

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

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**AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (STC-CICT)
2ND ORDINARY SESSION, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
20-24 NOVEMBER 2017**

AU/STC-CICT-2/MIN/Decl.(2)

**2017 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION
STC – CICT-2**

2017 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION STC-CICT-2

PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers in charge of Communication and Information and Communication Technology (CICT) and Postal Services meeting in our Second Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information & Communication Technologies (**STC-CICT-2**) in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 23 to 24 November 2017, preceded by the Expert Session held on 20-22 November 2017

Guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU);

Recalling the Assembly Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XIVI) adopted in January 2009 and July 2011 respectively on the configuration of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and the modalities for their operationalization;

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, in 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, in January 2012, on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);

Recalling the Decision EX.CL/Dec.900(XXVIII) of the 26th Assembly January 2016, on the Activities of the Specialized Technical Committees, including the First Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information & Communication Technologies (**STC-CICT-1**) held in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 September 2015;

Considering the decision of the 5th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in July 2005, in Sirte, Libya on the establishment of a Pan-African Radio and Television Channel - Doc. EX.CL/205 (VII);

Recalling The AU Executive Council Decision (Assembly/AU/11 (XIV) adopted in July 2010 where African Union Heads of States and Government called for the harmonization and efficient management of radio frequency at both National and Regional levels .

Noting that the current situation of the Communication and ICT subsectors in Africa still face many challenges despite the very significant gains in some areas and in particular segments of the African Media landscape, Telecoms/ICT and postal services;

Reaffirming that digitalization agenda is an essential and the greatest opportunity for Africa to drive the fundamental changes of the world in the 21st century. If wisely harnessed and mainstreamed, digitization could potentially be the catalyst in achieving national development agenda, the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations and the UN Agenda 2030 development goals. To

that end digitalization as such must be given the highest priority

Further Reaffirming that Communication and ICT are key to Africa's development and economic competitiveness and in the attainment of the African Union Vision and the goals of the Agenda 2063;

Further noting that Communication and ICT including cyber security and the issues of Internet Governance represent an opportunity to develop an Information Society and enhance right means to catch up with the rest of the developed world in several areas of the human and socio-economic development in Africa ;

Considering that Africa should have its own voice to speak to the world, tell its own story from its own perception and in its own words;

Taking note of the Report of the Experts' Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20-22 November 2017

Having elected the following bureau of the STC-CICT:

EAST AFRICA	
Ethiopia	Chair of the Bureau
CENTRAL AFRICA	
Congo	1 st Vice Chair of the Bureau
NORTHERN AFRICA	
Tunisia	2 nd Vice Chair of the Bureau
SOUTHERN AFRICA	
South Africa	3 rd Vice Chair of the Bureau
WEST AFRICA	
Ghana	Rapporteur of the Bureau

HEREBY COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

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

- Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, and Personal Data Protection;
- Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and/or Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT);
- Dot Africa appropriation and use by Member States and African people and Businesses;
- Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Postal Sector in Africa including the implementation of projects on Addressing and Postcode systems, Connectivity and Electrification of Post Offices in rural areas, Financial Inclusion of the low-income population and e-Commerce development in Africa;
- African Union (AU) Communication and advocacy Strategy;
- AU Branding Campaign and the visibility of the symbols and image of the AU at national levels;
- Book of African Records

- Agenda 2063 and its communication plan;
 - The creation of Network of Journalists for Peace and Security in Africa (NetPeace)
 - Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
 - The support of the African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM)
 - African Internet Exchange Point (AXIS);
 - Harmonized use of digital dividend;
 - Cooperation with Transport and Energy sectors on conduits and alternative ICT Infrastructure respectively
 - Development of African local Content
 - Internet Governance;
 - cooperation with the African private sector for mobilization of resources for Communication and ICT projects
2. **WORK** together towards adopting a common position and harmonized policies on the use of common scarce resources such as orbital slots, spectrum, Domain Name Systems and the development of African Digital economy and Innovation;
 3. **COMMIT** to collaborate with relevant African and international stakeholders on the Internet Governance, Cybersecurity and Cyber Criminality;
 4. **ENCOURAGE** development partners to continue providing support to the postal sector development to ensure effective social, digital and digital inclusion to populations in remote and rural areas;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

5. **WORK** in consultation with AUC on the implementation and ownership of the AU communication and Advocacy strategy, and the AU branding campaign;
6. **TAKE STOCK** of the provisions of the Malabo Convention, the Budapest convention and the Guidelines on Internet Infrastructure Security for Africa prepared in order to promote a safer African Cyberspace.
7. **ADOPT** the proposed channeling plans for the digital dividends (DDs) and to use - to the extent possible - the AUC "guidelines on the harmonized use of digital Dividends" () *<harmonise with wording in experts' report>*
8. **USE** the digital dividends to consolidate the ICT market in Africa by enabling economies of scale and fostering the provision of new affordable ICT and internet based services.
9. **PROMOTE** the use the Digital Dividend Spectrum to enhance broadband penetration in Africa and provide access to rural areas and underserved populations across the continent.
10. **TAKE NOTE** with appreciations of The Algiers declaration on Internet Governance and commend Algeria for its efforts and engagement to promote Internet governance and Internet policy within the continent.
11. **ACCELERATE** the establishment of their national Internet Governance Forums (IGFs),

to commit technical and financial resources to enable and strengthen national and regional IGF, and to support the Organization of the African IGF as the continental multi-stakeholder vehicle for Africans to reach common positions on Internet Governance (IG) matters

12. **COMMIT** for the institutionalization and funding of the African Internet Governance Forum as a key annual Conference for Africans to discuss internet development on the Continent
13. **SET UP** and promote an African Union Academia on Internet Governance (IG) to build capacity in IG especially among youth.
14. **WELCOME** the delegation of dotAfrica domain name which is Africa's Digital Identity and example of Africans from all walks of life working together to achieve a common goal and that
15. **NOMINATE** focal points for dotAfrica Reserve Name List (RNL) and actively participate in DotAfrica Road Show awareness campaign within the continent and to start using dotAfrica domain names;
16. **ENCOURAGE** development partners to continue providing support to the postal sector development to ensure effective social, and digital inclusion to populations in remote and rural areas;
17. **REDEEM** their Government Reserved Names List (GRNL) as per the GRNL policy;
18. **CONTRIBUTE** to the preparation of the action plan for the use of the satellite ground infrastructure of the Pan African e-Network for Tele medicine and Tele education (PAeN) received from the Indian Government on behalf the AU Member States participating in this network;
19. **WELCOME** the initiative towards the development of an integrated approach to Unlock Access to basic infrastructure and Services for Rural and Remote Areas;
20. **URGE** all Member States participating in the pilot project on electrification and connectivity of Post offices in Africa to uphold their commitment towards the successful implementation of the project made during the 1st ordinary session on the CCIT and call upon all other interested African governments to incorporate the project into their national development plans and explore multiple sources of funding for this important project aimed at leveraging the postal networks to foster socio-economic development in Africa.
21. **RECOGNISE** the contributions of journalists towards the achievement of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 and institutionalise the Pan-African Media Awards on Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment and the contributions of journalists who give attention to development issues towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and institutionalise the Pan-African Media Awards on Promoting Agenda 2063

22. **RATIFY**, domesticate and implement regional and international instruments related to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the media
23. **PRIORITISE** within their own programmes of funding of Public Institutions funding of research institutions advocating gender related issues.

ALSO RESOLVE TO:

Member States to consider the use of RASCOM's solution in the implementation of national, regional and continental ICT development policies and projects;

24. **Member States to:**

- a) Participate and contribute to the implementation of the "Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)" project aiming at building capacity of the Member States on Internet Governance and Building digital platform for the development and harmonization of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and for coordination monitoring and evaluation of the implementations of the AU organs decisions; and,
- b) Nominate national focal points to support AUC in the implementation of this project;

25. **Member states** to adopt the Africa Fact Book as an educational tool, to enhance their knowledge of and pride in Africa;

26. **Member states** to provide appropriate financial resources for the continuation of operation of the PAeN an AU Agenda 63 flagship project;

FURTHER REQUEST THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO:

27. **CONTINUE** its efforts toward more communication capacity, especially the incremental setting up modern communications equipment that will enable the production and dissemination of international standard communication products as well as the right staffing level to ensure faster implementation and to produce the next information and communication strategy 2018-2022

28. **SUBMIT** to PAeN Assembly of Users, and the bureau of the STC-CICT-2 for approvals a project proposal on the use of this infrastructure for satellite base services including tele education and new services among other the Pan African Mass Education TV for Talent and content development (DIY TV), Diplomatic (VVIP) communications and the structures of governance in charge of the management of the new phase of the PAeN;

29. **UNDERTAKE** the necessary measures to adopt the cyber-security as a flagship project of the African Union Agenda 2063;

30. **ENSURE** the follow up of the signing and ratification by Member States of the African Union Convention on Cyber-Security and Personal Data Protection and to dedicate appropriate resources for the implementation of a comprehensive Cybersecurity programs including assistance to AU Member states to adopt cyber strategies and Cyber legislations and to establish CIRT/CERT;

31. **FORM** an Africa Cyber Security Collaboration and Coordination Committee (ACS3C) to advise AUC and policymakers on Cyber strategies; **DEVELOP** guidelines on Personal Data Protection; **ORGANIZE** a yearly AU Conference on Cybersecurity in collaboration with Industry and Academia and **ESTABLISH** a continental Cybersecurity awareness month.
32. **DEVELOP** in collaboration with NPCA an action plan and mobilize resources to implement cybersecurity projects;
33. **SPEED UP** the establishment of the Dot Africa foundation to support:
 - a) Capacity building in Internet sector
 - b) Member States Country Codes Top Level Domain (ccTLD) registries
 - c) The African Registrars Business development.
 - d) The creation of African content and Pan-African content.
 - e) Pan-African ICT/ Internet projects
34. **CONTINUE** supporting RASCOM and consider becoming an independent member of the Board of Directors of RASCOM
35. **CREATE** an annual forum as a key annual conference to discuss and develop common spectrum policy in Africa in collaboration with ATU;
36. **PREPARE** a strategy paper for unlocking Rural and Remote Areas Access to Basic Infrastructure in Africa and invite the partners notably Regional Economic Communities (REC), AfDB and UNECA to support the Approach
37. **RESOLVE PRIORITISE DEVELOP** in collaboration with RECs continental guidelines on women's portrayal and representation in the media and continental guidelines on journalism education and training to include development agenda and sectorial specialisations as part of the academic curricula
38. **WORK** in collaboration with RECs and key stakeholders on capacity building programmes to facilitate access to training for women in journalism and ICT, to build credible and sustainable government media institutions at both national level and community media centres
39. **WORK** in collaboration with the Government of Tunisia and Partners to implement the Center of Excellence project;
40. **PUT** resources behind communicating the strategic framework Agenda 2063 by capacitating the Directorate of Information and Communication
41. **ENGAGE** with and use the government media as brand ambassadors to promote AU activities and Agenda 2063 and convene annual session where MS can report on national activities

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 24 November 2017

The Ministers