

FINAL COMMUNIQUE (AC01)

The Administrative Council of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) held its 1st Ordinary Session in Nairobi, Kenya from 20 – 22 June 2000.

Member States of the Administrative Council present were:

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| <u>North Africa:</u> | Egypt. |
| <u>West Africa:</u> | Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria. |
| <u>Central Africa:</u> | Burundi, Cameroon and Central African Republic. |
| <u>East Africa:</u> | Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. |
| <u>Southern Africa:</u> | Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia. |

The following Member States were absent:

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| <u>North Africa:</u> | Tunisia. |
| <u>West Africa:</u> | Côte d'Ivoire. |
| <u>Central Africa:</u> | Congo Democratic Republic. |
| <u>East Africa:</u> | Sudan. |
| <u>Southern Africa:</u> | - |

Observers from the following Member States and Organizations were also in attendance:

Gabon Kenya

ITU

The Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony was Mr. Samuel Chepkong'a, Director General of the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK). In his Keynote Address, he highlighted a number of key issues pertaining to the telecommunications development in Africa, particularly the very low teledensity in the region and the catalytic role ATU can play in enhancing the Continent's position. He urged greater investment in the sector so that Africa can benefit from the info-communication age. Lastly he touched on the significant steps Kenya had taken in restructuring and liberalising the telecommunications sector and the expected expansion.

He wished the Delegates success in their deliberations and declared opened the 1st Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council.

The Keynote Statement of the Guest of Honour was preceded by Statements delivered by ATU Secretary General, Mr. Jan MUTAI and Mr. Thomas Zulu, ATU Chairperson representing Zambia.

The Secretary General, after thanking the Government and the People of Kenya for temporary hosting the Seat of the Union in Nairobi, expressed his gratitude to the Guest of Honour, Mr. Samuel Chepkong'a for the support the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) has given to ATU. He urged the Council to find ways and means to resolve the financial problems of the Union.

The outgoing Chairman of the Administrative Council, Mr. Tobias Zulu, representing Zambia, thanked the Government and the People of Kenya for the hospitality accorded to all the Delegates. He stressed the need for Member States to financially support the Union to enable it implement its Strategic Plan – The African Connection.

The Council elected its Bureau as follows:

Chairperson: Mr. Samir FAHMY SAHION, Egypt
Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Nestor MISIGARO, Burundi

The Administrative Council considered in particular the following items:

- ? Matters arising from the 21st PATU Administrative Council, Cairo, May 1999.
- ? Consideration of the Resolutions of the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, Cape Town, December 1999.
- ? Consideration of the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Union from 1 June 1999 to 31st May 2000.
- ? Consideration of the financial Report and Audited Accounts of the old Union PATU for the financial years 1997-1998 and 1998-1999.
- ? Consideration of the ATU's Strategic Plan/Work Programme.
- ? Consideration of the Programme Budget for the Financial Year 2000-2001.
- ? Interview of the Candidates for the Posts of Director of the Development Sector and Director of the Technical Sector.
- ? Launch of ATU Associate Membership

The Council adopted five Resolutions centered essentially on ways and means to be adopted to empower the Union to continue to ensure its responsibilities and fully implement its Programme of Actions.

The Session was closed by Chairperson of Council(Egypt) represented by Mr. Samir FAHMY SAHION.

A vote of thanks addressed to the Government of the Republic of Kenya was read by MR.Tom KAVINYA, the Head of the Malawi delegation.

Nairobi, 22nd June 2000