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**SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT OF BROADCASTING IN AFRICA  
FOR TRANSITION FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL  
(Item proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria )**

**SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT OF BROADCASTING IN AFRICA  
FOR TRANSITION FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL**  
*(Item proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)*

1. The Member States of the African Union (AU) through the African Broadcasting Union (ABU) are responsible for the public broadcasting sector. Their responsibility is particularly related to the need to safeguard the essential public interest objectives in the digital environment, including access to information for all and cultural diversity.
2. The role of the media public broadcasting sector is to ensure the promotion of social values of African societies that include human rights, the various African cultures and diversity. In addition, broadcasting plays a crucial role in the rapid dissemination of information, particularly in specific disaster situations, natural calamities and other emergency situations.
3. The rapid and continuous evolution of digital technology has a tremendous impact on the African media landscape, both from the point of view of the African listener and viewer, and that of the broadcaster or program editor.
4. It is for these reasons that the digital migration should be done under the best possible conditions in the public interest by offering free quality services, as well as in the interest of public sector broadcasters as a whole.
5. It is imperative therefore that the role of public service broadcasting as a backbone, capable of offering a wide range of choice of programs and services at low cost, to all segments of society should be maintained and protected in this vital migration from analog to digital, while preserving the economic interests of broadcasters and the social needs of all segments of the population.
6. Consequently, it is important that Africa adopts a concerted approach and a close and effective cooperation in order to achieve optimal use of the frequency spectrum. To this end, it is necessary to define a common African strategy that begins with an inventory of wired infrastructure in each Member State of the African Union, the only alternative to digital terrestrial television. This is the only way for members of the African Union to move to a wider broadcasting of digital high definition channels.
7. The decisions to be adopted will surely have consequences on communication in Africa for decades to come. Only a long-term vision, shared by all members of the African Union, based on a serious analysis of the real needs of African broadcasters and the study on the best possible advantage Africa can derive from this digital dividend, taking into account the specificities of the continent and its economic, cultural, social and political interests, would enable Africans to benefit from quality services in this area.

**8.** African broadcasters and Member States of the African Union should take cognizance of the fact that the technological changes brought about by the convergence of networks, wired and wireless, and the emergence of online media services are an opportunity unparalleled for the continent's development by accelerating the transmission and exchange of information.

**9.** In this context, the African Broadcasting Union (ABU) and African broadcasters have an active and important role to play in mapping out a concerted strategy to preserve and protect their spectral resources. To this end, African broadcasters should be able to take advantage of the sale of licenses of digital dividends to mobile and broadband services in order to finance the deployment of digital terrestrial television (DTT) in Africa.

**10.** Several decisions have already been adopted by the African Broadcasting Union (ABU) at its various meetings on migration to DTT in Africa. Massive and high level participation of African broadcasters in the activities of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and by extension the work sessions of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is vital for the defence of their present and future interests.

**11.** Digital dividend should guide the reallocation of frequencies to achieve the following objectives:

- Earmark part of the digital dividend for new electronic communications services - mainly broadband Internet and mobile telephony and develop new audio-visual services such as high definition television (HDTV) and ultra HD radios and local content based on digital terrestrial television;
- Enhance as much as possible the spectrum for the development of African economies;
- Improve DTT coverage in the most remote areas to provide a universal public service.

**12.** To achieve these objectives, the African Union, in collaboration with the African Broadcasting Union (ABU) should develop, in consultation with the Ministries of Information Technology and Communication (ICT) and those in charge Communication, sustained coordination with national regulatory authorities and public broadcasting services to protect, preserve and guarantee the activity of public service broadcasting.

**13.** There is the need to set up an African Committee, under the auspices of the African Union, responsible for Information Society and Media to facilitate the passage of Member States of the African Union to digital broadcasting on the basis of a clearly defined roadmap for a rapid and smooth evolution of audio-visual and multimedia technology ecosystem in Africa.

2014

# Spectrum management of broadcasting in Africa for transition from Analog to Digital (Item proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

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