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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Twenty Eighth Ordinary Session
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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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**REPORT OF THE FIRST AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
STC-CICT-1, 31st August – 04th September 2015
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**REPORT OF THE FIRST AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE (STC) ON COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES STC-CICT-1,
31 August – 04 September 2015
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

INTRODUCTION

1. The First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (STC-CICT-1) was held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 September 2015. The session was preceded by an experts' meeting from 31st August to 2nd

2. In attendance were Ministers of Communication and Information Communication Technologies from forty one (41) African Union Member States as well as representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions and partner organisations including African and International private sector.

3. A Bureau of the Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (CCICT) was elected for a two-year period (2014 – 2016). The Bureau which presided over the proceedings of the First Session STC-CICT-1 is composed as follows:

Chair	:	Mali (West Africa)
1 st Vice-Chair	:	Tanzania (East Africa)
2 nd Vice-Chair	:	Gabon (Central Africa)
3 rd Vice-Chair	:	Algeria (North Africa)
Rapporteur	:	South Africa (Southern Africa)

MAIN AGENDA ITEMS

4. The main items on the agenda of the Conference were:

- 1) Consideration of the experts' session report;
- 2) Consideration of the CCICT Governance;
- 3) Consideration and adoption of the Draft Declaration;
- 4) Consideration and adoption of the Ministerial session's report .

OUTCOME

5. Following intensive deliberations in both the Experts and Ministerial meetings of the conference, the Ministers decided to adopt the following:

- 1) The 2015 Addis Ababa Declaration;
- 2) The Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Communication and ICT.

- 6.** The Ministers also decided among others to request the AUC to:
- i) Set up the structures of governance in charge of the management of the PAeN as per the Sustainable Action Plan's OPTION 1 after its hand over to the African Party in collaboration with the STC-CICT Bureau;
 - ii) Study practical modalities to create a structure for coordinating production/coproduction and exchange of contents among Member States Broadcasting channels;
 - iii) Follow up of the signing and ratification by Member States of the African Union Convention on Cyber-Security and Personal Data Protection;
 - iv) Submit ad hoc reports on: (i) the Addressing and postcode systems to other pertinent STCs namely to the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Integration and/or to the Committee on Public Services, Local Government Urban Development and Decentralization for further support and, (ii) the electrification and connectivity of Post offices to the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Integration, and to the Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism;
 - v) Participate in the Regional IGF in collaboration with UNECA and the RECs;
 - vi) Continue to support the African Technology and Information Centre initiated by the Republic of Chad (CATI) and accelerate the implementation of activities in collaboration with Chad according to the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.558 (XXIV) held in Addis Ababa, January 2014,

CONCLUSION

7. The EXECUTIVE COUNCIL is invited to note and adopt the enclosed Report of the First Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies and its main outcomes as adopted by the sector Ministers at the Committee. The EXECUTIVE COUNCIL is also requested to adopt the enclosed draft Decision in order to make effective the outcome of the Committee.

EX.CL/932(XXVIII)
Annex 1

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION

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**FIRST AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION**

31st August – 04th September 2015

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AU/CCICT-1/MIN/Rpt/(I)

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (STC1-CCICT) was held at the African Union Headquarters' in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 September 2015. The experts' meeting held from 31st August to 2nd September 2015 preceded the Ministerial Conference. The Ministers deliberated on the report of the experts" session and other agenda items as per Annex 1.

II. PARTICIPATION

2. The following **Member States** took part in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Democratic Arab Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** were also in attendance: SADC, ECCAS and ECOWAS.

4. The following **African and International Organizations and Agencies** also took part: NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), African Telecommunication Union (ATU), Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), International telecommunications Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union (UPU), European Commission (EC), International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM) and African Union of Broadcasting (AUB).

5. The following **Organizations and Regional Institutions** were also present: West African Telecommunications Regulators Assembly (WATRA), East Africa Communications Organization (EACO), Communication Regulatory Association of Southern Africa (CRASA), West Africa Postal Conference (WAPCO), Internet Society (ISOC), African Network Information Center (AFRINIC), Microsoft and Qualcomm.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

6. Mr Baba Moussa Aboubakari, Director of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission (AUC) welcomed the participants and moderated the proceedings of the opening ceremony.

Remarks by Dr. Kasirim Nwuke, Chief, New Technologies and Innovation, UNECA

7. Dr. Kasirim Nwuke noted the seamless relationship between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

8. He pointed out that without ICT, countries are probably not going to transform their economies as they otherwise would have.

Remarks by Mrs. Sally Wentworth Vice President Public Affairs, ISOC

9. Mrs. Sally Wentworth highlighted the improved connectivity across Africa and the role played by the African Union Commission through projects such as the African Internet Exchange System, dotAfrica and the African Union Cyber Security Convention.

10. She further noted that it is critical that collaborative governance be embraced by all those involved with the internet, because as much as there are many opportunities, there are also challenges.

Remarks by Mr Brahim SANOU, Director BDT, ITU

11. In his remarks, Mr. Brahim Sanou noted that in Africa, over the last decade, growth in ICT usage and uptake has exceeded all expectations, particularly in the development of the mobile-cellular market.

12. He observed that with convergence of infrastructure, the convergence of services and the convergence of service providers, policy makers will be required to go beyond the Telecom/ICT sector and embrace the ICT ecosystem including all the new players and stakeholders.

13. Finally, he thanked the African Union Commission and the European Commission for the successful implementation of the HIPSSA project and reaffirmed ITU's commitment to support AU initiatives under the leadership of the African Union Commission.

Remarks by Amb. Bishar Hussein, Director General, UPU

14. Ambassador Bishar Hussein noted that Postal services have been using all technologies of the day for the past 140 years of existence.

15. He further noted that while the post needs the internet, the internet also needs the post

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

16. H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, welcomed all delegates to the African Union Headquarters in Addis, Ababa, Ethiopia.

17. After recalling previous Ministerial gatherings and the background leading to the creation of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT, the Commissioner outlined how ICTs have empowered the lives of Africans and are driving entrepreneurship and innovation.

18. She further highlighted some of the sector challenges and noted that addressing them will not only require the adoption of the right policy and regulations but also mobilization of resources to implement AU programs, projects and initiatives.

19. In conclusion, the Commissioner expressed the commitment of the African Union Commission to contribute to the implementation of the decisions emanating from this First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT.

Remarks by H. E. Honourable Yamfwa Mukanga Minister of Communications and Transport of the Republic of Zambia

20. In his remarks, H. E. Honourable Yamfwa Mukanga Minister of Communications and Transport of the Republic of Zambia, welcomed all delegates to the First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT.

21. The Honorable Minister noted that Africa has demonstrated potential for steady growth and called on strong partnership between the public and the private sector to ensure development of the Communication and ICT sector.

22. He further highlighted that it is through a united African Union that Africa can achieve sustainable economic growth and underscored the need to embrace the Communication and Information sector as economic catalysts for development.

23. The Honorable Minister concluded his remarks by extending his gratitude to all Member States and the African Union Commission for the support and unwavering guidance rendered during Zambia's tenure as Chair.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

24. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Adoption of Agenda and Work Program
3. Election of the Bureau of the STC
4. Closed session Internet Governance
5. Consideration of the experts' session report
6. Consideration of the CCICT Governance
7. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Declaration
8. Consideration and adoption of the Ministerial session's report
9. Closing session, consideration of the Communiqué and Vote of thanks

V. ELECTION OF CCICT-1 BUREAU

25. The Ministerial meeting elected the following Members to the Bureau of the CCICT-1:

WEST AFRICA	
Mali	Chair of the Bureau
EAST AFRICA	
Tanzania	1 st Vice Chair of the Bureau
CENTRAL AFRICA	
Gabon	2 nd Vice Chair of the Bureau
NORTHERN AFRICA	
Algeria	3 rd Vice Chair of the Bureau
SOUTHERN AFRICA	
South Africa	Rapporteur of the Bureau

VI. SESSION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

26. Delegates welcomed the presentations made during the Internet Governance session

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS SESSION

27. The Experts' Session report was presented by Côte d'Ivoire.

28. Following the presentation, the ministers adopted the report with amendments (Annex 1).

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE CCICT GOVERNANCE

29. The STC CICT Rules and Procedures was considered and adopted with amendments (Annex 2).

IX. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION

30. The Ministers adopted the “2015 Addis Ababa Declaration” with amendments and requested the AUC to finalize the Declaration for onward transmission to Member States. The Declaration is attached as Annex 3.

X. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERIAL REPORT

31. The Ministers requested the AUC to finalize the report for onward transmission to Member States.

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

32. The Ministers adopted a motion condemning cowardly acts of terrorism and resolved to combat cyber space terrorism.

33. They noted that securing cyberspace is about national security that includes the safety of our people and their fundamental rights to have a safe online environment including their data privacy and free access to information.

34. The Ministers further emphasized the need for all players to come together in the appropriate platform to exchange views and consolidate same understanding and agreement, while striking balance between basic human rights principles and national security. The Motion is attached as Annex 4.

35. H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission commended all participants for the successful deliberations to address some of the many challenges that the continent is facing in the crucial sectors of ICTs and Communication.

36. H.E. Honourable Dr Siyabonga Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services of the Republic of South Africa extended the vote of thanks on behalf of all participants (Annex 5).

37. H .E. Mr. Choguel Kokalla Maiga, Chair of the STC-CCICT and Minister of Digital Economy and Communication of the Republic of Mali, recalled some of the key deliberations and underlined the importance for Africa to take ownership of PanAfrican projects on Communication and ICT for the development of Africa.

38. The meeting was adjourned at 17:00 hours local time on the 4th of September 2015.

Addis Ababa , 04th of September 2015

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Annex 2

REPORT OF EXPERTS' SESSION
31 AUGUST – 02 SEPTEMBER 2015

AFRICAN UNION



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**AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION AND ICT
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA,
31 AUGUST-04 SEPTEMBER 2015**

AU/CCICT-1/EXP/Rpt.(1)

REPORT OF EXPERTS' SESSION

31 AUGUST – 02 SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT OF EXPERTS' SESSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the experts of the First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Communication and ICT (CCICT) was held at the African Union Headquarters' in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 31 August to 2 September 2015.

ATTENDANCE

2. The following Member States took part in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Democratic Arab Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: SADC and ECOWAS.

4. The following African and International Organizations and Agencies also took part: NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), African Telecommunication Union (ATU), Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Universal Postal Union (UPU), European Commission (EC), The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), the Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM) and African Union of Broadcasting (AUB).

5. The following organizations and regional institutions were also present: West African Telecommunications Regulators Assembly (WATRA), East Africa Communications Organization (EACO), Communication Regulatory Association of Southern Africa (CRASA), West Africa Postal Conference (WAPCO), Internet Society (ISOC), African Network Information Center (AFRINIC), Huawei, Microsoft and Qualcomm.

6. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

PLENARY SESSION I

I. OPENING CEREMONY

7. At the opening ceremony, the following remarks and speeches were made:

Welcome Remarks by Mrs Fatima Denton, Director, Special Initiatives Division, UNECA

8. Mrs Fatima Denton, Director, Special Initiatives Division, UNECA noted that ICTs remain critical in Africa's sustainable development and transformational agenda.

9. She further highlighted the importance that improved connectivity can contribute to regional economic integration.

10. She concluded by expressing ECA's commitment to continue working closely with the African Union Commission to provide the necessary support to Member States to realize Agenda 2063.

Remarks of Mrs Habiba El Mejri Scheikh, Director for Information and Communication, African Union Commission

11. Mrs Habiba El Mejri Scheikh welcomed all participants to the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

12. She noted that this is the First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication & ICT and observed that despite significant gains in Media, Telecoms/ICT and Postal Services; there is still a lot to be done in the sector.

13. She further highlighted achievements made in implementation of previous Ministerial decisions on the sector.

14. In conclusion, she called for the support of Member States to implement continental Communication and ICT programs.

Welcome Remarks by Mr George Mbasela, Director of Communications, Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply, and Communications, Republic of Zambia

15. Mr George Mbasela, on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply and Communications, thanked the organisers of the First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT.

16. He commended the introduction of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT as it would optimize the development of sector strategies in a converged environment.

17. He concluded by calling upon participants to deliberate fully, and expressed the hope for fruitful outcomes of the First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT.

II. ELECTION OF CCICT-1 BUREAU

18. Based on the principle of rotation and geographical representation, the meeting elected the following Members to the Bureau of the CCICT-1 for final consideration by the Honourable Ministers:

WEST AFRICA	
Mali	Chair of the Bureau
EAST AFRICA	
Tanzania	1 st Vice Chair of the Bureau
CENTRAL AFRICA	
Gabon	2 nd Vice Chair of the Bureau
NORTHERN AFRICA	
Algeria	3 rd Vice Chair of the Bureau
SOUTHERN AFRICA	
South Africa	Rapporteur of the Bureau

III. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

19. The meeting adopted the agenda and the work programme as proposed and is attached as **Annex II**.

IV. Report by the Conference Outgoing Bureau (Zambia) Doc-001/ Bureau-Rpt/CCICT-1Exp/2015

20. The outgoing Bureau and Steering Committee members are

- Bureau: Zambia (Chair), Gabon (1st Vice Chair), Egypt (2nd Vice Chair), Guinea (3rd Vice Chair) and Sudan (Rapporteur).
- Steering Committee: South Africa, Central African Republic, Algeria, Nigeria, Tanzania.

21. **Mr George Mbasela** , representing the Chair of the outgoing CITMC Bureau highlighted the activities performed during Zambia's tenure which included the following:

- Organization of the CITMC Bureau meeting from 19 to 20 June 2013 in Livingstone, Zambia;
- Follow up the implementation of major flagship projects and activities. In this regard, the Chair and the Bureau contributed to the success of the 4th edition of the African ICT Week held on 3 – 5 December 2013 which was organized within the framework of the 50th year long celebrations of the OAU/AU anniversary. In addition, the Chair played a pivotal role in the implementation of the Dot Africa project. Specifically, the Chair called on Member States to provide the project with the required support letters and participated in the official launching of the project during the final celebrations of the 50th anniversary in May 2014.
- Participation in continental and international meetings;
- Organization of the STC-CICT-1

22. **The Honourable Ministers are invited to:**

- Take note of the report of the Bureau;**

- ii. **Request Member States to support the AUC to implement AU decisions related to Communication and ICT;**
- iii. **Further recall the need for Member States and the Bureau to attend international fora and meetings notably those related to key issues on Internet governance.**

PLENARY SESSION II

V. AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION REPORT

23. Mr Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division presented the African Union Commission's activity report.

24. In his presentation, he highlighted the implementation status of AU decisions relevant to the sector.

PLENARY SESSION III

VI. CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

25. Speech and/or contribution of RECs, Specialized Agencies and International Organization/Institution are summarized as follows:

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

26. The representative of UNECA, Mr Mactar Seck presented ICT programmes, projects and activities being implemented by UNECA.

27. He highlighted activities implemented in the areas of policy formulation and implementation, ICT measurement and Research, Advocacy and Consensus Building such as technical and policy support to develop National ICT Strategies, Development of a set of e-Government indicators, Research to undertake assessment of the contribution of ICTs to Africa's economic growth performance, and policy briefs on addressing challenges of cyber security in Africa among others.

28. He also underscored some of the lessons learnt.

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

29. Ms Cecilia Mamelodi-Onyadile, Senior Program Officer, SADC highlighted ICT activities that are being implemented by SADC within the framework of SADC Digital 2027. The SADC 2027 comprises of the following four pillars:

- Infrastructure Development
- Capacity Building and Content
- e-Applications and e-Services
- Research, Innovation and Industry Development

30. She further outlined twenty seven specific activities being implemented under the following thematic areas:

- ICT Infrastructure Development
- Policy, Standards and Regulations
- SADC Regional Postal Services Development
- Regional and International Coordination

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

31. Mr Osei Tutu Agyeman-Duah, Director, ECOWAS Community Computer Center noted that ECOWAS ICT policies, programs and projects find their rightful place in the organization's vision and mission of creating a borderless and prosperous region.

32. He further highlighted the ICT policies, programs and projects that are being implemented by ECOWAS such as harmonization of cyber security policies, the ECOWAS Wide Area Network, Customs interconnection project and the ECOWAS radio and TV project among others.

Pan African Postal Union

33. Mr Younouss Djibrine, Secretary General, Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) presented the achievements of PAPU which included the following:

- Establishment of independent regulators for the post in majority of PAPU member states;
- Member States are modernizing their structures, carrying out policy reviews as well as regulations to ensure fair play and provision of universal service. Some have gone further to establish Private Public Partnerships for efficient delivery of services;
- To facilitate implementation of the Ministerial Action Plan, PAPU established sub-regional steering committees. Over 90% of members have undertaken reforms. It also spearheaded the exercise of harmonization of postal policies and regulations for the strengthening of the postal sector in Africa;
- On the improvement and development of the postal network in Africa, PAPU conducts annual control tests to identify bottlenecks with a view to taking corrective action. There are on-going quality improvement programmes within the framework of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) for Africa 2013-2016, to achieve the international mail delivery standard of J+5 at 85%. In addition, PAPU has secured USD100,000 from the Emirates Posts in the form of Quality of Service Fund Project to improve quality of mail circulation in Africa and beyond, in line with RDP Priority Level N^o1- Quality of Service improvement;
- PAPU in collaboration with the UPU is conducting workshops on International Postal Systems (IPS) and Global Monitoring Systems (GMS) with a view to improving human resource capacity and ultimately modernize the network;
- Support common positions in the interest of the continent, such as the successful support of a candidate from Africa for the position of Director

General of UPU in 2012. Similarly, Africa's solidarity led to the successful adoption of resolutions and decisions on a wide range of issues during the Doha UPU Congress in 2012, including Terminal Dues, membership to the UPU organs, among others;

- PAPU in collaboration with UPU developed RDP as a road map for the development of postal network and services in each congress cycle. Priorities, including improvement of quality of service, capacity building and infrastructure development were identified;
- In line with various resolutions, decisions and recommendations of PAPU Plenipotentiary Conferences, the Secretariat in conjunction with the host country formed a Joint Venture to construct the PAPU Headquarters building to reduce the financial burden on member states and enhance sustainability of the Union. Construction will commence in November/December 2015;
- A number of actions to bring on board the rest of AU member states to PAPU membership have been taken through the use of letters, personal visits, etc. As a result of these efforts, some members have already joined and others have engaged in the process of joining the Union.

34. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Take note of the initiatives taken by PAPU;**
- ii. Request stakeholders to be fully committed to the implementation of relevant decisions and resolutions relating to the sector and include or prioritize the post in their national development plans;**
- iii. Support the development of national addressing and post code systems;**
- iv. Support the post to accelerate installation of electricity and connectivity to rural outlets by using, among other options, universal service fund;**
- v. Implement the harmonization of regulatory frameworks in order to better regulate some very important traditional postal services which were recently opened to competition. For example, money transfers (long known as postal money orders); failing to do so, the highly expected objective of financial and socio-economic inclusion will not be achieved.**

African Telecommunication Union

35. Mr Abdoukarim SOUMAILA, Secretary General, African Telecommunication Union (ATU) presented four components of ATU programs which included Africa preparations for WRC-15, Digital migration, Harmonized calculation method for Africa (HCM4A), Africa preparations for WTSA-16.

36. He further highlighted the specific activities of the four components to include the following:

- Established a technical advisory and study group called African Spectrum Working Group (AfriSWoG) which enabled the region to input technical

papers to the work of ITU on the technical aspects for use of the second digital dividend. Through AfriSWoG, the region carried out studies on current and future planned use of the C-band. The region has actively participated in the ITU WRC-15 preparatory activities.

- Based on the experience of WRC-12, the region under the ATU framework commenced preparations for WRC-15 in good time. As a result ATU held 4 preparatory meetings the last one having been held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2015 which attracted a highest number of 36 African countries. As a result, the region developed 80% African Common Proposals (AFCPs) based on WRC-15 agenda items and already submitted to ITU-R as African contribution
- Organized three Digital Migration and Spectrum Policy Summits, one each in 2011 in Nairobi, 2012 in Accra and 2014 in Nairobi. These summits adopted a common DTT standard for Africa (the DVB-T/T2 family with MPEG2/4 compression scheme), a common migration roadmap, and the second digital dividend.
- ATU held three GE06 frequency modification and coordination workshops/meetings. The outcome was a favourable GE06 modification result to accommodate DTT spectrum requirements within 470-694MHz and thereby release 694 – 862MHz for mobile broadband
- ATU has commenced the preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16) with the 1st meeting planned for 7-8 September, 2015 in Dakar, Senegal. This will be followed by the ITU Regional Development Forum (RDF) at the same venue from 9-10 September, 2015.
- Advocated for establishment of the Regional Groups for Africa (RG-AFR) for Study Group work and so far there are four regional for Africa.

African Union of Broadcasting (AUB)

37. In his presentation, Dr. Sahnine Chawki, representative of African Union of Broadcasting highlighted the need to establish an exchange platform to promote local content.

PLENARY SESSION IV

VII. AFRICAN UNION ONGOING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (ICT)

A. The Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA): Implementation Progress Report. Doc-05/PIDA- Rpt/ CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Summary of the issue

38. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is designed to close the infrastructure gap in Africa and improve access to integrated transport, energy, ICT and trans-boundary water infrastructure and networks with the overall objective to contribute to accelerate regional integration and economic development. Implementing PIDA will among others allow countries to meet forecast demand for infrastructure services, Boost trade, create jobs, transform the way business is done and enhance Africa's competitiveness within itself and in the global economy; give large investment opportunities for public and private sector.

39. PIDA is a strategic framework composed with Short term called Priority Action Plan (PAP) (2012-2020), Medium term (2020-2030) and Long term (2030-2040). **Total PIDA capital cost is \$360bn to year 2040 and will deliver:** Modern highways: 37,300 km; Modern railways: 30,200 km; Port Added ton capacity: 1,3 billion tons; Hydroelectric power generation: 61 000 MW; Interconnecting power lines: 16,500 km; New water storage capacity: 20,000 hm³; International connectivity bandwidth of 8-10 Terabits.

40. The PIDA PAP is composed of 51 programmes and projects. The ICT Sector PAP includes the following:

- Establishing an enabling environment
- Terrestrial Connectivity: (i) Each country to have fiber access to at least two different submarine cables by two alternate routes and for land locked countries to have guaranteed access to the coast, (ii) each country interconnected by fiber optic to all of its neighbours
- National and Regional Internet Exchange Points

41. Following the adoption of the PIDA and its implementation governance as well as the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA), by the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, the implementation of PIDA Priority Action Plan, started with: (i) The identification of the main challenges, including; capacity for projects preparation, mobilization of financing for projects preparation and roll out; private sector involvement;(ii) Identification of actions and development of tools to address the above challenges in a two yearly rolling road maps; (iii) Decomposition of the PIDA PAP 51 Programmes and projects into 443 projects, with 83 final selected projects, and prioritized in coordination with each REC.

42. For the ICT Sector the **prioritization** outcomes are the following:

- The African Internet Exchange System (AXIS) project;
- 16 Intra ECCAS Fiber optic projects, Inter Regional Connectivity: ECCAS-SADC; ECCAS-ECOWAS, ECCAS-EAC;
- Lusaka – Lilongwe Fiber optic
- The Algeria –Nigeria Gas Pipeline Project with fiber optic component;
- The alternative infrastructure for ICT in transport (road, railway) and energy Power Transmission Corridor projects;

43. The current status of PIDA PAP effective implementation on the ground is summarized as follows:

- i. All activities leading to facilitate finance mobilization, capacity of stakeholders notably RECs, NPCA capacity building for implementation of projects are on-going.
- ii. For ICT Sector, although the midterm comprehensive assessment of PIDA implementation is planned for 2016, the current status of some projects is as follows:

- Projects implemented: (i) Yaoundé-Bertoua - KENZOU of the project Cameroun (Yaoundé-Bertoua - Gamboula) – RCA (Gamboula-Berbérati-Carnot-Bangui); (ii) Yaoundé – KyeOssi of the project Cameroun (Yaoundé) – Gabon (Libreville); (iii) Yaoundé – Garoua Boulaï of the project Cameroun (Yaoundé-Garoua Boulaï) – RCA (Bouar-Bangui); (iv) N'Djamena –Kagopal –Doba of the project Tchad (N'Djamena) – RCA (Bangui); (vi) Kinshasa –Matadi of the project RDC (Kinshasa-Matadi) – Angola (Noqui-Luanda); (vii) Yaoundé –Sangmélina and Ketta - Brazzaville of the project Cameroun (Sangmélina) – Congo (Brazzaville)
- Projects under implementation: (i) African Internet Exchange System-AXIS Project; West Africa Power Transmission Corridor with ICT fiber; (ii) Nigeria-Algeria Gas Pipeline with Optic Fiber Project from Algeria to Nigeria via Niger
- ICT Infrastructure projects with financing gap: Ouagadougou -Abidjan Railway Loop with and Gambia Bridge with ICT component,
- Projects with advanced preparation status: Alternative ICT Infrastructure (Zambia-Tanzania Kenya power transmission line; Brazzaville - Kinshasa Road and Rail project and Railway Line to Illebo; Lusaka – Lilongwe Fiber optic:

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

44. Comments

- Need to undertake detailed feasibility study of ICT PIDA PAP projects on financing and private sector participation in PIDA;
- Ensure efficient coordination of stakeholders notably Member States involved in each PIDA PAP project;
- Effective application of the strategy of using alternative infrastructure in deploying PIDA PAP Fiber optic projects by PIDA implementation stakeholders (Member States, RECs ...);
- Consider how the African Union can assist Member States to mobilize financing for projects.

45. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- Note the PIDA PAP implementation progress notably the African Internet Exchange System Project (AXIS) for the establishment of Internet Exchange Points;**
- Commit to work with their counterparts Ministers in charge of transport and energy to ensure that ducts for fiber are deployed on transport and energy national and regional infrastructures, as integrated infrastructure, a strategy adopted in PIDA PAP implementation to speed up ICT broadband services deployment and to secure countries connectivity to submarine cable.**

B. African Internet Exchange Systems (AXIS) Project. Doc-8/AXIS/Rpt/CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Summary

46. Africa is currently paying overseas carriers to exchange “local” (continental) traffic on our behalf. This is both a costly as well as an inefficient way of handling inter-country exchange of Internet traffic.

47. The Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly adopted a declaration that undertook to strengthen national programmes and regional cooperation for the development and interconnection of broadband infrastructures and the deployment of Regional Internet Exchange Points.

48. The AXIS project aims to keep Africa’s internet traffic local by providing capacity building & technical assistance to facilitate the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXP) and Regional Internet Exchange Points in Africa.

49. The African Union Commission signed an agreement with the Lead Financier (Luxemburg Development Agency) to support implementation of the AXIS project funded by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and the Government of Luxembourg.

50. The implementation status of the AXIS project is as follows:

At Member State level

- Capacity Building Support has been extended to the following 30 AU Member States: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland and Togo.
- A total of 500 participants have been awarded certificates on Technical Aspects of Setting up, Operating and Administering Internet Exchange Points.
- Following the support of the African Internet Exchange System Project, the following twelve Member States have since set up their Internet Exchange Points (IXPs): Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and Swaziland.

At Regional Level

- Five Regional Internet Exchange Point workshops have been held for Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, Western Africa and Central Africa.

- Six IXPs of Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe have been awarded Grants to be supported to grow into regional internet exchange points.
- With the support of the AXIS project, regional cross-border interconnection policy frameworks have been developed in Eastern, Western and Northern Africa.
- Capacity building support to Internet Service Providers to grow into Regional Internet Carriers commenced in July 2015.

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

51. Comments

- Commended the efforts of the African Union Commission in implementing the African Internet Exchange System Project

52. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- Commend the efforts made by the African Union Commission to implement the African Internet Exchange System project**
- Call upon Member States that still do not have internet exchange points to ensure they are set up**
- Support the establishment of regional internet exchange points and**
- Support the on-going activities of the AXIS project.**

PLENARY SESSION V

VIII. AFRICAN UNION ON-GOING PROJECTS

A. Study on Pan African TV and Radio Channel. Doc-11/PanAf TV/Rpt/CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Summary of the presentation

53. The idea of establishment of a television channel to serve Africa and the Diaspora has gathered momentum, with African leaders calling for the founding of a media described as a 'basic tool' to allow the continent to project its true image by producing and disseminating accurate news about Africa. The channel will be responsible to (i) advance a new image of Africa through popularising its ideals and providing a balanced view, to correct the "bleak" images of Africa, which the world normally sees, such as corruption, hunger, and conflict and AIDS, (ii) articulate about the peaceful political transitions in various countries and regions, and to communicate about the establishment of pan-African structures for regional integration and solidarity which have gone largely unnoticed, have been ignored, or have received only intermittent attention, by media outside the continent and (iii) contribute to correct the current situation where the neighboring African countries are often unaware of each other's realities and accomplishments, except through the mediation of images from external sources.

54. The report of the AU Conference of Ministers of Communication and Information (MCI) held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 15 June 2006, was submitted as a mid-term report, to the 9th Executive Council session, held in Banjul, the Gambia, from 25 - 29 June 2006, requested the Commission to carry out a study on the issue of setting up the Pan African Radio and Television Channel, and to submit a report for consideration.

55. The study carried out clearly spells out, all the technical details on how the proposed Pan African Television and Radio channel will be set up. It provides a clear guideline of the processes to be followed and outlines the types of expertise required.

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

56. Comments

- Commended the AUC for the steps taken to implement the Pan African Television and Radio Stations as a priority project of the AUC
- Need to establish a working group to analyse and add value to the project
- Content should be generated from among member states, some of whom have large archives that can be utilised
- Capacities already on the continent to carry out broadcasting should also be considered in the face of the restrictive cost of establishing a new broadcasting structure
- The AUC should benefit from experiences of some RECs who are already establishing TV and Radio Stations
- Cater for all AU working languages when establishing the stations

57. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

- i. Authorize the establishment of a working group to examine the study draft report and discuss the modalities of its operationalization and call for a meeting of the working group to consider and agree on the proposed scheme of setting up the channels based on the Member States inputs and comments**
- ii. Call AUC to address copy of the draft report on the Panafrican Radio and TV channels to all Member States through the diplomatic channels in view of studying and sent inputs and comments to AUC;**
- iii. Provide guidance on the process of implementation taking into account geographical and linguistic considerations.**

B. AU Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2014-2017. Doc-12/Com/Rpt/CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Presentation summary

58. The second communication strategy for the AU (2014 -2017) takes into account the pressing need of popularization and enhances visibility of the organization. It's aimed at providing a strategic document that will promote the image of the AU and bridge the gap between the African citizens and the organization created to serve the continent and advocating for it to be an active player in the world arena. The voice of Africa speaking with one voice needs to be heard especially in consensus engaging crucial decisions to be taken to face world challenges.

59. The Strategy and the Operational Plan constitute the basis of the African Union Communication for 2013 – 2016 period; it aims at ensuring an effective communication in the AU, implemented by the DIC in collaboration with all the information and communication officers within the AU regional offices as well as AU Organs, and the Communication and Information officers of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) among others.

60. In view of associating the AU Member States to its communication strategy, AUC launched a communication activity in partnership with Press Attachés of AU Member States Embassies based in Addis Ababa.

61. The communication strategy is tailored to ensure good coverage of all AU events and meetings as well as follow the effective implementation of the AU strategic Plan in all domains.

Recommendations following the presentation

62. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

- i. Commend the efforts made by AUC to develop a communication strategy;**
- ii. Provide guidance for implementation and ownership**

C. AU Branding Campaign-Doc-14/Brand/Rpt/CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Summary

63. It is essential that the symbols of the African Union be properly understood as this has a great impact on awareness and recognition of the Union. To date, the following activities have been undertaken under the branding campaign:

- i. Production and launch of AU branding artwork: AU was little known and little understood in Africa and in the world, this led to the development of a campaign under the slogan, "I am African, I am the African Union".**

- ii. Developing the AU gift shop: This activity is critical and in line with the Public Relation activity of the AU that brings a multitude of visitors to the headquarters of the AU.
- iii. Producing and distributing promotional merchandise

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

64. Comments

- Commended the AUC for its efforts to develop a branding strategy
- Need for strengthening of the AU branding structure to ensure message consistency
- AU should also use the new technologies (e.g. SMS) to reach African citizen with the AU branding messages i.e. I am African I am the African Union

65. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

- i. **Provide guidance for implementation and ownership;**
- ii. **Call on AU member states to own and implement the AU branding strategy by:**
 - **Flying the AU flag at all government offices next to the national flag;**
 - **Ensuring that in all government offices and offices of heads of state and government, the AU flag is next to the country flag;**
 - **Playing of the AU anthem on national radios and televisions at the beginning and end of major national events;**
- iii. **Reproducing and distributing AU branding artwork with high-quality standards in their countries.**

PARALLEL SESSION 1A

IX. CIT PROJECTS

A. The Pan African e-Network (PAeN) for Telemedicine and Tele-education. Doc-7/PAeN/Rpt/ CCICT-1/Exp/2015

66. The Pan African e-Network (PAeN) project aims to connect Member States of the African Union by satellite network and fiber optic to provide services of Tele-education, Tele-medicine, and diplomatic communications (VVIP services). This project was funded and implemented by the Government of India at an estimated budget of 150 Million USD used for: (i) The supply and installation of equipment and software; (ii) Leasing of the satellite bandwidth and submarine fibre-optic cable for initially 5 years period assistance; (iii) Operation and maintenance of the network for initially 5 years assistance; (iv) Building capacity of the participating Member States to operate their part of the network; (v) Sponsoring the cost of Tele-education and Tele-medicine, services provided by Indian Universities and Hospitals.

67. Based on an Indian-African cooperation framework, the PAeN has reached a successful implementation and has provided new opportunity and positively impacted the quality of education and health services in most of the participating Africa Union Member States.

68. Regarding the status of the PAeN implementation, as of 30 April 2015 a total of 48 AU Member States have signed the PAeN agreement to participate in the project and are benefiting from the Tele-education and Telemedicine services provided mainly by Hospitals and Universities, with the management of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) an Indian Government owned ICT Company.

69. In addition, a total of 16 700 students were enrolled in various undergraduate and graduate disciplines in different Indian universities through the network, 600 Tele medicine consultations were made and 4600 Continuous Medical Education (CME) sessions were conducted.

70. The initial five years of Indian technical and financial assistance should have terminated on July 2014 and the PAeN operation and maintenance fully transferred to a managing and operating structure to be set up by African Parties (AUC and Member States). Failing to do that on time, Indian Government agreed to extend the assistance up to July 2016 and during this period of extension, African Parties should effectively set up all required management and operating conditions for the effective handover in July 2016.

71. From the aforesaid, the AU Assembly adopted the decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.497 (XXII)) requesting the Commission to prepare an Action Plan for the sustainability of the services of the network.

72. A study for the sustainability of the PAeN has been undertaken by the AUC and considered the following two (2) management Options:

- **Option 1:** Participating Members will subsidize the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the network. Appropriate governance for implementing this option will be set up. An amount of 90,000 USD will be paid yearly by each member to support the operating, maintenance charges and services fees. This amount can be reviewed by considering scenarios for example a contribution linked to the level of uses of services by each Member State.
- **Option 2:** The O&M as well as Sales & Marketing are contracted to a Private/Public Entity through competition process. The end users will be charged for the services on purely commercial basis. In this option also, appropriate governance for implementing this option will be set up.

73. An Action Plan which includes the following key outputs was developed:

- i. Governance structures responsible of the handover requirements set up and fully operationalized.
- ii. Activities prior to the hand over implemented
- iii. Activities starting after the hand-over implemented

Comments following the presentation

74. Comments

- Expressed concern on the time remaining for implementation of the action plan
- Need to outline lessons learnt from the five years of the PAeN operation and maintenance by India that can be capitalized by Africa after its transfer to an African party;
- The action plan option of transferring the PAeN to a private managing structure is not appropriate and viable as the tele education and tele medicine are social sectors
- Consider the option where the network is transferred to the African Party and then given to a Member State for managing and operating
- The annual amount fees of US\$90,000 in option 1 should not be applied equally to all countries since the rate of usage varies and hence needs review

75. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- Note the efforts by AUC to ensure the sustainability of the PAeN and commend the Indian Government for the extension of its assistance to the Paen;*
- Adopt the proposed Action Plan for the sustainability of the network and services of PAeN upon its transfer to African Party:*
- Consider Option 1 as viable option and exhort Member States notably Member States that have signed the PAeN agreement to contribute to the financing and participate in the implementation of the PAeN sustainability action Plan. The contribution of each member state should take into consideration the needed budget and also the level of use of services by the considered Member.*
- Request the AUC in collaboration with the CCICT Bureau to set up the structures of governance in charge of the management of the PAeN in Option 1 after its hand over to African Party(dates before hand over).*

B. Outer Space: African Union Space Policy and Strategy. Doc-10/AfriSpace/Rpt/ CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Summary of the issue

76. The space capacity is gradually improving in Africa. Some countries have set-up key strategic institutions such as National Space Agencies to manage their space programmes. Many countries are also participating in a variety of notable space technology initiatives and there are a number of organizations on the continent involved in space technologies and their terrestrial applications.

77. The determination for Africa to exploit the tremendous potential of space technology for development was first demonstrated by the implementation of the

RASCOM project and Since 2004, it was reinforced in the African Union Strategic Plan for 2004-2007 which adopted under the regional integration objective, a priority action calling for the "Assessment of RASCOM and other projects to launch satellites in Africa with a view to ultimately create an African Space Agency.

78. The Executive Council has per its decisions Ex.CL/759 and 764 (XXII):

- i. Urged the continent to develop an African Space Policy and Strategy as a common framework to promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among African States in space research and technology and their space applications;
- ii. Further requested the Commission to enable the continent exploit its space resources in a more coordinated and systematic manner through an inclusive African Space Policy and Strategy.

79. Guided by the various recommendations and decisions from its Policy Organs, the Commission has developed an African Space Policy and Strategy.

80. The Draft space policy and strategy outlines the ambitious high-level goals to guide the continent to develop the necessary capacities to harness space technologies in order to derive optimal socio-economic benefits that both improves the quality of lives and creates wealth for Africans.

81. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are therefore invited to:

- i. **Note the progress made in the implementation of the Executive Council decisions Ex.CL/759 and 764 (XXII) on Space issue;**
- ii. **Urge Member States to participate and implement the proposed outer space policy and strategy as amended by the experts;**

C. Dot Africa. Doc/DotAfrica-9/Rpt/CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Summary on the issue

82. The AUC, through a procurement process, selected and signed an agreement with Uniform trading as ZACR to operate dotAfrica (.Africa) on behalf of the African Union. Accordingly, on behalf of the AU, Uniform/ZACR has applied to the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to administer and operate dot AFRICA Top-Level Domain.

83. Consistent with the ICANN new gTLD applicant guidebook, the GAC provided early warning, followed by formal objections and in April 2013 GAC consensus contained in the Beijing Communiqué that the other contender for the dotAfrica Top Level domain Dot Connect Africa (DCA), application number 1-1165-42560 should not proceed.

84. The AU endorsed application has passed all the necessary evaluations, reviews and procedures, including initial evaluation in 2013. ICANN and ZACR signed the registry agreement on 26th March 2014.

85. Following this signing DCA contested and filed for an ICANN Independent Review Panel (IRP). ICANN then stopped further processing of the dotAfrica application until the IRP has ruled on the complaint filed by DotConnectAfrica.

86. This Independent Review Panel (IRP) process delayed the technical launch of the dotAfrica Top-level domain. The delay will have a negative impact on the various projects and initiatives that the continent has been looking forward. This delay also has adverse effects on Africa's general participation and contribution to the Internet economy and to the broader Internet governance ecosystem.

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

87. Comments

- Need for all Member States to re-provide AUC with the dotAfrica support letters

88. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

- i. Note the progress made in implementation of the Dot Africa Project;*
- ii. Request to provide all required support to the AUC for the implementation of Dot Africa for the benefit of the African citizens, as the authentic continental project;*
- iii. Express, notably through the Bureau and AUC, the concerns with ICANN's delay in providing the ZACR and AUC with timeline and clear information regarding the accreditation;*
- iv. Direct AUC to formally request the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to provide AUC and ZACR with a written letter of support and to withdraw all supports provided earlier to any other competitor.*

D. African Member States Common Position on C-Band Re-Allocation Agenda item 1.1 of the World Radio-communication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) Doc-03/C-Band/Rpt/ CCICT-1/Exp/2014

Summary of the presentation on the issue

89. The C-band issue emerged when the World Radio Communication Conference 2012 (WRC-12) decided in its Resolution 807 to recommend to the council of the World Radio Communication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) to include an Agenda item 1.1 "To consider additional spectrum allocations to the mobile service on a primary basis and identification of additional frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) and related regulatory provisions, to facilitate the development of terrestrial mobile broadband applications, in accordance with Resolution 233 (WRC-12)".

90. The ITU-R Report M.2290 presents forecasts for IMT traffic growth and then evaluates the spectrum demand. The satellite industry is strongly against the findings

of the ITU model and recommended that the model not be applied to any country for the purposes of assessing IMT spectrum demand due to exaggerated input data to the model.

91. The GSMA industry argues that ITU-R study groups should reassess prior WRC-7 sharing studies taking into account new deployment and sharing scenarios.

Recommendations following the presentation

92. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Note that African common position discussions on the C Band are on-going**
- ii. Those common positions that were agreed on have been forwarded to ITU**
- iii. Urge Member States to actively participate in the WRC 15**

E. Action plan for the development of Postal Services in Africa. Doc-04/Post-Rpt/ CCICT-1/Exp/2015

a) Study on Addressing and postcodes in Africa

93. The major findings of the study are as follows:

- Current addressing situation is extremely heterogeneous in Africa;
- Member States are facing incomplete and neglected street naming as well as inconsistent house numbering but seven (7) AU Member States implement a postcode system;
- Standardisation of street naming/house numbering is underdeveloped;
- Three (3) designated postal operators (DPO) use an alpha-numeric postcode and 21 DPO use a numeric postcode (4-digit postcode prevails);
- Poor thorough fare addressing, nameless streets, colloquial street names, multiple use of street names in the same city, demolished and stolen street signs, missing communication and coordination among public are, inter alia, the major problems regard to street naming;
- Neighbourhoods being often illegal, authorities fear that street naming may result in a de facto acknowledgement of the current situation;
- Specific problem regarding wandering people;
- Regarding legal framework, the report stresses on insufficiency or not existing legal basis, unclear mandates and responsibilities, lack of coordination among involved authorities and insufficiency or lack of financial resources.

94. This situation does not provide favourable environment for e-commerce and development of the digital economy.

Comments following the presentation

95. Comments

- Welcomed the study on addressing and postcodes in Africa
- Participants noted with concern the low uptake and implementation of addressing and post codes in Africa.

96. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Take note of the findings and recommendations of the report;***
- ii. Request Member States to***
 - a. incorporate addressing and postcodes systems projects in national development plans;***
 - b. adopt and publish strategies for smooth implementation.***
- iii. Call upon the AU Commission to submit ad hoc report on addressing and postcode systems to other pertinent STC namely Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs Economic Planning and Integration and/or Committee on Public Service, Local Government Urban Development and Decentralization for further support;***
- iv. Request AUC and PAPU to develop a continental project on addressing systems and mobilize the required resources to assist Member States with the implementation***

b) Consideration of the report on Strategies to increase financial inclusion of the low-income population in Africa by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF)

97. The Conference considered the report and came up with the Resolution 924(XLVII) highlighting the following:

- Commitment of Ministers of Finances to prioritizing the transformation of existing postal assets and resources, with a view to increasing access to basic services and thereby promoting financial inclusion;
- Commends Member States on their efforts to push forward harmonized legal reforms, in collaboration with financial regulators and postal regulatory bodies, and considering the specificity of postal financial services;
- Mandate to the AU Commission, in collaboration with the Pan-African Postal Union, the RECs, subregional postal organizations and the member States, to improve the performance of postal financial services, support information dissemination and best practices, and promote innovation in the areas in which Africa faces particular challenges;
- Encouragement to development partners, in particular the AfDB, the ECA, the Universal Postal Union, the European Union, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and the

World Savings Bank Institute, to support the implementation of the resolution.

98. Comments

- Welcomed the initiative but noted the need for consideration to establish banks subject to internal regulations of Member States.
- Noted that the priority of the post in this regard is to ensure that basic financial inclusion services, such as savings, remittances and insurance services are attained

99. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- Commend the CAMEF for the strong support being given to Postal Financial Services;***
- Commit to work with Ministers of Finance for the implementation of the CAMEF resolution 924(XLVII);***
- Request AUC and PAPU to monitor and report on the implementation of the aforementioned resolution***

c) Electrification and connectivity of post offices (ECP) in Africa

Summary

100. In the framework of the postal sector Regional Development Plan for Africa 2013-2016, AUC, PAPU and UPU agree to carry out a joint study on Electrification and connectivity of post offices (ECP) in Africa with a view to contribute the achievement of the post 2015 agenda.

101. Indeed the wide reach of the physical postal network can play an even greater role in socio-economic transformation of the communities in Africa if they are enhanced with ICT platforms over which new services are provided.

102. The ECP will include provision of solar energy, provision of connectivity solution and implementation of an information technology (IT) solution for post offices that are not currently supplied with these solutions to enable the post offices to serve as centres for financial inclusion, digital inclusion, entrepreneurial activity and social inclusion within the wider framework of contributing to the achievement of national development objectives including the millennium development goals such as poverty reduction in Africa.

103. The essential objectives of this project are (i) poverty alleviation and improvement of living conditions among populations in rural areas, (ii) provision of information about better ways of living, (iii) contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, (iv) promotion of social and economic inclusion and (v) strengthening of the interconnection between the post office and the central site and the rest of the global postal network.

104. The report of the study was submitted to the Chairperson of the AU Commission for ownership and promotion and notably through the organization of roundtable of donors to be held on 3 September 2015 on the margins of this STC CICT-1.

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

105. Comments

- Participants welcomed the initiative
- Project needs to embrace all forms of energy
- Potential use of RASCOM solutions

106. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- Take note of the report and commend the joint initiative taken by the AUC, PAPU and UPU;**
- Request Member States to own the project;**
- Call upon the AU Commission to submit ad hoc report on the project to other pertinent STC notably the Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs Economic Planning and the Committee on Transport, Transcontinental And Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism**
- Request African and international partners to fully support the implementation of this continental initiative**

F. SMART Africa

107. In his presentation, the delegate from Rwanda highlighted the background and current implementation status of the SMART Africa Initiative endorsed by the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union and subsequently by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014.

108. The delegate from Rwanda recalled the decision on the report of Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD, which welcomed the ONE Africa Network Initiative aimed at reducing the costs of electronic communications within regions and ultimately across the continent and recommended Member States to adopt and roll-out this initiative in furtherance of Africa's socio-economic integration [*Ref: Doc. Assembly/AU/10(XXIV)*].

109. He further outlined the following as some of the current work in progress for SMART Africa:

- Smart Africa membership framework and mobilization strategy
- Operationalization of the Smart Africa Taskforce
- Governance and Procedures for the use of the Smart Africa Scholarship Fund

110. In conclusion, he extended a cordial invitation to all Member States to the second edition of the Transform Africa Summit (Transform Africa 2015) which will take place in Kigali from 19th – 21st October 2015. The Summit will bring top political, business leaders and over 2,500 participants from Governments, Regional bodies, Industry, Academia, Civil Society and NGOs to shape Africa's digital transformation.

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

111. Comments

- The One Africa Network initiative would resolve communication issue and strengthen regional integration. However, its implementation needs to take into consideration regulatory framework in Member States;

112. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- **Request Member states to accelerate the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto [Ref: Assembly/AU/Dec.508 (XXII)]**
- **Request Member States to note the Decision [Ref: Doc. Assembly/AU/10(XXIV)] of the One Africa Network initiative and direct the AUC to setup a working group to address the technical, legal, regulatory and policy matters for the implementation of the One Africa Network and report at the next ordinary session of the STC-CICT.**

G. Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM)

113. Mrs Lydia Garba, Interim Director General, RASCOM, presented establishment process of RASCOM, its mission and the actual status of implementation.

114. She highlighted that up to year 2010, RASCOM received the political and financial support from member countries and the support have progressively decreased and were limited to only the countries hosting RASCOM's assets namely Cameroun, Cote d'Ivoire, Libya and Senegal. The financial situation of RASCOM has seriously depleted over the years.

115. She further sought the AU support to overcome the difficulties to develop strategies for the launch of additional satellites and request ITU and ITSO for allocation of additional orbital resources.

116. Comments

- Participants discussed the RASCOM situation including the history, the satellite market and complementarity with fiber optic, the source of challenges facing RASCOM ;
- Delegates called for immediate establishment of Expert Committee to work on RASCOM viability Action Plan

117. Recommendations

- **Request Member states to consider the use of RASCOM's solution in the implementation of national, regional and continental ICT development policies and projects.**
- **Request for the establishment of a Ministerial Committee of Experts to propose options for the future**
- **Invite the signatory countries who are in arrears to make payments to finance the outstanding financial commitments of RASCOM.**
- **Request African Countries which have not yet sent a letter to the US State Department approving the amendment to article XII (c) (ii) of the ITSO Agreement, to do so as soon as possible.**

PARALLEL SESSION 1B

X. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION PROJECTS

A. Review of media development initiatives-Doc-13/MediaNet/Rpt/CCICT-1/Exp/2015

118. The projects, identified from the STC/CIT-1 include the following:

- AU Communication Strategies' and AU Branding campaign
- African Media Development;
- Safety and Protection of African Journalists;
- Media technologies (broadcast network development, Pan Africa Media Network, Pan-African Media Portal);
- Information management (policy, regulatory and professional bodies);
- Local Content development.
- Freedom of Expression and access to sources of information

Comments and recommendations following the presentations:

(a) Communication Governance structure

119. Establish a communication governance structure based on Regional Economic Communities' experiences (RECs), supported by the AUC/DIC (Secretariat) to facilitate the implementation of identified priority projects, comprising a working party / task team composed at regional level with the DIC coordinating the regional efforts to progress the AU agenda.

(b) Reporting and accountability matrix

120. Develop a reporting and accountability matrix with timeframes, budget requirement, responsible parties, challenges as well as implementation status among others to implement a bottom up approach to build regional consensus and knowledge management through linking REC initiatives to AU programmes.

(c) Branding, marketing and Advocacy

121. The AUC to :

- Establish a Branding structure responsible for branding which should develop electronic communications toolkits in all AU official languages to be sent to all AU member states. This should include amongst others: The flag and its application, the AU Anthem; Key messages, centralised and aligned to the programme being celebrated such as Africa Day among others; Posters, leaflets, booklets, etc.; Banners for email, social media, web, etc.
- Send a Corporate Identity manual and guidelines to member states to standardise usage and application of marketing collateral.

122. AU member States to:

- Fly the African Union flag together with the country flag in major official buildings;
- Sing the AU Anthem at important gatherings and celebrations;
- Assist AUC to use SMS through national mobile service providers as a way of popularising the AU and its structures.

(d) AU Messages promotion

123. Member states to:

- Include AU content links on national web sites to propagate AU programmes.
- Allocate editorial coverage of AU initiatives in State owned publications platforms/ programmes to promote AU activities.
- Provide updates of country led AU initiatives in AU publications.

(e) Media Freedom and access to sources of information

124. The AUC to:

- Develop an African led Media Freedom Barometer for member states to monitor the implementation of the adopted African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, Resolution 118.

125. Member states to:

- Adopt 28 September as “African Right to Information Day”;
- Endorse the promotion of the respect of principles in the APAI declaration by national governments and provide assistance in implementing them while not contradicting with national security and public interest;
- Endorse that the African Union should develop and implement internal policies on access to information held by AU bodies.

(f) Follow-up and way forward

126. The information and communication projects status will be tabled and discussed at the coming annual STC/CIT Bureau meeting for advancement to the further meetings.

Recommendations:

The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

127. Endorse the recommendations related to information and communication sector and request the AUC to ensure follow-up on their implementation.

B. AUB Presentation/The Media Exchange Network over Satellite (MENOS) Project

128. The objectives and planned activities of the MENOS project were presented

Comments and Recommendations following the presentation

129. Comments

- The AUB/UAR Content Multimedia Exchange Network over the satellite (MENOS) will facilitate the creation of the first Pan African TV and Radio Channel.
- In order to minimize importation of foreign content, African States must encourage or promote legal frameworks for the development and exchange of local content as soon as possible.
- Over the past decade there has been a worldwide exponential increase in the cost of broadcast rights for major events, especially sports. The African continent, whose broadcast industry is principally manned by public service broadcasters, has not been an exception.
- The AUB/UAR Content Exchange Platform (MENOS) will facilitate the distribution of this major event over all the State Members.

130. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

- i. Request Member States to support the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB/UAR) to strengthen its negotiating capacity.**
- ii. Direct the AUC to coordinate through RECs the modalities of setting up content exchange platforms and examine the possibility of funding the project ((Multimedia Exchange Networks).**
- iii. Endorse the recommendations of the Communication and Information projects and request the AUC to follow up on their implementation.**

PLENARY SESSION VI

XI. COMPREHENSIVE ICT STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (CISA) DOC-02/CISA-RPT/CCICT-1/EXP/2015

131. The Comprehensive ICT Strategy for Africa is an output of the CITMC-4 held in Sudan in 2012. The Khartoum Declaration called for a coherent, unified, harmonized Information Society / Communication and Information Technologies (IS/CIT) strategy for the continent. Several workshops and meetings involving RECs, Specialized Institutions (ATU and PAPU), NPCA and UNECA have been held towards elaboration of the strategy. A draft Framework was presented to the CITMC Bureau at their meeting in Livingstone, Zambia in June 2013.

132. A Roadmap towards finalization of the CISA was elaborated for implementation during the period 2015-2016.

133. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. **Commend the AUC, RECs, UNECA and the NEPAD Agency for the progress towards elaboration of the Comprehensive ICT Strategy for Africa;**
- ii. **Request the AUC and NEPAD Agency in collaboration with other regional institutions (UNECA, AfDB, RECs, SIs) to follow the proposed roadmap and finalize the CISA.**

XII. The Africa Internet Governance Forum (Af-IGF). Doc-06/IG/Rpt/ CCICT-1/Exp/2015

Summary

134. The Africa Internet Governance Forum (Af-IGF) was launched in 2011 and held its inaugural meeting in Cairo in September 2012. The 2nd and 3rd Af-IGFs were held in Nairobi and Abuja in September 2013 and July 2014 respectively. The meeting of AfIGF 2015 will take place in Addis Ababa from 6- to 8 September 2015.

135. The 3rd Af-IGF made several recommendations some of which are: (i) Encourage the use of Africa ccTLDs and ensure that platforms are hosted in the continent as well as urging African countries to take advantage of dotAfrica's offer to reserve domain names of their interest, (ii) Encourage broadband Internet access policies and promote policies that drive affordability of the Internet, (iii) Ensure representation of African stakeholders groups in the Coordination Group for the IANA Functions' Stewardship Transition, (iv) African governments are requested to ratify the African Union Convention on Cyber-security and Personal Data Protection and work with all stakeholders in its implementation at national and multilateral levels, (v) Encourage African Governments to adopt national strategies for transition from IPv4 to IPv6. (vi) Ensure the adoption of the best practices in the NetMundial process initiated by the Brazilian government in the AfIGF

136. The AUC and NEPAD Agency have been working to encourage RECs “to support the establishment of national IGF to create dialogue between all stakeholders on ICT for development issues and facilitate the countries’ participation in the regional and African IGF processes as well as in the global IGF” .

137. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Note the outcomes and recommendations from the third Af-IGF;**
- ii. Encourage Member States, that have not yet done so, to accelerate the establishment of national IGFs and encourage them to participate in global IGFs;**
- iii. Encourage Member States to create, coordinate and participate in national and regional IGFs and commit technical and financial resources;**
- iv. Request AUC and RECS to participate in the regional IGFs**
- v. Request AUC in consultation with Member States to develop an African Internet Governance Strategy.**

XIII. AFRICA UNION AGENDA 2063

A. Presentation of Agenda 2063 <http://agenda2063.au.int>

138. Recalling the Objective of the Agenda 2063

- On the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the OAU’s birth, African political leadership reiterated their interest to the continent’s development and pledged to make progress in the next 50 years in 8 key areas: (i) African Identity and Renaissance; (ii) Struggle against colonialism and the right to self-determination; (iii) Integration Agenda; (iv) Social and Economic Development agenda; (v) Peace and Security; (vi) Democratic Governance; (vii) Determining Africa’s Destiny; (viii) Africa’s place in the world
- AU Heads of State and Government pledged to integrate these 8 ideals into a Continental Agenda 2063 and National and Regional Development Plans aiming at developing Africa’s growth trajectory for the next 50 year

139. Presentation on the Agenda 2063 was made by the African Union Commission and outlined the following:

- Background: The Guiding Vision¹. What is Agenda 2063?
- Agenda 2063: Building on Previous Frameworks
- Overall Process and Approach¹. Consultation Process
- Key Features and Value Addition of Agenda 2063
- Overview of Agenda 2063
- The Aspirations

140. Following the AUC presentation private sector including Microsoft and Huawei made on their view of how ICT will contribute to the implementation of the Agenda.

141. Huawei

Huawei as the multi-national company and the reliable partner of AU, it has been dedicated to eliminating the digital divide and boosting the ICT prosperity in Africa for a long term. Huawei is willing to make a contribution in the realization of Agenda 2063 in line with common aspirations with the Chinese dream in the course of opening up and reforms for a great renewal. As part of Agenda 2063, they believe that ICT technologies, particularly mobile broadband, are reshaping Africa and other parts of the world, and leading the next wave of sustainable social development and they regard it is important to define the First 10-Year implementation plan and transformation Strategy.

Referring to the World Economic Forum Report on Global Competitiveness, “technology readiness, higher education and training, Innovation, Business sophistication” are the 4 fundamental pillars for Huawei among the 12 pillars which are composed the Global competitiveness of the countries worldwide and Huawei is able to support the African countries engaged in upgrading the global competitiveness.

Therefore, Huawei is committed to building a better connected world, a better connected Africa and can provide the AU ICT strategy implementation with support for ICT infrastructure deployment and digital transformation practice across the Continent; upgrade labor force qualification and create more jobs through technology hands-on and transference, and provide regulatory policy consultation, including spectrum and licensing policy. While strengthening research and development capabilities, they promote people-to-people and technological exchanges, expand investment in the appropriate areas, and consequently to make greater contribution to poverty reduction and regional civilization.

He highlighted that ICT innovation and sustainable investment to empower Agenda 2063 should be the common goal and ICT regulatory framework will take a navigating role in the implementation stage to ensure the ability to realize full potentials for sustainable ICT investments and the ICT prosperity in Africa.

B. Agenda 2063 Aspirations and priority areas

142. A Mapping of ICT Suitable applications contributing to the aspirations was implemented

143. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Request Member States to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2063**

C. Agenda 2063 Communication Strategy

144. The Agenda 2063 which is the official framework that will guide strategic direction for the continent and shape the way the African from the continent and the Diaspora; African institutions and bodies as well as the continent’s organizations and

international partners think and act about the continent for the next five decades needs to be well understood, owned and acted upon by all Africans, implies the definition and implementation of an adequate Communication, outreach Strategy to ensure its regional and national domestication.

145. The Communication strategy of Agenda 2063 aims at enabling a better understanding of the new concept and framework given that the vision has to be implemented at short, medium and long term. The outreach Strategy aims to ensure its regional and national domestication as a key component of the continental transformation in the next 50 years.

146. The strategy falls under the main AU Communication, Advocacy and Marketing strategy 2014-2017 which main objective is to “Ensure the constant and positive visibility of the African Union as an organisation supported by various people-centred programmes and initiatives aimed at transforming livelihoods through the African continent, by restoring, and reconstructing the image of the Union so that it is better and more positively engraved into the psyche and minds of its most critical stakeholders: the ordinary citizens of Africa.”.

147. The main objective of the Communication strategy of the Agenda 2063 is to generate an unprecedented and sustainable level of public awareness, contribution; support and ownership by Africans towards the development and implementation of Agenda 2063 (provide a 50 year horizon).

148. The draft document of the Agenda2063 communication strategy presents the stakeholders, Key messages, Strategy and tactics, evaluation and monitoring tools as well as 2 annexes dedicated to concrete actions template and detailed action plan.

149. Recommendations

The Honourable Ministers are invited to:

- i. Request Member States to own the Agenda 2063 and contribute to its implementation;**
- ii. To own and domesticate the strategy of communication of the Agenda 2063 by mobilising their citizens around its objectives and programmes.**

PLENARY SESSION VII

XIV. GOVERNANCE AND SPECIFIC ISSUES

A. STC CICT Rules and Procedures

150. The STC CICT Rules and Procedures were reviewed and are attached as an Annex for Ministers consideration and adoption (Annex III).

XV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PLENARY SESSION VIII

151. Consideration and adoption of documents to be submitted to the Ministerial Session including the report of the Roundtable donors on Electrification and connectivity of post offices in rural areas in Africa (Annex IV).

152. Closure of the meeting.

EX.CL/932(XXVIII)
Annex 3

2015 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION
STC - CICT 1

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

**FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (STC-CICT)
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA,
31 AUGUST – 4 SEPTEMBER 2015**

AU/STC-CICT-1/MIN/Decl.(I)Rev 1

**2015 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION
STC - CICT 1**

**2015 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION
STC CICT 1**

PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers in charge of Communication and Information and Communication Technology (CICT) and Postal Services meeting in our First Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information & Communication Technologies **(STC-CICT-1)** in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 September 2015;

Guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU);

Recalling the Assembly Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.227(XII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.365(XVI) adopted in January 2009 and July 2011 respectively on the configuration of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and the modalities for their operationalization;

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, in 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, in January 2012, on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);

Recalling the Decision Assembly /AU/Dec.508(XXII) of the African Union held in January 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, endorsing the SMART Africa Manifesto and its implementing framework;

Recalling the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.533(XXIII) of the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in June 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, which requested the creation of an African Technical Committee for the Information and Media Society to guide Member States in their transition towards the full digital broadcasting;

Recalling the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.558 (XXIV) of the Assembly of the African Union held in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the creation of an African Center for Information Technologies;

Considering the decision Assembly /AU/Dec.563 (XXIV) of the Assembly of the African Union held in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, welcoming the One Africa Network Initiative and recommending Member States to adopt and roll out this initiative;

Considering the Decision of the 5th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Sirte, Libya on the establishment of a Pan-African Radio and Television Channel - Doc. EX.CL/205 (VII);

Considering the Decision of the Executive Council on the AU Conference Of Ministers Of Information and Communication towards the Establishment of the Pan African Radio and TV Channels - EX.CL/ Dec.296 (IX) - Doc. Ex. CL / 266 (IX), Banjul, Gambia June 2006;

Recalling the Decision of the Executive Council EX.CL/Dec.505 (XV), Sirte, Libya July 2009 on the set up of a Pan African Media Observatory;

Noting that the current situation of the Communication and ICT subsectors in Africa still face many challenges despite the very significant gains in some areas and in particular segments of the African Media landscape, Telecoms/ICT and postal services;

Reaffirming that Communication and ICT are key to Africa's development and economic competitiveness and in the attainment of the African Union Vision and the goals of the Agenda 2063;

Further noting that Communication and ICT including cyber security and the issues of Internet Governance represent an opportunity to develop an Information Society and enhance right means to catch up with the rest of the developed world in several areas of the human and socio-economic development in Africa ;

Considering that Africa should have its own voice to speak to the world, tell its own story from its own perception and in its own words;

Welcoming the configuration and operationalization of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT (STC-CICT);

Taking note of the Report of the Experts' Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 31st August to 2 September 2015;

Having elected the following bureau of the STC-CICT:

WEST AFRICA	
Mali	Chair of the Bureau
EAST AFRICA	
Tanzania	1 st Vice Chair of the Bureau
CENTRAL AFRICA	
Gabon	2 nd Vice Chair of the Bureau
NORTHERN AFRICA	
Algeria	3 rd Vice Chair of the Bureau
SOUTHERN AFRICA	
South Africa	Rapporteur of the Bureau

HEREBY COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

1. **CONTINUE** to promote the implementation of previous Decisions and Declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Union, the Executive Council and the

African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information & Communication Technologies, particularly those relating to the:

- Establishment of Pan African Radio and Television Channels;
 - AU Communication and advocacy Strategy 2014-2017;
 - AU Branding Campaign;
 - Agenda 2063 and its Communication Strategy;
 - African media development initiatives (Pan African Media Observatory, Pan African Media Network and Pan African Media Portal);
 - Safety and Protection of African Journalists;
 - Pan African Platform on Access to Information (APAI);
 - Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
 - Implementation of Dot Africa;
 - African Internet Exchange Point (AXIS);
 - Harmonization of Policies and Regulation;
 - Action Plan for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa notably the addressing and the postcodes system, the connectivity and electrification of Post offices in rural areas, and the financial inclusion of the low-income population;
 - Pan African e-Network for Tele medicine and Tele education (PAeN);
 - SMART Africa Manifesto;
 - One Africa Network Initiative;
2. **WORK** together towards adopting a common position and harmonized policies on the use common scarce resources such as orbital slots, spectrum, Domain Name Systems;
 3. **COMMIT** to collaborate with relevant local and international stakeholders on the Internet Governance, Cybersecurity and Cyber criminality;
 4. **WORK** with our counterparts Ministers in charge of transport and energy to ensure the deployment of ducts for fiber optic on national and regional infrastructure network roll-outs;
 5. **INTEGRATE** the Development of African local Content in all our strategies related to Communication and ICT;
 6. **DEVELOP** and implement policies on access to information, freedom of expression and the safety of journalists; strengthen the capacity of African media personnel and reinforce the Pan African media landscape;
 7. **JOIN** efforts to enforce the visibility of the symbols and image of the AU at national levels;
 8. **STRENGTHEN** the cooperation with the African private sector for mobilization of resources for Communication and ICT projects especially in rural and remote areas;

9. **PROMOTE** and attract investment in communication and ICT sectors for localisation;
10. **ENCOURAGE** development partners to fully support the implementation of the continental joint initiative for the connectivity of Post Offices;

HEREBY REQUEST MEMBER STATES TO:

11. **PROVIDE** all required support to the African Union Commission (AUC) as the only vehicle for the implementation of Dot Africa and withdraw all supports provided to competing applications to the one championed by AUC;
12. **COORDINATE** efforts in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) regarding the modalities of the establishment of the Pan African TV and Radio channels as well as the promotion of African content exchange platforms to develop local content;
13. **AUTHORISE** the establishment of a working group / follow-up Committee to examine the Study Report of the Pan African Radio and TV channels , discuss the modalities of its operationalization, including the funding models and agree on the proposed scheme of setting up, based on the Member States' inputs and comments;
14. **WORK** in consultation with AUC on the implementation and ownership of the AU communication and Advocacy strategy, and the AU branding campaign;
15. **WORK** together to own the AU Agenda 2063, to position it in the mind of all African citizen, and to contribute to its implementation and domesticate its communication strategy by mobilizing African citizens around its objectives and programmes ;
16. **ACCELERATE** the signature and the ratification of the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection and the development of National Cyber-Security legislations and creation of national and regional Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and/or Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT);
17. **PREPARE** strategies and plans for the migration from IPv4 to IPv6;
18. **WELCOME** the creation of Network of Journalists for Peace and Security in Africa (NetPeace) and work towards the finalization of the draft strategy for African Journalists Safety and Protection;
19. **PROMOTE** national and regional Internet Governance Forum (IGFs) through provision of technical and financial resources and participation in their activities;
20. **CONTRIBUTE TO** the finalization of the draft proposed Space policy and strategy;

21. **NOTE** the efforts made by AUC to ensure the sustainability of the Pan African e-Network for Tele Medicine and Tele Education (PAeN) and commend the Indian Government for the extension of its assistance to the PAeN;
22. **NOTE** the importance of the sustainability of the network (PAeN) and services upon its transfer to the African Party;
23. **CONSIDER** the Option 1 of the PAeN Sustainability Action Plan as viable option and exhort Member States notably those who have signed the PAeN agreements to contribute to the financing and participate in the implementation of the PAeN Sustainability Action Plan. The amount of the contribution of each participating Member State should take into consideration the total budget and also the level of use of services by this Member, after further consultations on the matter through appropriate channels. Contributions should be made before the date of the transfer to the African Party.
24. **REQUEST** the AUC in collaboration with the STC-CICT Bureau to set up the structures of governance in charge of the management of the PAeN as per the Sustainable Action Plan's OPTION 1 after its hand over to the African Party;
25. **PROMOTE** and respect the principles in the declaration on the Pan African Platform on Access to Information (APAI) while not contradicting national sovereignty and celebrate the 28 September as "***African Right to Information Day***"
26. **SUPPORT** and accelerate the implementation of the local content exchange network MENOS (***Multimedia Exchange Network Over Satellite***) on continent wide by facilitating access to financing sources to the African Union of Broadcasting and its Members;
27. **SUPPORT** the African Union of Broadcasting for the procurement at affordable price of broadcasting rights for sport events and take in charge the Memorandum established to that end by the African Union of Broadcasting;
28. **EXHORT** Member States to :(i) incorporate addressing and postcode systems project in national development plans and adopt and publish strategies for their smooth implementation, (ii) take ownership of the project on electrification and connectivity of Post offices in Africa with the view to leveraging postal networks for socio-economic development of rural and remote areas in Africa and, (iii) make required resources available through avenues such as national budget, universal service funds, public-private partnerships, international development partners, etc., to upgrade and improve postal infrastructure by ensuring post offices have access to stable energy supply and are connected to internet, so as to deliver social and financial inclusion;
29. **ENCOURAGE** Member States and the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) to explore the utilization of the Regional African Satellite Communications Organization (RASCOM) solution in implementing the project on Electrification and

Connectivity (ECP) of Post Offices in Africa;

30. **ACCELERATE** the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto (Decision Assembly AU/Dec/.508(XXII));

ALSO REQUEST:

31. **Member States** to consider the use of RASCOM's solution in the implementation of national, regional and continental ICT development policies and projects;
32. **Member States** which have not yet sent a letter to the US State Department approving the amendment to article XII (c) (ii) of the International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO) Agreement, to do so;
33. **Member States** to participate in the rolling out the "One Africa Network" as per the Decision of the AU Assembly (Assembly /AU/Dec.563 XXIV) adopted in January 2015;
34. **Member States** to support spectrum allocation at WRC-15 to enable Global Flight Tracking;
35. **The African Telecommunication Union (ATU)** in collaboration with the Member States, RECs and AUC as well as other concerned stakeholders to:
 - Note that African Common Position discussion on the C Band are on-going
 - Urge Member States to actively participate in World Radio communication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) and continue to support the African Common Position submitted to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
 - Pursuit studies related to C Band current (re)allocation until an alternative solution is found and adopted to fulfil the current need of satellites services;
36. **The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)** to provide AUC with all required support for the implementation of Dot Africa including the withdrawal of all support provided earlier to any other entity on matters related to dot Africa;
37. **The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU)** in collaboration of the Member States, RECs and AUC to develop a continental project on addressing systems and mobilize the required resources to assist Member States with the implementation;

FURTHER REQUEST THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO:

38. **STUDY** practical modalities to create a structure for coordinating production/coproduction and exchange of contents among Member States Broadcasting channels;
39. **ENSURE** the follow up of the signing and ratification by Member States of the African Union Convention on Cyber-Security and Personal Data Protection;

40. **SUBMIT** ad hoc reports on: (i) the Addressing and postcode systems to other pertinent STCs namely to the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Integration and/or to the Committee on Public Services, Local Government Urban Development and Decentralization for further support and, (ii) the electrification and connectivity of Post offices to the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Integration, and to the Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures , Energy and Tourism;
41. **MONITOR AND REPORT** in collaboration with UNECA on the implementation of the resolution 924 (XLVII) of the joint AU and UNECA Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finances (CAMEF);
42. **PARTICIPATE** in the Regional IGF in collaboration with UNECA and the RECs;
43. **CONTRIBUTE** to implementing the “One Africa Network Initiative” by supporting the creation of a Working Group on the technical, legal and strategic details for the implementation of the initiative and submit in collaboration with the implementing body a report to the next STC-CICT ordinary session;
44. **CONTINUE** to support the African Technology and Information Center initiated by the Republic of Chad (CATI) and accelerate the implementation of activities in collaboration with Chad according to the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.558 (XXIV) held in Addis Ababa, January 2014,

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 4th September 2015

The Ministers

EX.CL/932(XXVIII)
Annex 4

DRAFT
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION AND ICT

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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DRAFT
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION AND ICT

I. GENERAL PROVISION

The Executive Council,

Having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and in particular Article 14, 15 and 16, thereof

Having regard to Decisions Assembly/Dec. 227 (XII) and Assembly/Dec. 365(XVII) on Specialized Technical Committees,

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

RULE 1 **Use of terms**

In these Rules:

- (a) **“Assembly”** means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
- (b) **“Chairperson”** means the Chairperson of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT;
- (c) **“Commission”** means the Secretariat of the African Union;
- (d) **“Constitutive Act”** means the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- (e) **“Executive Council”** means the Executive Council of Ministers of the African Union;
- (f) **“Member State”** means a Member State of the African Union;
- (g) **“Rapporteur”** unless specified otherwise, means the Rapporteur of the STC on Communication and ICT
- (h) **“STC”** means a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union;
- (i) **“STCs Coordination Mechanism”** means the Bureaus of all STCs of the African Union;
- (j) **“Union”** means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act;
- (k) **“Vice-Chairpersons”** unless specified otherwise means the Vice-Chairpersons of the STC on Communication and ICT.

RULE 2 **Status**

The STC on Communication and ICT is an Organ of the Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the Constitutive Act. It shall be responsible to the Executive Council.

RULE 3 **Composition**

1. The STC on Communication and ICT shall be composed of Ministers of Communication and ICT or such other Ministers or authorities duly accredited by the Governments of Member States.
2. The session of the STC on Communication and ICT includes Experts from Member States responsible for sectors falling within the areas of competence of the STC on Communication and ICT, whose meetings shall precede the Meetings at Ministerial

level. Unless specified otherwise, meeting of Experts shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by relevant provisions of these Rules.

RULE 4 Designation of Delegates

Delegations of Member States to sessions of the STC on Communication and ICT shall be duly designated representatives of Member States.

RULE 5 Powers and Functions

1. The STC on Communication and ICT shall, inter-alia:
 - i) prepare projects and programmes of the Union on issues related to Communication and ICT and submit them to the Executive Council and the Assembly for their consideration;
 - ii) ensure the supervision, follow-up and the evaluation of the implementation of policies, programmes and decisions taken by the organs of the Union related to Communication and ICT;
 - iii) ensure the coordination and harmonization of projects and programmes of the Union related to Communication and ICT;
 - iv) submit to the Executive Council either on its own initiative or at the request of the Executive Council reports and recommendations on the implementation of the AU programmes related to Communication and ICT;
 - v) carry out any other functions assigned to it for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the African Union Constitutive Act;
 - vi) Oversee the development and implementation of policies on access to information and freedom of expression including the safety of journalists;
 - vii) Oversee the promotion of the capacity of African Media and the strengthening of the Pan African media landscape;
 - viii) develop Common African e-strategies;
 - ix) discuss resources mobilization and capacity building for the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy;
 - x) oversee the promotion, co-ordination and the strengthening of Communication and ICT programmes for the accelerated economic growth of Africa;
 - xi) develop mechanisms through which Communication and ICT contributes to the establishment of the African information Society;

- xii) promote public investments in Communication and ICT infrastructure services and applications;
 - xiii) develop frameworks for the harmonization of policies and regulations in the Continent in relation to Communication and ICT;
 - xiv) carry out any other functions assigned to it by the Executive Council or the Assembly.
2. The STC on Communication and ICT may set up Sub-committees or *ad hoc* working groups, as it deems necessary and shall determine their mandate, composition and functioning.

RULE 6

Venue

1. The Ordinary Sessions of the STC on Communication and ICT shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a Member State offers to host any such Session.
2. In the event the session is held outside the Headquarters of the Union, the host Member State shall be responsible for all extra expenses incurred by the Commission as a result of the session being held outside the Headquarters.
3. In conformity with Rule 5 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, Member States offering to host sessions of the STC on Communication and ICT shall not be under sanctions and shall be required to meet pre-determined criteria, including adequate logistical facilities and a conducive political atmosphere.
4. Where two (2) or more Member States offer to host a session, the STC on Communication and ICT shall decide on the venue by simple majority.
5. Where a Member State that had offered to host a session of the STC on Communication and ICT is unable to do so, the session shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a new offer is received and accepted by Member States.

RULE 7

Convening of Sessions

The Commission shall be responsible for convening and servicing all the meetings of the STC on Communication and ICT.

RULE 8

Quorum

1. The quorum for a Ministerial session of the STC on Communication and ICT shall be a two-thirds majority of the Member States eligible to vote.

2. The quorum for meetings of Experts, Sub-committees or *ad hoc* working groups of the STC on Communication and ICT shall be a simple majority.

RULE 9
Ordinary Sessions

The STC on Communication and ICT shall meet in ordinary session once every two (2) years.

RULE 10
Agenda of Ordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Communication and ICT shall adopt its Agenda at the opening of each session.
2. The Provisional Agenda of an ordinary session shall be drawn up by Commission in consultation with the Bureau of the STC on Communication and ICT and may include item(s) proposed by Member States. The Commission shall communicate the provisional agenda as well as the working documents to Member States at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the session.

RULE 11
Other Items included in the Agenda

Any additional agenda item that a Member State wishes to raise at a session of the STC on Communication and ICT, shall only be considered under the agenda item "Any Other Business". Such agenda items shall be for information only and not subject to debate or decision.

RULE 12
Extraordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Communication and ICT shall meet in an extraordinary session, subject to availability of funds, at the request of:
 - a) the policy organs of the Union,
 - b) the STC on Communication and ICT itself, or
 - c) any Member State, upon approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.
2. The extraordinary sessions shall be held in conformity with Rule 6.

RULE 13
Agenda of Extraordinary Sessions

1. The Commission shall communicate the Provisional Agenda and working documents of an extraordinary session to Member States at least fifteen (15) working days before the opening of the session.

2. The Agenda of an extraordinary session shall comprise only the item(s) requiring the urgent attention of the STC on Communication and ICT.

RULE 14
Open and Closed Sessions

All the sessions of the STC on Communication and ICT shall be closed. STC on Communication and ICT may, however, decide by simple majority whether any of its sessions shall be open.

RULE 15
Working Languages

The working languages of the STC on Communication and ICT shall be those of the Union.

RULE 16
Bureau

1. The STC on Communication and ICT shall, on the basis of rotation and geographical distribution, elect, after due consultations, a Chairperson. He/she shall be assisted by other members of the Bureau, namely, three (3) Vice-Chairpersons as well as a Rapporteur, elected on the basis of agreed geographical distribution and after due consultations.
2. The Members of the Bureau shall hold office for a period of two (2) years.
3. The Bureau will meet once every year.

RULE 17
Duties of the Chairperson

1. The Chairperson shall:
 - a) Preside over all the proceedings of the Ordinary and Extraordinary sessions;
 - b) open and close the sessions;
 - c) submit for approval the records of the sessions;
 - d) guide the proceedings;
 - e) submit to a vote matters under discussion and announce the results of the vote taken;
 - f) rule on points of order.
2. The Chairperson shall ensure order and decorum during the proceedings of the sessions.
3. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the first vice-Chairperson shall act as the Chairperson.

4. The Chairperson shall attend the sessions of the Executive Council and take part in the annual meeting of the STCs Coordination Mechanism.

RULE 18
Attendance and Participation

1. In accordance with Rule 4, the Ministers of Communication and ICT from Member States shall attend and participate personally in the sessions. In the event that they are not in a position to attend personally, duly accredited representatives shall represent them.
2. The Representatives of the Organs of the Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) shall be invited to attend the sessions of the STC on Communication and ICT.
3. The STC on Communication and ICT may invite, as Observer, any person or Institution to attend its sessions. Such Observer may be invited to make written or oral interventions but shall not be entitled to vote.

RULE 19
Majority Required for Decisions

1. The STC on Communication and ICT shall take all its decisions by consensus, failing which:
 - a) at the Ministerial level, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote;
 - b) at the Experts" level, by a simple majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote.
2. Decisions on questions of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
3. Decisions on whether or not a question is one of procedure shall also be determined by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
4. Abstentions by Member States eligible to vote shall not prevent the adoption by the STC on Communication and ICT of decisions by consensus.

RULE 20
Amendment of Decisions

1. A proposed decision or an amendment (s) thereof may at any time, prior to it being submitted to a vote, be withdrawn by the initiator.
2. Any other Member State may reintroduce the proposed decision or amendment that has been withdrawn.

RULE 21
Point of Order

1. During deliberations on any matter, a Member State may raise a point of order. The Chairperson, in accordance with these Rules, shall immediately decide on the point of order.
2. The Member State concerned may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson. The ruling shall immediately be put to a vote and decided upon by a simple majority.
3. In raising a point of order, the Member State concerned shall not speak on the substance of the issue under discussion.

RULE 22
List of Speakers and Use of Floor

1. The Chairperson shall, subject to Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, during the debate, grant the use of the floor in the order in which the speakers indicate their intention.
2. A delegation or other invitee shall not have the floor without the consent of the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson may, during the debate:
 - a) read out the list of speakers and declare the list closed;
 - b) call to order any speaker whose statement deviates from the issue under discussion;
 - c) accord the right of reply to any delegation where in his/her opinion a statement made after the list is closed justifies the right of reply; and
 - d) limit the time allowed to each delegation irrespective of the issue under discussion, subject to sub-Rule 4 of this Rule.
4. The Chairperson shall, on procedural questions, limit each intervention to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

RULE 23
Closure of Debate

When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, the Chairperson shall close the debate at his/her discretion.

RULE 24
Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a Member State may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted. The Chairperson shall immediately put such motion to a vote.

RULE 25
Order of Procedural Motions

Subject to Rule 21, the following motions shall have precedence in the order listed below, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- e) suspend the meeting;
- f) adjourn the meeting;
- g) Adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- h) Close the debate on the item under discussion.

RULE 26
Voting Rights

1. Each Member State shall have one vote.
2. Member States, subject to sanctions under Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, shall not have the right to a vote.

RULE 27
Consensus and Vote on Decisions

After the debate has been closed and there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall immediately put the proposal with all the amendments to a vote. The vote shall not be interrupted except on a point of order related to the manner in which the vote is being taken.

RULE 28
Vote on Amendments

1. When there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall put all amendments to vote.
2. A proposal shall be considered as an amendment to a text if it adds or removes there from.

RULE 29
Methods of Voting

The Methods of Voting shall be determined by the STC on Communication and ICT.

RULE 30
Reports and Recommendations

Decisions of the STC on Communication and ICT shall submit reports and recommendations arising from its deliberations to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 31
Implementation

The STC on Communication and ICT may lay down guidelines and supplementary measures to give effect to these Rules.

RULE 32
Amendments

The STC on Communication and ICT may propose amendments to these Rules to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 33
Entry into Force

These Rules shall enter into force upon their approval by the Executive Council.

**Adopted by the.....Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held
in..... on2016**

EX.CL/932(XXVIII)
Annex 5

**REPORT ROUNDTABLE ON CONNECTIVITY OF
POST OFFICES IN AFRICA**

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Annex IV

**First African Union Specialized Technical
Committee (STC) on Communication and
Information & Communication
31st August – 04th September 2015
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Report Roundtable on connectivity of post offices in Africa

Report Roundtable on connectivity of post offices in Africa

Opening Ceremony

1. The roundtable on Connectivity of Post Offices in Africa project was co-organized by the AUC, PAPU and UPU on 3rd September 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the margin of the 1st Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Communication and ICT.

2. In the opening part of this session attended by Ministers in charge Communication and ICT, Non-African Embassies based in Addis Abeba, UN Agencies, International organizations and private companies, PAPU Secretary General Younouss Djibrine emphasized the important role of the postal sector as a key tool for socio-economic development. Posts are adapting to a changing environment and already play a key role in contributing to financial inclusion or bridging the digital divide. In his opening speech, UPU Director General Bishar A. Hussein introduced the “Leveraging postal networks for development project” and called on governments of the pilot countries to fund the pilot phase. H.E. Dr Elham M. A. Ibrahim, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, also underlined the importance of the postal sector for African development and pledged support of the AUC to its implementation.

Presentation of the project

3. The UPU, on behalf of AUC, PAPU and UPU, presented the initiative to participants. As an introduction, the evolving role of the postal sector was put forward, showing that Posts are not only delivering physical mail but rather are offering a myriad of services: financial, logistics, government, e-commerce, etc. The Post has the largest physical network in the world, provides financial services to 1.5 billion people, and is at the heart of electronic commerce. It also has a very strong social role, which makes it a key tool for socio-economic development. Various country cases were presented where the government had invested in postal infrastructure and achieved commendable success. A few examples include Namibia’s role in financial inclusion, Botswana in e-learning for local communities, Brazil’s experience in trade facilitation and financial inclusion, or Lebanon’s success story in providing government services through the Post.

4. Subsequently, the implementation strategy for the project was presented. For the pilot phase, 13 countries were chosen: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Five post offices in each country were selected and consultants designed a business case which established the financial viability of the initiative. The vision put forward is to position post offices as catalyzers of social and economic inclusion in rural and peri-urban areas of Africa. By installing solar power equipment and connectivity in target post offices and training staff, it is expected that postal operators will be able to deliver financial, logistics, communication and government services in the target areas and deliver strong positive impact on the communities.

5. It was shown that the project will directly contribute to the realization of 8 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and most the AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations as well.

Government and donors support was requested to implement this initiative, whose cost estimates stand at 4.5 million USD for the pilot phase, 87 million USD for all post offices in the 13 pilot countries (more than 5'000), and up to 466 million USD to upgrade the entire postal network in Africa (29'500 post offices).

Discussion session

6. The following countries intervened: Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda, South Africa, Mauritania, Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania, Chad, Lesotho, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. All reaffirmed their support and commitment to the project and its importance to the continent. Malawi committed towards funding preparatory/start-up costs necessary for undertaking the renovation of pilot sites and dedicating human resources (project team). In addition, she would appreciate donor funding of the pilot project. Uganda also identified budget and committed to raising donor support at the national level to scale up the project. Tanzania pledged 122,000 USD for the implementation of the project in 2 post offices and expects that the remaining three post offices would be funded by donors. Furthermore, she announced that it would dedicate qualified staff to serve in those post offices. Madagascar also vowed to use resources from the national budget to ensure the implementation of the pilot phase. Burkina Faso also shared her experience with participants which includes solar electrification of 11 branches in rural areas in 2014/2015 based on the expert's report and that a project proposal had been submitted to the UPU Quality of Service Fund (QSF). Burkina Faso representative further highlighted that the cost of new branches to be financed by the Government within the framework of the performance contract between the Government and the postal public operator will take into account the electrification component. South Africa informed the Round table that she supports the project on Electrification and Connectivity of post offices in Africa and acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the African Union, PAPU and UPU. In addition, she said that through the South African Post Office she will keenly participate in this project, specifically by ensuring that all postal networks are connected and that the Government is able to reach citizens, provide government, social and financial services in hard-to serve communities where normal business models are insufficient. Zimbabwe asked that the project template established by the consultants should be shared with all countries so that these could implement the project themselves, either with support from Universal service funds or by bringing in private equity partners.

Recommendations

7. AU Member States were called upon to take ownership of the project at the national level and integrate it into their national development plans and strategies. Various countries called for donors to support the project and commit funds to ensure successful its. Member States were urged to look into multiple sources of funding, such as national budget, universal service funds, public-private partnerships, international development partners, etc.

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1. LOOK into multiple sources of funding, such as national budget, universal service funds, public-private partnerships, international development partners, etc., to upgrade and improve postal infrastructure by ensuring post offices have access to stable energy supply and are connected to internet, so as to deliver social and financial inclusion

2016

Report of the first African union
specialized technical committee (STC)
on communication and information &
communication technologies
STC-CICT-1, 31st august – 04th
September 2015 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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