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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thirty-Second Ordinary Session
22 - 26 January 2018
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

EX.CL/1046(XXXII)
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**REPORT OF THE 2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC)
ON COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES,
ADDIS ABABA, (ETHIOPIA) ON 20 - 24 NOVEMBER 2017.**

SUMMARY NOTE

INTRODUCTION

1. The 2nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies held in Addis Ababa, (Ethiopia) on 23-24 November 2017. The experts' meeting held from 20 to 22 November 2017 preceded the Ministerial Conference.
2. Thirty-Seven (37) African Union Member States as well as representatives of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), African Telecommunication Union (ATU), Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), the International telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM) were in attendance.
3. The following African institutions were also present: Internet Society (ISOC), and African Network Information Center (AFRINIC).
4. At the onset of the meeting, the Second Bureau of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Communication and ICT was elected to lead its work for a two-year period (2017 – 2019). The Bureau, which was elected on the basis of geographical and sectorial equity, is composed as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Chair | : | Ethiopia (East Africa); |
| 1 st Vice-Chair | : | Congo Republic ((Central Africa); |
| 2 nd Vice-Chair | : | Tunisia (North Africa); |
| 3 rd Vice-Chair | : | South Africa (Southern Africa); |
| Rapporteur | : | Ghana (West Africa). |

MAIN AGENDA ITEMS

5. The Ministers considered (i) the Report of the Experts, (ii) the Draft Declaration on Internet Governance (iii) as well as the Draft 2017 Addis Ababa Declaration.

OUTCOME

6. The Committee adopted the attached Draft Declaration on Internet Governance for the Assembly consideration. The Draft Declaration focuses on the reaffirmation by the Heads of State and Government of the central role of Internet Governance as a means for ensuring that the management and administration of the Internet is inclusive, transparent and accessible to all and invites all stakeholders to harness the potential of ICTs to help in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015.
7. In this respect, the Assembly calls upon all African Internet Governance stakeholders to play their respective role on Africa's Participation in Internet

Governance, development of Africa's Internet Economy and Global Internet Governance.

8. The Committee also adopted the 2017 Addis Ababa Declaration whereby the ministers' (i) renewed their commitment to contributing to the smooth implementation of the Agenda 2063 and its communication plan and (ii) specially requested the AU Commission to:

- (a) CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TOWARD MORE COMMUNICATION CAPACITY, especially the incremental setting up modern communications equipment that will enable the production and dissemination of international standard communication products as well as the right staffing level to ensure faster implementation and to produce the next information and communication strategy 2018-2022;
- (b) FORM an Africa cyber security collaboration and coordination committee (ACS3C) to advise AUC and policymakers on Cyber strategies; DEVELOP guidelines on Personal Data Protection; ORGANIZE a yearly AU Conference on Cybersecurity in collaboration with Industry and Academia and ESTABLISH a continental Cybersecurity awareness month;
- (c) SPEED UP the establishment of the Dot Africa foundation to support:
 - Capacity building in Internet sector;
 - Member States Country Codes Top Level Domain (ccTLD) registries;
 - The African Registrars Business development;
 - The creation of African content and Pan-African content;
 - Pan-African ICT/ Internet projects.
- (d) PUT RESOURCES behind communicating the strategic framework Agenda 2063 by capacitating the Directorate of Information and Communication.
- (e) ORGANIZE, in collaboration with PAPU, a meeting to discuss UPU reform and UPU key content issues and invite the Africa Support Committee, so as to save on costs.

CONCLUSION

9. The EXECUTIVE COUNCIL is invited to note and adopt the enclosed Report of the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies and its main outcomes as adopted by the sector Ministers at the Conference.

10. The EXECUTIVE COUNCIL is also requested to endorse and submit the enclosed draft Declaration on Internet Governance for the Assembly consideration and adoption in order to make effective the outcome of the Ministers Conference.

EX.CL/1046(XXXII)

**REPORT OF THE SECOND AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE (STC) ON COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES STC-CICT-2
20 - 24 NOVEMBER 2017, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

AFRICAN UNION

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**SECOND AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON
COMMUNICATION AND INFO'RMATION &
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
STC-CICT-2
20-24 NOVEMBER 2017
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION

**REPORT OF THE SECOND AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE (STC) ON COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES STC-CICT-2
20 - 24 NOVEMBER 2017, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (STC-CICT-2) was held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 23 to 24 November 2017. The experts' meeting held from 20th to 23rd November 2017 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, Chad, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

3. The Republic of Seychelles communicated apologies for not being able to attend.

4. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, and SADC.

5. The following African and International Organizations and Agencies also took part: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), African Telecommunication Union (ATU), Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), the International telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM).

6. The following organizations and regional institutions were also present: Internet Society (ISOC), and African Network Information Center (AFRINIC).

III. OPENING CEREMONY

Remarks by H.E. Dr Amani ABOU-ZEID, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission

7. Mr. Cheikh BEDDA, Director of Infrastructure and Energy read the speech of H.E. Dr. Amani ABOU-ZEID, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

8. In her speech, she welcomed all delegates to the Second Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT.

9. She also outlined the contributions of the African Union Commission to the development of the ICT and Communication Sectors in Africa and noted a number of AU programs and projects that have been implemented in this regard.

10. In conclusion, the Commissioner expressed her expectation for continued collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders for the long-term development of the ICT and Communication sectors.

Remarks by H. E. Arouna Modibo TOURE, Minister of Digital Economy and Communication of the Republic of Mali

11. H.E. Arouna Modibo TOURE, Minister of Digital Economy and Communication of the Republic of Mali extended his gratitude to the AU Member States for having bestowed trust to Mali to serve as Chair of the Bureau.

12. The Honourable Minister highlighted the strategic importance of ICTs in the socio-economic development of Africa and expressed the need for appropriate policies and regulations to facilitate the development of the sector.

13. The Honourable Minister further highlighted the main achievements during mandate of the Bureau and called for their consolidation.

14. The Honorable Minister concluded his remarks by thanking the outgoing Bureau, Member States Experts and the African Union Commission for the support rendered during their tenure.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

15. The session adopted the agenda and work programme and is attached as Annex 1.

V. ELECTION OF CCICT-2 BUREAU

16. The Ministerial meeting elected the following Members to the Bureau of the CCICT-2:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| EASTERN AFRICA | |
| ETHIOPIA | Chair of the Bureau |
| CENTRAL AFRICA | |
| CONGO | 1st Vice Chair of the Bureau |
| NORTHERN AFRICA | |
| TUNISIA | 2nd Vice Chair of the Bureau |
| SOUTHERN AFRICA | |
| SOUTH AFRICA | 3rd Vice Chair of the Bureau |
| WESTERN AFRICA | |
| GHANA | Rapporteur of the Bureau |

VI. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS SESSION

17. The Experts' Session report was presented and adopted by the Ministers with amendments and is attached as Annex 2.

VII. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

18. The Republic of Sudan offered to host the 7th African Internet Governance Forum.

19. The Ministers adopted the Declaration on Internet Governance with amendments and is attached as Annex 3.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION

20. The Ministers requested the African Union Commission to coordinate with NPCA, Specialized Institutions such as ATU, PAPU and International Organizations such as ITU, UPU and the Smart Africa Alliance, for the implementation of ICT programmes and projects in Africa.

21. The Ministers adopted the "2017 Addis Ababa Declaration" with amendments. The Declaration" is attached as Annex 4.

IX. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT STC

22. After deliberation, the Republic of Algeria offered to host the 3rd Ordinary Session of the STC-CICT.

X. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERIAL REPORT

23. The Ministers' Session report was presented and adopted by the Ministers with amendments.

XI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The Federal Republic of Nigeria called for the support of her candidature to the position of Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

25. The Republic of South Africa called for the support of the SADC and Zimbabwe candidate to the position of Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

26. The need to support the Burkina Faso candidate for the position of Deputy Secretary General, ITU was also noted.

XII. CLOSING SESSION

27. H.E. Dr Amani ABOU-ZEID, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission congratulated the new elected Bureau that will oversee ICT Development in Africa for the next two years.

28. She commended all participants for the successful deliberations that will contribute to the development of the ICT and Communication Sectors in Africa.

29. H .E. Dr. Debretsion Gebremichael, Chair of the STC-CICT2 and Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Federal Republic of Ethiopia expressed his gratitude for being elected as Chair and thanked the outgoing Bureau for their achievements.

30. He highlighted the importance of ICT for the socio-economic development of Africa.

31. He concluded by calling on Member States to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (STC-CICT-2).

32. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 hours local time on the 24th of November 2017

Addis Ababa, 24th of November 2017

EX.CL/1046(XXXII)
Annex 1

**DRAFT AFRICAN UNION DECLARATION ON
INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
OF AFRICA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY**

DRAFT
**AFRICAN UNION DECLARATION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND
DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY**

We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in <session number, venue, date TBC> ;

1. **Acknowledging** that the Internet is an essential tool and a dynamic force for economic, social and cultural development, and recalling in that regard Resolution 26/13 of the Human Rights Council;
2. **Also acknowledging** that Africa's voice in Internet Governance is critical to the development of Africa's economy and enabling Africa to contribute more effectively to the global economy (and that Africa's economy needs to be significantly extended);
3. **Recalling** the commitments made during the Geneva and Tunis World Summits on the Information Society in respect of a shared vision of Internet Governance (IG), which led to the adoption of a Declaration of Principles and a working definition of IG;
4. **Taking into account** the concerns raised by allegations of mass surveillance and violations of the right to privacy in the digital environment and **reaffirming** the commitments made in UN General Assembly resolutions 68/167 and 69/166 to respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communication;
5. **Noting** with concern that less than 20% of Africans are online, that the majority of those not connected are in the rural areas, notably women and the poor, and that the average cost of fixed line and mobile internet exceeds 50% of average per capita income;
6. **Reaffirming** our commitment to the need for stability, for the safety of citizens and enterprises, confidentiality of online data security, through the AU Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection, and taking into account the scalability of Africa's Internet infrastructure;
7. **Recalling** the commitment of member states to promote and protect fundamental freedoms, especially the right to freedom of expression and access to information (on and offline), and human and peoples' rights enunciated in instruments of the African Union and of the United Nations *and recognizing that these rights must be upheld online as well as offline*;
8. **Noting** with appreciation the efforts of the AU in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and civil society organizations to strengthen the participation of African countries in global Internet Governance and related public policy discussions, which led to the creation of the African Internet Governance Forum;

9. **Acknowledging** the need for localizing Internet Governance discussions and related public policy matters to enable, develop and support local Internet/Digital economy;
10. **Noting** with satisfaction the renewal, on 16 December 2015, of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), by the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly which had, in addition, welcomed the Internet Governance Forum's role, as a multiparty forum for discussions on these issues and called for the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group established for the purpose of proposing improvements to the forum (Document A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1) and the implementation of the texts of the World Summit on the Information Society;
11. **Recognizing** that multi-stakeholder processes have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing Internet and other policy development processes and to tackling complex issues;
12. **Conscious** that Internet Governance principles should exemplify and uphold the basic tenets of an open, accessible, resilient, inter-operable Internet which led to its remarkable success today, and that they should also form the foundation for any future engagements of all stakeholders in national, regional and international Internet-related policy making efforts;

We Hereby

On Internet Governance Principles

13. **Reaffirm** that Internet Governance should be inclusive, transparent and accessible to all;
14. **Invite** all stakeholders to harness the potential of ICTs to help in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015;
15. **Acknowledge** the importance of maintaining an open Internet based on open standards development processes, as key enablers for inclusive knowledge and information societies;
16. **Remain** committed to facilitating a resilient, (unique,) universal and interoperable Internet that is accessible to all and will strive to ensure universal and affordable Internet access for all African citizens including people with specific needs;
17. **Uphold** the spirit of multi-stakeholder Internet Governance in the Tunis Agenda and commit to advance multi-stakeholder approaches that are open, participatory, inclusive, transparent, collaborative, consensus-driven, and that respect cultural, gender and linguistic diversity and which seek to promote accountability and full participation of governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and users. We further recognize that the roles

and responsibilities of the different stakeholders can vary depending on the issue under consideration;

18. **Request** the Regional Economic Communities, (RECs), regional and international organizations involved in Internet and ICT development and regional offices of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to play a leading role in, and facilitate, national and regional IGFs in their respective regions;
19. **Invite** the AU Commission to reach out to all stakeholders and provide a framework to ensure the active participation of governments, private sector, civil society, and the technical community on a shared footing to Internet Public Policy and Governance related processes/discussions for decision-making.

On Africa's Participation in Internet Governance

20. **Request** the AU Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and ECA to increase the participation of member states, Specialized Institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Internet Governance discussions and related public policy processes, including but not limited to those taking place at the UN, AU, ITU, ICANN, IETF, HRC, AFRINIC, ISOC, AfTLD, IGF, Africa IGF, regional and national IGFs;
21. **Request** member states, Specialized Institutions and RECs to develop in cooperation with NPCA and AU Commission mechanisms and channels that allow global debate on Internet Governance to be translated and interpreted into local context and encourage active and open sub-regional and local contributions from all stakeholders;
22. **Also request** the AU Commission and NPCA to develop coordination mechanisms with relevant continental institutions such as AFRINIC, AfNOG, AfREN, AfrISPA on matters related to Internet Governance and cyberspace;
23. **Encourage** Member States to support and encourage the participation of all stakeholders in national and Regional IGFs (which form the foundation stones of the African IGF);
24. **Urge** the AU Commission and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to support the establishment of an Africa Internet Development & Governance Observatory and to put in place mechanisms to track and follow-up on recommendations from the regional and global IGFs and to provide periodic reports to member states;
25. **Urge** Member States of the African Union to contribute effectively and take the lead in the establishment of national and regional IGFs and to fully participate in regional IGFs as well as in the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF).

On development of Africa's Digital Economy

26. **Undertake** to ensure legal and regulatory environments that will enable growth of Africa's Digital economy through innovative applications and services, making the Internet central to Africa's development agenda;
27. **Promote** local content and put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of Internet revenues;
28. **Foster** partnerships to stimulate investment in ICT and Internet infrastructure;
29. **Undertake** to ratify the Malabo Convention to combat cybercrimes while promoting personal data protection and respecting human rights within appropriate legal frameworks. In so doing, we will preserve the integrity and reliability of the regional Internet Infrastructure as well as local users' trust and reliance on the Internet for secure electronic transactions;
30. **Request** the AU Commission and NPCA, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, to assess Africa's digital economy to determine areas that need strengthening or development of new policies in line with stimulating the growth of Africa's Digital economy;
31. **Pledge** to work together in the fight against the inappropriate use of Information and Communication Technologies in a bid to reach a consensus, in the medium term, on the best cyber security mechanisms and practices in Africa;
32. **Request** the AU Commission to work with Member States, partners and stakeholders to enhance Africa's future participation in new gTLDs rounds by examining the factors hampering participation, facilitating the development of business models relevant to Africa and engaging ICANN to lower the barriers to entry for African stakeholders';
33. **Request** the AU Commission to work with Member States, the private sector, and other partners to ensure that Africa develops a robust infrastructure to enable effective participation in the global Internet (particularly DNS, the hosting industry), and ensure that Africans are custodians of their data and information;
34. **Request** the AU Commission to work with relevant stakeholders to develop a common African Program of Action on Internet Governance, which will ensure that the rights of Africans on the Internet are promoted and upheld, and that African concerns are recognized in the global Internet Governance regime.

On Management of Domain Names

35. **Undertake** to promote the use of country code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs) as elements of national and continental branding and to ensure that ccTLD registries are operated as public-benefit institutions that can create, nurture and support local critical infrastructure and a local community able to attract investments;

36. **Undertake** to continue promoting the adoption of IPv6 and to lead by example through its adoption and deployment of IPv6 by ccTLD registries, as well as public departments and agencies' network infrastructures;
37. **Request** the AU Commission to work in collaboration with concerned institutions to reach agreements with ccTLD registries operated by private individuals or operated by entities outside of national jurisdiction to transfer the registries and enable them to operate as public benefit bodies;
38. **Request** the AU Commission to a Clearing House for best practices in the management of ccTLD registries in Africa, and to encourage and facilitate the sharing of lessons learned by Member States in securing national ownership of the operation of their ccTLD registries.

On Global Internet Governance

39. **Urge** the international community to transform the non-global institutions into more inclusive global institutions that represent all citizens of the world, taking into account the concerns and needs of Africa and other developing countries, while advocating for their continued role as the core of the global Internet governance ecosystem;
40. **Ask** the AU Commission, working through member states GAC representatives and other stakeholders, to monitor the process of improving IANA adopted in Marrakesh in March 2016;
41. **Reaffirm** our commitment to work with these organisations and with all partners so that these institutions become more global in their nature.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

| | |
|----------|---|
| AU | African Union |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for Africa's Development. |
| ITU | International Telecommunication Union |
| ICANN | Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers |
| IETF | Internet Engineering Task Force |
| HRC | Human Rights Council |
| AFRINIC | African Network Information Centre |
| ISOC | Internet Society |
| AfTLD | African Top Level Domain |
| IGF | Internet Governance Forum |
| AfIGF | African Internet Governance Forum |
| afNOG | African Network Operators Group |
| AfREN | Africa Research and Education Networking |
| AfriISPA | African Internet Service Providers Association |
| ccTLD | Country Code Top-Level Domain |
| IPV6 | Internet Protocol version 6 |
| gTLDs | Generic Top-Level Domains |
| DNS | Domain Name System |
| GAC | Governmental Advisory Committee |
| IANA | Internet Assigned Numbers Authority |

EX.CL/1046(XXXII)
Annex 2

2017 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION

AU/CCICT-2/MIN/Decl.(2) Rev

**AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATION AND ICT ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA,
20 - 24 NOVEMBER 2017**

2017 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION

2017 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers in charge of Communication and Information and Communication Technology (CICT) and Postal Services meeting in our Second Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information & Communication Technologies (**STC-CICT-2**) in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 23 to 24 November 2017, preceded by the Expert Session held on 20-22 November 2017

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

Recalling the Assembly Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XIV) 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 EX.CL/Dec.900(XXVIII) of the 26th Assembly January 2016, on the Activities of the Specialized Technical Committees, including the First Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information & Communication Technologies (**STC-CICT-1**) held in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 September 2015;

Considering the decision of the 5th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in July 2005, in Sirte, Libya on the establishment of a Pan-African Radio and Television Channel - Doc. EX.CL/205 (VII);

Recalling The AU Executive Council Decision (Assembly/AU/11 (XIV) adopted in July 2010 where African Union Heads of States and Government called for the harmonization and efficient management of radio frequency at both National and Regional levels;

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 digitalization agenda is an essential and the greatest opportunity

for Africa to drive the fundamental changes of the world in the 21st century. If wisely harnessed and mainstreamed, digitization could potentially be the catalyst in achieving national development agenda, the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations and the UN Agenda 2030 development goals. To that end digitalization as such must be given the highest priority;

Further 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;

Taking note of the Report of the Experts' Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20-22 November 2017

Having elected the following bureau of the STC-CICT:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| EAST AFRICA | |
| Ethiopia | Chair of the Bureau |
| CENTRAL AFRICA | |
| Congo | 1 st Vice Chair of the Bureau |
| NORTHERN AFRICA | |
| Tunisia | 2 nd Vice Chair of the Bureau |
| SOUTHERN AFRICA | |
| South Africa | 3 rd Vice Chair of the Bureau |
| WEST AFRICA | |
| Ghana | 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, within the framework of Agenda 2063 and its communication plan particularly those relating to the:

- Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, and Personal Data Protection;
- Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and/or Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT);
- Dot Africa appropriation and use by Member States and African people and Businesses;
- The new role of the postal sector in the digital economy context namely e-

- Commerce, e-Governance, Financial inclusion
- Mainstreaming new technologies and digitalization in all Socio-economic development sectors
 - Use of innovative technologies and solutions and secure e-transactions such as block-chain technologies
 - Development of e-Strategies and e-Applications where appropriate notably e-Governance
 - Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Postal Sector in Africa including the implementation of projects on Addressing and Postcode systems, Connectivity and Electrification of Post Offices in rural areas, Financial Inclusion of the low-income population and e-Commerce development in Africa;
 - African Union (AU) Communication and advocacy Strategy;
 - AU Branding Campaign and the visibility of the symbols and image of the AU at national levels;
 - African Regional Initiatives adopted at World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);
 - Book of African Records
 - The creation of Network of Journalists for Peace and Security in Africa (NetPeace)
 - Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
 - The support of the African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM)
 - African Internet Exchange Point (AXIS);
 - Cooperation with Transport and Energy sectors on conduits and alternative ICT Infrastructure respectively
 - Development of African local Content
 - Internet Governance;
 - Partnership with the private sector for mobilization of technical and financial resources for the development of African technology hubs, and support to e- entrepreneurship and startups
 - Smart Africa and Smart cities
 - Partnership with international and regional institutions in the ICT sector taking into account
2. **WORK** in close collaboration with ATU for the development of guidelines on the use of common scarce resources such as orbital slots, spectrum, Domain Name Systems and the development of African Digital economy and Innovation;
 3. **COMMIT** to collaborate with relevant African and international stakeholders on the Internet Governance, Cybersecurity and Cyber Criminality;
 4. **ENCOURAGE** development partners to continue providing support to the postal sector development to ensure effective social, digital and digital inclusion to populations in remote and rural areas;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

5. **WORK** in consultation with AUC on the implementation and ownership of the AU communication and Advocacy strategy, and the AU branding campaign;
6. **TAKE NOTE** with appreciations of The Algiers declaration on Internet Governance and commend Algeria for its efforts and engagement to promote Internet governance and Internet policy within the continent.
7. **ACCELERATE** the establishment of their national Internet Governance Forums (IGFs), to commit technical and financial resources to enable and strengthen national and regional IGF, and to support the Organization of the African IGF as the continental multi-stakeholder vehicle for Africans to reach common positions on Internet Governance (IG) matters
8. **COMMIT** for the institutionalization of the African Internet Governance Forum as a key annual Conference for Africans to discuss internet development on the Continent
9. **SET UP** and promote an African Union Academia on Internet Governance (IG) to build capacity in IG especially among youth.
10. **WELCOME** the delegation of dotAfrica domain name which is Africa's Digital Identity and example of Africans from all walks of life working together to achieve a common goal.
11. **ENCOURAGE countries that have not done so to nominate** focal points for dotAfrica Reserve Name List (RNL) and actively participate in DotAfrica Road Show awareness campaign within the continent and to start using dotAfrica domain names;
12. **ENCOURAGE** development partners to continue providing support to the postal sector development to ensure effective social, and digital inclusion to populations in remote and rural areas;
13. **REDEEM** their Government Reserved Names List (GRNL) as per the GRNL policy;
14. **CONTRIBUTE** to the preparation of the action plan for the use of the satellite ground infrastructure of the Pan African e-Network for Tele medicine and Tele education (PAeN) received from the Indian Government on behalf the AU Member States participating in this network;
15. **WELCOME** the initiative towards the development of an integrated approach to Unlock Access to basic infrastructure and Services for Rural and Remote Areas;
16. **URGE** all Member States participating in the pilot project on electrification and connectivity of Post offices in Africa to uphold their commitment towards the successful implementation of the project made during the 1st ordinary session

on the CCIT and call upon all other interested African governments to incorporate the project into their national development plans and explore multiple sources of funding for this important project aimed at leveraging the postal networks to foster socio-economic development in Africa.

17. **RECOGNISE** the contributions of journalists towards the achievement of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 and institutionalise the Pan-African Media Awards on Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment and the contributions of journalists who give attention to development issues towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and institutionalise the Pan-African Media Awards on Promoting Agenda 2063
18. **ENSURE RATIFICATION**, domestication and implementation regional and international instruments related to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the media
19. **PRIORITISE** within their own programmes of funding of Public Institutions funding of research institutions advocating gender related issues.

ALSO RESOLVE TO:

20. **CONSIDER** the use of RASCOM's solution in the implementation of national, regional and continental ICT development policies and projects;
21. **PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE** to the implementation of the "Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)" project aiming at building capacity of the Member States on Internet Governance, ensuring efficient and harmonized use of spectrum and Building digital platform for the development and harmonization of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and for coordination monitoring and evaluation of the implementations of the AU organs decisions; and, **NOMINATE** national focal points to support AUC in the implementation of this project;
22. **ADOPT** the Africa Fact Book as an educational tool, to enhance their knowledge of and pride in Africa;
23. **PROVIDE** appropriate financial resources for the continuation of operation of the PAeN an AU Agenda 63 flagship project;

FURTHER REQUEST THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO:

24. **CONTINUE** its efforts toward more communication capacity, especially the incremental setting up modern communications equipment that will enable the production and dissemination of international standard communication products as well as the right staffing level to ensure faster implementation and to produce the next information and communication strategy 2018-2022
25. **SUBMIT** to PAeN Assembly of Users, and the bureau of the STC-CICT-2 for approvals a project proposal on the use of this infrastructure for satellite base services including tele education and new services among other the Pan

African Mass Education TV for Talent and content development (DIY TV), Diplomatic (VVIP) communications and the structures of governance in charge of the management of the new phase of the PAeN;

26. **UNDERTAKE** the necessary measures to adopt the cyber-security as a flagship project of the African Union Agenda 2063;
27. **ENSURE** the follow up of the signing and ratification by Member States of the African Union Convention on Cyber-Security and Personal Data Protection and to dedicate appropriate resources for the implementation of a comprehensive Cybersecurity programs including assistance to AU Member states to adopt cyber strategies and Cyber legislations and to establish CIRT/CERT;
28. **FORM** an Africa Cyber Security Collaboration and Coordination Committee (ACS3C) to advise AUC and policymakers on Cyber strategies; **DEVELOP** guidelines on Personal Data Protection; **ORGANIZE** a yearly AU Conference on Cybersecurity in collaboration with Industry and Academia and **ESTABLISH** a continental Cybersecurity awareness month.
29. **DEVELOP** in collaboration with NPCA an action plan and mobilize resources to implement cybersecurity projects;
30. **SPEED UP** the establishment of the Dot Africa foundation to support:
 - a) Capacity building in Internet sector
 - b) Member States Country Codes Top Level Domain (ccTLD) registries
 - c) The African Registrars Business development.
 - d) The creation of African content and Pan-African content.
 - e) Pan-African ICT/ Internet projects
31. **CONTINUE** supporting RASCOM and consider becoming an independent member of the Board of Directors of RASCOM
32. **ORGANIZE** in collaboration with PAPU, meetings to discuss UPU Reform and UPU key content issues and invite the Africa Support Committee, so as to save on costs.
33. **CREATE** an annual forum as a key annual conference to discuss and develop common spectrum policy in Africa in collaboration with ATU;
34. **PREPARE** a strategy paper for unlocking Rural and Remote Areas Access to Basic Infrastructure in Africa and invite the partners notably Regional Economic Communities (REC), AfDB and UNECA to support the Approach
35. **RESOLVE PRIORITISE DEVELOP** in collaboration with RECs continental guidelines on women's portrayal and representation in the media and continental guidelines on journalism education and training to include development agenda and sectorial specialisations as part of the academic curricula

36. **WORK** in collaboration with RECs and key stakeholders on capacity building programmes to facilitate access to training for women in journalism and ICT, to build credible and sustainable government media institutions at both national level and community media centres
37. **COORDINATE** with NPCA, Specialized Institutions such as ATU, PAPU Specialized International Organizations such as ITU, UPU and the Smart Africa Alliance, for the implementation of ICT programmes and projects in Africa;
38. **WORK** in collaboration with the Government of Tunisia and Partners to implement the Digital African Strategic Center project ;
39. **PUT** resources behind communicating the strategic framework Agenda 2063 by capacitating the Directorate of Information and Communication
40. **ENGAGE** with and use the government media as brand ambassadors to promote AU activities and Agenda 2063 and convene annual session where MS can report on national activities;
41. **PUT** in place a mechanism to follow up on the implementations of decisions related to the ICT and present a report as a standing agenda item of the meetings of the Bureau and the STC.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 24 November 2017

The Ministers

2018-01-26

Report of the 2nd Ordinary Session of
the African Union Specialized
Technical Committee (STC) on
Communication and Information &
Communication Technologies, Addis
Ababa, (Ethiopia) on 20 - 24
November 2017.

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