



## Press Release

### African Ministers of Communication and Information Technologies calls for digitization as a highest priority for Africa



**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24 November 2017-**

The African Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies and Postal Services Conference concluded today in Addis Ababa in their Second Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT (STC CICT-2) from 23-24 November 2017. Ministers discussed and made decisions on continental and regional programmes that impact Africans in the communications and ICT sectors.

The Commissioner, Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union delivered a speech in the closing ceremony reiterating the importance of communication and information technologies for Africa's development.

Despite the very significant gains in African media landscape, telecoms and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and postal services the conference noted that the current situation of the Communication and ICT subsectors in Africa still face many challenges.

During the Conference it has been reaffirmed that digitization agenda is an essential and the greatest opportunity for Africa to drive the fundamental changes of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, if wisely harnessed and mainstreamed. Digitization could potentially be the catalyst in achieving national development agenda, the Agenda 2063 aspirations and the UN Agenda 2030 development goals.

Ministers recognized the contributions of journalists towards the achievement of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063, which is "An Africa where Development is People-Driven, Unleashing the Potential of its Women and Youth" and institutionalize two (2) Pan-African Media Awards on Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment; and on Promoting Agenda 2063.

The Conference recommended to form Africa Cybersecurity Collaboration and Coordination Committee to advise the AU Commission and policy makers on cyber strategies.

The African Ministers of Communication and Information Technologies adopted 2017 Addis Ababa Declaration on Communication and Information Technologies.

**For further information contact**

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