



**ORGANIZATION OF
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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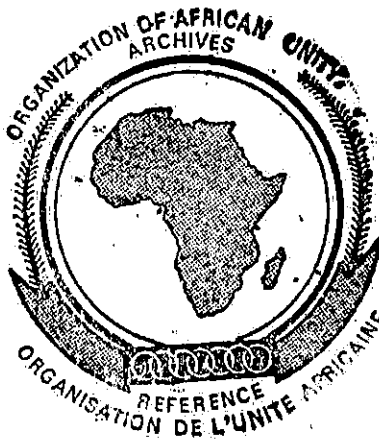
Addis Ababa ••••• ادیس ابابا

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
TWENTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION
Addis Ababa - February 1975

CM/638(XXIV)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NETWORK



PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF PANAFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK

1. The Pan African Telecommunications Network is now on the threshold of realization. The Co-ordinating Committee established by OAU resolution CM/309(XI) and composed of OAU, ECA, ITU and ADB has exerted continuous efforts, so that its latest report shows that almost 80% of the finance needed to execute the project is now available and thus the greater part of the network is assured of financing.

2. The last meeting of the Coordinating Committee held at the Headquarters of the OAU from 12 to 13 December 1974, under the chairmanship of the Administrative Secretary-General, examined the progress so far achieved. Through bilateral contacts made on behalf of the Committee and from reports received from individual African countries the situation of the Project is as follows:
 - 80% of the financing is practically assured
 - 8 countries (Guinea, Mali, Dahomey, Togo, Upper Volta, Sudan, Senegal, Mauritania) have already issued invitations to tender
 - Some countries have requested financing and the results are being awaited
 - Some countries are yet to request financing.

3. The table attached to this report as annex I gives the situation on the availability of finance for the major portion of the Network. The table attached as annex II indicates the routes for which finance is not yet obtained.

4. The Coordinating Committee is making a special effort to help secure finance for these sectors that are at the moment not very attractive to financiers, and it is hoped that this would find solution soon. The cooperation of the countries concerned is at the same time essential to ensure the acquisition of finance.

5. The Coordinating Committee at the conclusion of its meeting drew up its latest report and recommendations and wishes it to be forwarded to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. This report is attached herewith as Annex III. The Council might wish to review the situation and refer it to the Assembly for its consideration.

6. It would be noted in the report that a meeting of Telecommunications Administrations is envisaged to be convened during 1975. The meeting is expected to take place during the latter part of the year. An important question that the meeting is expected to deliberate upon beside the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunications Network is the establishment of an African Telecommunications Union.

7. In this connections it is to be recalled that the Summit Conference of the East and Central African States meeting in Khartoum in 1970 adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of an African Telecommunications Union. It requested the OAU to draft a constitution for such a Union, in cooperation and consultation with ECA and ITU.

8. Accordingly, the OAU in cooperation with ECA and in consultation with ITU drafted a constitution and presented it to the Summit Conference of East and Central African States in September 1974 in Brazzaville. The draft was distributed to all Member States of the OAU. The Brazzaville Summit noted the draft and urged the countries in the sub-region to participate in the constitutive Conference when it is convened. The draft Constitution is attached herewith as annex IV for information of the Council.

9. The establishment of an African Telecommunications Union is an important factor in the orderly development of Telecommunications in Africa. Furthermore it would provide a vital machinery for collective action in the implementation and management of the Pan African Telecommunications Network. Now that the preliminary task is accomplished, the Council might consider giving the green light for the establishment of an African Telecommunications Union and urge all Member States to participate fully in the envisaged conference of 1975.

SITUATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCE FOR PARALLEL NETWORK
(revised in accordance with Final Reports)

COUNTRY	ROUTE	DIST. KMS.	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	FINANCING AGREED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
SUBAN	Khartoum-Atbara	288	2,004		
	Atbara-Halfa	560	3,276	Arab Fund	tender issued
	Atbara-Port Sudan	453	2,618		
	Sennar-Kassala	426	2,915		
	Khartoum CT3		297		
	Total		11,110		
ETHIOPIA	Tessenai-Asmara	298	2,634	I.B.R.D.	
	Harrar-Tug Wajale	223	717	I.B.R.D.	
	Shashemane-Moyale	453	3,508	I.B.R.D.	
	Total		6,859		
SOMALIA	Tug. Wajale-Hargeisa	223	440	Germany (F.R.G.)	Government plan to submit request
	Chisimaio-Lamu	190	682		Implementation postponed; alternative Chisimaio-Garissa will be surveyed under project RAF/73/076
	Mogadiscio-CT3		162		
	Total		1,967		
KENYA	Nairobi-Moyale	736	3,414	I.B.R.D.	
	Mombassa-Lamu	122	2,523		See under Somalia
	Lamu-Chisimaio	100	682,3		
	Total		6,619,3		
KENYA/ TANZANIA	Nairobi-Dodoma +	617			
	Arusha-Moshi	67	3,564	I.B.R.D.	
	Dodoma-Mwanza-Tabora	789	5,013		
	Dar Es Salaam - Dodoma		4,759	I.B.R.D.	
	Mbeya-Zambia Border	957			
	Total		13,336		

Cont'd

COUNTRY	ROUTE	DIST. KMS.	ESTIMATED COST - US\$ (000)	FINANCING AGREED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
ZAMBIA	Lusaka-Tanzania Border & Isoka	1000	5,712	A.D.B.	
	Livingstone-Botswana border	74	371		
	Total		8,083		
BOTSWANA	Lobatse-Gaborone- Francistown	522	2,777	A.D.B.	under consideration
	Francistown-Zambia border	489	1,810		
	Total		4,587		
CHAD	Ndjamena-Moundou-Sahr	700	4,326	A.D.B.	request submitted by Govern- ment ADB waits for resu- lts bilateral negotiations undertaken by Chad for Switching
	Ndjamena-Moundou-Sahr + jonction RCA Ndjamena CT3	760	4,856 300	A.D.B.	
	Total		5,156		
F.C.A.	Paoua-Bouar	200	1,116		
	Paoua-Bossebele	300	1,613		
	Berberati-Nola	103	306	A.D.B.	requested by Government
	Bangui-Impfondo	154	580	Germany (F.R. of)	requested submitted by Government
	Bossebele-Paoua-Chad		1,679	A.D.B.	requested by Government
	Bouar-Paoua-Chad		1,173		
	Bangui CT3		280	A.D.B.	requested by Government
Total		3,961			

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COUNTRY	ROUTE	DIST. KMS.	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	FINANCING AGREED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
CONGO	Brazzaville-Cuesso	697	4,198	A.D.B.	A.D.B. already visited Congo
	Ouesso-Impfondo	225	1,392	A.D.B.	
	Impfondo-RCA	154	348	German (R.F. of)	no information on Congo request to Government of Germany
	Brazzaville CT3		<u>464</u>	A.D.B.	
	Total		6,402		
CAMEROON	Yaounde-Ebolowa	124	1,104		no clear information
	Yaounde-Sangmélina	120	304		"
	Ebolowa-Bitam (Gabon)	123	<u>440</u>		"
	Total		1,848		
GABON	Bitam - Ebolowa		40		no clear information
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Malabo CT3		220		no information
RWANDA	Kigali-Cyangugu	197	859	Canada	request submitted by Gov- ernment no information on CT3
	Cyangugu-Bukavu	10	60		
	Kigali CT3		<u>220</u>		
	Total		1,139		
ZAIRE	Bukavu-Cyangugu	10	37		no information
NIGERIA	Kano-Katsina-Niger border	190	691	Nigeria	
	Lagos-Owode-Dahomey border	75	<u>197</u>	Nigeria	
	Total		828		

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Annex I

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COUNTRY	ROUTE	DIST. KMS.	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	FINANCING AGREED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
NIGER	Maradi-Nigeria border	55	209		no information
	Niamey-Bounga Bounga	120	569	Canada	
	Upper Volta border				
	Niamey - Dosso	280	1,355	Canada	
	Dahomey border				
	Niamey CT3		<u>519</u>	Canada	
	Total		2,652		
DAHOMY	Contonou-Porto Novo	45	398	Dahomey	
	Nigeria frontier				
	Contonou-Togo border	80	139	France	tender issued
	Bohicon-Bodjekali-				
	Niger frontier	678	2,158	Canada	
	Cotonou CT3		<u>619</u>	Canada	
	Total		3,314		
TOGO	Lome - Accra	10	132	USAID or I.B.R.D	IBRD interested, USAID proposed tender issued tender issued
	Lome-Cotonou	60	141	France	
	Lama Kara-Upper Volta				
	border	220	990	France	
	Lome CT3		<u>686</u>	France	
	Total		1,949		
GHANA	Accra-Takoradi-	310	1,541		IBRD expressed interest to consider general telecom- munications financing in Ghana USAID proposed.
	Ivory Coast Border				
	Accra-Lome via Coast	170	869	I.B.R.D. or USAID	
Accra CT3		<u>546</u>			
	Total		2,956		

COUNTRY	ROUTE	DIST. KMS.	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	FINANCING AGREED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
UPPER VOLTA	Ouagadougou-Koupela- Niger border	320	1,558	Canada	
	Koupela-Sango-Togo border	145	365	France	tender issued
	Bobo-Sikasso	145	424	Canada	
	Ouagadougou CT3		<u>478</u>	I.B.R.D.	ordered
	Total		2,825		
IVORY COAST	Abidjan-Ghana border	150	777	I.B.R.D.	
	Korhogo-Mali border		213		
	Man-Nimba-Liberia border	90	520	I.B.R.D.	
	San Pedro-Tabou-Harper	110	<u>440</u>	USAID	USAID proposed
Total		2,950			
GUINEA	Conakry-Mt Makoulima- Boke	210	1,074	A.D.B.	tender issued
	Conakry-Kankan	600	2,833	A.D.B.	
	Kankan-Siguiré-Mali bor	175	638	A.D.B.	
	Faranah-N'Zerekore- Liberia border	345	1,909	A.D.B.	
	Mt Kakoulima-Forecariah Sierra Leone border	102	318	A.D.B.	tender issued
	Kindia-Koundara-Mali- Senegal border	406	1,749	A.D.B.	tender issued
	Mamou-Mali	246	1,447	A.D.B.	
	Samatonde - Dingueraje	110	459	A.D.B.	tender issued
	Kankan-Koulé	484	1,529	A.D.B.	
	Conakry CT3		<u>360</u>	A.D.B.	
TOTAL		11,240			

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COUNTRY	ROUTE	DIST. KMS.	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	FINANCING AGREED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
LIBERIA	Monrovia-MtNimba- Ivory Coast border	300	1,401	USAID	Final report not yet received
	Monrovia-Harper- Ivory Coast border	440	1,474	USAID	
	Monrovia-Manc-Sierra Leone Border	130	499	Japan	national Monrovia-Godrich
	Monrovia CT3		<u>413</u>		
	Total		3,787		
SIERRA LEONE	Freetown-Bc- Bandajuma (Liberia)	270	1,033		
	Freetown-Kamkia (Guinea border)	120	485		
	Freetown CT3		<u>321</u>		
	Total		1,839		
MAURITANIA	Akjoujt-Aouelil	120	1,001		
	Aouelil-Choum	131	648		
	Nouadhibou-Choum	580	2,671		
	Choum-Zouerate	160	991		
	Rosso-Richard Toll (Senegal)	14	107		
	Nouakchott CT3		<u>301</u>		
	Total		5,719		
SENEGAL	Kaolack-Tambacounda- Mali border	490	2,136	Canada	
	Tambacounda-Guinea border	130	948	Canada	
	Richard Toll-Rosso (Mauritania)		107		contract signed. Expected to be in service in 1976.
	Kaolack-Banjul	73	<u>302</u>	UNDP	
	Total		3,493		

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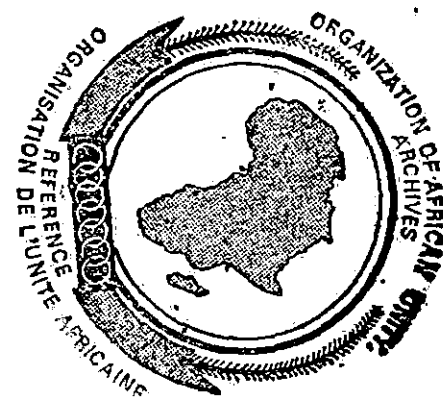
COUNTRY	ROUTE	DIST. KMS.	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	FINANCING AGREED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
MALI	Bamako-Kayes-Senegal border	475	2,161	Canada	
	Bamako-Siguiri-Guinea border	190	522	Canada	
	Bamako-Sikasso-Upper Volta	340	1,608	Canada	
	Sikasso-Korhogo(Ivory Coast)	110	336		
	Bamako-Mopti	550	2,496	I.B.R.D.	National section tendered
	Bamako CT3		<u>465</u>	Canada	
	Total		7,598		
GAMBIA	Banjul-Kaolack	20	135	UNDP	contract signed. Expected to be in service in 1976 calculated for 1985
	Banjul CT3		<u>218</u>		
	Total		353		
GRAND TOTAL			<u>121,000</u>		

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US THE FOLLOWING ROUTES HAVE NOT YET OBTAINED FINANCING

COUNTRY	ROUTE	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	REMARKS
SOMALIA	Hargeisa - Tug Wachale	440	to be followed with Germany (R.F. of)
	Mogadiscio CT3	162	" " " " "
KENYA	Mombassa - Lamu	2,523	
TANZANIA	Dodoma-Mwanza-Tabora	5,013	
BOTSWANA/ZAMBIA	Francistown-Livingstone	2,181	ADB has considered financing of Lobatse-Gaberone-Francistown
CHAD	N'Djamena CT3	300	Chad is negotiating with bilateral sources
C.A.R.	Pacua-Bouar	1,116	
CAR/Congo	Bangui-Impfondo	928	to be followed with Germany (R.F. of)
RWANDA	Kigali CT3	220	
NIGER/NIGERIA	Maradi-Kano	289	
GHANA/TOGO	Accra-Lome	1,001	USAID has proposed to finance Accra-Lome via Ho (Ghana) and Palime (Togo). But the two countries prefer the coastal route
GHANA/IVORY COAST	Accra-Takoradi-Ivory Coast	1,541	
GHANA	CT3	546	
IVORY COAST	Korhogo-Sikasso	549	
LIBERIA/SIERRA LEONE	Monrovia-Freetown	1,532	Japan finances Liberia national route Monrovia-Goodrich. No finance for Goodrich-Bo-Freetown

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COUNTRY	ROUTE	ESTIMATED COST US\$ (000)	REMARKS
LIBERIA	Monrovia CT3	413	
SIERRA LEONE/GUINEA	Freetown - Gambia	485	
MAURITANIA/SENEGAL	Rosso - Richard Toll	214	
MAURITANIA	all national routes	5,311	
	Nouakchott CT3	301	
MALI/GUINEA		522	
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>25,507</u>	



Organization of African Unity
United Nations Economic
Commission for Africa

African Development Bank
International Telecommunications
Union

REPORT OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

1. The Coordinating Committee of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network meeting at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa on 12 and 13 December 1974 reviewed the progress made so far towards the implementation of PANAFTEL and submits the following observations and recommendations to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU.
2. Early in 1968, at a meeting held in Addis Ababa, the Secretary-General of ITU and the Executive Secretary of ECA decided to submit a request to the UNDP for funds to finance the preliminary work of collecting the information required to define the scope and extent of the assistance to be sought from the UNDP for the entire project. The preliminary survey was carried out by a group of ITU Experts with UNDP financing during the period 1968-1970. During that study the experts examined all possible transmission media, i.e. openwire lines, co-axial cables, sub-marine cables, radio relay systems as well as a regional satellite system, and concluded that the most appropriate system for the immediate needs of Africa is a combination of co-axial cables and radio relay systems. This conclusion was justified by the fact that PANAFTEL should not only serve to provide connection between the major national centers. Accordingly the detailed survey that is just completed by specialized consultant firms has studied PANAFTEL using the above selected transmission media.
3. The major field work of PANAFTEL having been completed in 1972, a Coordinating Committee, composed of OAU, ECA, ADB and ITU for ensuring the realization of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network was created by Resolution CM/Res.309(XXI) of the 10th OAU Assembly of Heads of State

and Government, Addis Ababa in May 1973. Since its establishment, the Committee has not only held several meetings of its own but also convened a number of consultative meetings with representatives of multilateral and bilateral sources of finance.

4. As a result of these meetings, bilateral and multilateral financing institutions have:

- a. undertaken to provide most of the necessary finance for the PANAFTEL Project, and
- b. accepted the role of technical and financial coordination, by the Coordinating Committee through its technical and financial Sub-committee constituted by the ITU and ADB, respectively.

5. It is the view of the Committee that the priority given to the Pan-African Telecommunication Network by African countries has encouraged several sources of financing to give generous assistance to individual and groups of countries in the implementation of several sectors of the Network. Through the continued action of the countries themselves and of the Coordinating Committee, it has been possible to arrange the financing of almost all of the Network.

6. Since it is essential that all sectors of PANAFTEL should be implemented and that the African Administrations need to obtain the required finance from abroad at reasonable cost, the Committee requested ADB to continue its search for additional development funds, in particular from the various Arab financial sources, including Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and Technical Assistance Fund for African States with the view to providing credit to all of the countries that are in need of such assistance.

7. As resolved at the Meeting on the Implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunications Network held in Addis Ababa in 1972, the Pan-African Telecommunications Network is to be considered as an integrated whole. This requires continuous coordination of activities such as preparation of specifications, evaluation of tenders, operating and maintenance procedures, evaluation of tenders adequate training of staff and supervision and acceptance of installations.

8. The Committee has noted that the preparation of specifications as well as the submission of final reports by the ITU have progressed satisfactorily. Nonetheless, the African Telecommunications administrations are strongly urged that they regularly consult with each other on subregional basis so as to ensure the compatibility of their respective specifications and whenever possible to issue tenders jointly in order to ensure compatibility of equipment and obtain economic prices.

9. Noting that the successful utilization of PANAFTEL would essentially depend not only on the operating procedures adopted but also on the efficiency of maintenance achieved on each and every section of it, the African Telecommunication Administrations have been urged to study and adopt efficient traffic operating procedures and to set up appropriate engineering instructions so that all countries would ensure that their standard of maintenance would not fall below a certain agreed minimum.

10. A most serious constraint in the development of telecommunication in Africa is undoubtedly the lack of trained manpower in many specialities and levels. The efforts of the countries and the ITU to set up national and multinational centers have been noted with appreciation. Nevertheless, much remains to be done in all sectors of telecommunications such as broadcasting and civil aviation. Existing institutions should be expanded and up-graded and new ones established in order to produce the required manpower.

11. The Coordinating Committee also commends the ITU for the various PANAFTEL seminars it has organized for the benefit of African countries and recommends that the holding of such seminars should continue as they form one of the most effective ways of up-grading the knowledge of staff at the higher levels of management.

12. Furthermore, the present stage of the PANAFTEL is only a step in the development of an efficient and modern telecommunications network within Africa. The next stage will be the consideration of the complementary systems including satellite communication. Additional national and intercountry trunk circuits need to be provided as time goes by. Each step of such development will go hand in hand with the development of traffic which itself is generated by the facilities provided by earlier steps.

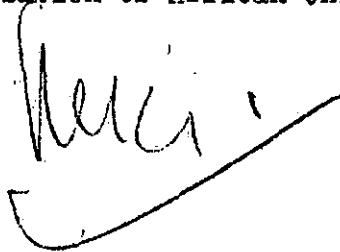
RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure the continuity of the coordination which has so successfully been achieved since the 1972 Addis Ababa Conference, it is recommended that:

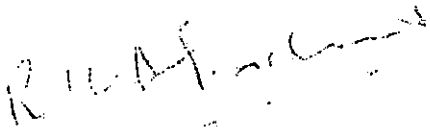
- I Another PANAFTEL meeting at the level of Directors General of Telecommunication administration, assisted by their engineers, should be convened by ITU under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee before the end of 1975 in order to:
 - a. review the progress made by the first stage of PANAFTEL Network,
 - b. take necessary steps to formulate and adopt regional recommendations on operating and maintenance procedures,
 - c. study and recommend appropriate tariffs,
 - d. ensure the provision of the required staff not only for the efficient operation of the network but also for the maintenance,
 - e. identify national and intercountry routes and switching centers which should form the basis for the next stage in the development of the PANAFTEL Network and to ensure that the required studies are undertaken as soon as possible,
 - f. study other matters which are of interest for the general development of telecommunications in Africa,
- II. This 1975 conference should also consider the setting up of the proposed African Telecommunications Union;
- III. The Coordinating Committee should continue to meet regularly in order to:
 - a. undertake any further directives of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

- b. review the progress being made in the implementation of the present stage of the PANAFTEL Network and to assist the countries whenever necessary in order to ensure the timely execution and the effective operation of the Network,
- c. review the proposals that may be submitted by the 1975 Conference concerning the planning and implementation of future stages of the PANAFTEL.

WILLIAM EDEKI MBOUMOUA
Administrative Secretary-General
Organization of African Unity



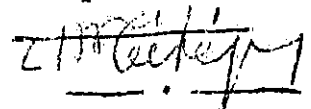
R.K.A. GARDINER
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission
for Africa



MOHAMED MILI
Secretary General
International Telecommuni-
cations Union



EMMANUEL TETEGAN
for President of African
Development Bank



Draft Constitution
Pan-African Telecommunication Union

The representatives of national telecommunication organizations of Africa:

- persuaded of the need to ensure orderly development of regional telecommunication services at a pace commensurate with the political, economic and social development of the African regions;
- considering that there is a need arising out of current Pan-African telecommunication development for collective action in the detailed planning and management of the projected regional telecommunication network;
- convinced of the need for a permanent machinery to co-ordinate operational arrangements between national telecommunication organizations especially as regards technical aspects of signalling, switching, traffic distribution and revenue sharing

hereby agree to set up a regional telecommunication union, which shall be known as the "Pan-African Telecommunication Union" and which shall be governed by the following statutes:

ARTICLE I

Establishment

1. The Pan-African Telecommunication Union (hereinafter referred to as the Union) shall be composed of the national telecommunication organizations of members of the Organization of African Unity and of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
2. The term telecommunication organization shall apply to any national organization responsible for nation-wide and public, transmission and or reception of electromagnetic signals of video, sound, data or any form of intelligence by wire, radio or other electromagnetic systems.
3. The official languages of the Union shall be English and French.

ARTICLE II

Membership of the Union

1. Membership of the Union shall be open to all national telecommunication organizations of member states of OAU and ECA which:

- (a) operate and provide telecommunication services and facilities (point-to-point and or broadcasting) on a nation-wide basis; and
- (b) operate these services and facilities for the benefit of the public generally.

2. Associate Membership of the Union shall be on such conditions as the General Assembly may determine and shall be open to:

- (a) national telecommunication organizations which operate and provide telecommunication services and facilities (point-to-point and or broadcasting) within the territory of a State which is not a member State of the OAU and ECA;
- (b) telecommunication organizations within the territory of a member State of the OAU and ECA whose services and facilities are not for the benefit of the public generally.

ARTICLE III

Objectives

1. The objectives of the Union shall be:

- (a) to provide a rational basis for the development of the national components of an efficient Regional telecommunication network;
- (b) to seek the standardisation, improvement and co-ordination of telecommunication services of the members of the Union;
- (c) to seek the co-ordination of the commercial relations between members of the Union in such areas as tariff structures and revenue sharing;
- (d) to seek the general adoption of rational and economic operating methods in national and regional telecommunication services;
- (e) to undertake studies in telecommunications and in other relevant fields of common interest to members of the Union;
- (f) to promote the establishment of multi-national telecommunications training institutes in Africa, in co-operation with international organizations with legitimate interest in telecommunications in Africa;
- (g) to examine and adopt in consultation with OAU and ECA a common position on propositions presented at international conferences on telecommunications; and

- (h) to encourage the exchange of information and staff between member organizations

ARTICLE IV
Institutions

The Union shall have the following organs:

- (a) The General Assembly
- (b) The Council
- (c) The General Secretariat
- (d) Such subsidiary bodies as may be established by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE V
The General Assembly

1. The Union shall convene once every two years in General Assembly.
2. (a) The General Assembly shall consist of the accredited representatives of members of the Union.

(b) Accreditation shall be by means of instruments signed by the Minister responsible for External/Foreign Affairs or by the Minister responsible for Telecommunications and shall confer full powers, including when necessary the right to sign final acts.
3. The General Assembly shall elect from among its members, persons to hold the offices of President and Vice Presidents of the Union. The President and Vice Presidents shall each hold office for two years and may be eligible for re-election for a further period of two years to any of these offices: provided that no person shall be eligible for re-election to the offices of President, Vice President for more than two consecutive terms.
4. The General Assembly shall be presided over by the President of the Union, and shall on his request, meet once in two years in ordinary session. During each session, the venue for the next meeting shall be determined.
5. The General Assembly may be convened in extra-ordinary session by the President, on his own initiative or at the request of a member subject to the agreement of two-thirds of the full members of the Union.
6. Where the President of the Union is for any reason unable to perform his functions under this Article, a Vice President of the Union chosen by the General Assembly for that purpose, shall perform the functions of the President of the Union.

7. The General Assembly shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure for all its meetings including rules, except as otherwise provided for in this Constitution, relating to time and notice of meeting, representation of a member of the Union by another member of the Union, voting, the participation of the representatives of associate members of the Union and other proceedings thereat.

8.1 The General Assembly shall

- (a) notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 7 of this Article, approve any amendments to this Constitution by the votes of at least two-thirds of the members of the Union, cast at a meeting of the General Assembly;
- (b) determine the general principles and policies governing the activities of the Union;
- (c) review and approve the programme of activities, budget and accounts of the Union;
- (d) assess the annual contributions to be paid by members and associate members of the Union;
- (e) submit to the OAU and the ECA a bi-annual report on the activities of the Union;
- (f) establish the General Secretariat, its offices and the appointment of persons to such offices;
- (g) establish such subordinate bodies as it may deem necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the Union and prescribe for such bodies rules for the conduct of their activities; and
- (h) approve rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Union including the entering into contracts by the Union and the establishment of relationships between the Union and Governments or institutions desirous of assisting the Union or its members in achieving the objectives of the Union.

8.2 (a) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs 1 (a) and 4 of this paragraph, the decisions of the General Assembly, shall be supported by a simple majority of votes that may be cast at a meeting of the General Assembly.

(b) Each member of the Union shall have one vote: provided that a member organization of the Union which is jointly owned by or administered and operated on behalf of more than one of the member States of the OAU and ECA, shall have as many votes as the number of member States of the OAU and ECA who jointly own it or on whose behalf it is administered and operated.

8.3 Associate Members of the Union shall be entitled to attend and participate at all meetings of the General Assembly but shall not vote thereat or be eligible for election to office.

8.4 The General Assembly may dissolve the Union by two-thirds majority of votes cast by all the members of the Union, at a meeting of the General Assembly.

8.5 Upon the approval of the General Assembly made in pursuance of sub-paragraph 4 of this paragraph, the General Assembly shall appoint a Committee for the purpose of liquidating the assets of the Union.

8.6 At the end of each meeting of the General Assembly, it shall adopt a Report which shall be circulated to all members and associate members of the Union and to the OAU and ECA.

8.7 The President shall where appropriate under the provisions of this Constitution, have a casting vote.

ARTICLE VI

The Council

1.1 The Council shall consist of the President and the four Vice Presidents of the Union.

1.2 The President of the Union shall be the president of the Council.

1.3 The Council shall meet once a year and shall determine its own rules for its meetings and procedures thereat. Representatives of the OAU and ECA, shall be invited to attend meetings of the Council but shall not be entitled to vote.

2. The Council shall:

- (a) be entrusted with the over-all duty of guiding the administration of the Union;
- (b) keep under review, direct control and co-ordinate the financial, technical and other activities of the organs of the Union including those of its subsidiary bodies established in accordance with this Constitution;
- (c) consider the programme of activities, budget and accounts of the Union and submit them to the General Assembly for approval;
- (d) propose for the approval of the General Assembly the annual subscriptions to be paid by the members and associate members of the Union;
- (e) present a report on the activities of the Union during the two years of office to the General Assembly;
- (f) determine the representation of the Union at meetings where the Union is required to be represented or otherwise;
- (g) propose for the approval of the General Assembly rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Union including the entering into contracts by the Union and the establishment of relationships between the Union and Governments or institutions desirous of assisting the Union or its members in achieving the objectives of the Union; and
- (h) propose for the approval of the General Assembly such subsidiary bodies as it may deem necessary or desirable for the performance of its functions.

3. The Council shall act on behalf of the Union for the purpose of Article VIII of this Constitution and may delegate any of its functions to such subsidiary bodies established by the General Assembly or to the General Secretary.

ARTICLE VII

The General Secretariat

1. The General Secretariat shall provide secretarial services to the General Assembly and the Council and convene their meetings in accordance with this Constitution.

2. The General Secretariat shall:
 - (a) keep all records of the Union
 - (b) prepare the provisional programme of activities, budget and accounts of the Union and its organs and submit them to the Council; and
 - (c) perform any of the functions that may be delegated to it by the Council.
3. The head of the General Secretariat shall be called the Secretary General who shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Council.
4. The Secretary General shall:
 - (a) ensure the efficient functioning of the General Secretariat;
 - (b) attend all meetings of the General Assembly and Council, in an advisory capacity; and
 - (c) unless otherwise provided, represent the Union at meetings where the Union is required to be represented or otherwise.

ARTICLE VIII

Status of the Union

The Council shall conclude with the Government of the State in whose territory the General Secretariat will be situated an agreement relating to the legal capacity and the privileges and immunities to be recognised and granted in connexion with the Union.

ARTICLE IX

Relationship with the OAU, ECA and ITU

1. The Union shall maintain special relationship with the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and they shall assist the Union in the implementation of its objectives.
2. The Union shall establish and maintain close and continuous working relationship with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the International Telecommunication Union.

ARTICLE XRelationship with other Bodies

1. The Union shall be guided in its associations and activities by the spirit of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union.
2. The Union shall establish such relationships as the General Assembly may deem necessary.

ARTICLE XIWithdrawal and Suspension

1. Any member of the Union may withdraw from the Union at any time after the expiration of one year from the date on which it became a member of the Union, by giving written notice of its withdrawal to the President of the Union through the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall forthwith inform all members of the receipt of such notice of withdrawal.
2. Withdrawal shall become effective one year from the date of receipt by the Secretary General of the notice of withdrawal: provided that any member of the Union withdrawing from the Union shall nevertheless, remain liable for the fulfilment of its financial obligations to the Union, including the payment of assessed contributions in respect of the entire year in which the notice of withdrawal takes effect.
3. The General Assembly may, by a two-thirds majority of all votes that may be cast at its meeting, suspend a member of the Union who persistently fails to meet its financial obligations towards the Union, fails to fulfill any other obligations under its constitution, or fails to comply with the decisions of the General Assembly. The same majority shall be required for a decision of the General Assembly to revoke the suspension imposed on a member of the Union. The suspension of a member of the Union shall not relieve that member from the fulfilment of its financial obligations during the period of suspension.
4. The General Assembly may prescribe rules relating to the withdrawal and suspension of associate members of the Union.

ARTICLE XII

Interpretation and Settlement of Disputes

1. Any dispute that may arise concerning the interpretation or application of any provision of this Constitution, which cannot be settled by the members of the Union concerned, shall be submitted to the General Assembly.
2. If the General Assembly cannot reach a conclusion on the dispute or if the conclusion of the General Assembly is not accepted by the members of the Union concerned, either party to the dispute may request that the matter be submitted to arbitration by an Arbitration Tribunal composed of three members who shall be nominated as follows:
 - (i) each party shall nominate one arbitrator;
 - (ii) the third arbitrator, who shall be the president of the Arbitration Tribunal, shall be chosen by agreement between the arbitrators nominated by the parties.

If the nomination of the members of the Arbitration Tribunal is not made within a period of three months from the date of the request for arbitration, either of the parties to the dispute may request the President of the Union to make the necessary nominations, except that, in cases where the Union is a party to the dispute, the nomination shall be made by the Administrative Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity.

3. The decision of the Arbitration Tribunal shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.
4. The provision of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall be without prejudice to the choice of any other mode of settlement that the parties concerned may jointly decide upon in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution of the Union.

ARTICLE XIII

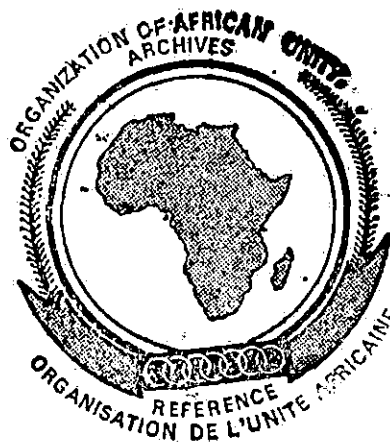
Final Provisions

1. This Constitution shall come into force when signed on behalf of at least ten national telecommunication organizations eligible for membership under the terms of this Constitution and whereupon such organizations shall become members of the Union.

2. National telecommunication organizations wishing to become members of the Union after the coming into force of this Constitution may do so by communicating to the General Secretariat of the Union, their notice of accession to this Constitution.

3. This Constitution of which the English and French texts are equally authentic shall be deposited with the Administrative Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, who shall transmit certified copies thereof, to members or associate members of the Union.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized representatives of their respective national telecommunication organizations have signed this Constitution on the dates appearing under their signatures.



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