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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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**REPORT OF THE 4TH SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (CITMC)
KHARTOUM, SUDAN, 02 - 06 SEPTEMBER 2012**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The 4th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-4) was held from 5 to 6 September 2012, in Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan. The experts' meeting held from 2 to 4 September 2012 preceded the Ministerial Conference. The Ministers deliberated on the report of the experts' session and other agenda items.

2. In attendance were Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies and Experts from twenty (20) African Union Member States as well as representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions, private sector and partner organisations.

3. A new Bureau of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies was elected for a two-year period (2012 – 2014) to replace the one that had held office from 2010 to 2012. The new Bureau is composed as follows:

Chair:	Zambia (Southern Africa)
1 st Vice-Chair:	Gabon (Central Africa)
2 nd Vice-Chair:	Egypt (Northern Africa)
3 rd Vice-Chair:	Guinea (Western Africa)
Rapporteur:	Sudan (Eastern Africa)

ISSUES DISCUSSED

4. The main objective of the fourth session of the CITMC is to adopt strategic guidance as well as programs and projects of regional and continental scope and an Action Plan for implementation of the Declarations and Decisions of the African Union Summits and Ministerial Conferences related to Communication & Information Technologies.

5. To that end the main agenda items of the conference were as follows:

- Harmonization of policies and regulations for ICT and post
- Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
- Postal Sector Development Action Plan and Studies;
- Update on continental/regional programmes and activities;
- Internet issues;
- Specific Projects
- CIT governance.

OUTCOMES

6. At the end of their deliberations, the Ministers adopted the following major outcomes:

- Acceleration of the Analogue to Digital Transition and elaboration of National Cyber legislation;
- Support to the Dot Africa project;
- Participation and contribution of Member States to the implementation of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PAP) projects;
- Support to the African IPv6 Task Forces and AFRINIC to monitor the adoption of IPv6;
- Organization of national Internet Governance Forums (IGF);
- Intensification of the use of the Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine services of the Pan African e-Network;
- Adoption of the African Union (AU) Cyber Security Convention;
- Implementation of the recommendations of the prefeasibility study on the African Space Agency (AfriSpace) and development of a space policy;
- Coordination of the elaboration of an African Action Plan to be implemented over the next 3 years for the migration from IPv4 to IPv6;
- Development of guidelines for the liberalization of the postal sector, and preparation of template on the development of postal policies and regulations.

7. The Executive Council is invited to take note and adopt the enclosed Report of the 4th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-4) and the Khartoum Declaration adopted by the Ministers responsible for Communication and Information Technologies at the Conference.

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**FOURTH AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE
OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES**

02 - 06 September 2012

Khartoum, SUDAN

AU/CITMC-4/MIN/Rpt/(IV)

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 4th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CITMC-4) was held from 5 to 6 September 2012, in Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan. The experts' meeting held from 2 to 4 September 2012 preceded the Ministerial Conference. The Ministers deliberated on the report of the experts' session and other agenda items.

II. PARTICIPATION

2. The following Member States participated in the meeting:

Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote 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. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: South Africa Development Community(SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

4. 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)

5. Representation also included Members of Parliament, Academia, Private Sector and Civil Society from Sudan, UniForum SA, and Intelsat.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

Statement by Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director, ICT, Science and Technology, UNECA

6. On behalf of the United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director, ICT Science and Technology Division of UNECA congratulated the Ministry of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan and the African Union Commission for organizing the conference.

7. She narrated the progress made in building an inclusive information society since the launch of the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) in 1996 and further highlighted the institutional, policy, legal and regulatory environment challenges in matching the speed and evolution of societal and technological developments.

Statement by H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission

8. The Commissioner expressed her gratitude to H.E. Field Marshal M. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, to the Government and the People of The Sudan, for the warm welcome and excellent organization of the conference. She further thanked the experts for the hard work and input to the ministerial session which will facilitate the deliberations.

9. After highlighting the achievements of the 3rd Conference of Ministers under the Chairmanship of The Sudan, the Commissioner presented items to be considered and activities to be addressed by the 4th Conference.

10. The Commissioner concluded by underscoring the importance of Africa to develop ICT infrastructure that will enable deployment of e-services for the benefit of our people.

Statement by Hon. Dr. Eissa Bashari Mohamed Hamid, Minister of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan

11. In his remarks, Dr. Eissa Bashari Mohamed Hamid, Minister of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan, extended his greetings and thanked the participants for attending the CITMC-4 in Khartoum, Sudan.

12. He encouraged the African states to make use of the untapped potential of using technological advancement in improving health and education opportunities for African citizens, and boosting agriculture and business opportunities.

13. In conclusion, the Hon. Minister, urged the participants to work together to achieve the dreams and aspirations of the African people and expressed the need for exchanging information and ideas in order to take full advantage of the available technology trends.

Statement by H.E. Field Marshal M. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan

14. H.E. President of the Republic of Sudan after welcoming the delegates, expressed his confidence in the conference to come up with plans that meet the aspirations of the continent to benefit from the use of Information Communication

Technologies.

15. His Excellency further indicated to the conference, the key areas that need due attention, to be the development of ICT policies and legislations, ICT security and establishment of the African Space Agency.

16. In conclusion, H.E. President of the Republic of Sudan called on participants to coordinate on information security issues and expand collaboration on joint cooperation projects.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

17. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

Procedural Matters

Working Sessions

- Consideration of the Experts report
- Consideration of Ministerial Declaration

- Ministerial Session on Internet Governance and Knowledge Society issues
- Adoption of Ministerial Declaration
- Election of the incoming Bureau and Steering Committee for 2012-2014
- Date and venue of the next CIT Ministerial Conference (CITMC-5)
- Any other business
- Consideration and adoption of the Ministerial session report

Closing ceremony

18. H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission presented the election process of the Bureau and Steering Committee.

V. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

19. Ministerial statements were made from Algeria, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria and Zambia.

20. In their statements, the Hon. Ministers highlighted the achievements and challenges in the ICT sector at national and continental level.

21. The Hon. Ministers further noted the need for coordination , mobilization of

finance and pursuing collective actions to develop and use ICTs for the socio-economic development and integration of the Continent.

VI. STATEMENTS FROM RASCOM, ITSO, AfDB, ICANN AND DOTAFRICA/UNIFORUM

22. The conference was informed of the Ministerial resolutions that led to the creation of RASCOM and gratitude expressed to the 3rd Conference of Ministers for committing to secure allocation of unused ITSO orbital resources to Africa as a priority.

23. The origin and mission of ITSO, its Assembly of Parties decisions, the ratification of the amendment to the ITSO Agreement and the resolution on satellite orbital slots by the World Radio Conference (WRC-12) were brought to the attention of the participants.

24. The Conference was briefed on the ICT Strategic Plan of the African Development Bank which focuses on national and regional fibre optic networks, enhancing the policy, and regulatory circumstances, ICT applications and Capacity Building. The various financial mechanisms and the readiness of the African Development Bank to provide technical and financial assistance to AU Member States were highlighted.

25. The ICANN presentation provided an overview of the evolution of global internet governance ecosystem, stressed the message of ICANN internationalization and briefed the conference on the work in progress for the new Africa strategy.

26. The dotAFRICA presentation recalled the history and status of the project and underscored that it provided an opportunity for Africa to play a more meaningful role in the global Internet and engage with the organizations that oversee critical Internet infrastructure while facilitating African innovation and to promote African socio-economic development.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS SESSION

27. The Experts' Session report was presented by Nigeria as the Rapporteur of the outgoing CITMC Bureau.

28. Following the presentation, delegates adopted the report with amendments.

VIII. SESSION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY ISSUES

29. The conference welcomed the presentations on Internet Governance and Knowledge Society issues from DIPLO Foundation and Global eSchools and Community Initiative.

IX. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION

30. The Ministers adopted the “2012 Khartoum Declaration”.

X. ELECTION OF CITMC-4 BUREAU AND STEERING COMMITTEE

31. The Ministerial meeting elected the following Members to the Bureau and Steering Committee of the CITMC-4:

SOUTHERN AFRICA	
Zambia	Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
South Africa	Member of Steering Committee
CENTRAL AFRICA	
Gabon	1 st Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
Central Africa Republic	Member of Steering Committee
NORTHERN AFRICA	
Egypt	2 nd Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
Algeria	Member of the Steering Committee
WESTERN AFRICA	
Guinea	3 rd Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee
Nigeria	Member of the Steering Committee
EASTERN AFRICA	
Sudan	Rapporteur of the Bureau and Steering Committee
Tanzania	Member of the Steering Committee

XI. CLOSING SESSION, CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMUNIQUÉ AND VOTE OF THANKS

32. H.E Dr. Eissa Bashari Mohamed Hamid, Minister of Science and Communications, The Republic of Sudan extended his gratitude to all delegations for their constructive deliberations and concluded by reading out the communiqué.

33. H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission thanks the participants, the Government of The Sudan and reiterates the commitment of the African Union to continue to deploy efforts to develop the CIT sector.

34. The Head of Delegation of The Gambia extended the vote of thanks on behalf of all participants.

35. H .E. Sakeni Kennedy Mumba, Chair of the CITMC and Minister of

Information and Broadcasting Services expressed commitment to pursue the realizations of the recommendation and called on Member States to take ownership of all the resolutions.

36. The meeting was adjourned at 16:00 hours local time on the 6th of September 2012.

Khartoum, 06th of September 2012

EX.CL/759(XXII)
Annex 1

2012 KHARTOUM DECLARATION

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2012 KHARTOUM DECLARATION

2012 KHARTOUM DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

WE, the African Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies meeting in our Fourth Ordinary Session (CITMC-4) in Khartoum, Republic of The Sudan, from 5 to 6 September 2012;

Guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

Recalling the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.283 (XIV) adopted by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February 2010 on integration of NEPAD into African Union (AU) structures and processes and on the establishment of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA);

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, from 1 to 2 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, from 29 to 30 January 2012, on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);

Re-affirming that Information and Communication Technologies are key to Africa's development and economic competitiveness and in the attainment of the African Union Vision and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Welcoming the streamlining of Communication and Information Technologies governance within the African Union Commission;

Taking note of the Report of the Experts' Session held in Khartoum, Republic of The Sudan, from 2 to 4 September 2012;

HEREBY COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

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

- Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
- Reference Framework for Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa;
- Africa Regional Action Plan for the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);
- Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa.

2. **WORK** together towards adopting a common standard for both TV terrestrial transmission and receiver across the Continent and encouraging a harmonized approach on the use of the Digital Dividend;
3. **COOPERATE and FOLLOW-UP** with relevant stakeholders to secure the orbital/spectrum resources required to accommodate continental satellites including applying as a unified block for the allocation of unused International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) orbital resources to Africa as a priority;
4. **INTEGRATE** postal services in the wider frame of ICT services and work towards its integration in the universal service access policies at national level;
5. **STRENGTHEN** the cooperation among our institutions in the area of ICT and mobilization of resources taking in to account African capacities.

HEREBY REQUEST MEMBER STATES TO:

6. **ACCELERATE** the transition from Analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting;
7. **ACCELERATE** the development of National Cyber-Security Legislation;
8. **PROVIDE** DotAfrica project with the required support where needed and **URGE** Member States which are yet to provide the support letter to African Union Commission (AUC) to provide such support in order to minimize the risk of objections and secure the DotAfrica gTLD;
9. **PARTICIPATE in and CONTRIBUTE** to the implementation of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PAP) projects;
10. **SUPPORT** the African IPv6 Task Forces and AfriNIC to monitor the deployment and implementation of IPv6;
11. **PROMOTE** the organization of national Internet Governance Forums (IGF) aimed at facilitating dialogue between all stakeholders on ICT for development issues and facilitate the participation of their respective countries in regional and African IGF (AFIGF) activities as well as in the global IGF;
12. **INCREASE** the use of Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine services of the Pan African e-Network (PAeN);

ALSO REQUEST:

13. The CITMC Bureau and Steering Committee members to participate and coordinate Africa's positions in relevant CIT events/forums at regional, continental and international levels in close coordination with AUC, NPCA, Specialized Institutions and elected African representatives in the constituencies of these international events/forums;

FURTHER REQUEST THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO:

14. **SUBMIT** the draft African Union Cyber-Security Convention for adoption according to African Union rules of procedure;
15. **ENCOURAGE** collaboration with International Partners in advancing ICT leadership programs in all regions of the African Union;
16. **IMPLEMENT** the recommendations of the feasibility study on the African Space Agency (AfriSpace) and **DEVELOP** a space policy for the Continent in collaboration with relevant stakeholders; taking in to account remote sensing applications and satellite imagery processing;
17. **DEVELOP** a comprehensive African Action Plan to migrate from IPv4 to IPv6 over a three year period and in coordination with AfriNIC, Internet Community, regulators, operators, service providers, Member States, RECs, NPCA and UNECA;
18. **DEVELOP** guidelines for the liberalization of the Postal Sector and template for legal frameworks for postal policies and regulations;

REQUEST ALSO:

19. The AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized Institutions (SI), AfDB and UNECA **TO SET UP** a coordination mechanism taking into account the existing Institutional Architecture, and **TO MEET** annually on rotational basis in different regions of the Continent to harmonize their programmes;
20. The AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized Institutions (SI), AfDB and UNECA **TO DEVELOP** an updated, integrated and coherent AU strategic CIT framework for Africa taking into account existing frameworks of all African CIT stakeholders, and coordinate the convening of an ICT investment forum;
21. The CITMC Bureau to participate in the Council for Infrastructure Development (CID) created for the implementation of PIDA;
22. The AUC in collaboration with UNECA and other partners to support the formulation of the cyber legislation at the national level;

APPRECIATE the role of African institutions, UN Agencies, African and international development partners and the private sector in supporting AU efforts to develop the ICT sector in the Continent;

WELCOME AND APPRECIATE the initiatives and the leadership of His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir in the development of ICT sector in the Republic of The Sudan;

EXPRESS our profound gratitude to His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, the Government and People of the Republic of The Sudan for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of this Conference.

**Done at Khartoum, the Republic of The Sudan, on 6 September 2012.
The Ministers.**

2012

Report of the 4th session of the AU conference of ministers in charge of communication and information technologies (CITMC) Khartoum, Sudan, 02 - 06 September 2012

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