

Press Conference
to introduce the incoming Secretary General of the
African Telecommunications Union (ATU)
Friday 9th January 2004 at 17.45 Hrs
The Norfolk Hotel, Pioneer Room



Nairobi, 9th January 2004

Press Statement

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 26 - 27 August 2003 elected Mr. Akossi Akossi, Secretary General of the Union for the period 2004 - 2006. The handover of office between the outgoing Secretary General Mr. Jan Mutai and the incoming Secretary General, Mr. Akossi Akossi was held this afternoon in the Boardroom of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The ceremony was presided over by Hon. John Michuki, Minister of Transport and Communications who is also the current Chairman of ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

The outgoing Secretary General handed over the Legal Instruments and devices of the Union to the incoming Secretary General. In his brief statement, he thanked the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya for the tremendous support given to the Union during his tenure of office. He urged the Kenya government to give the same support during the mandate of Mr. Akossi Akossi.

The incoming Secretary General expressed gratitude to the Government and People of Kenya for the warm hospitality accorded him and their continuous and invaluable support to ATU.

In his remarks, the Minister of Transport and Communication, Honourable John Michuki commended the outgoing Secretary General for his achievements at the Head of the Union and wished him plenty of success in his new assignments. He welcomed the new Secretary General in Kenya and assured him of Kenya full support during his tenure of office. He called for the creation of a harmonised ICT regulatory environment for Africa and urged the new Secretary General to work relentlessly to achieve universal access and full interconnection for the continent.

Jan Mutai
Outgoing Secretary General

Akossi Akossi
Incoming Secretary General

Background

THE AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ATU)

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) is a leading continental organisation fostering the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) infrastructure and services in Africa. ATU provides a forum for African Governments, as well as private sector and civil society organisations involved in information and communications technology (ICT) to formulate effective policies and strategies aimed at improving access to information infrastructure and services whilst promoting its use as a tool for stimulating economic development.

ATU was established on 7th December 1999 as a partnership between public and private stakeholders in the ICT sector in addition to its continuing policy and regulatory harmonisation role as an Inter-Governmental Organisation. Its precursor is the Pan African Telecommunications Union (PATU), which was established on 7th December 1977 as a specialized agency in the field of telecommunications of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) now transformed into the African Union (AU) as from July 2002. ATU represents the interests of its Member States and Associate Members at regional and global decision-making conferences. It co-ordinates initiatives for regional market integration, infrastructure investment promotion and institutional Capacity-Building.

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.

The Union is committed to:

- Visionary leadership and supportive team-work structures
- Development of human and intellectual capital resources
- Collaborative partnerships in ICT research and development
- Integrity, transparency and accountability
- Quality and excellence in service to all stakeholders
- Strong bias for action and effectiveness
- Development of information and knowledge society in Africa

ATU's Core Activity Programs are: -

- Global decision-making contribution (GDC) program for ICT policy-formulation, treaty-making and standards-setting
- Regional market integration (RMI) program for harmonisation of ICT Policy and regulatory frameworks at Regional Economic Community levels
- Infrastructure investment promotion (IIP) program for ICT Networks and Services within NEPAD framework
- Institutional capacity-building (ICB) program on ICT policy-formulation, treaty-making and standards-setting
- Member relationship program (MERP) for building working partnership between Governments, the Business Sector and Civil Society Organisations

Further details can be obtained found on the ATU website (<http://www.atu-uat.org>).

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AKOSSI AKOSSI - BRIEF RÉSUMÉ

Mr. Akossi Akossi was elected Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) for the period 2004 - 2006, at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Union held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in August 2003. He is a national of Cote d'Ivoire.

He was former Director General of Cote d'Ivoire Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ATCI) from 1995 - 1997. Until his election, he was Strategic Business Network Senior Consultant. He is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications of Paris (France).

In his 23 years as a telecommunications professional, he has acquired solid experience in management and in telecommunications network and services development strategy.

He successfully steered the liberalization process of Cote d'Ivoire telecommunications sector and has contributed to the implementation of sectoral policies and innovative investment projects in several African countries.

He is very knowledgeable on issues of African integration and the public-private partnership needed for the development of information and communication technologies in Africa.

Mr. Akossi's agenda is to make the African Telecommunications Union a credible organization institutionally strong, financially sound and capable of meeting the needs and expectations of African people and winning the trust of all stakeholders and development partners of the information and communication technologies sector.

His ambition is to carry through the African Telecommunications Union's reform and repositioning on the basis of the 2002 - 2006 Strategic Plan and give fresher impetus to the organization to enable it achieve the seven goals of the strategic plan.

AA/9th January 2004

JAN MUTAI – BRIEF RÉSUMÉ

Mr Jan MUTAI is the outgoing Secretary General of African Telecommunications Union (ATU), a specialised agency of the African Union (AU), in the field of Telecommunications. He was elected to this position on 7th December 1999, at the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Union, held in Cape Town, South Africa. He has successfully completed his four year term of office in which he repositioned ATU, as one of the leading intergovernmental organisations in Africa, fostering accelerated development of information infrastructures and services. Through his contribution and those of others, there is now more affordable access in Africa, to the benefits of the emerging information society especially through mobile networks and services.

He handed over office today to Mr. Akossi Akossi, a national of Cote d'Ivoire at a ceremony presided over by Hon. John Michuki, MP, the Minister of Transport and Communications who is also Chairman of ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries. Mr. Akossi Akossi was elected to this office by the Conference in August last year in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Mr. MUTAI has built-up extensive experience, both in the public and private sectors, especially in the fields of public sector reform, business strategy, organisational restructuring, and process re-engineering. In his next career move, he intends to use the considerable skills, knowledge and experience to provide consultancy services to clients in the ICT and energy sectors through his start-up consultancy form - *Jan Mutai & Associates*. He was previously, Managing Director of Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (KP&TC). Whilst there, he laid the foundation for the reform and restructuring of the telecommunications sector, resulting in new legislation in 1998, for the separation of powers, for policy, regulation and service provision. As a result KP&TC was split in 1999 into three entities; namely the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), Telkom Kenya Limited and the Postal Corporation of Kenya. For his contribution to national development, he has been honoured by the Republic of Kenya with several awards, which include the Head of State Commendation (HSC) and the Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS).

Before appointment in the public sector, he had over 20 years experience in the business sector, with the Shell group of companies, where he rose through the ranks, from a plant engineer, through sales & marketing management, to director human resources & public affairs. Jan MUTAI is a member of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya and other professional organisations.