AC/06/D07

Date: 06/04/05

PREPARATION OF THE 2ND ATU CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES

1.   Introduction

1.1   The Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the African Telecommunications Union is the supreme organ of the Union
It convenes in an Ordinary Session every four years to, among other things:

- Determine the general policy which the Union must follow to achieve its objectives;
- Examine and approve the Strategic Plan, Programme of activities and the accounts of the Union and determine the ceiling of the four year budget;
- Elect the Members of the Administrative Council and the Secretary General of the Union;
- Consider the report of the Administrative Council on its activities since the last Conference (Article 8,4 of the Constitution).

1.2   At its last Extraordinary Session held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 26-27 August 2003, the Conference, by Decision No 03 /ES/CPL/01 on the holding of its next Ordinary Session resolved:

- That its next Ordinary Session be held in 2006 ahead of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference;
- That the Conference be held either at the Headquarters of the Union on in a Member State that will have formally expressed interest.

1.3   In view of the foregoing and to facilitate the work of the Conference to enable appropriate decisions, the General Secretariat wishes to submit the following proposals to the Council for consideration.

2.   Proposals

2.1   Draft Agenda of the Conference and related meetings

In compliance with Article 1.6 of the Convention and as is customary, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries is preceded by the meeting of Conference Preparatory Committee (CPC) and a Special Session of the Administrative Council (SS/AC). These two meetings are convened prior to the CPL to ensure smooth preparation of the work of the Conference.

The SS/AC reviews the four-year activity report of the Administrative Council to the CPL and other key issues to be considered by the CPL.

The duties of the Conference Preparatory Committee is essentially to examine all items put on the Conference Agenda by the Administrative Council, or by any Member State or by the African Union (AU) and formulate Draft resolutions, decisions and recommendations for consideration by the Conference.

As the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference is scheduled to take place in October / November 2006, the General Secretariat wishes to propose that the ATU Conference and its related meetings be held in June / July 2006.

The first Draft Agenda of the CPL, CPC and SS/AC are attached as Annex 1, 2, 3, respectively.

2.2   Preparation of ATU Four Year Plan of Action and Budget for the 2006-2010 Period

Several ICT initiatives are ongoing to assist our countries bridge the digital divide. At the Global Level the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) aims at mapping the way for the creation of the Global Information Society. The Tunis Summit (WSIS II) of November 2005 will come up with a Global ICT Plan of Action.

At the continental level, the NEPAD ICT Initiative and the AU ICT Four-Year Plan of Action aim at promoting the rapid development of ICT in Africa in order to achieve universal access and full inter-country connectivity.
 The ATU General Secretariat is on its part, organizing in Nairobi, under the auspices of the African Union and in collaboration with ECA and ITU, the 2nd. African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS II). This Conference scheduled in May this year, will evolve a draft African Common Position for WSIS II and a draft African ICT Blueprint. This draft Blueprint will be submitted for consideration at the Abuja Telecommunication Development Preparatory Meeting in July 2005. When adopted, it will be tabled at the 4th. WTDC-06

in Doha, Qatar for incorporation in the Global Four – Year ITU – D Plan of Action.

As we all know, the current ATU Strategic Plan 2002-2006 is drawing to its end, when the ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries will hold its second session in 2006. It is therefore timely to begin the process of reviewing the achievements and shortcomings regarding its implementation with a view to drawing up a new Four-year Plan of Action for the period 2006 – 2010. To this end, the General Secretariat wishes to propose the following mechanisms:

1. commissioning of a consultant to, among other things, review all ICT initiative of relevance to the continent, identify issues of interest, draft a new four-year ATU Plan of Action and Budget and make recommendations to the Council;
2. establishment of a Council Committee on the Preparation of the Conference (CC/PC) to review the work of the consultant and all other issues relating to the work of the conference and submit views and recommendations thereon for the attention of the Council.

The Terms of Reference of the Consultant and the CC/PC are attached as Annex 4 and 5 respectively.

2.3   Draft Report of the Administrative Council on the activities of the Union during the 2002-2006 period

Under article 2 Paragraph 7.1 (F) of the Convention, the Administrative Council is requested to present a report to the Conference on the activities of the Union since the last ordinary session of the Conference. The General Secretariat wishes to propose in Annex 6 to this document, a draft structure of the Council Report for consideration and approval.

2.4   Draft African Common Proposals (AFCPs) for the ITU PP-06

As indicated in the Report of the Secretary General to the Council, copies of Resolution 06/ES/CPL/01/2003 of the Abidjan Conference on equitable and effective distribution of ITU Region "D" Council seats to African sub-regions were sent to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) asking them to seek consensus in the nomination of candidatures for the ITU Council seats. So far no satisfactory response has been received from the RECs. The General Secretariat wishes to propose that Members of the CC/PC be effectively involved in the process of determining these candidatures at sub-regional levels. In order to meet the deadline of 28th February 2006 set by Decision 01/DC/05/2004 for the dispatch of the results of the consultations on this issue to ATU Secretary General, CC/PC Members shall be urged to actively coordinate efforts in their respective RECs in the determination of their candidatures.

2.5   Scale of assessment of contributions to the budget of the Union.

Doubts have sometimes been expressed as to the relevance of the current ATU scale of assessment of contributions based on AU scale. The consultant and the CC/PC will address this issue and come up with proposals likely to enhance the financial position of the Union.

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2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF ATU CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES, July 2006

Draft Agenda

CPL/02/D02

#	Items	Documents
1.	Opening Ceremony	
2.	Meeting of Heads of Delegation	
3.	Election of the Bureau	
4.	Statements by Heads of Delegations	
5.	Consideration of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference	CPL/02/D02
6.	Consideration of the draft Agenda	CPL/02/D03
7.	Consideration of the draft Work Schedule	CPL/02/D04
8.	Consideration of the Report of the Credentials Committee	CPL/02/D05
9.	Consideration of the Report of the Administrative Council to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Activities of the Union during the four-year period 2002-2006	CPL/02/D06
10.	Consideration of the Report of the Conference Preparatory Committee to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries	CPL/02/D07
11.	Consideration of the draft African Common Proposals (AFCPs) for the ITU PP06 October / November 2006	CPL/02/D08
12.	Consideration of ATU Draft Plan of Action and four year Budget for 2006 – 2010 period	CPL/02/D09
13.	Consideration of new modalities of revenue sourcing of the Union	CPL/02/D10
14.	Consideration of the Procedures and conduct of elections - Part I Procedures - Part II Elections	CPL/02/D11
15.	Any other business	
16.	Date and venue of the next session	
17.	Adoption of the Report and Final Acts of the Conference and reading of Final Communiqué	CPL/01/D12
18.	Closing session	

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2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE PREPARTORY COMMITTEE - JULY 2006

2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE PREPARTORY COMMITTEE - JULY 2006

Draft Agenda

CPC/02/D02

#	Items	Documents
1.	Meeting of Heads of Delegation	
2.	Opening Session	
3.	Election of the Bureau	
4.	Consideration of the draft Agenda	CPC/02/D02
5.	Consideration of the draft Work Schedule	CPC/02/D03
6.	Consideration of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference Preparatory Committee (CPC)	CPC/02/D04
7.	Establishment of the Credentials Committee	CPC/02/D05
8.	Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries	CPC/02/D06
9.	Consideration of the Draft Work Schedule of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries	CPC/02/D07
10.	Consideration of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries	CPC/02/D08
11.	Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the Administrative Council on the activities of the Union during the four year period 2002 – 2006	CPC/02/D09
12.	Consideration of ATU Draft Plan of Action and Four year Budget for 2006 – 2010 period	CPC/02/D10
13.	Consideration of new modalities of revenue sourcing for the Union	CPC/02/D11
14.	Presentation of the Interim Report of the Credentials Committee	CPC/02/D12
15.	Consideration of the Draft African Common Proposals (AFCPs) for ITU PP-06	CPC/02/D13
16.	Consideration of the Procedures and conduct of elections	CPC/02/D14
17.	Any other business	
18.	Adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Conference Preparatory Committee	CPC/02/D15
19.	Closing session	

AC/06/D07

Special session of the Adminstrative Council - July 2006

SS-AC/02/D02

Draft Agenda

#	Items	Documents
1.	Opening Ceremony	
2.	Meeting of Heads of Delegation	
3.	Draft Agenda	SS-AC/02/D02
4.	Draft Work Schedule	SS-AC/02/D03
5.	Rules of Procedure of the Council	SS-AC/02/D04
6.	Draft Agenda of the Conference (CPL)	SS-AC/02/D05
7.	Draft Agenda of the Conference Preparatory Committee (CPC)	SS-AC/02/D06
8.	Draft Work Schedule of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL)	SS-AC/02/D07
9.	Draft Work Schedule of the Conference Preparatory Committee (CPC)	SS-AC/02/D08
10.	Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries	SS-AC/02/D09
11.	Rules of Procedure of the Conference Preparatory Committee (CPC)	SS-AC/02/D10
12.	Report of the Administrative Council on the activities during the four year period 2002 – 2006	SS-AC/02/D11
13.	Draft Four Plan of Action and Budget for 2006 – 2010	SS-AC/02/D12
14.	Proposed new modalities of revenue sourcing for the Union	SS-AC/02/D13
15.	Draft African Common Proposals (AFCPs) for ITU PP-06	SS-AC/02/D14
16.	Procedures and conduct of elections	SS-AC/02/D15
17.	Any other business	
18.	Adoption of the Report of the Council	SS-AC/02/D16
19.	Closing session	

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

- Evaluate achievements and failures in the implementation of the current Four – year Strategic Plan 2002 – 2006;

- Review all ICT initiatives of relevance to Africa;

- Identify ICT issues of interest to the continent;

- Draft a Four Year ATU ICT Plan of Action ;

- Draft a related Four-Year Budget;

- Evaluate the success of the current scale of assessment of contribution and propose new modalities of revenue sourcing for the Union;

- Complete the first draft document and submit it to the Secretary General by 15 November 2005 for translation and dispatch to members of the CC/PC;

- Participate in the meetings of the CC/PC to present the draft document for consideration;

- Participate in the 7th Session of the Council to present the draft document;

- Work in close collaboration with the Secretary General.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE CONFERENCE (CC/PC)

- Consider the Draft Four-Year Plan of Action and Budget submitted by the Consultant and make recommendations to the Administrative Council;

- Consider other recommendations made by the Consultant including revision of salary scales and proposed new modalities of revenue of sourcing for the Union;

- Consider the issue of the seat of the Union;

- Coordinate with respective RECs, the determination of ITU Region "D" Council Candidatures;

- Work in close collaboration with the Secretary General;

- Establish its own rules of procedure for conducting its meetings;

- Appoint its own Chairman and a Rapporteur;

- Hold two meetings, one in December 2005 and the other in February 2006 before the next 7th Administrative Council meeting scheduled in April 2006;

- Present a report on its work to the 7th Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council;

- Consider the Draft Report of the Administrative Council to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the activities of the Union during the four-year period 2002-2006 and make recommendations.

Draft Structure
Report of the Administrative Council to the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Plenipotentiaries (CPL) for the period 2002-2006

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