



# access

NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION



• **FOCUSED:** Out-going CPL Chairman, Hon. Willie Nsanda, Zambia's Deputy Minister for Communications (left), MOC Chairperson Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casaburi (centre) and Jan Mutai, ATU Secretary General follow proceedings of ATU's 1st Ordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

## Kenya hosts ATU's historic CPL

**T**he supreme organ of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), Conference of Plenipotentiaries popularly called CPL, held its First Ordinary Session in Kenya from August 28-30, 2002 and resolved to have a single continental voice at international Information Communication and Technology (ICT) fora.

While presiding over the conference, Kenya's President, Hon. Daniel arap Moi, who was duly represented by Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, the country's Transport and Communications Minister, said Africa had over the years witnessed a situation where its countries had faithfully supported their membership at international organizations but paid little attention to the regional bodies.

President Moi said that Africa's poor ICT infrastructure, combined with weak policy and poor regulatory frameworks and investment resources has resulted in inadequate access to affordable telephone, broadcasting, computers and the Internet.



• **Musalia Mudavadi**

Kenya's Minister for Transport & Communications  
- Incoming CPL Chairman

As such, Africa is yet to capitalize on ICT as a tool of enhancing livelihoods and creating new business opportunities.

### ICT, Africa's priority sector

ICT, which African leaders identified as one of the priority sector in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) was geared to initiating development in all sectors of the economy. eAfrica Commission, a special task force for ICT is expected to accelerate development in the continent. Their task, shall also involve the evolvement of sound e-policies and strategies, development of local content and creation of public e-awareness through sensitization of various segments of Africa's population with special emphasis on youth and women.

### Steady cellular connection

In the last ten years, Africa, has witnessed a steady growth in the development of cellular telecommunication services. The number of connections have tripled from ten million in 1992 to about 30 million by the end of last year. The socio-economic impact that has come with this development has been tremendous in the lives of Africans.

### Liberalization

Since Africa embraced liberalization in the telecommunication sector, it has been able to attract over a hundred private sector cellular operators.

### African Common Proposals

Through consensus, the CPL endorsed the view of having the process

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for evolving African Common Proposals (ACPs) consolidated. The Plenipotentiary members resolved that the ACPs be part of the contribution of the work to be forwarded to the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference slated for Sept. 23 - Oct. 18, 2002 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

In his keynote address, Hon Willie Nsanda, Zambia's Deputy Minister of Communications and Transport expressed his delight that the last CPL held in 1998 in Lusaka, marked a major turning point in the history of PATU through its Resolution No. 03/6S-CPL/98 on the restructuring of the Union. Looking back in time, one cannot feel a certain amount of pride and hope that the Union has the potential to meet the challenges of enhancing ICT development in Africa.

### Peering to a future

The conference adopted ATU's 2002-2006 Strategic Plan. Goals in this vital plan includes: Strengthening of the Union, Advocating for equitable share of global ICT resources, Creation of Intellectual Property and Establishing of strong partnerships, Retention of competent staff, Development of critical mass of ICT human capital and Promotion of investment in ICT infrastructure.

In recognition of the indefatigable efforts by the Ministerial Oversight Committee (MOC) chaired by Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, the South African Communications Minister, the conference extended its term to the next Extra-Ordinary Conference of Plenipotentiaries. The period of extension lasts one year.

### Challenge

Although development of ICT was seen as the top priority in laying a solid foundation for the continent's development initiatives, it faces the challenge of inadequate access. The inhibition follows Africa's poor ICT infrastructure, unstable investments coupled with weak policy and regulatory frameworks, issues which require proactive re-address and immediate supportive action.

Building strategic oversight and leadership capability within the ICT environment and within the region stands to hasten the pace of partnerships and collaborative efforts.

### Setting the pace

The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), an initiative by the African leaders has identified ICT as a priority sector for initiating development in all the other sectors. NEPAD's special task force for ICT, dubbed: the e-Africa Commission is expected to accelerate the development of infrastructure and thus enable the continent to be an equal and active participant in the global information society.

As the year began, NEPAD, the brainchild of South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, received major backing from international donors and the United Nations.

### ATU's milestone in NEPAD

In view of the importance of the NEPAD Strategy, for Africa's development, the meeting lauded the ATU Secretariat initiatives that has heaved beyond mere publicizing of the newfound strategy. In the last World

Telecommunications Development Conference, the Union presented a paper which received an overwhelming support. WTDC 02 adopted its resolutions, calling upon ITU to accord NEPAD strategy and ATU their support.

### Louder voice by Africa

The Union's Secretariat has already initiated strategies to enhance sharing of the globally allocated ICT resources by the African region as well as effective

participation in standard setting fora.

The strategy entails the adoption of the ACPs, which involves a concerted process of consultation at national, regional and continental levels. In this way it will be possible to build a "louder voice" by Africa at international ICT decision-making conferences," the Secretary General said.

### Astronomical changes

The historical conference, according to Brahima Sanou, the Head of the ITU Regional office for Africa was held at a time that Africa's telecommunications sector is experiencing astronomical structural and organizational changes. He noted that reform in the industry had dramatically enabled the continent to double its teledensity in less than ten years.

Technologically Africa is witnessing a vibrant change as evidenced with a steady replacement of circuit switching networks by IP protocol. The advancements on the ground have opened a door for the contribution of new partners and investors who are replacing the state

monopolies.

### Gigantic responsibilities

The interest and the arrival of new actors does not aim at depriving the governments and telecommunication professionals their roles and responsibilities. On the contrary, they are becoming more relevant in the now competitive market.

Comparing to the time of "The Missing Link", 20 years ago, Sanou says that the position and assignment which



• **Brahima Sanou**  
Head of ITU  
Regional office for  
Africa

## The brains behind NEPAD



• **Thabo Mbeki**  
President of  
South Africa



• **Abudulaye Wade**  
President of  
Senegal



• **Olesegun Obassanjo**  
President of  
Nigeria



• **Abdelaziz Bouteflika**  
President of  
Algeria



# Access is Africa's clarion call

**A**ccess is no doubt a development-focussed call for Africa. Being an obvious last global business frontier, the continent tags its survival on access of various basic utilities and amenities, which info-communication today equally plays a vital role. Indeed this is as stipulated in the UN charter, which upholds communication as everyone's right.

Through universal access, policy makers have indeed a daunting task to elevate Africa's position. The strive to formulate communications development strategy for rural areas, requires a framework to be considered at national, regional and ultimately the continental level. In this regard policies should specifically be focussed on enhancing accessibility. To achieve this goal, policies mooted within the continent should squarely identify appropriate mechanisms for evaluating requirements in terms of universal access, implementing programmes aimed at making such accessibility a reality and financing the same across the continent.

Key towards the enhancement of the much yearned for



• **Jan Mutai**  
ATU Secretary General

access is the building of consensus on modalities that attract infrastructure investment at accelerated pace. Although Africa abounds with this noble opportunity, it still has to find some innovative ways to increase investment in people so as to realise worthwhile results in physical information communication technologies.

Working towards setting up agencies for the promotion of universal access and services stands to give Africa worthwhile resources. Needed in this case are access targets that are set in line with programmes whose aim is to stabilize this part of the world's economic capacity.

Being a potential ground for official development assistance, there is no doubt that our continent faces a great challenge to take a lead in studying strategic info-communication and technology policy choices needed for its advancement.

Remaining alert to access oriented development patterns and keeping an open mind on sustainable development options should be seen to be the most fundamental factors. Investing in capacity building for the practitioners at policy, regulatory, operator and service provision levels guarantees practical involvement in the access initiatives for Africa.

Africa has today, is gigantic especially at this age of the digital divide.

## Need for investors

Whilst significant strides have been made by African countries in the deployment of Mobile Telephony Networks, introduction of the Internet and mushrooming of Radio and Television Stations throughout the continent and the bridging of the digital divide present a daunting task. Urban areas access to telephony has greatly improved. However, there is a yawning demand for several of all these services, in rural areas, where more than 80 percent of Africa's population live. It is evident that this situation can only be addressed through increased investment levels and deliberate government policy to devise strategies for funding rural Telecommunications expansion whose result would no doubt be faster growth of the economy.

## Appreciation and call for support

Hon. John Nasasira, Uganda's Minister of Housing and communications extended to Kenya his utmost gratitude following its

## Delegates



• **Atalla Mounira (left) and Mousa Ashraf from Egypt** follow CPL proceedings



• **David Dossa (left) and Isidore Degbela from Benin** participating at the CPL in Nairobi

acceptance to host the conference at short notice. He noted that Kenya has always been available whenever PATU, now ATU, needed to be rescued. "I can never forget 1997 when as the Chairman of the then Plenipotentiaries, I desperately needed a home for our Union, and Kenya provided it again at a short notice and at the most critical time in the history of our Union," said the minister. In his capacity as the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the MOC, Nasasira in a special way thanked the Chairman Hon. Musalia, Dr. Matsepe-Casaburri, Safaricom and the people of Kenya for the various receptions, which exhibited a spirit of friendship and made participants feel at home and energized them for the business of the Conference.

Telkom Kenya was thanked following their logistical support throughout the conference.

At a high note of his speech he gave an analogy that when a herdsman takes his cow for pasture and water, in the evening he gets milk. We, as African Member States, should feed ATU and we expect ATU to feed us with ICT milk in turn.





• **CONSULTATION:** Musalia Mudavadi (right), Kenya's Minister for Transport and Communication in a *teta tel* with Samuel Chepkonga the Director General of Communications Commission of Kenya during the First EAIF meeting in Nairobi.

## First EA Internet forum held

**The African Internet community converged in Nairobi in August for a high level Information Communication and Technology Conference.**

The three day event brought together, telecom regulators, governments, network operators, Internet Service Providers, policy makers and development partners.

Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), in conjunction with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the Telecommunications Service Providers of Kenya (TESPOK) hosted the event dubbed: First East African Internet Forum (EAIF).

Top in the discussion during the forum were the concrete steps to increase the speed of growth within Internet sector in East Africa in order to reverse the digital divide.

The African Telecommunications Union undertook the responsibility to follow-up the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) developments closely. The current ongoing debate relates to public discussion conducted interactively on the Internet.

ICANN is currently going through major reforms process in order to meet many challenges that face. Some of this challenges include:

- Role of Governments and their specialized agencies in the area of Internet public policy domain.
- Introduction of Multilingual (domain

names in script other than the Latin alphabet such as Chinese, Cyrillic and Arab) including intellectual property protection, consumer protection and cultural issues.

- Introduction of sound procedures for management and administration of country code top level domains (ccTLD's)
- Agreement of principles for the delegation and management of country code top-level domains.
- Relationships with other International organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Civil Aviation Organization, world Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and ATU in the case of Africa.

EAIF coincided with yet another high level annual summit by the African IT Exhibitions and Conferences (AITEC). The summit is popularly referred to as African Communications Technology (ACT). Running concurrently was also AfrinIC's annual general meeting which takes place on the second day of the forum. AfrinIC is the emerging Internet Registry for Africa. Kenya's Transport and Communications Minister Musalia Mudavadi officially opened the forum.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Libya

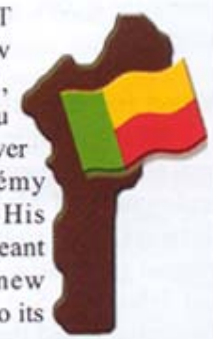
Engineer Mohammad Maammar Al-Gathafi was recently appointed to the post of Secretary to the People's Committee (Chairman) for the General Posts and Telecommunications Company (GPTC) of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.



According to a statement by Naaser-Eddin Heshad, the Director of Commercial Department, Al-Gathafi succeeds Engineer Faraj.

### Benin

Benin's telco OPT has appointed a new Director-General, M. Sabi Soumanou Sanni who takes over from M.Barthélémy Agnan. His appointment is meant to signal a "new dynamism" prior to its privatisation.



### Kenya

Major General Joseph Nduchi Mugo has been appointed as the Chairman of Communications Commission of Kenya. He replaces Karanja Kabage who was the first chairman of the regulatory body since its inception in 1998.





## Bigger stakes

The Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) has announced that the government of Kenya has decided to change the investment policy to allow foreigners to own up to 70 percent of local telecommunications firms.

The decision has been hailed by operators and analysts in the industry as quickly bringing the policy regime at par with the rapid changes in the global information arena. Previously the investment ceiling for foreigners was set at 30 percent.

## TCC supported

The Tanzania Communications Commission (TCC) is being assisted by the government of Sweden to enhance its regulatory capacity in the country.

In the two year project, which the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has donated 10 million Kroners (Tsh 850 million), TCC is expected to immensely improve its capacity in the areas of licensing, telecommunications numbering plan and frequency management. Other areas to be tackled by the regulatory body include; organization development, interconnection as well as tariffing.

## Uganda opens up

The Ugandan government is positioning its telecommunications sector to heightened competition, a means of attracting new investors in the country.

John Nasasira, the Minister for Communications says the government is seeking to stretch the envelope of competition particularly in the Offshore Data Processing and Call Centre Services.

## France Telecom links Algeria to Spain

France Telecom has launched a new underwater telecommunications cable linking Algiers, Algeria to Spain Palma de Majorca Island. The cost of the installation is valued at US \$ 3.9 million and is financed by France Telecom. The cable secures voice and data links between Europe and North Africa. The 312-kilometer line has a peak capacity of 160 gigabits per second using Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM) technology.

# Libya strikes deal with Alcatel

**F**rance's Alcatel has been contracted to expand Libya's mobile coverage. The French telecommunication giant Alcatel has concluded a deal with Libya's telecom monopoly, the General Posts and Telecommunications Company (GPTC). The mobile phone network of the North African country will be expanded to cover the coastal area southeast of Tripoli.

Libya's first GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) network was launched in 1997, when a \$42.5 million contract was signed with Sweden's Ericsson.

Later in 1997 GPTC purchased a five percent stake in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications company, for \$25 million. In 1999, the GPTC acquired Thuraya's distribution and marketing rights for Libya.

The latest available figures on Libya's telecommunications sector show that network capacity stood at 400,000 lines in 1995, while the connected telephone lines rate reached 380,000. This indicated a teledensity figure of 6.79 per hundred people.

While maintaining one of the lowest population densities in the world, Libya's six million strong population is predominantly concentrated in and around the country's northern coastal cities.

## ETC to be privatised

**The Ethiopian government has invited tenders to take part in the country's planned privatisation of its national landline and mobile phone network monopoly, Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation (ETC).**

According to the Ethiopian Privatisation Agency (EPA) is offering a 30 percent stake in the company and interested parties have until September 30th to submit their bids.

"Potential strategic partners are encouraged to pre-qualify either individually or as part of a consortia," the Ethiopian Privatisation Agency

(EPA) said in a statement. The EPA has put a valuation on the whole company, which has about 350,000 landline customers and 43,000 mobile users, of US\$300 million. The company has an ongoing investment program to expand its landline capacity to 800,000 (1 percent penetration) by 2005.

## Namahoua Bamba joins ATU

**M**rs. Namahoua Bamba has joined African Telecommunications Union (ATU) since January 2, 2002. She has been seconded to ATU by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire.

Mrs. Bamba has been appointed as Development Research Project Coordinator. She is responsible for creation of partnership with Development Finance Agencies, Education and Training Institutions and Regulatory Agencies. Her job, among others, will focus on:

- ♦ Building a new cadre for people needed to make ICT a cross-cutting tool for development
- ♦ Networking members' ICT institutions
- ♦ Conducting workshops, seminars and forums
- ♦ Raising development funds for LDC member states.

Before joining ATU, Mrs. Bamba worked for the 'Agence des Telecommunications de Cote d'Ivoire (ATCI), one of the two Ivorian telecommunications regulatory bodies.

She was involved in developing and implementing policies for a sound policy and legal environment in the Ivorian telecommunications sector.

Mrs. Bamba graduated in 1992 from the 'Institut National des Telecommunications' in France. She also holds a Masters degree in Management from the 'Universite Paris-IX Dauphine' in France.



• **Namahoua Bamba**

ATU, Development and Research Coordinator



# Ghana Telecom up for sale

**G**hanaian government has announced the sale of its majority share in Ghana Telecom (GT), a move that will further open the country's telecommunications arena to further competition.

While shedding light on the status of reforms being contemplated within the telecoms sector, Felix Owusu-Adjepong, Ghana's Minister for Communications and

Technology, said the government was taking a keen step in furtherance of its programme geared towards rapid transformation of the industry. He said the government had had several meetings with the Chair and leading members of Telekom Malaysia, a move that culminated in a final meeting with President Kofour.

Following these meetings the government has reached a number of momentous decisions which in the Minister's own words were:

- Exclusivity in Telephony in Ghana is deemed to have come to an end as at the close of work on the 19th February 2002. This means that the Government

will encourage fair competition in the telecom sector. What is required therefore, is for a potential operator to secure a licence from the National Communications Authority (NCA) to be able to operate.

- Government has agreed with Telekom Malaysia on the re-composition of the Board of GT in the ratio of six members representing the Government of Ghana to three members representing Telekom Malaysia (TM). Kindly note that this new composition is a proposal by TM which has been accepted by Government of Ghana since it satisfies the principle that the majority shareholder should hold majority representation on the Board.

- The Technical and Consultancy Services Agreement, which expired on 19th February 2002, is not being renewed. However, to enable a smooth transition to whatever Body would provide Technical and Consultancy Services to

GT, Government is granting a three-month stay to TM. Any such future Management Contract shall have the following ingredients:

•It shall be governed by terms and conditions that will enhance accountability and performance.

•For all management positions, the professional qualifications and technical expertise of the personnel concerned shall also be enshrined in the Management Contract.

The government expects the new investors in the telecoms to be in a position to bring in resources sufficient to develop the minimum of 400,000 fixed lines. This will be in line with the President's vision of extending telephone service to every town with a Senior Secondary School or Teacher Training College and which can be realised within two to three years. "A fixed line in our context, is any technology which allows one to make a telephone connection to the computer so that not only voice, but data, the Internet, video conferencing and other applications could be transmitted at competitive tariff," clarified the Minister.

## Malawi to welcome third cellular operator

**A**fter tremendously liberalising its telecoms market, Malawi has expressed its intention to license a third cellular operator. This follows the government's call for application for tender offer of services by Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA). Evans Namaja, MACRA's Director-General, says the country is looking for an operator who will provide a countrywide cellular network.

Although MACRA has not specified that it is particularly interested in a global communications system by mobile (GSM) network, Namaja explains that this will be the most preferred solution because of its

popularity and proven track record in the sub-saharan region.

The government has so far put together a policy that allows the third operator in the country because the existing ones have not kept up with the demand for connectivity. Apparently for a country with 11 million people only 50,000 have so far been connected. The first cellular provider was established in 1995 and the second was in 1999. "I think that if another operator were to establish a business right now, it would be guaranteed at least 50,000 subscribers right from the onset," says Namaja while justifying the existing demand of cellular service in the country. He expects the tendering process, which its deadline was slated for end of February to be very competitive.

Meanwhile, the government through its privatisation network is looking for strategic equity partner for Malawi Telecommunications Limited (MTC), currently the only fixed line operator in the country. The company was incorporated as a public limited company in May 2000 by MACRA. It operates 148 exchanges of which 123 are automatic, with the entire network currently in the process of being digitised.



# AU's Durban declaration in tribute to OAU

**The African Heads of States and Government adopted 20 resolutions dubbed; "Durban Declaration" in a glowing tribute to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as they African Union (AU) in South Africa.**

As the leaders entered into a new era in the history of the continent, they expressed their commitment to the principles and objectives set out in the Constitutive Act of AU in order to ensure that Africans live in peace and prosperity.

While honouring the founding leaders and all those who dedicated their services to OAU, they expressed their tenacity, resilience and commitment to the newly found African Unity. "As we bid farewell to the OAU, we rededicate ourselves to its memory as a pioneer, a liberator, a unifier, an organizer, and the soul of our continent," said the leaders who further pledged to strive more resolutely for Africa and its people under AU. They further expressed their rededication to the New Partnership of Africa's Development (NEPAD), as an AU programme for strengthening inter-African cooperation and integration in a globalising world.

African Union was initiated at the fourth extraordinary session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and as embodied in the Sirte Declaration.

## ***Vanguard of people's rights***

Referering to the OAU Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Grand Bay Declaration, the leaders praised OAU as having been on the vanguard in the promotion of people's rights. Underlying the instruments of human rights was the determination to ensure that Africa responds to the challenge of observing, promoting and protecting human dignity and the rule of law.

For greater political freedom inherent in democratic government, OAU equally responded to the yearning of the African people. To this effect, it was at the forefront in galvanizing governments around a new determination to progressively place the people at the centre of decision making. The Charter on Popular Participation Adoption in 1990 was a testimony to this new determination.

According to the Durban declaration, Africa is today firm on the road to democratization.

## ***Background***

Historically, the Heads of State and Government of the then African

independent countries gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and found OAU, 39 years ago. The main objective for establishing the organisation was, inter alia, to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid. This was coupled with the focus of promoting unity and solidarity among African States; coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; for the defence of sovereignty, territorial integrity and consolidation of the independence of African States, as well as promoting international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.



• **Amara Essy,**  
AU Secretary General

## ***Dynamic force of service***

The leaders said that the common identity and unity of purpose engendered by the OAU, became a dynamic force at the service of the African people in the pursuit for the total emancipation political, economic and social fields. Through the OAU Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, the Continent worked and spoke as one with undivided determination in forging an international consensus in support of the liberation struggle.

## ***Regional economic communities***

Since June 1991 when the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) was signed, there has been a focus in building the African Economic Community through a Common Market built on the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Today, Regional Economic Communities are consolidating and proving to be engines for integration. They include ECCAS, SADC, COMESA, UMA, ECOWAS, IGAD and CENSAD are making great effort at economic development and integration as well as at promoting peace through conflict resolution in their region.

## **Pacesetters of Pan-Africanism**



• **Kwame Nkrumah**  
First Ghanaian  
President



• **Jomo Kenyatta**  
First Kenyan  
President



• **Haile Selassie**  
Last Ethiopian  
Emperor



# COMESA holds first

## Priorities on harmonisation

**T**he Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) held its first ICT policy and Regulatory Harmonization Workshop from August 13-15 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Kenya government co-sponsored the event alongside the USAID.

It was evident during the workshop that despite the convergence of technologies which share common business interests in every sector of the economy, they have usually been kept separate at policy and regulatory levels.

While opening the workshop, Honourable Mathias Keah, Kenya's Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications emphasized the need for harmonization of policy and regulatory framework in order to make the sector attractive to investment. He stated that ICT would be able to generate income and employment for people in the region.

Samuel Chepkonga, Director General of the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), welcomed the delegates and thanked COMESA Secretariat for choosing to hold the meeting in Kenya. He highlighted the role played by ICTs in economic development, given the fact that the advancement of ICT had created a borderless world. It was of utmost importance that countries adopted policies and regulations that facilitated cross-border trade for the benefit of the Member States. The ICT stakeholders now had to come together to strategise on possible areas of collaboration so as to attract more investment.

Participants strongly recommended that an institutional mechanism for facilitating implementation and capacity building for ICT be put in place. Institutionalization of the framework is geared to increase the much needed awareness on the need for enhanced policy reform in the ICTs sector and encourage best practices suitable for adaptation in the COMESA region.



• **HIGH TABLE:** Hon. Mathias Keah, Kenya's Transport and Communications Minister, Permanent Secretary Sammy Kyungu (second right) Dr. Andrew Njiru, opening of the First COMESA ICT policy and regulations harmonization workshop.

### ATU's participation

Jan Mutai, Secretary General of ATU welcomed the COMESA initiative and congratulated Kenya and COMESA for their collaboration in holding the meeting. He emphasised the need for ways and means of bridging the digital divide within and between Member States.

He observed that harmonised policies and regulatory framework will set an ideal environment for establishing markets for ICTs so that operators and service providers would have a larger field to operate in. He urged the meeting to consider the establishment of a regulatory association. A mechanism for sustaining the drive for common ICT markets and co-operation at global ICT decision making, regulatory associations were ideal. He stated that ATU established an African Common Proposals (ACP) consultation process for ICT conferences that was bottom up from national level.

### National Regulatory Agencies

So far, only 30 percent of COMESA Member states have private or partially private incumbent telecom operators. The region has however established National Regulatory Agencies which lay emphasis on independence, autonomy, transparency, fairness, openness, credibility and legitimacy and responsiveness. Governments were urged to play an important role of clearly defining the regulator's mandate, enforcement of powers, organizational flexibility and to ensure effectiveness in policy formulation and regulatory process. The meeting learnt that one



• **ATTENTIVE:** Invited delegates follow proceedings of the COMESA Workshop.



# ICT policy workshop

## on of regulations stressed



Communications Assistant Minister (second left) flanked by the ministry's (left) and the ATU Secretary General, Jan Mutai during the official workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

of COMESA's major challenges was to create universal service mechanisms to enhance competition and private ownership as means of ensuring extension of services.

### Regulatory Challenges

Considering that convergence has dramatically been influenced by the introduction of digital technology, Internet and World Wide Web, regulators face the challenge of being the enablers of creating new industries. Other challenges faced by regulators include: the clearing the industry boundaries and harmonizing the loss of traditional industry identity.

Dr. Andrew Sisson, USAID's Regional Director said his organization was delighted to be associated with COMESA in promoting dialogue among telecommunications policy makers in the region.

COMESA's Officer-in-Charge of Infrastructure Development Division, Mr. G. M. Maeti underscored the importance of ICT as a sector, which facilitated development of trade and economic integration and one that also provided tradeable services.

### Harmonization: The driving will

The purpose of harmonisation, which should be both at national and regional levels is meant to create a unified body of rules to provide clarity and certainty to stakeholders, thereby achieving the main goal of integrating the countries within COMESA region. Harmonisation guidelines included, the setting up of independent regulatory bodies by legal instruments. The

regulator should have a clear mandate, structure, composition and functions. The regulator should be independent from the incumbent operator and from other interested parties.

The policy goals should promote investment, innovation and infrastructure development, with the regulator removing unnecessary barriers and promoting competition, whilst facilitating new market entry.

### COMESA ICT Policy

The ICT Policy for COMESA document was presented by the Secretariat. The document focused on the formulation of a policy model for the harmonious development and application of ICTs within Member States with a view to turning COMESA into an information society. The document consisted of three major sections, namely: Challenges and policy objectives, strategies and regulatory principles.

One of the challenges was the development of a large scale and modern infrastructure capable of delivering information and communications technology (ICT) services, an enabler of economic growth, regional integration and development.

The regulatory agency, a key player in the new regulatory environment was critical in guiding and facilitating the healthy development of ICT infrastructure services, applications and the development of local content and business. The emphasis was on the independence and effectiveness of the regulator.

Dynamic nature of the ICT sector demands that the proposed common policy be broader in order to allow for changes to accommodate new developments, particularly in specific areas such as interconnectivity, licensing, universal service and access, competition, management of scarce resources like the radio frequency spectrum, numbering and ICT applications.

The workshop agreed that the policy document should encompass clearly all the elements of ICT to include IT, Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Postal Services.



• **ADDRESS:** Officer-in-Charge of Development Division, G. Maeti offers keynote address on behalf COMESA's Secretary General.





# Marrakech

## Where the world

**The 16th International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference, the top policy-making body of the Union converges in Marrakech Morocco from 23 September to 18 October 2002 at the Plais des Congres.**

Held every four years, the Conference sets the Union's general policies, adopts five-year strategic and financial plans and elects the senior management team of the organization, the members of Council and the members of the Radio Regulations Board.

About 1,500 top-ranking delegates from all regions of the world are expected to attend the event which ITU Member States decide on the future role of thee in determining what role ITU can play in shaping the telecommunication sector of the 21st century.

About 1,500 top-ranking delegates from all regions of the world are expected to attend the event which ITU Member States decide on the future role of determining what role ITU can play in shaping the telecommunication sector of the 21st century. The conference will be held at a time of unprecedented change within the telecommunications industry. In

### Messages

#### An agenda for change

**T**oday, there is widespread acknowledgement of the urgent need for reform in the face of a rapidly evolving and increasingly changing telecommunications sector.

Since the first concrete steps towards defining a new ITU were taken by the 1992 Geneva Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, we have seen the pace of reform gradually accelerate, with the establishment of ITU-2000 and the Working Group on Reform (WGR).

While no one expects ITU reform to match the breakneck speed of the changes currently transforming the global telecommunications sector, we must go further. Most encouragingly, resistance to reform is giving way to a broad consensus on the need for change and these first steps have begun to yield solid results.

Despite growing demands, these multi-million dollar cost-saving measures, together with zero nominal growth biennial budgets in the past six years, have ensured stable member contributions.

The private sector has also been more directly involved in planning and governance through a stronger role for the Sector Advisory groups.

We need to ensure that ITU work in standards-setting focuses on areas where it has a leadership position while still adding value to work undertaken at national or regional level.

Finally, the Union's financial base needs to be strengthened through a broadening of our membership base as well as a sustained war on inefficiencies in order to retain our relevance to the industry and to keep competing organizations at bay.

But with the organization firmly moving forward under a new spirit of cooperation for the many exciting opportunities ahead, I have no doubt that the Member States at Marrakech will embrace not only all of the recommendations put forward by the ITU Reform Group, but also other proactive reform proposals tabled by Member States.

#### Marrakech and ITU's future

**O**n behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, it gives me great pleasure to welcome distinguished delegates to the city of Marrakesh, which has the honour of hosting the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - the sixteenth such event to be held since the organization's establishment in 1865.

With its ochre colouring, Marrakesh, this most entrancing of cities, founded in around 1070, indisputably represents the living memory of the age-old history of Morocco, and has the magical ability to ensure that all who come here enjoy their visit.

It means a great deal to Morocco to be hosting this very major and important world conference, thereby marking its position as a dynamic country that is firmly set on the road towards open trade and integration into the global economy. In line with the High Guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Moroccan Government, headed by Prime Minister Abderrahman Youssoufi, has made telecommunication and information technologies a spearhead for sustainable development, more rapid growth and the reduction of inequalities. This event, the 2002 Plenipotentiary Conference, will be taking place within a context of far-reaching technological change to which ITU must make every effort to adapt.

The broadening of its activities should constitute a shared undertaking for the future and a major challenge in terms of partnership between the public and private sectors, in an association of interests and competencies that will serve to maintain and strengthen the Union's role.

I wish all participants in the Conference a very heartfelt welcome to Morocco - Ahlan wa sahlan!!!



**• Yoshio Utsumi**  
ITU Secretary General



**• Nasr Hajji,**  
Secretary of State to the Prime Minister in charge of Posts and Telecommunication and Information Technologies



# kech

## will converge



dramatic contrast to the buoyant climate four years ago when it last convened; telecommunication manufacturers, operators, software developers and service providers must deal with harsh new realities governing a sector that has undergone a rapid and profound transformation. As today's industry moves forward in a climate of uncertainty, the case for reform of ITU's regulations, working methods and structures takes on added importance.

Plenipotentiary delegates will be expected to take decisions on a number of issues, including:

- Strengthening the role of the private sector and of

regulators in the work of the ITU.

- Balancing the ITU budget.
- Establishing faster processes for approving global telecommunication standards.
- Introduction of fees to cover the cost of processing Satellite applications.
- The implications of convergence in telecommunications and the impact of the Internet.
- Strengthening ITU's regional presence.
- The world Summit on the Information Society to be convened under the leadership of the ITU in Geneva in December 2003 and Tunis 2005 and steps to overcome the Digital Divide.

### Proposals

## Africa to table 22 AfCP's

**F**or the first time, Africa proceeds to the International Telecommunications Union Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-02) with common proposals that will be used as the continent's input in the global meeting at Marakech and other international conferences.

This follows an approval of 22 African Common Proposals (AfCP's) by the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL) held in Nairobi from August 28-30, 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Among the highlights in the AfCP's are varied aspects on reform of ITU. In this regard, the AfCP's recommend that the private sector be given a greater role in ITU and an increased role of government's in Internet governance be enhanced. At the moment the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) takes a leading role in the Domain Name Systems (DNS). There is need for African governments to appreciate the assignment of these names and numbers as they touch on the identity of their countries in the global arena.

A common voice that also emerges from AfCP's include increased efficiency in ITU and observer status in ITU meetings and conferences.

According to the first AfCP that highlights on Global and Regional preparatory process of plenipotentiary conferences, Africa recommends that besides the regional and inter-regional consultative meetings, there should also be a global process consultative meetings by the PP-02.

On the stable elections for ITU officials, the AfCP's recommends that there should be clean and stable procedures in accordance with the basic instruments of the Union. Its further recommended that the elections be held during the first week of the conference and within a minimum period.

Other areas of which Africa has a common voice at PP-02 include recommendations on Radio Communication sector, Radio Regulations Board, Telecommunication Standardization, Telecommunication Development and strengthening of ITU's financial base.

The AfCP's recognizes that a coordinated rather than a piecemeal approach to treating the complex issues is a suitable way forward.

The AfCP's have already been submitted to the ITU and are appearing on the ITU's website on PP-02 as a document on PP-02/61.

There is a requirement that each Member State should endorse and ultimately submit their input to ITU by e-mail [pp02contributions@itu.int](mailto:pp02contributions@itu.int) or fax +41227305881.

**The AfCP's recognizes that a coordinated rather than a piecemeal approach to treating the complex issues is a suitable way forward.**



# ITU sets speech coding standard

Speech quality for wireless and wireline to improve

**T**he ITU has approved a new Standard for high-quality digital wideband speech encoding that will bring significant improvements in terms of interoperability, easier implementation, and improved quality, for wideband voice applications and services across a wide range of communication systems and platforms.

Several important applications are envisaged for the standard. These include:

Voice over IP (VoIP) and the Internet, third generation mobile communications, PSTN high-quality audio-conferencing and business applications (both in point-to-point and multi-point situations), streaming audio and speech,

ISDN wideband telephony, and ISDN video telephony and video-conferencing.

The standard, known as Recommendation G.722.2, is also referred to as the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband (AMR-WB) codec. It has been selected by 3GPP (Third Generation Partnership Project) as the Wideband codec for GSM and 3rd generation wireless W-CDMA applications. This marks the first time that both wireless and wireline services may

be able to adopt the same codec. Pierre-Andre Probst, Chairman of ITU-T Study Group 16 notes, "The AMR-WB codec is a breakthrough in speech quality. The fact that the same codec has been adopted means that interoperation between 3G and fixed IP networks will be that much easier".

Wideband speech coding, using an audio band of 50-7 000 Hz, offers major subjective improvements in speech quality compared to traditional narrowband telephone speech (200-3 400 Hz). A bandwidth of 50 to 7 000 Hz improves the intelligibility and naturalness of speech, adds a feeling of transparent communication and eases speaker recognition. The low-frequency enhancement from 50 to 200 Hz contributes to increased naturalness, presence and comfort while the high-frequency extension from 3 400 to 7 000 Hz provides improved intelligibility.



## Radio Communications

# First come, first served frequency allocation challenged

**T**he International Telecommunication Union Secretary General, Yoshio Utsumi has advised the Union's membership to engage in dialogue that seek to substantiate the seemingly outlived usefulness of first come, first served' policy in frequency allocation.

According to Utsumi, developing countries, which constitute 80 percent of the ITU membership, are not beneficiaries of the policy. While addressing the 10<sup>th</sup> Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) which converged in Geneva from March 25 to February 1, the Secretary General pointed out that ITU's beacon of technical excellence with uncharted

territory was exposed to criticism over the frequency allocation from several quarters.

RAG is one of the organs of the ITU-R sector. It advises the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) on preparations for all conferences in the sector.

The World Social Forum, held in Porto Alegre (in early February)

## ITU-ATU in ties

**Africa has continued to be among the beneficiaries of ITU's contributions especially those touching on the reform of the sector, development of infrastructure and services linked to ICT and human resources.**

In conjunction with ATU, ITU has continued to provide contribution to the African continent. Towards this partnership the international body and other development partners have assisted the African countries in the establishment of sub-regional regulators.

Through co-ordinated ATU-ITU initiatives, pilot projects in tele-education, tele-medicine, in community based telecentres, and in e-commerce have been implemented to demonstrate the advantages of using new technologies in solving basic problems such as, education, health and job creation.

The Afritel project has contributed to the feasibility study of Southern Region Information Infrastructure project in Southern Africa, and to the INTERCOM-II project in West Africa, whereas the INDAFTEL project enabled equipment manufacturing in Africa in order to add local value. As far as the development of the Human resources is concerned, the project aiming at the transformation of the sub-regional institutions of training into Centres of Excellence is underway. Among these institutions are ESMT in Dakar and AFRALTI in Nairobi. Various Courses are taught by ITU over the Internet.

effectively declared war on the long-standing ITU principle of 'first come, first served' in the allocation of spectrum and on the principle spectrum property rights," said Utsumi. He noted that although ITU may contest these views, it must be prepared to engage in dialogue.

The Secretary-General further stressed the need of the ITU communicating its mission much more clearly than in the past. "This means that we should look beyond the internal business of ITU and understand the implications that radiocommunications has for the wider world," clarified Utsumi.



# WSIS 2003 *preparations gain momentum*

**The World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) which the UN General Assembly adopted its resolution on 21 December 2001 will next year converge in Geneva Switzerland under the patronage of the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.**

A number of preparatory meetings have been taking place across the world in preparation of the summit. The Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting to the occasion was held at Palais des Congres in Bamako, Mali from 28 to 30 May, 2002.

Participating in the conference were representatives from 51 African countries and delegates representing African and global organizations, the private sector and civil society.

During the meeting, a welcome statement from the UN Secretary General was read on his behalf by Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane of Economic Commission of Africa (ECA).

Other invited dignitaries who made their remarks included the former President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konare and His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade President of the Republic of Senegal.

The governing body of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Council, at its 2001 session, endorsed the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in two phases: in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 and in Tunis in 2005.

The Summit will address a broad range of questions concerning the Information Society and move towards a

common vision and understanding of this societal transformation. The Summit is expected to adopt a Declaration of Principles and an Action Plan to facilitate the effective growth of the Information Society and to help bridge the Digital Divide.

It aims at bringing together representatives from the highest levels of government, the private sector, civil society and NGOs. It will offer a unique opportunity for the world community to discuss and give shape to the Information Society.

## **The challenge**

The global information society is evolving at breakneck speed. The accelerating convergence between telecommunications, broadcasting multimedia and information and communication technologies (ICTs) is driving new products and services, as well as ways of conducting business and commerce. At the same time, commercial, social and professional

opportunities are exploding as new markets open to competition and foreign investment and participation.

## **The opportunity**

WSIS will provide a unique opportunity for all key players to assemble to develop a better understanding of this revolution and its impact on the international community. It aims at bringing together Heads of State, Executive Heads of United Nations agencies, industry leaders, non-governmental organizations, media representatives and civil society in a single high-level event.



• **Kofi Annan,**  
UN Secretary  
General

Among the challenges that Utsumi posed to RAG to consider deliberating on included:-

- How to make the work of Radiocommunication sector more open, more inclusive and more comprehensible to the general public.
- How to restructure the study Groups to reflect current market and social trends in the digital era.
- How the Radiocommunication Sector can contribute to building the Information Society.

## **Attendance**

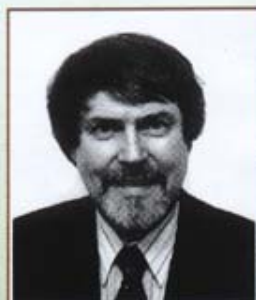
The RAG meeting was attended by 38 ITU member states represented by 89 delegates. There were eight African Member States represented by 12 participants. The meeting requested the BR to find ways of increasing attendance of developing countries in RAG meetings.

ITU, according to the rationale of attending and participating in RAG meetings has the mandate to provide

platforms where Member States can negotiate and agree on the rules for equitable access to the radio frequency spectrum in meeting universal access obligations for all nations.

Countries that attend and participate effectively in RAG meetings are more likely to be in a better bargaining position at the international radiocommunication conferences where the rules for accessing the orbital space are agreed upon. Agreements reached during such meetings bind all countries.

In this era of Global Information Society, every country should strive to participate effectively in evolving the



• **B. Gracie,**  
Chairman of the  
10th RAG meeting

rules for equitable access to the radio frequency. Challenged to this effect are African countries, which need to embrace RAG meetings in order to perform better at international Radiocommunication conferences.

## **Participation**

Contributions from Morocco during the RAG meeting were the highest in terms of interventions made to seek for clarification and float proposals worth discussion during the meeting. Mali made at least three contributions while Kenya made one.

African Telecommunication Union drew the attention of the meeting on the January 2002 Extra-ordinary Council Resolution that established the process of evolving the African Common Proposals. The Union said African participation would be evident when the established process is mature. ATU was encouraged to invite experts from other RTO's to provide expertise during conference preparatory meetings.



# Sky is the limit

## Botswana

**B**otswana is a landlocked Sub-Saharan African country with a population of approximately 1.6 million, and was one of the world's poorest countries at the time it achieved independence in 1966. Today's GDP per capita is USD 3560, making it the second highest in Sub-Saharan Africa after South Africa.

Since independence, Botswana has become renowned for good governance, intolerance for corruption and solid respect for legal processes. It has also favoured a free-market approach to its economy, creating State-owned companies only where the private sector has failed to enter the market.

Created in 1996, Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA) is one of the few regulatory bodies that enjoy complete freedom in establishing and licensing operators, plus financing its operational budget.

In addition to successfully regulating Botswana's telecommunication market, BTA has been integrally involved in the creation and on-going work of the Telecommunication Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (TRASA), one of the world's strongest regional regulatory organizations. Among its other accomplishments, TRASA has developed

a model legislation and regulatory guidelines for fourteen countries in the Southern African region.

The country owes its success to the wide public consultation it undertook during the preparation of its telecommunication policy. This public consultation served to raise citizen awareness of the merits of sector reform. The Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication (MWTC) assisted by a Swedish consultant and prepared a national telecommunication policy designed to promote network build-out through the introduction of competition, beginning with mobile services. The Telecommunication Policy was approved in 1995.

The Telecommunications Act not only set the framework for introducing competition in the provision of telecommunication services, but also provides the legal foundation for the creation, financing and powers of the

country's telecommunications regulatory authority, BTA. The Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (Amendment) Act of 1996 ended the incumbent operator's legal right to a monopoly in the provision of voice telephony.

BTA's number one priority, based on the Telecommunications Policy and public consultation, was to license operators of the Global System for Mobile (GSM) communications. BTA has been given almost complete freedom to decide how many licenses should be granted, for which services, and which operators receive those licenses. Although BTA had only a skeleton staff at the time, it succeeded in licensing two competitive mobile operators within nine months. The licensing mechanism it used and the transparency through which the procedure took place clearly set the tone of the Authority's autonomy and effectiveness in leadership. BTA is also one of the most financially independent regulatory authorities in the world. Since its first year in operation, BTA has financed its operational budget exclusively through regulatory fees and investment income. The regulatory authority never seeks funding from MWTC or any other segment of the government.

## Congo

**T**he once dilapidated Congo's telecommunications landscape is steadily being revamped by the Government, says the country's Posts and Telecommunications Minister, Mr. Jean Dello.

According to the Minister, Congo's info-communication industry was ruined by war which started in 1997. He notes that following consistent re-address of the situation, the Government has been taking appropriate measures to rehabilitate the destroyed infrastructure.

Towards this effort, points out Dello, is the support being accorded to the country's national operator. The Government has been

providing essential tools to Office National des Postes et Telecommunications (ONPT), a move that has hastened penetration of telecommunication services in the country.

Considerable improvement has been realized in the industry following the acquisition of a new earth station by the Government. Law 1497 of May 25, 1997 has also facilitated the liberation of the telecom sector. ONPT is in this regard gradually losing its monopoly and will soon be confronted with cut-throat competition.

### Other networks

Alcatel, a French company has won a contract to instal two new digital telephone centers of medium capacity in both Pointe-Noire and Oyo. This infrastructure will be operational before the end of this year.

The impact of GSM telephone operators being offered by Celtel Congo and Libertis Telecom are being realized as they are competing to cover the greater part of the territory. Areas which the GSM network have already penetrated include, Brazaville, Pointe-Noire, Delise Nkayi, Oyo and Ouessou.

Mobile Cyrtel operating in Brazaville and Pointe-Noire uses a DAMPS system. Already interconnected are Celtel Congo and Libertise Congo.

Following cabinet's meeting in June 28, 2001, the decision to split ONPT into two entities; SOTELCO and SOPECO was arrived at. SOTELCO stands for Telecommunications la Societe des Telecommunication du Congo while the latter's acronym is Societe des Postes et de l'Epargne du Congo.

The split of the country's giant telecom entity will be followed by atleast three years of observation.

So far ONPT which has been granted license to operate GSM network with any partner has started Internet service in the country.



# Kenya to administer .ke domain

**A**n initiative known as Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC) has been mooted to administer the country's code top-level domain.

Two letter domains such as .ke are called country code top-level domains and correspond to a country, territory, or other geographic location.

The issues at stake are the domain names, .co.ke and .or.ke whose administration processes and procedures are not representative of all parties and does not contribute to the development of Internet industry in Kenya. Worse still the registration process was controlled outside the country by an individual said to be based in California, USA.

Operators in the Internet industry say that formation of KENIC was driven by the understanding that domain names are a national asset whose utilization should be managed in such a way that is going to benefit the whole country.

Mr. Alexander Maina who sits in the committee of KENIC said a team has been sent to the ICANN that co-ordinates some technical functions of the Internet, including the management of Internet domain name system. In Tanzania domain names are administered by the country's communications regulator, Tanzania Communications Commission (TCC).

Broadly, KENIC draws its membership from several stakeholders that include CCK, Internet Service Providers, Telkom Kenya Limited, the Government, consumers, educationists through Kenya Education Network and the business community through National Task Force on eCommerce.

Available statistics indicate that there are an estimated 5,000 Kenyan websites, at least 50 percent of which are hosted out of the country and most of which use generic top-level domains such as .com, .org, .or, and .net among others. The local Internet industry believes that more Kenyan websites will be hosted and will also adopt the country code top-level domain if the registration process is administered from the country.



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# CALENDAR OF KEY EVENTS

Month	Type of event	Dates	Event	Venue	Status
<b>June 2002</b>	R 01	3-7	Horn of Africa Regional Conference on Women & ICT	KCCT, Nairobi	C
	G 01	17-21	Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group Meeting	Geneva Switzerland	C
	G 02	24-28	International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) Assembly of Parties.	Washington USA	C
	G 03	24-28	Internet Corporation for Addresses Names & Numbers (ICANN)	Bucharest Romania	C
	R 02	28-10 July	OAU/African Union Heads of State & Government Summit and Related meetings	Durban, South Africa	C
<b>July 2002</b>	G 04	1-5	1st Preparatory Committee Meeting for World Summit on Information Society (Prep. Com-1)	Geneva Switzerland	C
	R 03	29-2 August	24th AFRALTI Governing Council Meeting	Maseu, Lesotho	C
<b>August 2002</b>	R 04	5-8	The Fourth Annual African Computing & Telecommunications Summit	Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi	C
	R 05	5-8	East African Internet Forum	Nairobi Kenya	C
	R 06	13-16	COMESA Telecom Policy Harmonization Conference	Nairobi Kenya	C
	M 01	12-16	Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting CC/SP	Nairobi Kenya	C
	M 02	20-21	Special Session of Administrative Council (SS/AC/2002)	Nairobi Kenya	C
	M 03	23-24	Conference Preparatory Committee (CPC/01/2002)	Nairobi Kenya	C
	M 04	27	Ministerial Oversight Committee (MOC)	Nairobi Kenya	C
	M 05	28-30	Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL/01/2001)	Nairobi Kenya	C
<b>September 2002</b>	G 06	23-18 Oct	ITU Plenipotentiary Conference PP-02,	Marrakesh, Morocco	C
<b>October 2002</b>	G 07	22-26	Internet Corporation for Addresses Names & Numbers (ICANN)	Shanghai - China	C
<b>November 2002</b>	G 08	18-27	Conference Preparation Meeting (CPM)	Geneva Switzerland	C
<b>December 2002</b>	M 06	7	Africa Telecommunications Day	Member State Capitals	C
	G 09	9 - 13	Amateur Radio Administration Course for regulators	Nairobi Kenya	C
<b>January 2003</b>	R 07		UN - ICT Task Force African Stakeholders Network Meeting	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	T
	R 08		ITU-R Information Meeting for WRC-03	Libreville, Gabon	T
	G 10		Radiocommunication Advisory Group	Geneva Switzerland	T
<b>February 2003</b>	R 09		25th AFRALTI Governing Council meeting	Kampala, Uganda	T
	G 11	24-28	Telecommunications Development Advisory Group (TDAG)	TBA	T
	R 10	24-28	ITU-Seminar: Radio Frequency Spectrum and Satellite Orbits.	Tanzania	T
<b>March 2003</b>	R 11		African Development Forum (ADF IV)	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	T
	R 12	17-19	ITU - Information Meeting on Digital Broadcasting for RRC-04	Nairobi Kenya	T
	G 12	25-4 April	Preparatory Meeting of WSIS (Prep. WSIS)	TBA	T
<b>April 2003</b>	M 07	15-17	4th Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council (AC/04/2003)	Nairobi, Kenya	C
<b>May 2002</b>	G 13	5-16	ITU Council (C03)	Geneva	C

Key:

**M-** Membership Event  
**R-** Regional/Continental Event  
**G-** Global Event

**TBA-** To Be Advised  
**C-** Confirmed  
**T-** Tentative



