MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE
SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BUREAU

28 APRIL 2016, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
INTRODUCTION


I. ATTENDEES

2. The following Members of the bureau attended the meeting:

Members of the Bureau

- Republic of Mali,
- Republic of Gabon,
- Republic of Algeria,
- Republic of South Africa,

3. The list of participants is attached in Annex I

II. OPENING CEREMONY (Item 1 of The Agenda)


4. The Commissioner welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude to them for making time to participate in the meeting despite their busy schedule.

5. The Commissioner highlighted the vital role of Communication and Information Technologies in the development of the continent and in mobilizing Africa’s youth who will be the actors to adopt the technologies.

6. The Commissioner Recalled the main decisions of the STC notably

   a. Establish a Pan African Radio and Television Channels;
   c. Create a Pan African Platform on Access to Information (APAI);
   d. Continue the implementation of the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), The Dot Africa, The African Internet Exchange Point (AXIS), the Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa and finally the Action Plan for the sustainability of the Pan African e-Network for Tele medicine and Tele education (PAeN);

7. Her Excellency then reminded the Bureau of the main issues that the experts have considered including the new structures for the management of PAeN to be established after the handover to the African Parties as requested by the Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/Dec.900) as well as the Action Plan aiming at implementing of activities relating to the Declarations and Decisions adopted by the STC on CICT. H.E. finally urged the Bureau to consider the AU Declaration of Internet Governance.
8. In conclusion, the Commissioner urged the participants to pay special consideration to AUC activities on ICT sector and wished all participants fruitful deliberations.

Remarks of Honorable Mr Choguel Kokala Maïga Minister of Digital Economy, Information and Communications of the Republic of Mali, Chairperson of the Bureau of the STC CICT

9. After thanking and welcoming the participants, the Honorable Dr Choguel Kokala Maïga declared that participating in this meeting is a strong signal of our commitment to implement the Addis Ababa 2015 declaration. Honorable Minister acknowledged the impact that ICTs have on social economic development of African nations, fast-tracking the region into an information age and enabling African people to create access, utilize and share information and knowledge. He stressed that this would lead to greater productivity, increased competitiveness and sustainable economic growth, which are preconditions for poverty reduction.

10. The Minister urged participants to build on where the previous Bureau had left off and coordinate implementation of decisions in a timely manner so that the implementation is not overtaken by events.

11. The Minister reminded participants that several items that were prioritized for implementation in the last Conference and concluded by reiterating the Government of Mali’s commitment to collaborating with the AUC and other strategic partners to ensure effective monitoring and implementation of the decisions of the Assembly of the AU and STC-ICT related to ICT and communication and information.

III. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU (Item 2 of The Agenda)
Remarks of Honorable Dr Siyabonga Cwele, Minister Telecommunications and Postal Services of South Africa, Rapporteur of the Bureau

12. H.E thanked the Chair and the AU Commissioner for convening the Bureau, citing that South Africa was honoured to joins the august gathering, recognising the importance of the meeting in supporting the vision of our forefathers of a united and prosperous Africa. The Minister stated that ICTs are central to the vision of a developed Africa, as well as in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and our own Agenda 2063.

13. The Minister recognised the important milestones on progress of Information Society, the UN review on WSIS which took place in December 2015. South Africa led the G77 plus China discussions on WSIS, and UNGA adopted resolution that aim to help developing countries to bridge the digital divide through actions to improve infrastructure in Africa, in particular in ICT and Broadband to connect the unconnected so African countries can take full advantage of the digital economy while mitigating risks such as cybersecurity.

14. The Minister also recognised two critical platforms that will take place in coming weeks: the ITU WSIS forum taking place in Geneva 2-6 May; and the WEF on Africa which will be hosted in Kigali from 11-13 May, highlighting that ICTs are
15. H.E. acknowledged global economic downturn that has a negative impact on investment in ICT. However, ICT as an enabler to development for realizing benefits and growth as well as addressing next unconnected 4 billion. The Republic of South Africa adopted their plans for rolling Broadband infrastructure to rural areas for fixed and mobile connectivity, including investments in e-government, e-learning and e-health.

16. H.E. highlighted the challenges this Bureau will need to address such as how to deal with sustainability of PAeN, lack of affordable access to infrastructure, high cost of communication and limited access. He urged the meeting to continue supporting the PIDA projects as championed by African Heads of States supporting infrastructure such as electricity, roads, ICTs and water. Africa needs to ensure capacity building is expedited in Africa, including implementation and cooperation in cyber-security, whilst recognising the sovereignty of member-states.

1. H.E. urged the acceleration of projects such as dotAfrica and PIDA and assured his country’s commitment to support the African IGF, calling on more proactive participation by African Governments. H.E. finally thanked the African nations for the support they provided for the liberation of the Republic of South Africa, as it celebrated freedom day this week, and reaffirmed South Africa’s commitment to prioritizing Africa and Africa’s development.

IV. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 3 of The Agenda)**

17. The Agenda and the Work Program were adopted as proposed and attached in Annex II

V. **OVERVIEW OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURES OF THE STC-CICT (Item 4 of The Agenda)**

18. The AUC presented the Rules of Procedures related the Bureau of the STC. It has been agreed to propose to the AUC Legal Counsel to amend these Rules of procedure in order to enhance the role of the Bureau between consecutive sessions of the STC. The proposal would be adopted at the next ordinary STC.

VI. **PRESENTATION OF DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, JANUARY 2016 SUMMIT ON THE STC-CICT -1 REPORT (Item 5 of The Agenda)**


20. The Bureau noted the Decision of the Executive Council as well as the progress made so far in implementing the decisions namely the consideration by the STC of Finance and Economic affairs of the Reports on Financial inclusion, addressing
and electrification of Post Offices in rural areas. The Bureau also noted that the AUC has convened the Assembly of Users of the Pan African e-Network, which preceded the Bureau meeting.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF USERS OF PAeN (Item 6 of The Agenda)

21. The Bureau noted the progress made so far on the implementation of the decisions of the AU organs related to PAeN.

22. The Bureau urged the AUC, the Assembly of Users and the newly established Oversight Committee to finalize the fast-track implementation of the Governance of the PAeN and to ensure a smooth transfer of the operation of the Network to the African Parties. The Pan African e-Network Oversight Committee was also urged to finalise the legal instruments.

23. The Bureau of the STC requested an amendment to Article 12 to accommodate the Working Languages of the AU, as follows: “The working languages of the Assembly of Users are the official languages of the African Union namely English, French, Arabic and Portuguese. However, in case of financial constraints / limitations, English and French will exceptionally be used as working languages “

VIII. ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND DECLARATION OF AU ORGANS ON CICT (Item 7 of The Agenda)

24. A presentation was made on the Action Plan on CICT programmes and projects. The lines of actions of the Draft Action Plan for implementation of the Decisions of the AU organs on Communication and ICT are extracted from the AU Assembly, the STC and previous Ministerial Conferences declarations and decisions.

25. The Bureau congratulated the AUC for the draft document. The Bureau also noted that the Communication and Information Technologies sectors within the AU Commission are facing challenges with regard to budgeting and funding of projects and programs in light of the limited 2016 budget for operational programme of the AUC and that the 2017 budget has also been finalized.

26. The Bureau urged the AU Commission to make extra efforts to allocate funds from the regular AU 2017 and 2018 budgets especially for activities related to Cybersecurity, Internet Governance, Dot Africa and e-Strategies.

IX. DECLARATION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE (Item 8 of The Agenda)

27. The Bureau requested the AUC to forward once more the Draft Declaration on Internet Governance to Member States for Comments and to request AU member-states to submit comments to the AUC by end of August 2016.

28. The Bureau was presented with 3 options towards the consideration and adoption of AU Declaration on Internet Governance. The Bureau agreed on the need to convene an Extraordinary STC session on Internet Governance and Cybersecurity in 2016. The offer to host the Extraordinary STC by the Republic of Mali was welcomed and the AUC will consult the host country on possible dates.
X. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Item 9 of The Agenda)**

29. The AUC appraised the Bureau on the progress of the DotAfrica programme. The Bureau noted with concern the further delays encountered in the implementation of this important project. And further expressed concern on the US courts presiding over extra territorial matters of the continent. This furthers confirms the need for governments, on equal footing, to participate in the international management of the internet in a multilateral, transparent and democratic governance process. The Bureau called on the AUC to study the matter and provide legal opinion.

30. The Bureau also resolved that the Extraordinary session will also address Africa’s position on the management and ownership of the internet as it is a critical global resource.

XI. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 10 of The Agenda)**

2. The report of meeting was adopted as amended by the plenary session.

XII. **CLOSING REMARKS (Item 11 of The Agenda)**

31. The AU Commissioner, Dr Elham M.A Ibrahim expressed her gratitude to the members of the Bureau for accommodating the invitation to the 1st meeting of the Bureau of the STC on CICT. She highlighted the importance of ICTs in empowering communities, youth, women and girls. She acknowledge with appreciation the partnership with the ITU, as the AUC hosted the 2016 Girls in ICTs event on the same day. She affirmed that network and partnership are critical for Africa’s development. She also expressed her appreciation to the progress made on the transfer of Pan African e-Network (PAeN) as the PAeN will provide a platform to connect more African institutions as well as the virtual Pan African University.

32. The Honourable Minister of South Africa, Dr Cwele thanked the AUC for convening the Bureau meeting, also echoing that infrastructure connectivity is critical for socio-economic development in Africa. However it was important that the infrastructure is widely accessible, affordable and respond to the needs of the developmental society, such as Africa. He urged member-states to continue collaborating, utilising African resources, experts and capacity so to achieve AU Agenda 2063.

33. In his closing remarks, the Honourable Chairperson of the Bureau, Mr Choguel Kokala Maïga thanked the AU Commissioner and the secretariat for the work and contribution towards the planning and convening of the Bureau meeting. The Chairperson also thanked the Members of the Bureau for their contribution and committed to drive the sector and contribute to economic growth. He acknowledged that ICTs have transformed societies and have been the main drivers in the implementation of national programmes. He urged African member-states to ratify the AU convention on Cyber security, and indicated that Mali is making efforts in combating cybercrime. He thanked the participants for their contribution to the successful deliberations of the Bureau meeting and wished them a safe travel back to their respective countries.
## ANNEX I: List of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization/Country</th>
<th>Tel/Fax no.°</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Honorable Mr Choguel Kokala Maïga</td>
<td>Minister of Digital Economy, Information and Communications Chairperson of the Bureau of the STC CICT</td>
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ANNEX II: ADOPTED AGENDA AND THE WORK PROGRAM
MEETING OF THE BUREAU
OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON, COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (STC-CICT-1)

28 APRIL 2016, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

DRAFT AGENDA
AND
ANNOTATED WORK PROGRAMME
AGENDA

1. Opening Ceremony

2. Introduction of the Members of the Bureau;

3. Adoption of the agenda and work program;

4. Overview of the Rules of Procedures of the STC-CICT

5. Decision of the Executive Council meeting, January 2016, on the report of the first STC-CICT, held 31 August - 04 September 2015, in Addis Ababa;

6. Consideration and adoption of the report and recommendations of the Assembly of Users of the Pan African e-Network (PAeN);

7. Consideration and adoption of the Action Plan for implementing Declarations and Decisions on Communications & Information Technologies (CIT) adopted by African Union Organs;

8. Consideration of the AU Draft Declaration on Internet Governance;

9. Any Other Business;

10. Consideration and adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting;

11. Closure of the meeting;
# WORK PROGRAM

**Thursday 28 April 2016**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:30</td>
<td><strong>Opening ceremony:</strong> Chaired by the Minister of Digital Economy, Information and Communications of Mali Chairperson of the Bureau of the STC CICT</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 – 09:45</td>
<td>Coffee Break and Group photo</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:45 – 10:00</td>
<td><strong>Procedural Matters</strong></td>
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<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td><strong>Session of the Bureau</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:30</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 16:30</td>
<td>Preparation of the report of the meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00 – 17:30</td>
<td><strong>Session of the Bureau</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td><strong>Closing Ceremony</strong></td>
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### Item 1 of the Agenda:
- Welcome remarks by Dr. Elham M. A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy
- Opening Speech by Hon. S.E.M Choguel Kokala Maïga, Minister of Digital Economy, Information and Communications of Mali Chairperson of the Bureau of the STC CICT

### Item 2 of the Agenda: Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme
The Chairperson will present the agenda and the work program and invite for comments and adoption.

### Item 3: Introduction of the Members of the Bureau
The chair will provide participating Ministers with the opportunity to briefly address the participants.

### Item 4: Presentation of the key points of the Decision of the Executive Council Jan 2016 on the STC CICT-1 report
AUC will present to Bureau Member the key part of the decision of the Executive Council meeting.

### Item 5: Consideration of the Report of the Assembly of the Users of PAeN
At the request of the Chairperson of the Bureau, the Chair of the Users Oversight Committee will present the Report of the meeting. Then, floor will be opened for comments and inputs. It is expected that the Bureau will put forward recommendations to all stakeholders for implementation.

### Item 6: Consideration and adoption of the Action Plan for implementing Declarations and Decisions on Communications & Information Technologies (CIT) adopted by African Union Organs.
At the request of the Chairperson of the Bureau, AUC will make a presentation of the draft Action Plan. This presentation will be followed by discussions of the Bureau Members and decision on the way forward.

### Item 7: Consideration of the AU Draft Declaration on Internet Governance;

### Item 8: Any Other Business
The Chairperson will request the audience to raise any other topic on CIT matters if any.