

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF  
THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF  
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (CITMC)  
DOC. EX.CL.559(XVI)**

**The Executive Council,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies and the recommendations contained therein, held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 5 November 2009;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies;
3. **WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS** the Oliver Tambo Declaration and the establishment of mechanisms to accelerate and monitor the implementation of the African Regional Action plan for Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), the reference framework for Harmonization of Telecommunication/ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa, and the strategies and action plan for the development of the postal sector in Africa;
4. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the integration of ICTs into National Imperative Programmes including Education and Training Systems and the public administration with a view to produce a critical mass and increase skilled human capital as well as promote access to and use of ICTs;
5. **ALSO SUPPORTS** that ICT policies be mainstreamed in other sectors at national, regional and continental levels;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to promote:
  - i) Development of a biennial ICT outlook in order to facilitate the evidence based policy formulation, peer review evaluation and ensure better utilization of the resources for the development of the sector;
  - ii) Development of standards and guidelines for African Postal Services and Strategies to promote the utilization of ICT for the sector development;
  - iii) A massive penetration and use of ICTs into local communities using African languages including codification programs to fit into IT standards, and encourage the development of African Content-based applications to give them rightful place in the information society.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010

- iv) Development of a common definition, understanding, concept and guidelines on open access, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.
  - v) Better utilization and management of Critical Internet Resources;
  - vi) Research and development in the ICT sector.
7. **URGES** Member States, the Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and specialized institutions in coordination with all other African ICT stakeholders to establish appropriate institutional arrangements and mechanisms to interconnect ICT backbones including national and regional Internet Exchange Points within Africa and the rest of the world with objective of lowering the tariffs and providing better quality of service;
8. **INVITES** Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies and Ministers of Finance to work in close cooperation at the national level, in order to identify innovative funding mechanisms to enable Member States to increase national budget allocation for mainstreaming ICTs in all sectors and also contribute to the African Union Communication and Information Technologies Fund as established by Executive Council Decision EX.CL/434 (XIII) in Sharm El-Sheikh, in June 2008;
9. **ENCOURAGES** South-South and North-South cooperation in the sector of Communication and Information Technologies and to enhance its role in international partnerships;
10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council in July 2011.

2010

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE  
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF  
MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF  
COMMUNICATION AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES  
(CITMC) DOC. EX.CL.559(XVI)

African Union

African Union

---

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/5199>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*