

FINAL COMMUNIQUE' (CPL/01/D17)

The 1st Ordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the African Telecommunications Union, having met in Nairobi Kenya from August 28 – 30, 2002,

Endorses

- 1) twenty two African Common Proposals (ACP's) for the work of the ITU PP-02 in Marrakesh in September/October 2002;
- 2) the recommendations of the Administrative Council 1998-2002 referred to the Conference;
- 3) the audited accounts of the African Telecommunications Union for the financial years 1997/1998, 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

Decides

- 1) to hold an Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2003 in Cote d'Ivoire, to elect the Administrative Council and Secretary General;
- 2) to include an agenda item on ITU Council elections and equitable distribution of seats among African sub-regions in the next extraordinary conference;
- 3) to set the date and venue of the next ordinary session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL) at the next Extra-Ordinary Session of CPL in 2003;
- 4) to extend the life of the Ministerial Oversight Committee (MOC) and African Connection Centre for Strategic Planning for a period of twelve months or up to the Extra-Ordinary Session of CPL in 2003.

Adopts

- 1) the African Common Proposal consultation process involving Member States, Associate Members, Regional Economic Community Institutions and the General Secretariat in the preparation of Member States for effective participation in international conferences where ICT global resources are shared for national, regional, continental and global applications;
- 2) the Strategic Plan of the Union for the period 2002-2006 with the following objectives and goals:-
 - Strengthening the Union
 - Advocating equitable share of global ICT resources
 - Creating intellectual property
 - Establishing strong partnerships
 - Attracting and retaining competent staff
 - Developing critical mass of ICT human capital
 - Promoting investment in ICT infrastructure

Urges Member States

- 1) to ratify or accede to the Cape Town ATU Constitution and Convention as soon as possible;
- 2) to honour their financial obligations towards the Union on time;
- 3) to participate actively in the preparation for international ICT conferences (for example, WRC-03, WSIS-03 & 05, WTSA-04 and RRC-04 & 05).

- 4) to encourage potential Associate Members in their respective countries to join ATU.
- 5) to support the RASCOM programme and RASCOM network deployment.

Requests continental and global partners to forge a closer co-operation with ATU for rapid advancements of ICT in Africa;

Instructs the Administrative Council

- 1) to follow up the implementation of the Strategic Plan by allocating adequate resources;
- 2) to follow up the decisions and resolutions adopted at the Conference

Instructs the Secretary General

- 1) to facilitate effective participation of Member States and Associate Members in international ICT conferences.
- 2) to co-ordinate the timely implementation of the ATU Strategic Plan for the period 2002- 2006.