

CORPORATE PROFILE



African Telecommunications Union



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Scope...

This document presents the corporate profile of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU).

It describes who we are, why we exist, what we do, how we do it, and to what end.

How to contact us...

Secretary General

African Telecommunications Union

Postal... P.O. Box 35282 Nairobi 00200 Kenya

Courier... Posta Sacco Plaza, 11th Floor,
Monrovia Street, Nairobi

Phone... +254 20 216678 / 722 203132 / 733 334420

Fax... +254 20 219445 / 219478

Email... sg@atu-uat.org

Website... www.atu-uat.org

Information design...

info@teknosell.co.ke

www.teknosell.co.ke

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Why was ATU conceived? History, mission, purpose...

Brief history

Founded in 1977 as a specialised agency of the Organisation of African Unity, now African Union, in the field of telecommunications. The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) took its present name in 1999. This led to the transformation of the agency into a partnership between public and private stakeholders in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

ATU provides a forum for stakeholders involved in ICT to formulate effective policies and strategies aimed at improving access to information infrastructure and services. In addition, the Union represents the interests of its members at global decision-making conferences and promotes initiatives aimed at integrating regional markets, attracting investment into ICT infrastructure, and building institutional and human capacity.

Why we exist

The mission of the Union is to promote the rapid development of info-communications in Africa in order to achieve universal access, and full inter-country connectivity.

The Union envisions an Africa that is empowered as a full and active participant in the global information and knowledge society.

Organisational values

Like other viable, healthy organisations, ATU is imbued with its own set of values that collectively describe the culture of the organisation. For ATU, those values include...

- Providing visionary leadership and supportive team-work structures
- Developing human and intellectual capital
- Fostering collaborative partnerships in ICT research and development
- Ensuring a high level of integrity, transparency and accountability
- Guaranteeing quality and excellence in service to all stakeholders
- Encouraging a strong bias for action and effectiveness

ATU at a glance...

Established on December 7, 1999, the African Telecommunications Union is the leading continental organisation fostering the development of information and communication technologies infrastructure and services.

The mission of the Union is to promote the rapid development of info-communications in Africa in order to achieve universal access, and full inter-country connectivity.

The Union envisions an Africa that is empowered as a full and active participant in the global information and knowledge society.

Membership... ATU currently has 46 Member States and 16 Associate Members (comprising fixed and mobile telecom operators).



- Advocating for the development of information and knowledge society in Africa

These values help us set priorities and guide the decisions needed to achieve our vision.

Core activity programmes

In pursuit of its mission of promoting the rapid development of info-communications in Africa in order to achieve universal access, and full inter-country connectivity, ATU is...

Contributing to global decision-making

Co-ordinating Africa's contribution to the work of global decision-making conferences for treaty-making, standards-setting and policy-formulation with the aim of ensuring Africa gets an equitable share of globally allocated resources.

Integrating regional markets

Fostering policy and regulatory harmonisation to create larger common markets for ICTs based on regional economic communities while increasing private sector participation.

Promoting investment in ICT infrastructure

Promoting initiatives for investment in access and backbone cross-border information infrastructure through smart partnerships between public, private and not-for-profit sectors, in order to achieve universal access and full inter-country connectivity.

Building human and institutional capacity

Facilitating initiatives to build institutional capacity in making treaties, setting standards, formulating policy, drafting regional integration protocols and attracting investment.

Membership...

ATU currently has 46 Member States and 16 Associate Members (comprising fixed and mobile telecom operators). Membership is still open to the remaining seven Potential Member States and a host of Associate Members (telecom operators - fixed and mobile, broadcasters, internet service providers, ICT manufacturers, and ICT training institutions).

Contributing to global decision-making

Integrating regional markets

Promoting investment in ICT infrastructure

Building human and institutional capacity

46 Member States

16 Associate Members



Who is ATU here for? Expectations, benefits...

African states...

African states would be delighted to see cross-border connectivity, backbone capacity, universal access and the application of ICT solutions to varied societal issues, all geared to poverty alleviation and economic stimulation.

ATU advocates on behalf of member states for equitable share of globally allocated ICT resources such as frequency spectrums, internet addresses, satellite orbital slots and mobilisation of development funds.

Network operators and service providers...

Telecom operators - fixed and mobile, broadcasters, internet service providers, ICT manufacturers, and ICT training institutions desire a responsive policy and legal framework to facilitate investment opportunities so as to operate profitably.

In addition to promoting initiatives aimed at integrating regional markets, ATU also provides its associate members with access to key government policy makers and networking opportunities with peer organisations.

Development partners...

In recognition of the crucial role that ICT plays in accelerating social-economic growth, development partners expect solutions accruing from ICT to contribute towards poverty alleviation and universal access to information.

ATU provides development partners with a mechanism to rollout programmes targeting African countries in matters connected with ICT.

Manufacturers and suppliers...

ICT equipment manufacturers and suppliers expect to have access to wider markets and a platform for promoting and selling their products.

Through ATU's events and publications, manufacturers and suppliers can reach-out to a continental audience.

Any African State can join the Union as a Member State.

Any entity involved or interested in the info-communications sector in Africa can join the Union as an Associate Member.

ATU provides development partners with a mechanism to rollout their programmes.

ATU's events and publications open-up a continent-wide market.



What is ATU doing? Core activity programmes...

Contributing to global decision-making

World conferences are convened periodically to review and revise the international telecommunications regulations that apply to administrations and network operators.

The conferences establish the general principles for the provision and operation of international telecommunications services offered to the public as well as the underlying means used to provide those services.

What we do

Through this programme, ATU coordinates Africa's contribution to the work of these conferences with the aim of ensuring Africa gets an equitable share of globally allocated resources. We also follow up to ensure that any proposals adopted as a result of these initiatives are implemented.

Some of the global decision-making events that we contribute to include...

- Regional Radio Conferences
- World Radiocommunication Conferences
- World Telecommunication Development Conferences
- World Telecommunications Standardisation Assemblies
- ITU's Plenipotentiary Conferences

Core activity partners

To realise the programme's goal, we cooperate with the African Union and other relevant organisations including...

ITU:	International Telecommunication Union
CEPT:	European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
RCC:	Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications
CITEL:	Inter-American Telecommunications Commission
APT:	Asia Pacific Telecommunity
ATCM:	Arab Telecommunication Council of Ministers

Goal...

To enhance Africa's contribution to global decision-making conferences to ensure equitable share of global resources.

Strategies...

Coordinating the preparation of African common proposals.

Following up on the implementation of resolutions of global decision-making events.



Integrating regional markets

Achieving continental integration has been a key objective of African leaders since the inception of the Organisation of African Unity, now African Union. More recently, we have seen the emergence of regional economic communities as building blocks towards continental integration.

Larger regional economic-based markets realise economies of scale and lower costs. Integrating regional markets for information and communication technologies (ICTs) requires harmonisation of policy and regulatory frameworks.

What we do

Through this programme, ATU works with regional economic communities to harmonise policy and regulatory frameworks. This will enable the creation of larger regional markets for information and communication technologies and increase private sector participation.

To realise our goal, we are...

- Developing model ICT policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks for adoption by regional economic communities.
- Facilitating regional economic communities to harmonise ICT policy and regulatory frameworks of their member states.

Core activity partners

To realise the programme's goal, we cooperate with the African Union and other relevant organisations including...

ECA:	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS:	Economic Community for West African States
IGAD:	Intergovernmental Authority in Development
COMESA:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CEN-SAD:	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
URTNA:	Union of National Radio and Television Organisation of Africa
PAPU:	Pan-African Postal Union

Goal...

To accelerate integration of ICT services into larger regional economic-based markets to realise economies of scale and lower costs.

Strategies...

Developing model policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks.

Facilitating regional economic communities to harmonise policy and regulatory frameworks.



Attracting investment into ICT infrastructure

Independently of the current state of a country's economy, the key to future success is access... broadband access for the deployment of information-intensive applications, wireless access for faster deployment of services to the entire population, mobile access to better serve needs of the largest number... access that is affordable for mass use.

But telecommunications in Africa are characterised by a relatively low level of (mostly narrowband) tele-density. With the integration of regional markets, the continent is ripe for rapid growth in tele-density and for the development of new business models based upon these access platforms. This could be realised through smart partnerships between public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

What we do

Through this programme, ATU promotes initiatives to attract investment in access and backbone cross-border information infrastructure in order to achieve universal access and full inter-country connectivity.

To realise our goal, we are...

- Facilitating regional initiatives to attract investment into ICT infrastructure.
- Coordinating multi-utility feasibility studies on integrated infrastructure.

Core activity partners

To realise the programme's goal, we cooperate with the African Union and other relevant organisations including...

ECOWAS:	Economic Community for West African States
IGAD:	Intergovernmental Authority in Development
COMESA:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CEN-SAD:	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
UNIDO:	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
PAPU:	Pan-African Postal Union
ADB:	African Development Bank
NEPAD:	New Partnership for Africa's Development

Goal...

To attract investment into information infrastructure to meet universal access and full backbone inter-connectivity aspiration.

Strategies...

Facilitating regional initiatives to attract investment into ICT infrastructure.

Coordinating multi-utility feasibility studies on integrated infrastructure.



Building human and institutional capacity

While public institutions in Africa are no longer as directly involved in the provision of information and communication technology (ICT) services, they still have an important role to play in development of the private sector, principally to regulate and promote its development. Unfortunately, public institutions in many African countries have not been adequately strengthened to undertake their new functions, due to a lack of funds and other problems.

Our success critically depends on the capacity of individuals and institutions that collaborate with ATU in various core activity programmes.

What we do

Through this programme, ATU facilitates initiatives to build the capacity of individuals and institutions in making treaties, setting standards, formulating policy, drafting regional integration protocols and attracting investment.

To realise our goal, we are...

- Developing training modules on ICT treaty-making, standards-setting and policy formulation.
- Organising - in collaboration with partners - information, education and communication programmes on issues related to ICTs.
- Developing a database of professionals, practitioners and consultants involved in all aspects of ICT.

Core activity partners

To realise the programme's goal, we cooperate with the African Union and other relevant organisations including...

ITU/BDT: International Telecommunication Union –
Telecommunications Development Bureau

AFRALTI: African Advanced Level Telecommunication Institute

ESMT: Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des
Télécommunications

IARU: International Amateur Radio Union

Goal...

To build human and institutional capacity necessary for effective participation in treaty-making, standards-setting and formulation of protocols.

Strategies...

Developing training modules on treaty-making, standards-setting and policy formulation.

Organising information, education and communication programmes.

Developing a database of professionals, practitioners and consultants involved in all aspects of ICT.



What has ATU done lately? Highlights of achievements...

Contributing to global decision-making

Contributions for the ITU PP-02: 23 African common proposals (AFCPs) were adopted by the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference (ITU PP-02). In particular...

- one of the resolutions awarded a grant of CHF47,000 to ATU from ITU.
- another resolution on the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) preparatory process resulted in the African common proposal drafting process being assured of ITU's support.

Contributions for WRC-03: While participating in the conference preparatory meeting held in Geneva, a strategy for evolving AFCPs for WRC-03 was crafted. As a result, the Africa region meeting on information and preparation for WRC-03 generated 54 AFCPs.

Integrating regional markets

ATU has signed cooperation agreements with regional economic communities affiliated to the African Union. And to support initiatives aimed at promoting regional market integration, ATU participated in a number of policy harmonisation meetings.

One such meeting was held in August 2002 in Nairobi. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss interconnection, licensing and universal service/access in general terms. Participants also drafted policy guidelines and model regulations in specialist areas.

Attracting investment into ICT infrastructure

ATU has catalysed effective collaboration leading to the establishment of regulatory associations within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS). These are the Association of Regulators for Information and Communication Services of Eastern and Southern Africa (AFRICEA), and the West African Telecommunications Regulators Association (WATRA) respectively.

Goal...

To enhance Africa's contribution to global decision-making conferences to ensure equitable share of global resources.

Goal...

To accelerate integration of ICT services into larger regional economic-based markets to realise economies of scale and lower costs.

Goal...

To attract investment into information infrastructure to meet universal access and full backbone inter-connectivity aspiration.



Other specific achievements include...

- Successful negotiation for the Regional African Satellite Communication Organisation (RASCOM) orbital slot at 2.9°E with the period of satellite filings extended from January 2005 to January 2008.
- Launching of the pre-feasibility study of the East African Submarine Cable.

Building human and institutional capacity

ATU in collaboration with the International Amateur Radio Union successfully organised an amateur radio administrative course. The course was attended by 22 participants drawn from Anglophone countries and radio amateur societies.

Another course for Francophone countries is planned.

Managing membership relations

Coordination of membership relations: A membership relationships management system has been developed at the secretariat to facilitate closer tracking of service delivery.

Information and knowledge sharing: The secretariat has launched a new information bulletin "Access" and published a continental directory. An information resource centre has also been established at the secretariat.

Development of ICT database: ATU has developed an information and communication technology database depicting key continental indicators.

Development of information systems: The secretariat has developed various systems to enhance performance...

- ATU stakeholder relationship database
- Electronic document directory system
- Electronic financial records

Goal...

To build human and institutional capacity necessary for effective participation in treaty-making, standards-setting and formulation of protocols.

Goal...

To enhance and re-engineer the decision-making processes of the Union's organs in order to meet the changing needs and expectations of the membership in an efficient and sustainable manner.



How is ATU managed? Organs, leadership...

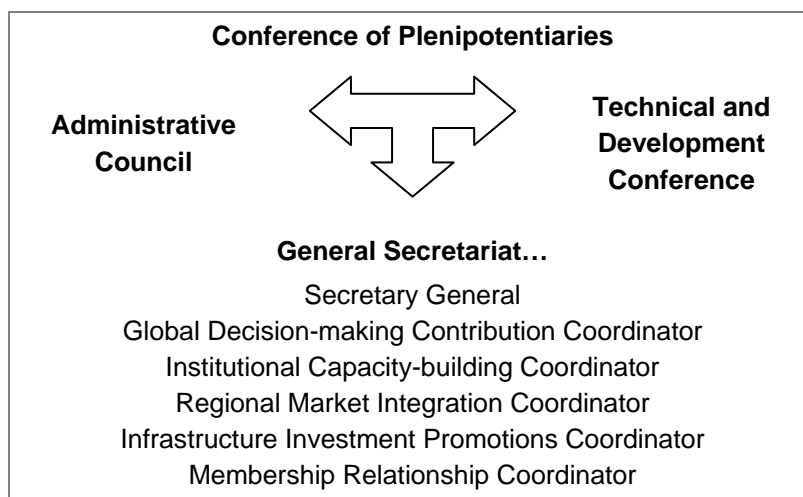
The African Telecommunications Union comprises...

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries, is the supreme authority of the Union, and meets every four years to adopt the strategic plan and the fundamental policies of the organisation. The Conference also decides on the organisation and activities of the Union.

The Administrative Council meets annually to consider broad policy issues in order to ensure that the Union's policies and strategies fully respond to the constantly changing information environment. The Council is also responsible for ensuring the efficient coordination of the work of the Union and the approval of budgets.

The Technical and Development Conference provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to examine policy, operational, regulatory, technical and investment related issues necessary for the rapid development and expansion of information communications on the continent.

The General Secretariat headed by the secretary general, handles all the administrative and financial aspects of the Union's activities. Each core activity programme has a coordinator. In addition, there is a membership relationship coordinator who ensures that the secretariat meets the changing needs and expectations of the membership in an efficient and sustainable manner.



Leadership...

Hon. Mutahi Kagwe
Minister for Information & Communications, Kenya
2002-2006

Chairperson: Cameroon,
represented by Mr. Henry Ntoupendi
2004-2005

Mr Akossi Akossi
Secretary General
2004-2006



Who are ATU's members? States, associates...

Member States (46)	North Africa (6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algeria • Egypt • Libya • Morocco • Tunisia • Mauritania 	Southern Africa (6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho • Malawi • South Africa • Swaziland • Zambia • Zimbabwe
West Africa (14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benin • Burkina Faso • Cote d'Ivoire • Gambia • Ghana • Guinea • Guinea Bissau • Liberia • Mali • Niger • Nigeria • Senegal • Sierra Leone • Togo 	Central Africa (10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angola • Burundi • Cameroon • Central African Republic • Chad • Congo • Democratic Republic of Congo • Equatorial Guinea • Gabon • Sao Tome & Principe 	East Africa (10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comoros • Djibouti • Ethiopia • Kenya • Madagascar • Mauritius • Somalia • Sudan • Tanzania • Uganda
Associate Members (16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameroon Telecommunications (CAMTEL) • Cote d'Ivoire Telecom • Sudan Telecom Company Limited (SUDATEL) - Sudan • Loteny Telecom - Côte d'Ivoire • Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA) - Botswana • Safaricom Limited - Kenya • Telkom Kenya Ltd - Kenya • Telecom Lesotho (PTY) Ltd - Lesotho • P.Q. Africa - South Africa • Vodacom (PTY) Limited - South Africa • Zanzibar Telecom Limited (ZANTEL) - Tanzania • Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL) • Ghana Telecommunications Company Ltd - Ghana • Mauritius Telecom Ltd - Mauritius • Telecom Egypt - Egypt • INFOTEL Consulting - Nigeria 	