AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

**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

1. The Bureau of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information & Communication Technologies (STC-CICT) held its first Ordinary Meeting on 28 April 2016 at AUC Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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)

Remarks of Dr. Elham M.A. IBRAHIM, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission (AUC).

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;
    b. Implement the AU Communication and advocacy Strategy 2014-2017;
    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-CICT 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

regarded as catalyst for development and contributor to economic growth: 4th industrial revolutions.

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)

19. The AUC presented the key elements of the Decision of the Executive Council adopted in January 2016 on the Report of the STC-CICT-1. These relate to the Addis Ababa Declaration, and updated AU Plans and projects of the Communication sub-sector, as well as the AU Communication and advocacy Strategy 2014-2017, AU Branding Campaign, the Communication Strategy for Agenda 2063 and the media initiatives.

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 concerns 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 progammes. 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

		Name	Title	Organization/ Country	Tel/Fax no.°	Email
1.		Honorable Mr Choguel Kokala Maïga	Minister of Digital Economy, Information and Communications Chairperson of the Bureau of the STC CICT	Republic of Mali		
2.		Honourable Dr Siyabonga C. Cwele (MP)	Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services Rapporteur of the Bureau of the STC CICT	Republic of South Africa	+27-124278016/ +27-124278167	Director-general@dtps.gov.za
3.		Mr. Mahmoud DIF	Directeur	Ministère des TIC de l'Algérie	+213-782623613	Mahmoud.dif@gmail.com
4.		Marie Aubierge DELICAT	Conseillère Chargée des Questions bilatérales	Gabon		mboutsou@gmail.com
5.		Mrs. Assa Simbara MARIKO	Conseiller Technique en charge des TIC	Ministère de l'Economie Numérique du Mali	+223-77285293	asimbara@communication.gouv.ml
6.		Mr. Abdoulaye DIALLO	Chef de Division	Mali-AGETIC	+223-77285263	adiallo@agetic.gouv.ml
7.		Mr. Gamer Aksodant DICKO	Conseiller Technique	Mali	+223-62284044	gamerdicko@yahoo.fr
8.		Mr. Mohamadou ZAROU	ICT-Manager	AMRTP- Regulator of Telecom of Mali	+223-76698969	mzarou@amrtp.ml
9.		Ms. Thathakahle JORDAN	Acting Deputy Director General	Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services of South Africa	+27-124278016/ +27-124278167	Director-general@dtps.gov.za
10.		Mr. Thabo MOGALE	Political Counsellor	South African Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	+251-911127237	mogalet@dirco.gov.za
11.		Ms. Sibongile MDHLETSHE	Personal Assistant	Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services of South Africa	+27-124278016/ +27-124278167	Director-general@dtps.gov.za
12.		Selma Malika HENDEL	Minister Counseiller	Algeria Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	+251 11 371 96 66	hendelselma@gmail.com
13.		AMICHI Hocine	Diplomatic Secretary	Algeria Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia		amichiho@outlook.com

	Name	Title	Organization/ Country	Tel/Fax no.°	Email
14.	Affef Boutobba		Algeria Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia		affefboutobba@gmail.com
15.	Mr. Moctar YEDALY	Head of Information Society Division	AUC	+251-115182417	yedalym@africa-union.org
16.	Dr Zouli BONKOUNGOU	Expert in ICT and Telecom	AUC	+251-115182407	ZouliB@africa-union.org/ zoulib@gmail.com
17.	Mr. Adil SULIEMAN	Senior Policy Officer	AUC	+251-115182407	Suliemana@africa-union.org
18.	Mrs. Mmatalenta MAPHOSA	Pharmacist	AUC	+251-115182118	maphosam@africa-union.org
19.	Dr Tajudeen RAJI TAJUDEEN	Pediatrician	AUC	+251-921378263	tajudeenr@africa-union.org
20.	Mr. El Hacen Sid'Ahmed Lemhamed	Directeur des Infrastructures	MEFPTIC of Mauritania	+222-44489119	h.babe@hotmail.com; h.babe@emploi.gov.mr
21.	Mr. Abdraouhou IBRAHIMA	Directeur des Technologies de l'Information	Niger	+227-93937733	raoul_ibra@yahoo.fr
22.	Mrs. Marième Thiam NDOUR	Inspecteur Technique	Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications du Sénégal		mndourr@gmail.com ; marieme.ndour@numerique gouv.sn

ANNEX II: ADOPTED AGENDA AND THE WORK PROGRAM

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

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 September2015, 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

09:00 – 09:30: **Opening ceremony: Chaired by the Minister of Digital Economy , Information and Communications of Mali Chairperson of the Bureau of the STC CICT**

Item1 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

9:30 – 09:45: **Coffee Break and Group photo**

09:45 – 10:00: **Procedural Maters**

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.

10:00 – 13:00: **Session of the Bureau**

Item 3: Introduction of the Members of the Bureau

The chair will provide participating Minsters 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

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch break**

14: 30- 16:30 **Preparation of the report of the meeting**
AUC, and the rapporteur will draft and duplicate the report of the meeting

16:00 – 17:30 **Session of the Bureau**
Item 9: Adoption of the report

17:30 **Closing Ceremony**
Item 10: Closing Remarks by AUC by Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy and the Chairperson of the STC CICT Bureau