



**6th Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council  
Khartoum, Sudan  
19 – 21 April 2005**

**FINAL ACTS**

**PART 1**

**FINAL REPORT**

**PART 2**

**RESOLUTION, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

Date: 21/04/2005

**PART I**

**FINAL REPORT**

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## 1. Introduction

The 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ATU Administrative Council was held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 19 – 21 April 2005.

## 2. Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was presided over by Hon. Alzubair Basheer Taha, Minister of Science and Technology of Sudan. It was attended by members of African Diplomatic Missions in Sudan, Government officials, Private ICT Operators, Members of the Administrative Council, Delegates of invited organizations and Staff of ATU General Secretariat.

Statements made at this ceremony are attached as annexes.

## 3. Meeting of Heads of Delegation

As is customary, the Heads of Delegation met in camera for consultations and exchange of views on key issues on the agenda of the meeting.

## 4. Election of the Bureau

The Council elected the following Bureau:

- Chairperson – Sudan (Mr. El-Tayeb Mustafa, Director General of NTC)
- Vice-Chairperson – Burkina Faso (Mr. Valentin Boukari Sawadogo, Head of Interconnections Department - ONATEL)

## 5. Participation

Council was attended by Members of the Administrative Council, Non Member States, Associate Members, Observers and representatives of invited International Organizations namely: -

### 5.1 Member States

#### a) North Africa

1. Egypt

#### d) East Africa

1. Ethiopia
2. Sudan
3. Tanzania
4. Uganda

#### b) West Africa

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Cote d'Ivoire
4. Ghana

#### e) Southern Africa

1. Lesotho

#### c) Central Africa

1. Burundi
2. Cameroon
3. Central African Republic
4. Tchad

## **5.2 Non Council Member States**

- i. Kenya
- ii. Libya

## **5.3 Associate Members**

The following Associate Member attended the meeting: -

- i). SUDATEL

## **5.4 Invited Organizations**

- i). International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- ii). Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM)

## **5.5 Absence by Council Members**

The following Council Member States were absent: -

### **a) North Africa**

1. Tunisia

### **b) West Africa**

1. Mali
2. Nigeria

### **d) Southern Africa**

1. Malawi
2. Zimbabwe

## **5.6 Quorum**

The quorum of two-third of Council Membership was attained with the presence of 14 Council Members out of nineteen.

## **6. Adoption of the Agenda (AC/06/D02)**

The Agenda was adopted without amendment. It is attached in Annex 1.

## **7. Adoption of the Work Schedule (AC/06/D03)**

The Work Schedule was adopted without amendment. It is attached in Annex 2.

## **8. Consideration of the Report of the Secretary General (AC/06/D04)**

The Secretary General presented the Activity Report for the Financial Year 2004 / 2005 to the Council which approved it by its Decision No. 02/AC/06/2005.

Regarding the proposal made by the Secretary General on increment of staff allowances, Council expressed sympathy for the proposal. It however indicated that because of low

recovery of contributions for Member States, the proposal should be deferred pending improvement of the financial base of the Union.

#### **9. Consideration of the Audit Report (AC/06/D05)**

The Report of the 2003 / 2004 ATU audited accounts was presented to the Council by the External Auditors, KPMG – Kenya. She drew the attention of the Council Members to the following: -

- Arrears of Contribution amounting to US\$ 8,859,991 out of which 78% could be considered as doubtful debts.
- The Union's liabilities that have remained unpaid for to date and mainly made up of amount due to staff of the Union.

Council provisionally adopted the Report and the same will be presented again at the next Ordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for consideration and final adoption. In adopting the document, Council made the Recommendation No. 01/AC/06/2005.

#### **10. Consideration of the Annual Work Programme and Budget (AC/06/D06)**

This draft Work Programme targets activities which if implemented would facilitate the realization of the set objectives approved by the last Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

Council approved the Programme and budget of the Financial year 2005 / 2006, amounting to \$913,260 and decided that only the following priority activities will be implemented during that Financial Year in view of the financial difficulties facing the Union in the recovery of contributions from Member States:

- The Conference of PAPU/RASCOM/ATU on E-Post Africa Project
- The Council Committee for the preparation of the Conference (CC/PC)
- Liquidation of staff debts
- Preparation of major international events

Council approved the document and adopted decision No. 02/AC/06/2005 on approval of the budget.

#### **11. Consideration of the proposed themes for the commemoration of the African Telecommunications Day (ATD), 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005 (AC/06/D08)**

Council considered the proposed themes and approved the theme '**New Generation Networks (NGN): Challenges and opportunities for Africa**'. It adopted Resolution 01/AC/06/2005.

#### **12. Preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries (AC/06/D07)**

Council considered Document AC/06/D07 on the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries to be held in 2006 and approved the establishment of the Council

Committee for the preparation of the Conference CC/PC comprising the following members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Sudan, Tanzania, Tchad.

The Terms of Reference of the CC/PC shall include: -

- Reviewing the implementation of the four year Strategic Plan 2002 – 2006
- Draft a four year Plan of Action for the period 2006 – 2010
- Draft a four year budget relating to the Plan of Action
- Review pending issues including Scale of Assessment of Contribution new modalities of revenue sourcing for the Union, Seat of the Union, Staff emoluments
- Coordinate with respective RECs the determination ITU Region D Council candidatures

The Head of Delegation of Libya took the floor to inform Council of his country's offer to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2006. Council took note of the offer and thanked the Libyan Government for this mark of support to the Union. The Secretary General was requested to inform the Chairman of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and Member States.

### **13. Statements**

The Representative of RASCOM delivered a speech and expressed his organisation's willingness to become ATU Associate Member exempted from payment of contribution.

### **14. Any Other Business**

The representative from Egypt informed the Council that Egypt has implemented Resolution 09/AC/04/2003 on building Africa's capacity in global decision-making adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council. He indicated that the Egyptian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT), organized the first semester of the African Training Programme from 15 April – 8 May 2004. Seventeen (17) trainees from 10 African countries participated in this semester at the expense of MCIT.

Council took note of Egypt's initiative, commended the efforts of MCIT and expressed support for the organization of a second semester.

The representative from Ghana expressed thanks to the Government of Sudan for the hosting the Council and the fraternal hospitality accorded to all participants.

### **15. Date and Venue of the next session**

The next Ordinary Session of the Council will be held at the Headquarters of the Union unless a Member offers to host it.

### **16. Adoption of the Final Acts (AC/06/D09)**

The Council adopted the Final Acts.

**17. Vote of Thanks (AC/06/D11)**

Before the closure of the meeting, Mr. Abdelhamid M. Senoussi of the delegation of Tchad read the Vote of Thanks addressed to the Government of the Republic of Sudan. It is attached in Annex 4.

**18. Final Communiqué (AC/06/D10)**

The Final Communiqué was read by Mr. Sefako Hlompho of the delegation of Lesotho. It is attached in Annex 5.

**19. Closing Session**

The closing Session was marked by statements made by the representative of Ghana, Egypt and the Chairman of the Council.

In his remark, the Ghanaian delegate expressed thanks to the Government of Sudan for hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council, and for the fraternal and very warm hospitality accorded to all participants.

The Egypt's representative also thanked the Republic of Sudan for all the efforts deployed to make the meeting a great success. The statement is attached in Annex.

In his closing remark, the Chairman of the Administrative Council commended the Councillors for the good work done and thanked them for their contribution to the success of the meeting. He assured the Council of his commitment to fully and unflinchingly support ATU. He wished all safe return home and officially closed the meeting.

**21. LIST OF ANNEXES**

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## Annex 1

## AGENDA

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1.	Opening Ceremony	
2.	Meeting of Heads of Delegation	
3.	Election of Bureau	
4.	Consideration of the Draft Agenda	AC/06/D02
5.	Consideration of the Draft Work Schedule	AC/06/D03
6.	Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Union from 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2004 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005	AC/06/D04
7.	Audited Financial Report of FY 2003 – 2004	AC/06/D05
8.	Draft Annual Work Programme and Budget Estimates for F. Y. 2005 – 2006	AC/06/D06
9.	Preparation of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries	AC/06/D07
10.	Proposed themes for the commemoration of the African Telecommunications Day (ATD) 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	AC/06/D08
11.	Any other business	
12.	Date and venue of the next Session	
13.	Adoption of Final Acts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1: Final Report</li> <li>• Part 2: Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations</li> </ul>	AC/06/D09
14.	Reading of Final Communiqué	AC/06/D10
15.	Vote of Thanks	AC/06/D11
16.	Closing Session	

## Annex 2

## WORK SCHEDULE

Day 1 Tuesday 19/04/2005	8 :30 09 :00 10 :30 11 :00 11 :30 12 :00 13 :00 14 :45 16 :30 16 :45	Registration of Delegates Opening Session Refreshments Meeting of Heads of Delegation S06 Election of Bureau S07 Session 1(a), Doc 02, 03 Lunch Session 1(b) , Doc 04 Tea Break Session 1(c), Doc 07
Day 2 Wednesday 20/04/2005	09 :00 10 :30 10 :45 13 :00 14 :45 16 :30 16 :45	Session 2(a), Doc 05 Tea Break Session 2(b) Doc 06 Lunch Session 2(c), Doc 06 Tea Break Session 2(d),Doc 08, Items 11, 12
Day 3 Thursday 21/04/2005	08 :15 10 :30 11 :00 13 :00 14 :45	Preparation of Final Acts Tea Break Session 3(a), Doc 09, 10 Lunch Closing Session Doc D11

## **Annex 3 - Statements**

### **3.1 Key note speech of Hon. Alzubair Basheer Taha, Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Sudan at the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of the ATU Administrative Council Khartoum 19 - 21/4/2005**

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Features of the Adress of H.E. the minister of Information and Communications, in the opening session of the sixth ordinary session of the Administrative Council of the African Telecommunications Union-Khartoum-the National Telecommunications Hall -19-21 April 2005.

- H.E the chairman of the Administrative Council of the African Telecommunications Union;
- H.E. The Secretary-General of the African Telecommunications Union;
- H.E The Director-General, the National Telecommunications Corporation;
- Excellencies the heads of delegations;
- Honorable delegations members;
- Respectable guests;

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

#### **Greetings**

It is a source of pleasure to me, to welcome you in this good and blessed morning; and to participate with your gracious gathering in the work of the sixth Ordinary session of the Administrative Council of the African Telecommunications Union. May I take this opportunity, then, to welcome this gracious gathering, in the name of the government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudanese people, the City of peace and the capital of the Sudan, in the heart of Africa. It gives me more pleasure to express my great gratitude to the Secretariat of the African Telecommunications Union, for choosing, holding the meetings of the Administrative Council of the Union, this time, in Sudan.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have been watching carefully, the winds of liberalization and privatization which blew over the vital Communication and information sector, in many of the sister African states. Likewise, we followed-up the great development and spreading of the services of this sector, in the fixed telephone and the mobile phone; as well as, the sending of the data and other modern services.

We in the Sudan were amongst early states in Africa, in this direction, since the early 1990s. There, the communications and information sector had been the chief one in the liberalization and privatization programme of the 3 -Year programme for economic salvation (1990-1993), which was approved by the state. This was due to the perception of the state of the importance of this sector; in socio-economic development. The favourable result was, thus, the birth of the Sudanese Telecommunications Company (Sudatel) in 1993. This company made a considered shift in the capacity of communications and placed the Sudan on the level of the advanced states, in the regional level.

Now, in Sudan, we have four major licensed companies. Two are operating the field of the fix telephone; they both aim at the introduction of the Broad Band communication technologies. The other two operate in the field of the mobile phone and work according the second generation of the Mobile phone (GSM). They plan to introduce the third generation systems (G3). There are also several internet and Value-Added services suppliers.

The Nation Communications Corporation (the organizing authority) was our strong arm which stand; and still do, behind what was accomplished of achievements and successes; and the preparation of the competitiveness in this field.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Before I leave my place, may I commend the pioneering role which is played by the African Telecommunications Union, in leading the communications and information industry, on the level of our esteemed continent-Africa, I also commend the unions great initiatives and its ardent endeavours; so that our continent could catch up with the world information community and integrate with it. The African states should, thus, support this Union, so that it could achieve its objectives and obligations which are provided for in its constitution and agreement. A plead, from this rostrum, to all the African state to fulfill their financial obligations towards the Union. They should also activate their participation in all its activities. Let us all exert all our efforts to empower our union to face the existing challenges which face our esteemed continent in the field of communications and information, on the regional, continental and international levels.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Finally, I wish you a comfortable stay in your second home country and full success for your meetings.

I have utmost confidence that the hasting committee shall exert the maximum of its efforts to make the work of this session of your respectable council, a complete success. It will also avail you of the ample opportunity to know the various phases of life in the Sudan; and know the approaches of peace, security and unity.

**Gracious gathering,**

With these words, may I officially announce the opening of the work of the sixth ordinary session of the African communications Union.

Thank you very mush for listening, Peace be upon you all.

### **3.2 The Speech of the Director General of the National Telecom. Corporation (NTC) at the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of the ATU Administrative Council Khartoum 19 - 21/4/2005**

- Honourable Minister of Science & Technology, Acting Minister of Information & Communications
- The representative of the (ITU)
- The representative of the African Union
- The Chairman of the ATU
- The Secretary General of the (ATU)
- The representative of RASCOM
- Distinguished members of the Administrative Council
- Ladies & Gentlemen

You are most welcome in Sudan which could rightly be called the melting pot of Africa being the biggest country in the continent with nine African neighbors surrounding it, and all having very good cultural and ethnic representation within the Sudanese population.

You are also welcome in the National Telecom. Corporation (NCT) the regulatory authority of Sudan which was established in 1994 to regulate and promote the telecom sector and provide the appropriate environment favorable to the development of telecom services as also ensure free competition between different players in the telecom field.

The establishment of the regulatory authority followed a decision taken in 1991 to privatize the telecom sector and another decision taken in 1993 to establish the Sudan Telecom Company (Sudatel) which replaced the state owned telecom corporation. The establishment of Sudatel was really a turning point in the development of the telecom sector which witnessed substantial growth thereafter.

Four years later in 1997, a mobile company (Mobitel) was established. Now both the companies have around 2.3 million subscribers . Two more companies, one mobile and another fixed were licensed by NTC last year and both will become operational within the next three months paving the way for a great leapforward which is expected to increase the teledensity to around 12% by the end of next year. The two newly licensed operators will use packet switched next generation networks.

In 2002 NTC established a Universal Service Fund in order to bridge the gap between the urban areas and the vast rural areas of Sudan in telecom services particularly in the area of information technology. The Fund has embarked on implementing a very ambitious scheme called (computer for every home project). This year the Fund started the first phase of the project and is expected by the end of this year to distribute around 250,000 computers among civil servants. The price will be paid back in 20 instalments at very cheap and affordable prices. The Fund is also distributing free computers among secondary schools and universities all over the country.

At the same time the National Information Center (NIC) which belongs to the Council of Ministers is also implementing, in conjunction with the Universal Service Fund, several projects including the electronic government project. Likewise, the Ministry of Science and

Technology is also implementing a smart city project and is now drawing up plans for the Sudan Satellite Project.

Let me at the end of my speech assert Sudan`s commitment to the ATU. A very good evidence for that is the effort exerted in settling the arrears due from Sudan which went down from 529,000 US \$ in 2002 to around 100,000 US \$ this year and we promise to settle this amount in full by next year.

I wish you all the best and I would say I am confident that Khartoum will see you again and again as there is a very famous Sudanese proverb which says that : whoever drinks from the Nile water would certainly come again .

### **3.3 Statement by the Outgoing Chairperson of the Administrative Council, Mr. Henri Ntoupendi**

- Honourable Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Sudan,
- Honourable Ministers in attendance,
- The Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Union,
- Your Excellencies Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions,
- Heads of Delegations,
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Bureau of the African Telecommunications Union wishes to extend the sincere appreciation of Member States to the Sudanese Government, and more particularly to His Excellency Mohamed El Bechir, President of the Republic of Sudan, for accepting to host this sixth session of our Union's Council in this beautiful city of Khartoum.

This mark of support to our Union shows how pan-Africanist President Bechir is, and how willing he is to show it through the relentless efforts made by his government towards the integration of our continent and fight against the digital divide, which is the key reason for our present meeting.

The Cameroon delegation that am leading is glad to extend to Honourable Abdelbasit Sabadrat, Minister for Information and Communication of the Republic of Sudan, the fraternal greetings of his counterpart, Honourable Bello Bouba Maïgari, Minister of State and Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of the Republic of Cameroon, who personally mandated me to tell you how appreciative he is of the sacrifices made by your government and yourself for the holding of this important meeting in Khartoum.

He also requested me to make every effort for the outcomes of our deliberations to meet the expectations of the ATU Plenipotentiary Conference.

Allow me to express my happiness to the local government of this beautiful city of Khartoum, for making all the delegations gathered here happy with the hospitality that was extended to them since their arrival, and to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Honourable Ministers,  
The Secretary General of ATU,  
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors,  
Heads of delegations,  
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have just listened with keen interest to the statement by the Secretary General of ATU, Mr. Akossi Akossi. His words clearly translate the worrying situation our Union is going through. The huge momentum generated by the Union's restructuring and the new dynamics instilled into the Union's activities seems to have faded because of a cash constraint never experienced before.

As a result, the Union is faced by an apathy which is detrimental to the readiness of our continent for the major deadlines in the field of ICTs, including:

- the African Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-06 scheduled in July 2005 in Nigeria;
- the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which Africa is blessed to host in November this year;
- the ATU Plenipotentiary Conference;
- the World Telecommunications Development Conference, scheduled in March 2006, in Doha, Qatar; and
- the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, to be held in 2006.

What is the level of involvement of ATU in the coordination and holding of these major meetings?

African States have been actively consulting in other fora to coordinate their positions on the issues to be discussed during these important gatherings. Such consultations took place during the Accra ministerial meetings, the Geneva PREPCOM and the Cairo Afro-Arab Meeting, all devoted to the WSIS.

ATU, which is recognized by the ITU as the major African Regional Organization enjoying its support in the field of telecommunications, has to play its rightful role of intermediary, of catalyser and of continental data bank to that effect. Of course, this major role consists of coordinating the common interests of African States, in their daunting fight to integrate our continent in the emerging global society of shared information and knowledge, and to bridge the digital divide.

Such a great ambition requires financial and material means as well as human resources, determination and firm political will from member States to contribute on a regular basis to ATU's budget.

We take this opportunity to once again express our happiness for the clear expression of such determination by the Republic of Sudan which, by hosting our deliberations of today, provides us with good example that should hopefully be followed and that will encourage our States to make additional sacrifices towards the consolidation of our Union.

Honourable Ministers,  
The Secretary General of ATU,  
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Our Khartoum deliberations have a challenge to take up: that of giving a renewed boost to ATU. Two major reasons justify such requirement.

The first one is that as far as I remember, this is the first time that an ordinary session of the Council of our Union (which does not precede an ATU Plenipotentiary Conference) is being held outside the headquarters, at the invitation of a member State. Such a sacrifice by the Republic of Sudan, and implicitly, the message thus conveyed to us, is quite compelling.



We should therefore, as a way of showing our gratitude to the host country, give this meeting an historical basis, through the quality of the outcomes of our deliberations to be entrenched in a document called the Khartoum Acts.

If the second reason lies in the very ethics of our Union, the apathy situation which ATU is going through compels us to analyse the root causes of the same.

Beyond the solutions to the ritual causes known to be the non-payment of arrears of contributions by member States to the Union's budget, our meeting of today should identify a strategy that strikes the right balance between our goals and our resources, and which enables us to diversify the Union's sources of revenue so that it no longer relies on the sole statutory contributions by its members.

In this fast globalizing world due to the information technology revolution, international organisations that govern ICTs have the key vision to facilitate the emergence of an international community of knowledge and shared interests. ATU should not stay away from such mission in our continent. African countries need to be interconnected with the instrumental contribution of our organization.

One additional reason increases the emergency nature of this mission: the advent of NEPAD.

In its component devoted to information technologies, NEPAD envisions to create, by 2015, an Africa where every school has access to the Internet. What will be the role of ATU in such virtual revolution?

Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At a moment when Cameroon is surrendering the chairmanship of our Council, I wish, on behalf of the government of my country, to thank once again all the member States who entrusted us of this responsibility.

In spite of the hope generated by our appointment to this position, the specific tasks which were assigned to us, including undertaking goodwill missions to a number of African States to sensitize them to settle their debts with the Union, and the trip to South Africa to assess the movable, logistic and financial properties of the African Connection Centre, which were supposed to be taken to the General Secretariat in Nairobi, could not be accomplished for lack of budget resources, as indicated by the Secretary General.

The whole of the Union's 2004-2005 Programme of activities had a moderate implementation rate. The Union could therefore not capitalize on our full availability and/or the effectiveness that you had appreciated in us.

Today, we are handing over this position. We call upon you to keep in mind that the achievement of our dream of a more dynamic Union depends on the commitment we shall made here, in Khartoum, to settle our financial contributions to the Union's budget to enable it to live up its ambitions.

### 3.4 Statement by ATU Secretary General, Mr. Akossi Akossi at the Opening Ceremony of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of ATU Administrative Council, Khartoum, Sudan, Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005

- Honourable Mr. Alzubair Basheer Taha, Guest of Honour, Minister of Information and Communications;
- Your Excellencies the Ambassadors;
- Chairman of the Administrative Council, Mr. Henri Ntoupendi;
- Director General of the National Telecommunication Corporation, Mr. El Tayeb Mustafa;
- Honourable representatives of the African Union, the International Telecommunications Union, RASCOM and AFRALTI;
- Distinguished Delegates and Observers;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

#### **SALAAM ALEIKUM!**

It is my singular honour and privilege to welcome you all to this Opening Ceremony of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of ATU Administrative Council, 2005. I am indeed delighted that you all found time to be with us in this beautiful city of Khartoum.

To you all may I extend a special word of welcome, MAKABA! We hope you will feel at home among your sisters and brothers in this historic land of the Meroitic Kingdom.

Our Guest of Honour, may I express a special note of appreciation to you for finding time from your very busy schedule to officiate at this opening ceremony of the Council. Through you Sir, may I extend the Union's gratitude to the Government and People of the Sudan for the excellent arrangements made to welcome us and the warm hospitality accorded to all the delegations since their arrival in Khartoum. The sustained and unflinching support the Sudan has been giving the Union through the National Telecommunication Corporation, is indeed ample illustration of the commitment of the Sudan to the cause of regional cooperation and integration.

I also wish to express my gratitude to countries that are not members of the Council but have honoured us with their presence at this meeting namely: - Kenya, Host country of the Union's Headquarters and the Great Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

As you know, the vision of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), your continental organization is an Africa that is an equal and active participant in the Global Information Society. It is against this background that the ATU Strategic Plan specifically covers the implementation of core activities namely: -

- Contributing to global decision-making by coordinating Africa's contribution to the work of global decision-making conferences with the aim of ensuring that Africa gets an equitable share of globally allocated resources.
- Integrating Regional markets by fostering policy and regulatory harmonization to create larger common markets from ICTs based on regional economic communities.

- Promoting Investment in ICT infrastructure by encouraging initiatives for investment in access and backbone cross-border information infrastructure through smart partnership between public and private sectors.
- Building human and institutional capacity by facilitating initiatives to build institutional capacity in making treaties, setting standards formulating policy and attracting investment.

In the fulfillment of its objectives, ATU has established very strong partnership and collaboration with a number of partners key among which are the African Union (AU), the Regional African Satellite Communication Organisation (RASCOM) and the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU)

We are currently preparing to hold under the auspices of the African Union, an African Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-05) in Nairobi, Kenya from 16-20 May 2005. This Conference will be held within the framework of the Continental ICT Fair scheduled in the Kenyan capital from 16 – 21 May 2005.

With ITU, the Union is organizing a number of Preparatory meetings for the WTDC-06 in Doha, Qatar from 7 – 15 March 2006 and RRC-06 in Geneva from 15 May – 16 June 2006. With RASCOM and PAPU, we have initiated the E-Post Africa Project which aims at enhancing universal access to ICTs in Africa through the installation of RASCOM Multimedia Terminals in every Post Office in Africa.

This is an occasion to express our gratitude to the above mentioned key partners for the exemplary cooperation and support we are receiving from them.  
Honourable Guest of Honour, Distinguished Members of the Administrative Council, Distinguished Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, your agenda at this meeting will include:

- consideration of the Report of the Secretary General to the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005;
- the Work Programme and Budget for Financial year 2005 – 2006;
- And the Audit Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2004;

Allow me also to draw your attention to the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries which is scheduled to be held in 2006. Under this preparation, Council would be requested, among other things, to approve the Draft Agenda and Draft Work Schedules of the Conference and related meetings, set up a Committee to monitor the preparation of the ATU Four-Year Plan of Action and Budget for the period 2007 – 2010, and approve the draft African Common Proposals (AFPCs) for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference scheduled in 2006. This Council would also focus on new initiatives to improve the finances of the Union.

Knowing the serious and efficient manner in which you have been working in the past, I have no doubt that you will meet these challenges to make the forth-coming Conference a real success.

Honourable Guest of Honour,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

Before concluding my statement, I wish to thank once again on your behalf and on behalf of the Union, the Government and the President of the Sudan, His Excellency Omer Hassan Ahmed Elbashir for having accepted to host this session of the Administrative Council in Khartoum.

I also wish to thank all the Councilors and the representative of the International and Regional Organizations who have traveled a long way to attend this session of the Council. I thank you for your kind attention and wish you plenty of success in your deliberations.

SHUKRAN!

### **3.5 Statement by the Representative of ITU, Mr. Tilahun Kebede at the Opening Ceremony of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of ATU Administrative Council, Khartoum, Sudan, Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

- Honorable Minister of Science and Technology
- Chairman of the Administrative council of the African Telecommunication Union (ATU)
- Mr. Akossi Akossi Secretary General of ATU
- Members of the Administrative Council of ATU
- Director General the National Telecommunication Corporation of Sudan
- Representatives of Diplomatic Missions
- Excellencies
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed an honor and great pleasure to be present in this 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of ATU and make this short statement on behalf of the International telecommunication Union, ITU.

At the outset, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to take this opportunity on behalf of the ITU and my own behalf to thank the Government of Sudan for hosting this important event.

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

Accept also greetings and best wishes of success in all the deliberations of this Ordinary Session of ATU's Administrative council from Mr. Hamadoun I. Toure, the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and Mr. Brahim Sanou, Head of the African Regional office of ITU, who are unable to attend this meeting due to other urgent assignments and commitments.

This important meeting is taking place at the most important point of time where the African Union restructures and moves with all its strength in realizing the long awaited African unity. It is my notion that ATU, the establishment of which is endorsed by African leaders to assist the telecommunication development of the continent should also move with the new sprit of the African Union. In strengthening the unity, the role to be played through the development of telecommunication infrastructure in realizing the interconnection of countries in the region is crucial. To this effect I see important activities to be played by ATU. These activities to my belief, shall include activities in: the establishment of cross boarder telecommunication links across the continent, establishing an internet exchange point in the continent, harmonizing ICT policies and regulations etc, these are just few points to mention.

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

As could be recalled the contribution of ATU as the result of the consultation of its members in the previous World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) held in Istanbul resulted in the adoption of important resolutions that has been later endorsed at the Plenipotentiary held in Marrakech, Morocco in 2002. These resolutions

were all related to the support of NEPAD's initiative. As you all recall this effort resulted in a project "Preliminary assistance to NEPAD" which is at its final stage of producing a bankable project document, believed to serve as a road map in assisting the development of telecommunication in the region. This is an achievement obtained through a joint effort of the two unions, ITU&ATU. This is an endeavor, which exhibits the harmonized effort of the two sisterly organizations to assist the telecommunication development in the region. The time now has come to follow the same track in the coming WTDC to be held in Doha (Qatar) from 7-15 March 2006. This conference which is held every four years shall review the progress made in telecommunication in developing countries and establish priorities and strategies for the development of information and communication technologies (ICT). We shall have Regional Preparatory Meeting in Nigeria, Abuja, 5-7 July, this is an important meeting in drawing the harmonized telecommunication development, needs of the region at WTDC. There shall be a Ministerial symposium on 4<sup>th</sup> of July preceded by an expert meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to consider the report on ITU's Preliminary assistance to NEPAD project.

The objective of the Ministerial Symposium is to enable ITU and ATU to report on the result of the study and seek guidance for the second phase of the project, which is the implementation. The following important areas could be considered for consultation in harmonizing the needs of the region:

- The pace at which the telecommunication technology is moving resulted in convergence and introduction of new services. To be in track of this new development it is quite imperative to revise the African green book. This could be then considered as one of the major points to be considered for consultation to be taken up in the coming RPM and WTDC.
- Studies performed and documents produced unless put into practice shall only decorate shelves of different offices. It is therefore important, for the fruition of the project "Preliminary assistance to NEPAD" its recommendation on the network management and development to be put in practice. Hence implementation of the recommendations of this study on network management and development is highly essential, which is another point to be considered.
- The third important point to be considered in the RPM and later at WTDC is the issue of having a qualified personnel to properly run and manage the now days modern ICT. As often said we can buy the technology but could not own it unless we have well qualified personnel. This obviously calls for the need of human capacity building.

These three issues have been identified as high priority for almost all the African countries through the questionnaire in the framework of the IsaP implementation.

I call upon ATU then to use all possible means and ways in consulting its member states on the crucial points raised above and raise its voice together with its members to be heard in the coming WTDC 2006. The Forum on Telecommunication Regulation in Africa (FTRA) to be held in Maputo, Mozambique 27-28 April 2005, I presume could be one of the suitable grounds for the consultation with member countries pertaining the issues above

Excellencies  
Ladies and gentlemen

Telecommunication in Africa is gaining a lot of momentum these days. Telecommunication is no longer seen as luxury for African countries but as a prerequisite for their economic growth. To keep this momentum of telecommunication growth in the region, the need for a strong surge of investment in the sector is quite essential.

Hence, to attract private telecommunication investors, creation of attractive environment for investment is very important. Apparently transparent policy and regulation of telecommunication together with an independent and efficient regulatory office is a vital prerequisite. It then highly recommended for the Union to continue working closely with regulatory associations in different sub-areas of the continent. These associations are working towards harmonizing policies and regulations in their respective Sub-areas, to create attractive environment for investment in the region. This endeavor is highly commendable.

Moreover, the unified numbering plan project for Africa, which is spearheaded by AU and the effort of creating the African Telecommunications Regulators Network are issues to be given due consideration by the union. The effort of the union in handling all these regional issues with its limited resource and manpower as could be verified by this council is very much appreciated.

Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Finally, I would like to confirm here again the commitment of ITU to closely work with ATU. The ITU regional office for Africa, located close to the ATU's office is always ready in all its capacity to be a partner in your endeavor in the development of telecommunications in the region. I very much wish you success in all your deliberations.

Shukran

### **3.6 Statement by Egypt's representative at the closing ceremony of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of ATU Administrative**

The Egyptian Delegation would like to take this opportunity on the closing day of the Conference to thank Sudan for the great efforts exerted in order to make this session of the ATU Council a grand success. We believe that Sudan set new standards of hospitality and dedication that will perhaps be difficult to meet in the future.

We would further like to thank the Honorable Chair whose insightful inputs greatly enhanced our discussions, and we are sure that Council under Sudan's leadership will attain exceptional levels of strength and activity.

We would also like to thank Mr. Akossi Akossi, Secretary General of African Telecommunications Union for all his efforts in favour of the Union.

We would like to thank also all delegations for the sincere concern they have shown to make ATU a more viable organization. A special thank to the non-member States, Kenya and Libya, whose presence here is a sign of Pan-African commitment to ICT development in Africa. We wish to record special regards to Libya for its generous offer to host the second Conference of Plenipotentiaries next year.

We believe this has been a pleasant and fruitful experience for everyone and it would not have been so if it weren't for everyone's presence here today, and for those working behind the scenes within the NTC staff and the General Secretariat of ATU.

Thank you.



**Annex 4****VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN**

The participants at the 6th Ordinary Session of ATU Administrative Council meeting in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 to 21 April 2004;

Highly appreciative of the great support shown by the Authorities of the Republic of Sudan towards ATU;

Having noted the excellent facilities provided for the organisation of the meeting;

Fully satisfied with the results achieved thanks to the goodwill and commitment shown by all and the very able manner in which the deliberations were conducted by the Chairperson;

Express to : -

- His Excellency Omar Hassan Elbashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan.
- The Government of Sudan;
- The People of Sudan.

Their profound gratitude for:

- a) The warm and fraternal African hospitality accorded to all delegates throughout their stay in Khartoum;
- b) Providing the necessary technical and material facilities, which helped, to achieve the success recorded by the meeting.

**Khartoum, 21 April 2004**

## Annex 5

### FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Administrative Council of the African Telecommunications Union held its 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 to 21 April 2005.

At the Closing Ceremony, the Final Communiqué was read by Mr. Mr. Sefako Hlompho, representing the Kingdom of Lesotho.

After considering the Agenda items and the respective working documents, the Council adopted the following Resolution, Decisions and Recommendation: -

1. Resolution No. 01/AC/06/2005 on the arrears of contribution to Member States .
2. Resolution No. 02/AC/06/2005 on special WSIS preparatory meeting in Nairobi, 16 – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005
3. Decision No. 01/AC/06/2005 on the approval of the Work Programme and Budget for the Financial Year 2005/2006
4. Decision No. 02/AC/06/2005 on approval of the Report of the Secretary General to the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council (Doc. No. AC/06/D04).
5. Decision No. 03/AC/06/2005 on the payment of Voluntary contribution on enhancing the liquidation of staff dues.
6. Recommendation No. 01/AC/06/2005 on Audit Report of the Financial Year 2003 / 2004

The Council adopted the following theme for the commemoration of the African Telecommunications Day, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005; **“New Generation Networks (NGN): Challenges and opportunities for Africa”**.

The Opening Ceremony was presided over by Hon. Alzubair Basheer Taha, Minister of Science and Technology of Sudan. In his keynote address, the Guest of Honour highlighted challenges and opportunities in the ICT sector in Africa. He welcomed the participants to Khartoum and wished them a pleasant stay.

The Guest of Honour's keynote address was preceded by statements delivered by the Director General of National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), the representative of ITU, the Secretary General of the African Telecommunication Union and the Outgoing Chairman of the Administrative Council.

The Council elected the following Bureau: -

Chairperson: The Sudan represented by Mr. El Tayeb Mustafa, Director General of NTC.

Vice Chairperson: Burkina Faso represented by Mr. Valentin Boukari Sawadogo, Head of Department of Interconnection, SONATEL.

The Council session was attended by representatives from 14 Member States out of the 19 elected Council Members namely: -

- North Africa: Egypt
- West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana
- Central Africa: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Tchad
- East Africa: Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
- Southern Africa: Lesotho

Kenya and Libya, ATU Member States also attended the session as observers.

The following Associate Member was also in attendance: -

- SUDATEL

The following partner organisations also attended the meeting as observers: -

- International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- RASCOM

At the end of the deliberations, Council expressed its appreciation by a vote of thanks to the Government and People of Sudan, read by Mr. Abdelhamid M. Senoussi, Head of the Tchadian delegation on behalf of the participants.

The Chairman thanked all the participants and praised the spirit of cooperation and understanding shown by delegates during the deliberation. He wished all participants safe return home to their respective destinations and officially closed the meeting.

**Khartoum , 21 April 2005**

## Annex 6

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

#	COUNTRY/ OGANISATION <i>PAYS/ORGANISATION</i>	NAME & ADDRESS <i>NOM &amp; ADRESSE</i>	TEL/FAX/E-MAIL
<b>NORTH AFRICA / AFRIQUE DU NORD</b>			
1.	<b>Egypt</b>	Dr. Amre Badawy Senior Adviser Ministry of Communications Smart Village Coiza Cairo, Egypt	Tel : + 202 5341355 Fax : + 202 5371010 Email : abadawy@mcit.gov.eg
2.		Ms. Fekria Allam International Relations Expert Ministry of Communications Smart Village, Giza, Cairo, Egypt	Tel : + 202 5341364 Fax : + 202 5371010 Email : fallam@mcit.gov.eg
3.		Mr. Hesham Abdul Rahman Head of Monitoring & Operating Sector National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Smart Village, Giza, Cairo, Egypt	Tel : + 202 5344023 Fax : + 202 5344155 Email : hmshsen@tra.gov.eg
4.		Mr. Torek Kotb Program officer, International Relations Ministry of Communications Smart Village, Giza, Cairo, Egypt	Tel : + 202 5341366 Fax : + 202 5371010 Email : tkotb@mcit.gov.eg
5.		Mr. Ahmad El-Buckley International Relations Specialist National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Smart Village, Giza Cairo, Egypt	Tel : + 202 5344123 Fax: +202 5344155 Email : abuckley@tra.gov.eg
<b>WEST AFRICA / AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST</b>			
6.	<b>Benin</b>	Mr. David Dossa Chef Division Relations Internationales Benin Telecoms SA 01 B. P. 5959 Cotonou Benin	Tel : + 229 312500 Fax : + 229 310727 Email : ddossa@opt.bj
7.	<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Mr. Valentin Sawadogo Chef de Departement des Interconnexions ONATEL 01 B. P. 10000 Ouagadougou 01 Burkina Faso	Tel : +226 50306744 Fax : +22650333709 Email : sawadogo.valentin@onatel.bf
7.	<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Mr. Claude Tanyo Coulibaly Directeur de l'International ATCI 18 B. P. 2203 Abidjan 18 Cote d'Ivoire	Tel : + 225 20344709 Fax : + 225 20344375 Email : coulibaly@atci.ci

#	COUNTRY/ OGANISATION <i>PAYS/ORGANISATION</i>	NAME & ADDRESS <i>NOM &amp; ADRESSE</i>	TEL/FAX/E-MAIL
8.	<b>Ghana</b>	Mr. Bernard A. Forson Jr. Deputy Director General National Communications Authority 1st Rangoon Close P. O. Box CT 1568 Cantonments, Accra Ghana	Tel : + 233 27 7666777 Fax : + 233 24 4327171 Mobile : +233 244 327171 Email : <a href="mailto:ba_forsonjr@yahoo.com">ba_forsonjr@yahoo.com</a> / <a href="mailto:ba_forsonjr@africaonline.com.gh">ba_forsonjr@africaonline.com.gh</a>
9.		Mr. Patrick Yiriyelleh Director Ministry of Communications P. O. Box M. 38, ACCRA Ghana	Tel : + 233 21 664727 Fax : + 233 21 667114 Email : <a href="mailto:pwiyiriyelleh@yahoo.com">pwiyiriyelleh@yahoo.com</a>
10.		Mr. Joseph N. A. Codjoe Manager, Frequency Management National Communications Authority (NCA) P. O. Box C1568 Cantonments, Accra Ghana	Tel : + 233 21 776621 Fax : + 233 21 763449 Email : <a href="mailto:nca@ghana.com">nca@ghana.com</a>
<b>CENTRAL AFRICA / AFRIQUE CENTRALE</b>			
11.	<b>Burundi</b>	Mr. Nestor Misigaro Director General ARCT (Agence de Regulation) 360 Avenue Patrice Lumumba B. P. 6702 Bujumbura Burundi	Tel : + 257 210276 Fax : + 257 242832 Email : <a href="mailto:arct@cbinf.com">arct@cbinf.com</a>
12.	<b>Cameroon</b>	Mr. Henri Ntoupendi Sub. Director Ministère des Postes & Télécommunications B.P 12118 Yaoundé	Tel: +237 2239612 Fax: +227 2239612 Email: <a href="mailto:ntoupendi@yahoo.fr">ntoupendi@yahoo.fr</a>
13.		Mr. Emmanuel Etitane Belinga Inspecteur Principal des Postes & Télécommunication Ministère des Postes & Télécommunications Yaoundé	Tel : +237 2223550 Fax : +237 2231510 Email :
14.		Mr. Samuel Valentin Ndjawa Head of Legal Department and International Cooperation Telecommunications Regulatory Board P. O. Box 6132 Yaoundé, Cameroon	Tel : +237 2230380 Fax : +237 2230495 Email : <a href="mailto:ndjawal@yahoo.com">ndjawal@yahoo.com</a>
15.		Mr. Noa MVOGO Head of Department of Engineering Cameroon Telecommunication (CAMTEL) P. O. Box 1571 Yaoundé	Tel : +237 9920521 Fax : +237 2224770 Email : <a href="mailto:noamvogo@yahoo.fr">noamvogo@yahoo.fr</a>
16.	<b>Central African Republic</b>	Mr. Josue Yongoro Directeur Technique Agence Chargee de la Regulation des Telecommunications (ART) P. O. Box 1046 Bangui Republique Centrafricaine	Tel : + 236610864 Fax : + 236610582 Email : <a href="mailto:yongoro@intnet.cf">yongoro@intnet.cf</a>

#	COUNTRY/ OGANISATION <i>PAYS/ORGANISATION</i>	NAME & ADDRESS <i>NOM &amp; ADRESSE</i>	TEL/FAX/E-MAIL
17.	<b>Tchad</b>	Mr. Abdelhamid M. Senoussi Secrétaire général Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications B. P. 154 Ndjamena Tchad	Tel : + 235 521555 Fax : + 235 521530 Email : excellcab@yahoo.fr
18.		Mr. Abba Goni Barounga Directeur general Adjoint SOTEL TCHAD B. P. 1132 Njamena Tchad	Tel : + 235 521533 Fax : + 235 521442 Email : bag@intnet.td
<b>EAST AFRICA/AFRIQUE DE L'EST</b>			
19.	<b>Ethiopia</b>	H. E. Mr. Hanfare M. Kadafo Ambassador Ethiopian Embassy P. O. Box 844 Khartoum Sudan	Tel : +249 1 83471156 Fax : +249 1 83 471141 Email : kadafoh@hotmail.com
20.		Mr. Abera Debele Diplomat Ethiopian Embassy P. O. Box 844 Khartoum Sudan	Tel : +249 1 83471156 Fax : +249 1 83 471141 Email : eekr@hotmail.com
21.	<b>Sudan</b>	Mr. El Tayeb Mustafa Abdul Rahman Director General National Telecom. Corporation (NTC) Khartoum, Amarat, Junction of Mohamed Nageeb & Street 21 st P. O. Box 2869 Khartoum Sudan	
22.		Eng. Awad E. Widaa Advisor to the Minister of Information & Communication and Acting Director Planning at NTC Ministry of Information and Communications Khartoum Sudan	Tel: +249 1 83 562351 Fax: +249 1 83 562351 Email: awab@ntc.org.sd
23.		Mr. ElTayib Eisa Ahmed Finance & Administrative Director National Telecom. Corporation (NTC) Khartoum, Amarat, Junction of Mohamed Nageeb & Street 21 st P. O. Box 2869 Khartoum	Tel: +249 1 83 562372 Fax: +249 1 83562373 Email: itisalat@sudanmail.net
24.		Mr. Ibrahim Mustafa Siddig Technical Director National Telecom. Corporation (NTC) Khartoum, Amarat, Junction of Mohamed Nageeb & Street 21 st P. O. Box 2869 Khartoum	Tel: +249 1 83 484487 Fax: +249 1 83 484489 Email: siddig@ntc.org.sd

#	COUNTRY/ OGANISATION <i>PAYS/ORGANISATION</i>	NAME & ADDRESS <i>NOM &amp; ADRESSE</i>	TEL/FAX/E-MAIL
25.		Mr. Bashir Moussa Fathi Tarrif & Licencing Director National Telecom. Corporation (NTC) Khartoum, Amarat, Junction of Mohamed Nageeb & Street 21 st P. O. Box 2869 Khartoum	Tel: +249 1 83 484487 Fax: +249 1 83 484489 Email: fathi@ntc.org.sd
26.	<b>Tanzania</b>	Prof. John Nkoma Director General Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) P. O. 474 Dar Es- Salaam Tanzania	Tel : + 255 222118947 Fax : + 255 222116664 Email : jsnkoma@tcra.go.tz
27.		Dr. Joseph Samwel Kilongola Director Information communication Technologies Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority P. O. Box 474, Dar Es- Salaam Tanzania	Tel : + 255 222118947 Fax : + 255 222116664 Email : jskilongola@tcra.go.tz
28.	<b>Uganda</b>	Mr. David Ogong Finance Manager Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) Communications House, Plot No. 1 Colville Street P. O. Box 7376 Kampala Uganda	Tel : +256 41 339000/5 Fax : +256 41 348832 Email : ogong@ucc.co.ug
<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA/AFRIQUE AUSTRALE</b>			
29.	<b>Lesotho</b>	Mr. Sefako Hlompho Director Regulatory Telecommunications Services P. O. Box 15896 Maseru 100 Lesotho	Tel : + 266 22325595 Fax : + 266 22310984 Email : hsefako@lta.org.ls
<b>NON-COUNCIL MEMBER STATES / PAYS NON-MEMBRES DU CONSEIL</b>			
30.	<b>Libya</b>	Mr. Alamin Hassan Bek Director of Post and Telecom Bureau (TPBD) El-Zawia Street P. O. Box 81686 Tripoli, Libya	Tel: +218 21 3604101 Fax: +218 21 3604102 Email: laminbek@yahoo.com
31		Mr. Gougilah Khalifa Head of International Organisation (TPB) Post & Telecom Bureau (Libya) El-Zawia Street P. O. Box 81686 Tripoli, Libya	Tel: +218 21 3604101 Fax: +218 21 3604102 Email: k_gougilah@hotmail.com

#	COUNTRY/ OGANISATION <i>PAYS/ORGANISATION</i>	NAME & ADDRESS <i>NOM &amp; ADRESSE</i>	TEL/FAX/E-MAIL
32.		Mr. Elarbi ELBAHLUL International Relations & Corporation Manager General Posts & Telecom Co. Tripoli Libya	Tel: +218 21 3611799 Fax: +218 21 3619488 Email: ELBAHLUL@BTINTERNET.COM
<b>EX-OFFICIO / MEMBRES DE DROIT</b>			
	<b>Kenya</b>		
	<b>Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)</b>	Mrs. Peris NKONGE Director, Finance & Accounts Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) p. o. Box 14448, Nairobi 00800 Kenya	Tel: + 254 20 4242000 Fax: +254 20 4242207 Email: nkonge@cck.go.ke
33.	<b>Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)</b>	Mr. Christopher Wambua Public and Media Liaison Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) P. O. Box 14448 Nairobi 00800 Kenya	Tel: + 254 20 4242000 Fax: +254 20 4242207 Email: wambua@cck.go.ke
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/ MEMBRES ASSOCIES</b>			
34.	<b>SUDATEL</b>	Mr. Imad Hissan Director General SUDATEL	Tel: + 249 9 Fax: +249 9 Email: info@sudatel.net
<b>OBSEVERS/ OBSERVATEURS PARTNERS ORGANISATIONS/ ORGANISATIONS PARTENAIRES</b>			
35.	<b>ITU</b>	Mr. Tilahun KEBEDE ITU Regional Office P.O. Box 1580 Addis Ababa Ethiopia	Tel : + 251 1 514855 Fax : + 251 1 517299 Email :
36.	<b>KPMG Peat Marwick - External Auditors</b>	MS. Risper Genga OHAGA Auditor KPMG Peat Marwick	Tel: +254 20 Fax: +254 20 Email:
37.	<b>RASCOM</b>	Mr. Casimir Leke-Betechouh Vice President, International Relations RASCOM 01 B. P. 3628 Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire	Tel : + 225 20223674 Fax : + 225 20223676 Email : lekebc@RASCOM.ORG
<b>ATU SECRETARIAT/ SECRETARIAT DEL'UAT</b>			
1.	<b>ATU</b>	Mr. Akossi AKOSSI Secretary General Posta Sacco Plaza, 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Monrovia Street P.O. Box 35282 Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: +254 20 216678 Fax: +254 20 219445 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sg@atu-uat.org">sg@atu-uat.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.atu-uat.org">www.atu-uat.org</a>
2.		Mr. Kwami MENSAH Events and Conference Coordinator	"



#	COUNTRY/ OGANISATION <i>PAYS/ORGANISATION</i>	NAME & ADDRESS <i>NOM &amp; ADRESSE</i>	TEL/FAX/E-MAIL
3.		Mr. Simon SIMBI Finance & Administration Coordinator	"
4.		Ms. Jenta A. AWINO Secretariat	"
5.		Mr. Marie-Bernard CAPO-CHICHI Translator	Mobile : 0722822477 E-mail: <a href="mailto:rocky_capo@hotmail.com">rocky_capo@hotmail.com</a>
6.		Mrs Shadiah Meki Mohamed National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	Email: <a href="mailto:shadiameki@yahoo.com.sg">shadiameki@yahoo.com.sg</a>
7.		Ms. Maha Abdelwahab Gamal National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	Email: <a href="mailto:mahoya_gamal@yahoo.com">mahoya_gamal@yahoo.com</a>
8.		Ms. Entsar Mahmoud Ahmed National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	Email: <a href="mailto:entsar@ntc.org.sd">entsar@ntc.org.sd</a>
9.		Ms. Sakina Elsadeg Ahmed National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	
10.		Mr. Babiiker Mohamed Saeed National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	Mobile: +249 912 299586 E-mail: <a href="mailto:babikersaeed@ntc.org.sd">babikersaeed@ntc.org.sd</a>
11.		Mr. Yagoub Elwali National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	
12.		Mr. Mohamed Mohamed Khair National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	
13.		Mr. Eyas Elmamoun National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	
14.		Mr. Amar El Kabashi National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	
15.		Ashraf Widaa National Telecom. Corporation (NTC)	

**PART 2**

**RESOLUTION, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

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3.	Decision No. 01/AC/06/2005 on the approval of the Work Programme and Budget for the Financial Year 2005/2006	
4.	Decision No. 02/AC/06/2005 on approval of the Report of the Secretary General to the 6 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council (Doc. No. AC/06/D04).	
5.	Decision No. 03/AC/06/2005 on the payment of Voluntary contribution on enhancing the liquidation of staff dues.	
6.	Recommendation No. 01/AC/06/2005 on Audit Report of the Financial Year 2003 / 2004	

1. **Resolution No. 01/AC/06/2005 on the arrears of contribution to member States .**

The Administrative Council, meeting in its 6<sup>th</sup> ordinary session in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 – 21 April 2005;

**Considering** the Secretary General's Report on the Activities of the Union during the period 2004 / 2005;

**Considering** all the previous resolutions of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and the Administrative Council on arrears of Contribution;

**Aware that** the Union still owes staff in post and those in retirement a substantial amount of salary;

**Recommends**

- a) To the Chairman of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and of the Administrative Council (Minister of Communication and ICT of Kenya and Sudan) to take useful initiatives to sensitize and urge countries with arrears of contribution to pay them to the Union;
- b) To use the opportunity of the special meeting of ministers responsible for ICTs and Telecommunications of the African Union to organize formal consultation between the Ministers of Council Member States on arrears of contribution;

**Invites** Member States to urge Regulators, Operators, and Telecommunications and ICT Service Providers in their respective countries to join ATU as Associate Member with a view to enhancing the activities and realize the objectives of the Union;

2. **Resolution No. 02/AC/06/2005 on special WSIS preparatory meeting in Nairobi, 16 – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005**

The Administrative Council, meeting in its 6<sup>th</sup> ordinary session in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 – 21 April 2005;

**Considering** the Secretary General's Report on the Activities of the Union during the period 2004 / 2005;

**Considering** the organization of a special preparatory meeting for the World Summit and the Information Society (WSIS) by the African Union (AU) and ATU;

**Recommends** the participation of all AU Member States and particularly ATU Member States in this special meeting at ministerial level;

**Requests** the Chairman of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of ATU to take appropriate measures to ensure effective and personal participation of the President of the AU Commission in this special meeting as well as the Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers of continental and sub-regional institutions;

**Invites** the Chairman of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to ensure that all the Ministers of African countries which hosted Regional Preparatory Conference for WSIS to personally attend the special meeting with a view to facilitating the summary of the results of the various regional conferences;

**Urges** the Secretary General to do his utmost to coordinate initiatives taken by various regional and sub-regional organizations in the field of ICT so as to avoid duplication of efforts and ensuring harmonization of implementation of projects.

**Instructs** the Secretary General to take all necessary steps to ensure the implementation of these resolutions.

**3. Decision No. 01/AC/06/2005 on approval of the Report of the Secretary General to the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council**

The Administrative Council, meeting in its 6<sup>th</sup> ordinary session in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 – 21 April 2005;

**Noting** Document No. AC/06/D04 on the Report of the Secretary General.

**Considering** the Annual Programme adopted by Council during the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council.

**Noting further** the favorable observations made by Council in its deliberations on the report.

**Decides** to adopt the report of the Secretary General Doc No. AC/06/D04

**Commends** the Secretary General for the good presentation of the report.

**4. Decision No. 02/AC/06/2004 on the approval of the Work Programme and Budget for the Financial Year 2005-2006**

The Administrative Council, meeting in its 6<sup>th</sup> ordinary session in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 – 21 April 2005;

**Having examined** the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the Union for the financial year 2005/2006 presented by the General Secretariat (Doc no AC/06/D06);

**Considering** the activities under the Work Programme and Budget of 2005/2006 are in line with the objectives set by objectives in the Strategic Plan of the Union for 2002/2006 adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in August 2002;

**1. Approves** the Work Programme attached and Budget of the Union for the financial year 2005/2006 amounting to US\$913,260;

**2. Instructs the Secretary General**

- a) to reduce the amount under the chapter events / official meetings by 20% and to use the savings for negotiated funding of the relief of at least one of the retired staff still in post ;
- b) to establish Council Committee made up of the following designated Member States for the preparation of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CC/PC) scheduled in 2006: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Sudan, Tanzania and Tchad. The Committee is open to other Member States willing to take part in its work;
- c) to give high priority to the following activities: -
  - PAPU /RASCOM/ATU Conference on E-Post Africa Project
  - The liquidation of staff debts
  - Preparation of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries by the Council Committee
  - Coordination of the African Preparatory Meetings for major International events on Telecommunication and ICT

**3. Adopts** the contributory unit for Associate members based on the approved budget for the Financial Year 2005/2006 as follows:

- 1 unit = \$ 9,100
- ½ unit = \$ 4,550
- ¼ unit = \$ 2,275

**4. Urges** all Member States and Associate members to meet their financial obligations to the Union on a regular basis.

**5. Decision No. 03/AC/06/2005 on the payment of Voluntary contribution on enhancing the liquidation of staff dues.**

The Administrative Council, meeting in its 6<sup>th</sup> ordinary session in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 – 21 April 2005;

**Considering** the Secretary General's Report of Activities for the Year 2004 / 2005;

**Recalling** The Resolution No.02/SE-CPL/99 adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, Cape Town, South Africa, 6 – 7 December 1999, on enhancing the liquidation of Union's debts;

**Aware that** the main objective of this resolution was to enable the settlement of the debts of PATU;

**Aware that** the Union still owes staff in post and those on retirement a substantial amount of money in spite of several appeals made to Member States at different forums of the organs of the Union, requesting them to honour their financial obligations to the Union;

**Further recalls and urges** Member States that have not yet paid the Voluntary Contribution of US\$ 50,000 to honour this obligation to enable the General Secretariat to implement the objective of the above mentioned resolution;

**Decides** that the funds realized from the payment of voluntary contribution will be used primarily to clear all the staff dues;

**Instructs** the Secretary General to notify the Administrative Council regularly on the payments received on voluntary contributions and their usage.



**6. Recommendation No. 01/AC/06/2005 on Audit Report of the Financial Year 2003 / 2004**

The Administrative Council, meeting in its 6<sup>th</sup> ordinary session in Khartoum, Sudan from 19 – 21 April 2005;

**Considering** the provisions of the ATU Constitution and Convention, (Cape Town 1999);

**Having considered** the Audited Account of the Union for the Financial Year 2003 / 2004 presented by the External Auditor, KPMG-Kenya;

**Take note of** the recommendations made by the Auditor on the arrears of contribution, a greater part of which could be considered as doubtful debts and other debts of the Union still unpaid and made up essentially of amounts owing to the Union's Staff;

**Instructs** the Secretary General to submit this Report to the forth coming Ordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for adoption.