ANNEX 10 – FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ (AC04)

The Administrative Council of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) held its 4th Ordinary Session in Nairobi, Kenya from 08 – 10 April 2003.

At the Closing Session, this Final Communiqué was read by Mr. Mostafa Bahie-Eldin, Director of Frequency Management, representing Egypt.

The Council after considering the agenda items and their respective documents adopted the following resolutions, decisions and recommendations.

They are summarized as follows:

1.   For actioning Global Decision-Making Programmes

i)   Resolution on preparation of African Common Proposals (AFCPs) as Africa's contribution to the work of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03)

ii)   Resolution on preparation of African Common Proposals (AFCP) as Africa's contribution as Africa's contribution to the work of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

iii)   Resolution on preparation of African Common Proposals (AFCP) as Africa's contribution to the work of the Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC) 2004 and 2005.

iv)   Resolution on preparation of African Common Proposals (AFCP) as Africa's contribution to the work of the for World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) – 2004.

2.   For actioning Regional Market Intergration Programmes

v)   Resolution on submission of the Annual Report on African ICT Sector Overview and Activities of the African Telecommunications Union to the Commission of the African Union.

vi)   Resolution on development of Model Policy Legislation and Licensing Frameworks by Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

vii)   Resolution on the preparation, dissemination and use of the Rural ICT market opportunities toolkit.

3.   For actioning Infrastructure Investment Promotion

i)   Resolution on consolidated annual review of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) programmes for submission to NEPAD.

ix)   Resolution on the need to convene a meeting of operators in Africa to discuss interconnection of National Telecom Networks.

4.   For actioning Institutional Capacity Building Programmes

x)   Resolution on building Africa's capacity in global decision-making

5.   For actioning Member Decision-Making Programmes

xi)   Resolution on continued and enhanced support to the Union.

xii)   Resolution on the stakeholders relationship strategy as a tool for improving the overall performance of the Union.

xiii)   Resolution on holding of the 1st ATU Technical and Development Conference in August 2003.

xiv)   Resolution on the theme of the Africa Telecommunications Day, "***Interconnectivity within Africa: Towards ICTs for all***".

xv)   Resolution on consideration of modalities for recovering arrears of contributions

xvi)   Decision on approval of the programme and Budget for the financial year 2003/2004

xvii)   Decision on roundtable meetings between the Public and Private Sectors heads of delegations on the occasion of ATU Administrative Council sessions.

xviii)   Recommendation on the audited accounts for the financial year 2001/2002

The Opening Ceremony was presided over by Mr. Salim Ndemo, Senior Deputy Secretary Ministry of Transport and Communications representing Hon. John Michuki, MP, Guest of Honour, Minister for Transport and Communications.   In his keynote address the Guest of Honour welcomed the participants and thanked ATU for holding the meeting in Kenya. He outlined the advantages which would accrue from the participation of the private sector in the activities of the Union. He commended ATU for bringing Members together to evolve common proposals ahead of international conferences to make Africa's voice louder. He stressed the need to provide affordable telecommunication services to rural areas through adequate model legislations and regulatory guidelines. He urged Member States to honour their obligations in order to enable ATU meet the needs and aspiration of its Africa's Information and Communication stakeholders and associate members.

The Guest of Honour's keynote address was preceded by Statements delivered by ATU Secretary General, Mr. Jan Mutai, the Representative of ITU Secretary General, Mr Brahima Sanou and the Chairman of the ATU Administrative Council, Eng. Ernest Ndukwe.
The Secretary General expressed his gratitude to the Government and People of Kenya through the Guest of Honour for the support they have given to ATU. He informed the meeting of achievements since last session of council and highlighted the challenges facing the Union in coming years.

The Representative of ITU conveyed the wishes of success of his organizations to the Council. The Chairman of the Council underscored the importance of Information and Communication

Technology as indispensable tools for economic development. He referred to advantages countries could derive from market liberalisation and strong regulatory frameworks. He commended the general secretariat for their hard work.

The Council elected the following Bureau:

Chairman: Malawi, represented by Mr. Evans J. Namanja, Director General of Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority

Vice-Chairman: Cameroon, represented by Mr Dieudonné Tchimkap, Senior Inspector of Post and Telecommunication

This session of Council was well attended. It had representation from 16 Member States out of the 19 elected members of Council:

- North Africa   - Egypt
- West Africa   - Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria
- Central Africa   - Burundi, Cameroon and Congo (DR)
- East Africa   - Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
- Southern Africa   - Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia

Representatives of the following non-council Member States were present as observers: Algeria, Chad and Mauritius

The following Associate Members were in attendance as observers:

- Telkom Kenya Limited
- Safaricom Limited (Kenya)
- Vodacom Group (pty) Limited (South Africa)

Also present as Ex-Officio Members were representatives from:

- Host country - Kenya
- African Connection Centre

Invited organizations which attended as observers were:

- African Advanced Level Telecommunication Training Institute (AFRALTI)
- European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)
- International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- African Regional Standardization Organization (ARSO)

Thereafter, a Vote of Thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya was read by Mr John Andrew Mpapalika, Head of Delegation of Tanzania on behalf of the participants.

The Secretary General wished the participants safe journey to their destination and lauded the spirit of co-operation and solidarity that is growing in Africa in the ICT sector. He looked forward to even greater achievements especially at the World Radio Communication

Conference in June 2003 (WRC-03) and World Summit on Information Society in December 2003 (WSIS – 03).

The Chairman appreciated the good work of the 4th Session of ATU Administrative Council, wished all participants safe return home and officially closed the meeting.

Nairobi, 10 April 2003