;
 - ii. Integrate postal services in the wider framework of Communication and IT services towards the establishment of a Universal Access Policy;
 - iii. Request the AUC to:
 - a) Develop guidelines for the liberalization of the Postal Sector and develop templates for legal instruments for postal policies and regulations;
 - b) Submit report on postal financial services contribution to financial inclusion for the consideration of the African Ministers in charge of Economy and Finance.
 - iv. Call upon international partners to lend strong support towards the implementation of postal reform in Africa;
 - v. Reiterate their gratitude to ITU, UNECA, European Union, Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other partners for their support to the implementation of the e-Post Program, a joint initiative of PAPU, ATU, RASCOM, NPCA and AUC;
 - vi. Adopt the principle of working together to develop a common continental standard for both TV transmission and receiver;
 - vii. Consider banning importation of analogue TV transmitters ;
 - viii. Encourage bilateral and multilateral frequency coordination activities to be concluded by June, 2013 to ensure sufficient time for their implementation;
 - ix. Encourage harmonized approach on the use of the Digital Dividend;
 - x. Request AUC and NPCA to mobilize resources and coordinate activities at continental level for the analogue switchover;
 - xi. Take note of the approach for a consolidated framework for CIT in Africa;
 - xii. Request the AUC in collaboration with NPCA, RECs, Specialized Institutions and UNECA to develop an updated, integrated and coherent AU strategic CIT framework for Africa taking into account the existing frameworks of all African CIT stakeholders;
 - xiii. Take note of the report on Open Access;
 - xiv. Request the African Union to prepare policy and regulatory framework on Open Access and present to the next CITMC;
 - xv. Request the AUC to organize Regional and Continental Workshops to disseminate the said Guidelines in collaboration with NPCA and with National and Regional Regulators;
 - xvi. Consider and approve the draft AU Cyber Security Convention and submit through appropriate channels;
 - xvii. Call upon the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Specialized Institutions (SIs) and international partners to provide support towards operationalization of the Convention;
 - xviii. Call upon RECs, AUC, NPCA, UNECA, SIs and international partners to assist Member States in elaborating national cyber-security legislation taking into consideration the AU Cyber Security Convention.

SESSION 3: UPDATE ON CONTINENTAL/REGIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

COMESA

42. In his presentation, Dr. A. Dafalla highlighted ICT achievements in COMESA which included development and adoption of policy and regulatory instruments.

43. He further highlighted planned activities on cyber-security, postal sector reform and broadcasting.

SADC

44. Ms Cecilia Mamelodi-Onyadile, in her presentation, gave an overview of the SADC ICT programme. After explaining the e-SADC strategy framework, she focused on the main programme in the ICT sector, namely, the SADC ICT master plan also known as the Digital SADC 2027 which is based on 5 pillars covering all fields of ICT from policy and regulatory framework to infrastructure rollout.

UNECA

45. The representative of UNECA, Mrs Eskedar Nega, presented ICT programmes, projects and activities being implemented by ECA such as:

- Support in the formulation and development of national and sectoral policy plans and strategies as well as cyberlegislations in several countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- ICT measurement by providing support to build the capacity of National Statistic Offices and by coordinating the development of a framework for a set of globally comparative e-Government core indicators, within the framework of the International Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development.

46. She also outlined the main challenges facing the Continent in the area of ICTs and geoinformation such as policy formulation and implementation, ICT measurement, capacity building and awareness raising on the significance of ICTs and geoinformation.

ATU

47. In his presentation, the Secretary General of the African Telecommunication Union (ATU), Mr. Soumaila Abdoukarim, highlighted the achievements and the planned activities of ATU as follows:

- successful coordination of African common positions to ITU PP-10, WTDC-10, and WRC-12;
- the holding of 1st ATU Digital Migration and Spectrum Policy Summit for Africa, in Nairobi, through which key elements for the Migration were agreed; and
- the holding of two frequency coordination workshops in Bamako and Kampala in which the common DTT standard (DVB-T2) and frequency coordination principles were agreed. Actual frequency coordination work was also undertaken.

Planned Activities:

- finalization of coordination of African common proposals for WTSA-12 and WCIT-12 via the 3rd and Final Preparatory Meeting to be held in Accra, Ghana, from 25 to 26 September 2012;
- the 2nd ATU Digital Migration and Spectrum Policy Summit for Africa, to be held in Accra, Ghana, from 27 to 28 September 2012, to confirm the adoption of the African common DTT standard and frequency coordination principles to provide for the second digital dividend (DD2);
- preparations for ITU PP-14, WTDC-14, WRC-15, and
- implementation of the roaming programmes as directed by the AU and also playing a collaborative role in Connect Africa programme.

48. In conclusion, he solicited the support of AU Member States and requested their common position in all international forums.

ITU

49. Mr. Marcelino Tayob, Senior Advisor, ITU presented the implementation status of, and challenges to ITU initiatives in Africa.

50. In addition to implementation of the Connect Africa recommendations and HIPSSA project, ITU initiatives in Africa are in the areas of capacity building, policy and regulatory issues and broadband infrastructure.

UPU

51. The UPU Regional Project Coordinator for Southern and East Africa, Ms Gladys Mutyavaviri highlighted the UPU regional projects in Africa. The projects are geared to improve quality of service, postal reforms and to facilitate the provision of electronic money transfer services through the postal network as part of enhancing and improving postal development in Africa.

Comments and Recommendations on the presentations by COMESA, SADC, UNECA, ATU, ITU and UPU

Comments:

52. The following comments were made:
- Commends the contribution of COMESA, SADC, UNECA, ATU, ITU and UPU in implementing continental and regional programmes;
 - Need for an African position on International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs).

Recommendation

53. The Honourable Ministers are invited to take note of progress made in the implementation of continental/regional programmes by COMESA, SADC, UNECA, ATU, ITU, and UPU.

SESSION 4: Master Plan

The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa

54. 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. Shared regional infrastructure is the only solution to problems of small scale and adverse location. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), a multi sector programme covering four sectors namely, Transport, Energy, Trans-boundary 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. It 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).

55. 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) 2012–2020.

56. The Experts noted the activities carried out within the framework of PIDA implementation as of July 2012 and made the following recommendations:

Comments and Recommendations on the presentation on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)

57. The participants highlighted the following;
- Need to involve the Private Sector in the mobilization of funds and implementation of projects;
 - Need to identify and list more ICT projects in the key areas of broadband rollout, cloud computing, applications and cross border connectivity.

Recommendations:

58. **The Honorable Ministers are requested to:**
- i. Note the progress on the implementation of the PIDA, as well as 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); Direct the African Union Commission to ensure adequate oversight and follow-up on the implementation of this important program;
- iv. Convene an ICT investment forum to market, and call for partnership in the implementation of, ICT priority projects.

SESSION 5: INTERNET GOVERNANCE ISSUES

IPv4-IPv6 Migration

59. The Internet architecture today is mainly built on the “Internet Protocol version 4” (IPv4) which provides for just 4.3 billion addresses. The remaining address is down to just less than 227 million IPv4 addresses (or about just 5% of the total v4 space) as of June 2012. 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. IPv6 provides a straightforward and long-term solution to the address space problem. 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.

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

Dot Africa

61. The CITMC-3, Abuja 2010 Declaration, requested the AUC to “set up the structures and modalities for the implementation of the dotAFRICA project”. To implement the decisions contained in the Declaration, the AU Commission embarked on identifying the best open and transparent approach, and this led to the formation of the dotAFRICA Taskforce comprising respected African experts. Accordingly, the AU Commission selected UniForum SA (the ZA Central Registry Operator or ZACR), to administer and operate dotAFRICA gTLD project 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.

62. 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 tendering process. Support from a minimum of 60% of the geo-Countries was required. 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	Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius
Gabon	Morocco	Gambia	Zimbabwe
Uganda	Tunisia	Ghana	Mali
Tanzania	South Africa	Guinea	South Sudan
Sudan	Mozambique	Liberia	

63. A Steering Committee (SteerCom) has been established to provide not only leadership and oversight over both the application process and the launch of the dotAFRICA gTLD, but also a vehicle through which the broader African community may participate in the dotAFRICA project. All surplus funds generated through the administration of the dotAFRICA gTLD would be channeled into a Development Fund, earmarked for African ICT developmental projects and initiatives.

African Internet Governance Forum- AfIGF

64. 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.

65. Membership of 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 Africa sub-regions, individuals from relevant African Government Institutions, African Civil Society, academic and technical communities, African Private Sector, and Africa-based Regional and international organizations.

Comments and Recommendations on the presentation on the dotAFRICA, IPv4-IPv6 Migration and African Internet Governance Forum

66. The meeting made the following comments:

- Welcomed all the initiatives on Internet Governance issues as presented;
- Need for AUC to have the golden vote within the dotAFRICA foundation to ensure achievement of the project objectives;
- Ensure multi-stakeholder governance structure for dotAFRICA taking into account the 5 AU geographical regions;
- Requests AUC to develop IPv4 to IPv6 migration guidelines.

Recommendations:

67. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Request Member States to provide urgently the support letters to AUC for Dot Africa so as to minimize the risk of objection and secure the dotAfrica gTLD;
- ii. Initiate the early warning system within the GAC and object to all other applications for Dot Africa or similar strings in any international language;
- iii. 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;
- iv. Request Member States to support the African IPv6 Task Force and AFRINIC to enable them to monitor the implementation of IPv6;
- v. 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 in the global IGF;
- vi. Request Member States and the CITMC Bureau to take part in the WSIS follow-up activities, including participation in surveys for monitoring of WSIS action lines and targets in order to gather evidence on ICT investment, infrastructure and applications development.

SESSION 6: SPECIFIC PROJECTS

e-Transform Africa: Transformational use of ICTs in Africa

68. The World Bank and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the African Union, have researched and published a new flagship report “e-Transform Africa” which identifies best practices in the use of ICTs in key sectors of the African economy. Under the theme “Transformation-Ready”, the growing contribution of ICTs in Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation, Education, Financial Services, Government Services and Health is explored. In addition, the report highlights the role of ICTs in enhancing African regional trade and integration as well as the need to build a competitive ICT industry to promote innovation, job creation and the export potential of African companies.

69. ICTs, especially mobile phones, have revolutionized communications in Africa with a “mobile decade” that has driven its economic growth. ICTs can empower the lives of Africans and are driving entrepreneurship, innovation and income growth. It is not about the phone or the computer; rather, it is about the applications and the information they deliver.

70. ICTs can ease cross-border communications, financial transactions and data and information sharing, and are having a catalytic impact on regional integration and trade facilitation. The deployment of ICTs and the development of applications must be rooted in the realities of local circumstance and diversity. Governments have an important part to play in creating an enabling environment and in acting as a role model and lead client in adopting new innovations and technologies.

71. Effective use of ICTs will require cross-sectoral collaboration and a multi-stakeholder approach, based on open data and open innovation. Africa is still at the

beginning of its growth curve and, to date, most ICT applications have been pilot programmes. Now is the time for rigorous evaluation, replication and scaling up of best practices.

72. The World Bank and the African Development Bank have both developed new strategies recently, focused on transformation, and stand ready to consider financing ambitious new programmes for the transformational use of ICT.

The Pan African e-Network for Tele-medicine and Tele-education

73. 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 fiber optics to provide Tele-medicine and Tele-education as well as diplomatic communications (VVIP) services to all Member States of the African Union.

74. As of August 2012:

- 48 Member States (88%) have signed to be part of the network. Six remaining countries (Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa and Tunisia) were yet to sign the agreement;
- Satellite HUB Earth Station in Dakar has been operational since April 2008;
- Up to 150 VSAT equipment had been installed and fully operational;
- More than 8,000 graduate and post graduate students were pursuing their education in different Indian universities through the network;
- 3,445 medical tele-education sessions and 441 consultations had been made in two years during which three African lives were saved;
- 2455 c continuous medical sessions had been conducted. 50 to 100 doctors and nurses have participated daily in the medical continuous education sessions

African Leadership in ICT Programme – ALICT

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

76. Efforts to mobilize resources to expand the programme to other AU regions are ongoing. The Government of Finland plans to contribute additional funds to expand the ALICT programme to other AU regions.

77. A capacity building model and curriculum consisting of seven modules have been developed and 83 African Union citizens were awarded African Leadership in ICT Certificates at the African Union Commission headquarters on 29 August 2012, upon completion of the course requirements.

Support to acquire additional orbit/spectrum resources for RASCOM

78. The orbit/spectrum resources, including the geostationary-satellite orbit, are limited natural resources which must be used in conformity with the provisions of

Radio Regulations to guarantee equitable access. Two major mechanisms for sharing orbit/spectrum resources have been developed and implemented:

- *A priori* planning procedures (guaranteeing equitable access, for example the Allotment Plan);
- Coordination procedures – for the non-planned bands.

79. Africa arrived very late in the Geostationary Orbit (GSO) when most of the strategic orbital/resources which are ideal for the African Continent had been allocated to other Administrations outside Africa on the principle of “first come, first served”.

80. RASCOM needs more flexible orbit/spectrum resources in the non-planned band in order to meet present market demands and business evolution, and RASCOM, as a satellite Organization/Operator, needs to launch additional satellites.

81. 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 Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO);
- For the AU, to request RASCOM member Administrations to act as a bloc, through RASCOM, to secure orbit/spectrum resources from the BR which will be pooled for the benefit of the whole Continent in support of its mission.

Key Issues relating to ITSO

82. The outcomes of the restructuring of INTELSAT/ITSO;

- Transfer of all INTELSAT assets to a private entity, Intelsat Ltd., initially headquartered in Bermuda but currently based in Luxembourg, with the mandate to meet Public Service Obligations.
- Change of the mandate of the intergovernmental Organization, and its acronym to International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) based in Washington, D.C.

83. One of the main outcomes of the Kampala Assembly of Parties meeting held in July 2012 was a decision to continue the ITSO Agreement until July 2021. The Agreement had provided for a review after the 12 year term that started in 2001.

84. **The Parties' Common Heritage**, defined as “those frequency assignments associated with orbital locations in the process of advanced publication, coordination or registered on behalf of the Parties with ITU...” is being used by Intelsat for the fulfillment of the Public Service Obligations, and currently there are 21 such slots with an estimated value of US \$1-1.5 billion.

85. The Parties agreed in an Assembly in 2007 to amend the ITSO Agreement. The purpose of the Amendment is to clarify the status of the **Parties' Common Heritage orbital locations. This would enable ITSO to ensure that any selected entities that use the Parties Common Heritage fulfill the Core Principles** (Article III) of the ITSO Agreement. To complete the process, Parties have to notify their approval or acceptance, to the U.S. Department of State as the Depository of the Agreement. A total of at least 99 countries that are Parties to the ITSO Agreement, have to do so in order for the Amendment to enter into force. Sixty seven **(67) countries have already completed their acceptance process.**

86. The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference held in Geneva in January/February 2012 adopted a resolution to conduct studies to determine whether it might be necessary to apply additional regulatory measures to enhance availability of public international telecommunication services delivered through satellite technology. The studies will provide a major opportunity for developing countries to input proposals for change or improvement in respect of regulation of satellite orbital resources.

African Internet Exchange Systems- AXIS:

87. Africa is currently paying overseas carriers to exchange "local" (continental) traffic on our behalf. This is both a costly as well as an inefficient way of handling inter-country exchange of Internet traffic. The African Internet Exchange System project aims to keep Africa's internet traffic local by providing capacity building and technical assistance to facilitate the establishment of Internet Exchange Points and Regional Internet Exchange Points in Africa.

88. Having regard to AU decisions relating 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.

89. An agreement between AUC and the Internet Society has been signed (ISOC) to start conducting capacity building workshops in AU Member States with no Internet Exchange Points from September 2012.

90. Workshops to kick start the process to establish Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) in seven (7) of the thirty (30) AU Member States with no IXPs have been confirmed to be organized before the end of the year. The process will continue in the remaining Member States next year. Also, capacity building and technical assistance to support establishment of Regional Internet Exchange Points is planned to begin in 2013.

Feasibility study for the creation of an African Space Agency –AfriSpace-

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

92. Africa is determined to exploit the tremendous potential of space technology. The African Union Strategic Plan 2004-2007 called for the "Assessment of RASCOM and other projects to launch satellites in Africa" with a view to create an African Space Agency. The purpose of the African Space Agency (AfriSpace) will 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.

93. As requested by the CITMC-3, the AUC has carried out the study aimed 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 policymakers with recommendations and roadmap for the creation of the African Space Agency. Including draft of organization and missions of the Agency.

Comments:

94. The meeting came up with the following comments:

- Need to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select an entity that will be responsible for managing the Pan-African e-Network after India hands it over in 2014;
- Necessity for AU Member States to put in place policies and legislation to guide the use of Tele-Education, Tele-Medicine and other e-Services;
- Need to address issues of skills transfer at the national level in order to substantially increase the use of Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine services of the Pan-Africa e-Network;
- Expresses interest to participate in the ICT leadership and Internet Exchange Point projects;
- Notes that a number of Member States are already utilizing the benefits of space technology and supports the establishment of the Africa Space Agency.

Recommendations:

95. The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Urge Leading African Regional Universities and the African Regional Super Specialty Hospitals to start providing Tele Education and Tele Medicine services like their Indian counterparts;
- ii. 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 its operational phase;
- iii. Note the imminent transfer of the VVIP Component to the AU e-Governance Network and to ensure its operationalization;
- iv. Further request the AUC and NPCA to ensure the sustainability and smooth implementation of the Work Plan on the transfer of the Network to Africa following the end of Indian technical and financial assistance;

- v. Take note of the progress made to implement the African Leadership in ICT Program;
- vi. Request AUC and NPCA to work with the Government of Finland, GeSCI and other international partners to extend the ALICT programme to other regions of Africa;
- vii. Note these important and recent developments regarding ITSO, the organization and the satellite orbital resources in particular;
- viii. Assist in securing ratification of the amendment to the ITSO Agreement in the case of those countries which are yet to do so in order to ensure availability of satellite orbital resources for regional and global coverage;
- ix. Enable as may be applicable, participation of their countries in the upcoming ITU-R studies on satellite orbital resources regulation;
- x. 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;
- xi. Make a representation to ITSO so that there is coordination in respect of the orbit/spectrum resources of relevance to the African continent being assigned to RASCOM on behalf of its members once these resources are released from Intelsat;
- xii. Note the efforts made by the African Union Commission to implement the first phase of the African Internet Exchange System project;
- xiii. Call upon the African Union Commission, NPCA, Regional Economic Communities and Member States to accelerate its implementation;
- xiv. Note the report on the study on AfriSpace;
- xv. 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 with involvement of the relevant stakeholders;
- xvi. Urge all relevant Departments of AUC to participate in the implementation of this recommendation in cooperation with NPCA, UNECA, ITU and other relevant partners;
- xvii. Take note of key outcome of the publication of the e-Transform Africa report at www.eTransformAfrica.org;
- xviii. Invite Member States to work with the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank and the African Union to further identify transformational programs that use ICTs in different sectors of the economy and society that have the potential for replication and scaling up;
- xix. Urge rigorous monitoring and evaluation of ICT pilot programmes so as to identify the factors that contribute to success and to learn lessons in overcoming obstacle;
- xx. Invites donors and development partners, including the WBG and AfDB, to assist with project design and financing for future transformational applications of ICT in the sectors of the economy and society in Africa;
- xxi. Support the AfriSpace project and call for the involvement of relevant stakeholders for the implementation of the recommendations.

SESSION 7: CIT GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION, POPULARIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

Review of the Rules of Procedure of CITMC

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

ICT Programmes Coordination

97. Africa's economic and social development, as well as its political and physical integration is seriously hampered by the inadequacy of infrastructure and services, which constitute an essential foundation for development process. The necessity of coordination, cooperation and harmonization of policies, regulation and programmes are encompassed in the major African Union basic documents, namely, The Constitutive Act of the African Union (Article 15) and The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community known also as Abuja Treaty (Articles 3, 4, 28,62, 63 and 64).

98. The analysis of the coordination mechanisms in Africa revealed a number of issues including:

- The absence of strategic frameworks and policies for infrastructure development;
- The lack of championship for spearheading major policies and programmes in infrastructure development;
- The overlapping and duplication of mandates and missions and unclear reporting lines;
- The lack of enforcement mechanisms for agreed upon actions and decisions;
- The lack of instruments formalizing relations between AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and poor communication between AUC, RECs and other institutions involved in infrastructure development;
- The non- operationalization of adopted coordination mechanisms for infrastructure development;
- The lack of synergy and institutional linkages across institutions /departments and divisions of each institution.

African ICT Week and Annual Forum

99. The African Information and Communication Technologies Week (AICTW) was launched with the will to implement the WSIS commitments which invited all the Governments to adopt the ICT for sustainable development while strengthening 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 Africa's Information Society.

There is a need to set up and launch a yearly event /forum at which public sector regulators will interact with the operator and industry. There are two options: (i) creating a new forum or (ii) using and adapting existing ones (e.g. WSIS/ITU Forums IGF, ICT4All, Cairo ICT Forums etc...).

Africa's Participation in International Events

100. There are many international and regional, public and private events that decide on key issues relating to communications and information technologies. Among those events and forums, are:

- ITU and UPU Plenipotentiaries, Conferences, Assemblies, Meetings and Forums;
- ICANN meetings;
- WSIS follow-ups;
- Any other ICT international decision forums

101. 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 Specialized institutions and elected/representatives in different constituencies still coordinate Africa's position and while those who are present could participate fully or partially, those who cannot be present are not able to contribute to the issues. 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.

Comments

102. Following the presentations, the participants made comments as follows:

- Support the coordination mechanism;
- Call on stakeholders to avoid multi-coordination systems;
- Support the draft Rules of Procedure of CITMC Conference as presented;
- A clear political support should be given by AU Member States on the issue of celebrating the African ICT Week;
- The celebration of the African ICT Week is welcome and very useful especially for African rural people to get into the Information Society.
- In the celebration of the African ICT Week, the AUC should take into account the national internet day organized by Member States;
- Participation of the African Union in the international forums is welcome. AU should assist Member States to evolve and speak with one voice while represented in such international events.

Recommendations

103. 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 to the Bureau and the Steering Committee of the CITMC to represent the Continent and their respective regions in all relevant international events and in collaboration with the AUC, NPCA and Specialized Agencies, and report back to the RECs and CITMC Bureau;
- iii. Request the AUC to share the consolidated reports with all Member States;
- iv. Request Member States to commemorate the African ICT Week during the 3rd week of November each year;
- v. 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 industry in coordination with relevant partners and stakeholders;
- vi. Call upon the African Union Commission to implement various actions in order to assist Member States to celebrate the African ICT Week;
- vii. Approve the draft Rules of Procedure taking into account the work being done by the AUC legal counsel and amend articles 10 and 11 on the participation of the Bureau in international forums and submit through the appropriate channel;
- viii. Call upon the elected members of the Bureau and Steering Committee to contribute effectively to the representation of, as well as coordination and advocacy for Africa's position in international and regional forums in collaboration with AUC, NPCA and other stakeholders.

VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

104. An update on the status of CITMC decisions relating to African Association of Regulators was provided by ITU and AUC.

105. The meeting was briefed on the outcome of the FTRA held in Libreville in June 2012 notably the ongoing process for signing the Constitution of PARENET.

106. Tele-Centers are one of the African information and knowledge society that need to be supported.

Adoption of the report

107. The Experts' Session adopted the report as amended.