



SG's Speeches / Statements 2003

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***Statement of the Secretary General of African
Telecommunications Union (ATU), Mr. Jan Mutai on the occasion
of the launch of the Association of Regulators of Information and
Communications of Eastern and Southern Africa (ARICEA)***

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I am delighted at this opportunity, to participate in the historic launch, of the Regulators Association, for COMESA Member States. This is a significant milestone, not only for citizens of COMESA region, but also for Africa and the world. We live in an era, of deepening globalization, in which, the voice of individual Member States, is growing fainter, and those of regional blocks like COMESA, are growing louder. Furthermore, information and communication technologies (ICT), which are now universally pervasive, are no respecter of boundaries. Working on a regional basis, is therefore no longer an option, but an imperative for development.

May I, express my gratitude to the organisers, COMESA, for inviting the organization I represent, ATU, to be part of this event; the host country Ethiopia for the excellent facilities placed at our disposal, and principal partners USAID, ITU and African Connection for the facilitation and support. This is a truly remarkable example, of national, regional, and global co-operation, aimed at bridging the digital divide, and bringing the benefits, of the information society, closer to the people of Africa.

With the launch of this association, our expectations in Africa, are raised even higher. It is our hope, that the new organization, will live up to their expectations. For us in the Union, we are looking forward to faster integration of regional markets, for ICT products and services. We expect to see, before too long, direct cross-border inter-connectivity of COMESA state capitals, with broadband technologies. We hope to experience, the switching of regional internet traffic, within COMESA, that improves on quality, and saves on expensive international bandwidth.

Furthermore, we expect that the culture of standardization, will be deepened so that inter-operability issues, including mutual recognition of type approvals will be addressed professionally. Equally, that there will be substantive regional collaboration in the allocation and management of Radio Frequency Spectrum. Like everywhere

else, citizens of COMESA expect that these scarce resources are rationally and equitably allocated to different users in the community, public and commercial domains, whilst harmful interferences, are closely monitored and prevented. On Africa's contribution to global decision-making, we look forward to the Association being integrated in the loop for consultation and consensus-building. Success in the global arena requires, among other things, advanced preparation, research and analysis of key issues of regional interest, followed by the coalition-building with other regional organization before and during the conference.

In concluding these remarks, may I once again commend COMESA, for the achievements, resulting from this project, for harmonization of information and communication policies and regulations. The adoption of these frameworks, by Member States, will without doubt, attract accelerated investment, into 'access' and 'backbone' infrastructures and services. I wish the new Association, every success, in its challenging mission, of contributing and empowering Africa, to be, a full, and active participant, in the global information society.

Thank you!

SG/Nairobi, 21 January 2003

**Statement of the Secretary General of African
Telecommunications Union (ATU), Mr. Jan Mutai on the occasion
of the official opening of the 12th EARPTO Meeting in Nairobi on
the 24 - 25 March 2003, Grand Regency Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.**

The Chief Guest, Hon John Michuki, the Minister for Transport and Communications;
Distinguished CEOs of the Assembly of Parties;
Distinguished CEOs of the Public Operators;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am delighted to have this opportunity, to address the 12th EARPTO Meeting, that brings together communication sector; Regulators, Postal and Telecom Operators. May I at the onset, express my gratitude, to EARPTO Organizing Team, for inviting the organization I represent, ATU, to be part of this event, and the Host country Kenya, for the excellent facilities, they have placed at the disposal of the meeting.

Chief Guest, Ladies & Gentlemen,

We live in the era, of deepening globalization, in which the voices of individual countries, are getting fainter and fainter, and those of regional groupings, such as EAC are growing louder and louder. Furthermore, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) which are now universally pervasive are no respecter of country boundaries. Working on a regional basis, is therefore, no longer an option, but an imperative for social and economic development.

Chief Guest, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Allow me to congratulate EARPTO for generating, seven (7) of the twenty three (23) African Common Proposals (AFCPs), for the work of the ITU Plenipotentiaries (PP-02), in Marrakech, Morocco, September - October 2003. At that event, the voice of Africa was louder, than it has ever been, since the launch of ITU decision-making conferences. The results out of our contributions exceeded expectations, with the global community, endorsing Africa's positions, on a wide range of issues, including, new approaches for managing internet domain names, and NEPAD ICT strategy, for bridging the digital divide in Africa.

The success in Marrakech, was a great confidence booster for Africa, and we can realistically expect, a greater share of globally allocated resources, reaching Africa, if the proactive regional consultation processes are sustained.

We look forward, to seeing EARPTO, being a lighthouse again, in evolving African Common Proposals, for upcoming international decision-making conferences, including the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC 2003) in Geneva - June 2003, and World Summit on Information Society (WSIS 2003) in Geneva, December 2003.

Chief Guest, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Permit me once more, to commend EARPTO, for organizing regular meetings, in accordance with its Constitution. This means, EARPTO, is healthy, and that it lives upto its promises. We therefore, look forward to seeing the organization, establishing several mechanisms, for deeper regional integration. Such mechanisms, would include, protocols for mutual recognition of ICT equipment type approvals, Regional Radio Frequency Allocation Tables, and 'one stop-shop' facility, for licensing cross-border VSAT networks.

On the infrastructure front, the challenges facing EARPTO are many, but allow me to mention a few. We expect EARPTO to, for example, address the revival of the East African Digital Transmission Fibre Optic Project, in order to improve the land based broadband connectivity, between the Member States Capitals. Furthermore, EARPTO, to sustain, the momentum for attracting investors, to the recently proposed East and Southern Africa Submarine Cable, which is targeted at broadening and diversifying, the links of the sub-region, with the rest of the world.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Introduction of new technologies, must go hand in hand, with human and institutional capacity development. In this regard, it will be imperative for EARPTO, to find innovative ways, of using the training facilities, available at the AFRALTI, a Centre of Excellency in ICT training, supported by ITU and ATU. It should contribute, to timely

review, of the curricula of AFRALTI, to ensure they continue to meet emerging priority skills for treaty-making in radiocommunications, standards-setting for new technologies, and formulation of regional integration protocols.

In conclusion, may I once again, thank the EARPTO organizing team, for inviting me to share my views with you, and to wish this 12th EARPTO Meeting every success in its deliberations.

I thank you all for your kind attention

SG/24/03/2003

**Statement of the Secretary General of ATU, Mr. Jan Mutai, at the official opening
of the Africa Region Meeting on Information and Preparations for WRC-03
Libreville, Gabon, 31st March - 4th April 2003**

- ◆ The Chief Guest, Hon. Mehdi Teale, Minister of Communications, Posts and Information Technology
- ◆ Distinguished Representative of ITU
- ◆ Distinguished Heads of Delegations
- ◆ Distinguished Representatives of Regional Telecom Organisations present
- ◆ Distinguished invited guests
- ◆ Distinguished Delegates
- ◆ Ladies and Gentlemen

Right from the outset, allow me to express my deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Gabon for accepting to host the Africa Region Meeting for Information and Preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) that will be held in Geneva in June/July this year. Since the attendance and participation of African countries in the preparatory process for the Conference is low, the need for this meeting cannot be over-emphasized. African countries need to understand the issues that will be deliberated at the conference hence the information meeting. Equally important, African countries must take a position for each agenda item of the conference. But more importantly however, African countries must if possible speak with one voice at the conference because our problems are similar and hence the need for this preparatory meeting where African Common Proposals (AFCPs) are going to be generated. Furthermore it is an empirical fact that with globalization, the voices of single countries are becoming fainter and fainter while the voices of groups of countries like CEPT in Europe, CITELE in the Americas, ATU in Africa are growing louder and louder. The Gabon meeting is therefore timely.

The preparatory meeting will set precedent for Africa Region to prepare AFCPs for the work of WRCs. Moreover, history tells us that the 29th Session of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in Libreville in June 1977 approved the convention of the Pan African Telecommunications Union (PATU), the predecessor of ATU and confirmed Kinshasa as the seat of the Union. His Excellency Omar Bongo, the President of the Republic of Gabon is therefore a core

founder of the Union which is coordinating the development of ICT in Africa. It looks like Gabon is a setter of precedents for new ways of ICT development in the continent. May I therefore congratulate the President of the Republic and the People of Gabon for hosting forums for setting precedents for innovative approaches for ICT development in Africa.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me again to express my appreciation to the ITU for organizing the Africa Region Meeting on Information and Preparations for WRC-03. In particular I would like first of all to thank Mr. Robert Jones, the former Director of Bureau for Radiocommunications (BR) at the ITU for his initiative to convene the meeting for the Africa Region. Secondly, I would like to acknowledge with many thanks the new Director of BR Mr.Valery Timofeev for his inputs in ensuring that the planned meeting is a reality. Lastly, allow me to thank also the Deputy Director of BR Mr. Michel Giroux for the follow up work he did leading to this event. Africa shall live to remember their hard work for convening the meeting.

Chief Guest and Ladies and Gentlemen

Permit me to introduce the African Telecommunications Union (ATU). ATU is the agency of the African Union for coordinating the development of ICT in Africa. It is the successor of the Pan African Telecommunications Union (PATU) that was created on 7th December1977. ATU was established on 7th December1999 following successful restructuring of PATU.

ATU has five core activity areas namely Global Decision-Making, Regional Market Integration, Institutional Capacity Building, Infrastructure Investment Promotion and Membership Decision-Making.

In globalization brought about by ICT,' out of sight out of mind'. Africa must be present and adequately prepared at international conference to ensure that ICT global resources are equitably shared and Africa gets its rightful share. The General

Secretariat must therefore prepare its members for these global conferences. The AFCP process is the accepted way that ensures that ATU membership is conference-ready.

The process is at its infancy and we are sure it will ultimately succeed. We used it for PP-02 with tremendous success. We are using it to prepare ATU membership for WRC-03, WSIS-03/05, RRC-04/05 and WTSA-04. We are working with our partners CEPT, CITELE, APT, to improve the process. We are reviewing the process to take stock of the reality. For example we note that organizing meetings like this is expensive. While one cannot eliminate meetings, we could reduce them to a bare minimum by using internet facilities. In this regard, the General Secretariat has established 'Online Delegate Forum' at its website where ATU membership will deliberate issues on the agenda of conferences. The physical meetings will be used for preparing and adopting AFCPs. I am pleased to inform you that the following Member States have sent their national positions for WRC-03 to the General Secretariat: Kenya, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal Zambia and Burkina Faso in the order of arrival of the contributions and that the same positions will be submitted during the Gabon preparatory meeting to generate AFCPS.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Regional Market integration initiatives include activities like preparing Regional Radio Frequency Spectrum Allocation Table, harmonization of policy and regulatory framework at the regional level, to mention a few. These activities promote ICT investments and hence the socio-economic development of the regions and Africa in general. ATU Secretariat will coordinate these activities through its online delegate forums and meetings. Member states are welcome to participate in these activities.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are welcome to visit the ATU website to get the insight of the rest of the activities of the General Secretariat at the services of its members. Before I conclude, allow me to appeal to all ATU member states to communicate to the General Secretariat the

names of the Head of the Delegation and Deputy so that the ATU team is known well in advance of the start date of the WRC-03. This will enable the Secretariat prepare the defense team for the AFCPs at the venue of the WRC-03.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion, may I wish the Africa Region Meeting for Information and Preparations for WRC-03 fruitful deliberations and results.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

RRPC/29-03-2003

**Statement of the Secretary General
Of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU)
On the occasion of the opening ceremony of
ITU Symposium on African ICT Roadmap to achieve NEPAD objectives
Arusha, Tanzania, 1-3 April 2003**

Guest of Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Mrs. Namahoua Bamba, Development Research and Programme Coordinator at the African Telecommunications Union (ATU).

I have the great honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Mr. Jan Mutai, Secretary General of ATU. Mr Mutai regrets being unable to attend this important event, due to other urging commitments.

Guest of Honor,

Mr. Hamadoun Toure, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have this opportunity, to address this august assembly that brings together keys decision makers and officials from the whole Africa region, business leaders in the ICT industry and development partners. May I at the onset, express my gratitude to ITU, for inviting ATU, the organization I represent, to take part in this event.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the host country, Tanzania, for the excellent facilities, they have provided for the holding of this meeting.

Guest of Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When the international community met at the Millennium Summit, they adopted the Millennium Declaration which recognizes "the wide consensus that information and communication technologies (ICT) are central to the creation of the emerging global

knowledge-based economy and can play an important role in accelerating growth, in promoting sustainable development and eradicating poverty in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition and in facilitating their effective integration into the global economy".

The challenges facing Africa are enormous. Especially, the digital divide in Africa is huge:

- The total teledensity of Africa is 55 per one thousand people compared with 327 for the world as a whole and 1200 for high-income countries.
- And there are only 85 Internet users per ten thousand people in Africa compared with 821 for the world as a whole and 3993 for high-income countries.

Guest of Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African leaders have recognized these challenges and justifiably they have chosen ICT as one of the priority programmes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Because of their crosscutting nature, ICTs are seen as crucial for the speedy implementation of all development projects and programmes that are meant to have a visible positive effect on the lives of ordinary Africans.

NEPAD, which is a pledge by African leaders to halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization processes, has been enthusiastically received and endorsed internationally as Africa's principal agenda for development, within the institutional framework of the African Union (AU).

Already, NEPAD is providing a common African platform from which to engage the international community in a dynamic partnership that holds real prospects for creating a better life for all. It has been endorsed widely by global and regional organizations, including the United Nations, the European Union and the World Bank.

In addition, at the third ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-02), held in Istanbul in March 2002, and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-02), held in Marrakech in October 2002, ATU sponsored the adoption of resolutions requesting ITU to engage into NEPAD and to support the initiative by earmarking resources to undertake programmes and projects that will contribute to the socio-economic development and integration of African countries.

We are happy to see that this has become a reality today.

Guest of Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to commend ITU and specifically the BDT, for having already undertaken relevant programmes and activities that concur to the realization of the NEPAD ICT objectives.

We look forward with anticipation to the results of this important symposium, which will obviously provide important inputs to the medium and long term action plans of NEPAD strategy and action plan for the accelerated deployment of ICT to meet Africa's development needs.

We also place great expectations in future enhanced co-operation and collaboration with ITU and other development partners with the objectives to:

- Foster policy and regulatory harmonization for regional ICT market integration in order to create larger common markets based on Regional Economic Communities (RECs) levels whilst increasing private sector participation;
- Promote initiatives for regional investment in both access and cross-border backbone infrastructures and services through smart partnership between public, private and volunteer sectors in order to achieve universal access and full inter-country connectivity;
- Facilitate institutional and human capacity building in the fields of treaty making, standards setting, policy formulation, regional integration and investment promotion.

It is our strong believe that this will bring mutual benefit of greater value to African countries, within the NEPAD framework.

In conclusion, may I once again, thank ITU, for having invited me to share my views with you, and I wish this symposium every success in its deliberations.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

**Statement of the Secretary General of African
Telecommunications Union (ATU), Mr. Jan Mutai at the official
opening of Mauritius Conference on Access to ICTs for ALL, 3rd -
5th April 2003, Plaza Beach Resort, Mauritius**

- The Chief Guest - Hon. Paul Berenger, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Republic of Mauritius;
- The Chief Minister - Andhra Pradesh, Sri Chandra Babu Naidu;
- Hon. Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri - Minister for Communications, Republic of South Africa and also Chairperson ATU Ministerial Oversight Committee;
- Hon. D. Jeeha, Minister for IT and Telecommunications, Republic of Mauritius;
- Mr. Phillipe Capitaine, Head of External Affairs, International Telecommunications Union;
- Mr. A. Radhakisson, Chairman, Information and Communications Technologies Authority;
- Hon. Ministers present;
- Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners;
- Distinguished Delegates;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am indeed very delighted, to have this opportunity, of participating at the 1st Mauritius Conference, on the theme of 'Access to ICTs for ALL'. I consider it, a great honour to me, personally, and to the organisation I represent, African Telecommunications Union. May I therefore, at the onset, express my deep gratitude, to the Government and People of the Republic of Mauritius, for hosting this landmark event and for inviting us to contribute our views and perspectives. I am also very grateful, for the hospitalities and courtesies, extended to my delegation, since arrival in this magnificent country of Mauritius, renowned worldwide, for its charm and technological innovation.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of this conference is timely and challenging. It has occupied the minds of Policy-makers, Regulators and Industry leaders for quite sometime. In the 80s, it was described as, challenge of providing the 'Missing Links', whilst at the dawn of the new Millennium, it came to be known, as a case of "Bridging the Digital Divides". The transformation, in perspectives for addressing the challenge had happened, because the

issues at stake had widened, from being those dealing purely with 'connectivity', to include others involving 'content', and 'capacity' to use the new digital tools, that have emerged in the last decade. Several factors, have brought about, this new digital reality. These include, deregulation of markets, and the revolutionary convergence, between Telecommunications, computing and broadcasting technologies.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We live, in era of deepening globalisation, in which the capabilities of individual countries, to address its own challenges, on its own, is declining more and more, and those of regional groupings like the European Union and African Union, are growing stronger and stronger. Furthermore, ICTs, that are now universally pervasive, are no respecter of national country boundaries. Thus, working on a regional basis, especially in the ICT sector, is therefore, no longer an option, but an imperative for social and economic development. On this basis, the initiative of the Republic of Mauritius, in conceptualising and hosting this conference, that will contribute, towards building an African consensus, on practical options for development of ICTs, is to be commended. Happening as it does, ahead of the World Summit on Information Society, in December 2003, ensures that Africa's 'voice', on this important subject, reaches the highest political levels, regionally and globally.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At ATU, we are addressing this challenge of access to ICTs for all, through four core programmes. The first one, is a programme promoting Africa's effective participation in global decision-making, in order to ensure the people of Africa, gain an equitable share, of globally allocated ICT resources, like radio frequency spectrum, and satellite orbital slots. These resources, are particularly crucial to Africa, since over 70% of the people, live in rural and remote locations, where wireless communication, is the only practicable means of providing 'connectivity' and 'content'. Through this programme, we have already earned some dividends.

At the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC 2002) in Istanbul, Turkey 2002, the global community endorsed two resolutions; one for the support of NEPAD strategy, and another for Technical Assistance, to ATU General Secretariat. As a result of these resolutions, and others at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, in

Marrakech, Morocco, October 2002, ITU has put in place, two projects for Technical Assistance to ATU, and another for addressing NEPAD ICT Strategy implementation. As we meet here today, an ITU Symposium is taking place, in Arusha, Tanzania, titled, "ITU Symposium for an African ICT roadmap to achieve NEPAD objectives".

The second programme, is focussed on working with Member States, towards, larger common markets for ICTs, based on the already established Regional Economic Communities (RECs), like SADC, COMESA and ECOWAS. Larger markets, will mean economies of scale, for the operators and service providers, that will result in lower tariffs to end users. With lower tariffs, ICTs will be more affordable, to more people. The third programme, deals primarily with, promoting backbone projects, in order to inter-connect our Member State capitals. Presently, transit costs, through points outside the continent, is a major and avoidable drain, to Africa's foreign exchange resources. Key infrastructure investments being pursued in this regard, include RASCOM, the regional satellite programme, land based fibre-optic projects like COMTEL, and submarine cable projects, for example, the recently launched East and Southern African Submarine Cable. With cross-border connectivity in place, the next logical investments, will be in the 'internet exchange points' and 'mobile traffic hubbing points', for each region. The long term goal, will be to switch African Internet and mobile phone traffic within Africa.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction of new technologies, for the digital age, must go hand in hand, with institutional and human capacity development ,if the benefits of Information Society, are to be realised by our populations. In this regard, ATU in its fourth core programme is working, with partners including ITU, to revamp, enhance and sustain two centres of excellence in ICT education and training. One is based in Nairobi, The African Advanced Level Training Institute (AFRALTI), to serve East and Southern Africa, and another in Dakar, *Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications* (ESMT), to serve primarily West and Central Africa. Together with Member States and Associate Member experts, we shall be reviewing their curricula, to ensure continuing relevance, in providing skills training, for radiocommunication treaty-making,

standards-setting for new technologies and policy formulation for the converging ICT sector.

In conclusion, may I once again thank the organisers, for the excellent arrangements they have put at our disposal, and wish this Mauritius Conference on access to ICTs for ALL, every success, in its deliberations, and outcomes.

I thank you all for your attention!

SG/Nairobi, 02nd April 2003

**Remarks by the Secretary General on the occasion of the launch of
the ATU Continental Directory 2003
Norfolk Hotel, 8 April 2003**

I am happy to present this second edition of the ATU Continental Directory. This bilingual publication is meant to be a tool, serving as a reference and guide for organizations and individuals in search of contacts in Africa.

In this regard, this directory should enable stakeholders to liaise with counterparts in other countries, international and regional bodies to ensure coordination and harmonious development of telecommunications.

The mission of the Union is to promote the rapid development of infocommunications in Africa in order to achieve universal service and access, in addition to, full inter-country connectivity

I also believe it will serve as a catalyst in launching Africa into the infocommunication age, also assist in the sustainable build up of the African Information Society and support the socio-economic development of our continent. This will be consistent with ATUs vision of an Africa that is a full and active participant in the global information and knowledge society.

I do hope you find this Directory useful.

**STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ATU)
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF ATU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL 8TH APRIL 2003**

Our Guest of Honour, Hon. John Michuki , MP, Minister for Transport and Communication;

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Chairman of the Administrative Council, Eng. Ernest Ndukwe,

Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Communication Commission of Kenya, Mr. Sammy Kipng'etich Kirui;

AU Representative;

ITU Representative, Mr. Brahim Sanou;

Chief Executives;

Delegates;

Observers;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great honour and pleasure, for me to welcome you, Honourable Minister, and thank you most sincerely, for having availed time, in your very busy schedule, to grace this occasion, with your presence. May I, also welcome all the Guests, Delegates and Observers to this opening ceremony. For visitors to Kenya, may I extend, a special word of welcome " Karibu ". Please feel at home, in the beautiful Nairobi, Kenya, temporary seat of the Union.

Our Guest of Honour, allow me, through you, to extend the Union's gratitude, to the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya, for the sustained support, they have been giving ATU, throughout the years. We recognize, the invaluable assistance, the Host Administration provided, at a very short notice, to host, with great success in Nairobi, ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries in August 2002. The Union, received similar support, in organizing all previous Council meetings and ATU events held in Nairobi. The Republic of Kenya, truly deserves the gratitude, of the Union's entire membership. Our thanks, also go to our associate Members in Kenya, Telkom Kenya and Safaricom Limited.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me a little while, to comment, on some of the achievements, of the Union, during the financial year just ending. As said earlier, the General Secretariat, organized the first ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries, hosted by Kenya in August 2002. The Conference, adopted ATU Strategic Plan 2002-2006, incorporating seven goals, namely, advocating equitable share of global ICT resources; establishing strong partnerships; promoting investment in ICT infrastructure; developing critical mass of ICT human capital; creating intellectual property/capital; attracting and retaining competent staff at the General Secretariat and strengthening the financial base of the Union. Five core activity programmes, were subsequently developed, to implement the Strategic Plan. Council will be called upon to provide the necessary budgetary resources for these programmes.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-02), held in Marrakech, Morocco in September/October 2002, was the place for the Union, to demonstrate what it could achieve, in coordinating and harmonizing Africa's positions. Twenty three African Common Proposals (AFCPs), endorsed by ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries, were presented, for the work, of the Marrakech Conference, including, the draft resolution for ITU support to the NEPAD ICT strategy. One of the outcome of these efforts, was the ITU Symposium entitled, "African ICT Roadmap to achieve NEPAD objectives", recently held in Arusha, Tanzania from 1-3 April 2003.

The General Secretariat, with the invaluable assistance of the Ministry of Transport and Communication and the Communication Commission of Kenya, drew up a programme, for the celebration of the African Telecommunications Day, on 7 December last year. Our message, on the theme of the Day, to all Member States, was delivered and relayed on electronic media. Newspaper supplements were also published in leading daily papers.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the General Secretariat level, we have developed, new processes, for member relationship management. In these processes, Member States, participate, by nominating, national focal points, to work with designated coordinators, at the General Secretariat, on issues of paramount importance, to the Union. These include, submission of National Positions, for harmonization and consolidation, of African Common Proposals, and progress on ratification /accession, to the 1999 ATU Constitution and Convention. This strategy, has already achieved some tangible results, and will be further enhanced, in the coming year. Work is underway, to raise the profile, of the Union, through the ATU Web site. When completed, the site will enable, online delegates discussion forums, online polls and quick news updates. An Information Resource Centre, has also been set up, at the General Secretariat. Its objective, is to identify, procure and build up information resources, needed by the staff and partners, in the ICT industry, for research and capacity building. To continue facilitating contact, amongst African ICT stakeholders, the second edition, of ATU Continental Directory, has been produced. You will, in a few moments, witness its launch.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Though we made progress in the last financial year, we still face a lot of challenges ahead of us. Africa's voice, in international treaty-making and standard setting conferences, is still weak and must be made louder. This will be achieved, if Africa, like other regions, evolves, and submits, strong common proposals/positions, on issues vital to its development, to global decision-making conferences, in good time. Our ICT markets, are small and fragmented, thus efforts, towards fostering policy and regulatory harmonization, to create larger common markets for ICT are a priority. The Union, is determined to work, with Regional Economic Communities and the private sector, to effect this harmonization.

As for bridging the digital divide, between our countries, the Union, shall continue, encouraging and facilitating initiatives, aimed at securing investment, in satellite and fibre-optic cable, backbone infrastructure. We shall promote as much as possible, smart partnerships, between public and private sectors in this regard.

Without skilled manpower, and strong regional institutions, benefits of the emerging Information Society, will take long, to reach our populations. We shall thus emphasize, the importance, of institutional and human capacity building, as new convergent ICT technologies are introduced in our continent. Some of disciplines to be addressed and incorporated, in partner capacity building institutions' curricula are: treaty-making for radiocommunications, standard setting for new technologies and policy formulation for the converging ICT sector. We shall aim to reverse, current trends and turn Africa's "brain drain" into "brain gain".

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Council will be requested, at the end of its deliberations, to adopt a number of resolutions and recommendations and to take decisions, on key areas, the secretariat has identified, and which form the basis of its agenda. Through these instruments, the General Secretariat, expects to be empowered, to effect appropriate actions and activities in the coming financial year 2003 / 2004.

I look forward to very constructive discussions and wish the 4th Ordinary Session of ATU Administrative Council every success in its work.

"Asante sana" /Thank you.

SG/08-04-2003

Remarks of the Secretary General of African Telecommunications Union, Mr. Jan Mutai at the Closing Ceremony of CTO Workshop on Telecommunication Competition and Privatization, Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, 5 - 9 May 2003

- ◆ Directory General Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK);
- ◆ Workshop Directors;
- ◆ Distinguished participants;
- ◆ Ladies & Gentlemen;

I am delighted to be with you this afternoon, to participate in the closing ceremony of the workshop, on a very important topic, 'Telecommunication Competition and Privatization'. May I at the onset, state that I am truly grateful, to the Director General Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), Mr. Sammy Kirui, for inviting me, to be part of this CTO event. This CTO initiative, is indeed very timely and very welcome, as Governments in Africa are accelerating reforms, of the Telecommunication Sector in order to increase the role of private sector, in the deployment of infrastructure and provision of services. African Governments, are also establishing independent regulatory agencies and concentrating, on their core competency areas, of setting up enabling policy and legislative frameworks for competitive markets.

However, introduction of competitive markets in the telecommunications sector has not been without its share of difficulties. Whilst mobile service providers have prospered and provision of mobile connectivity has exploded, the fixed line operators, have experienced severe reduction in revenues and their connectivity programme have slowed down. Thus, the discussions you have been holding this week, are very relevant to the needs, of the continent. It was never, the intention of sector reform, that fixed operators, who were primarily owned by Governments, should be sacrificed. Survival of incumbent operators is essential to the economic and social development of the continent particularly if their focus can progress towards, provision of broadband services, in fibre-optic and fixed wireless platforms.

Another area of continuing concern is provision of connectivity to rural and remote locations which competitive markets have so far failed to address adequately. In the

days of government monopoly operators, universal service and access objectives were easily met through cross-subsidy from high international tariffs. With collapse of international tariffs and adoption of market liberalization policies, driven by the World Trade Organization, African Governments do not have the cross-subsidy funds that their counter parts in the developed world enjoyed some 20 years ago for provision of universal services.

Furthermore, the Universal service obligations have been very contentious issues between the operators and regulators. Roll-out of payphones and public call offices beyond urban areas to serve populations with incomes below one dollar a day have been very slow and far from adequate. To address these difficulties a new initiative of establishing 'Universal Access Funds' or 'Rural Development Funds' is being pursued in a number of countries with full endorsement of ATU. These are funds into which Regulators and Operators/service providers pool financial resources to be managed on an open and transparent basis to provide connectivity to rural and remote communities which represent over 70% of the continent's populations. Areas to be served under these funds would be put out for reverse competitive bidding by licensed operators. The winner would be the service provider that demands least subsidy to meet the set universal access targets. To support this initiative a 'Rural ICT Access Toolkit' has been produced by African Connection Centre, a specialized project unit of ATU, with World Bank's funding. We are optimistic that this new public private sector partnership will make ICT affordable and accessible for all Africans and thus enable them enjoy the benefits of the emerging information and knowledge society.

I cannot end my remarks without reflecting on another continuing policy and regulatory challenge, in respect of inter-country connectivity. Africa remains the only country with cross-border digital divide. Few capitals have direct broadband connectivity. The few are those along the Mediterranean Sea who have submarine fibre-optic cable connectivity as well as those on the West Coast of Africa who were connected mid 2003. Landlocked countries and those on the Indian Ocean Coast await success of recent initiatives by various Regional Economic Communities (for example Common Markets for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA) with CamTEL and Southern African Development Community (SADC) with SRII projects) and Operators

(for example East and Southern Africa submarine cable). To make progress in this respect policy and regulatory framework to foster competitive cross-border markets for backbone regional carriers is necessary and is being pursued in many forums.

This is necessarily a complex issue given the sovereignty issues and is also being addressed in the various regional policy and legislative harmonization projects. Additionally we expect that the recently launched Regional Regulatory Associations TRASA, ARICEA and WATRA will be key players in this process as well as the various Operator Associations like SATA.

In conclusion may I urge all participants to continue being active in the policy and regulatory dialogues and reforms for setting competitive ICT markets at national and regional levels which at the same time take account of universal access aspirations. Furthermore to be involved in regional integration activities (for example ATU Technical and Development Conference in Cairo, Egypt August 2003) and global decision-making conferences (for example ITU/WRC 2003 and UN/WSIS 2003).

Once again may I thank the Director General of Communications Commission of Kenya for this opportunity and CTO for the initiative.

Thank you for all your kind attention!

SG/09/05/2003

**Remarks of the Secretary General of African Telecommunications Union (ATU), Mr. Jan Mutai on the occasion of e-Africa Commission workshop on East and Southern African Sub marine network development.
Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya 3 - 4 June 2003**

Creating competitive markets for broadband carrier of carriers markets in Africa: a key way forward towards full inter-country connectivity

A. Introduction

Chairperson, Dr. Makone-Matabane, CEO of Sentech, Executive Deputy Chairperson of e-Africa Commission, Dr. Chasia, Distinguished Participants, Ladies & Gentlemen.

1. I am delighted, to have this opportunity, to participate, at this historic partnership event, focused on inter-country connectivity, on the East and Southern Coast of Africa. It is a workshop, bringing together, key players in the ICT industry, from both the public and private sectors. For many years, the public sector, has discussed the urgent need, for full inter-country connectivity, but achieved little by way of investment flows, into backbone networks. Following deregulation of the sector, in the recent past, the private sector has also got into the act. What makes this event historic is, in the fact that this workshop brings together both sectors to dialogue on a project considered by both as a priority. Key private sector players at last year's East African Business Leaders Summit at Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Nanyuki, Kenya concluded that the East and Southern African cable was an essential enabling infrastructure for economic and social development in the region.
2. May I, also take this early opportunity, to thank, the host country, Kenya, for the hospitality, and courtesies, extended to organizers, and delegates, that will ensure, that this workshop is a success. Kenya's hospitality and commitment to regional and global co-operation and integration needs no elaboration. It competently hosts a key programme of the United Nations, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and African Telecommunications Union

(ATU), a Specialized Agency of the African Union (AU) besides being a regional hub for many multinational corporations. They truly deserve all our congratulations, on their initiative of taking practical steps to like this one to make the NEPAD vision a reality.

B. Inter-connectivity realities

Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

3. Difficulties and frustration related to our regional inter-country communications does not need much elaboration. It is easier and faster, to call Europe and Americas than our next door countries. Even in East Africa, the internationalization, of traffic routing, has created unprecedented congestions, in calls out of Nairobi, to Dar es Salaam and Kampala. This did not obtain before when East Africa had one network and one numbering plan.

Traffic routing changes were made upon entry of private operations in the East Africa market. Thus privatization per-se does not make connectivity better if it is not within clear national and regional regulatory frameworks. Many African countries have achieved substantial successes within their national boundaries, but continue to suffer when communicating with their neighbors. An agenda, for greater resourcing, of regional harmonization initiatives, and institutions, is necessary if the vision for increased regional trade is to be realized.

4. Even when connected, quality of service is poor, and with very frequent break downs. Fax standards differ widely, and with use of narrow satellite circuits and obsolete analogue micro-wave circuits, failure rates on inter-African calls are high. Even e-mails bounce back occasionally due to the problem of using more than one satellite hubs (double hopping) between destinations in the continent.

C. Key challenges

5. Limited capacity and high cost of satellite circuits between African countries is a major problem leading to the realities highlighted above. Equally problematic are the old and increasingly obsolete micro-wave inter-country connectivity

circuits constructed under the ITU / ATU - PANAFTEL project. The micro-wave circuits have suffered neglect, because in the recent past many incumbent operators, have been more pre-occupied, with privatization and retrenchments, under pressure from various donors. Where strategic investors have moved in, and taken over management control, they have not been too keen, to sacrifice their transit fee revenues, in favour of creating bigger capabilities, and higher quality regional networks.

It is not unusual, to see the same strategic investor operator, in two neighbouring countries, continuing to route traffic between the said countries, through their headquarter companies in Europe, instead of building broadband cross-border networks.

D. Way Forward

6. After the substantial success of the telecom sector reforms at national level it is now time African countries gave more attention to communication infrastructure and services across their borders. Clear policy and regulatory frame for mobile telecoms markets have resulted in explosion in mobile deployments. Similar focus for reforming, sub-regional and regional ICT sector is now necessary if regional trade is to get the information infrastructure it needs to thrive and grow. Such a new round of policy and regulatory reform would see the creation of new markets for back-bone broadband carrier of carriers' operators. It would enable non-traditionally players, with right-of way leases, for example power-line and railway companies, to bid for licences, to provide broadband services, for regional institutions and transnational corporations. If Mobile operators, were able to quickly bring substantial investments, into the region, to roll-out their networks, faster than telecom incumbents, it was because, they had won licences, which were investor friendly.

What is now needed, is similar investor friendly licences, for national and regional broadband, carrier of carriers licences.

E. Conclusions

7. With availability, of cross-border broadband carrier licenses, investments to increase cross-border connectivity capacities within the region will start flowing. Initiatives, such as the subject of today's workshop, would get an enabling policy and regulatory, in which to thrive. Consumers would have choice, and through new competitive pressures, quality would rise, and tariffs would drop. Large national companies, would get the needed information infrastructures, to expand into regional markets and be better able to compete with multi-nationals.

8. Creating this regional market opportunity for broadband carriers will require commitment by all key players at national sub-regional and regional levels. Funding for necessary studies, and consensus building must be found. It will include strengthening the national and regional institutions which are in the business of regional integration. Development partners have a significant role to play, but they will need strong institutions at national and regional level with whom they can work. Thus the recent developments, in which strong civil society organizations, and proactive private sector associations have emerged, is to be encouraged. Regional Inter-Governmental Organizations, have also redefined their roles and missions, and opened their forums, to participation by civil society and private sector. In an era of globalization it is the way forward if Africa is to be a full and active participation in the global information and knowledge society.

9. As I conclude, may I once again thank the organizers, for giving me this chance, to share my thoughts, with such distinguished audience.
I wish the workshop every success, in their two day deliberations, and look forward to fruitful outcomes.

Thank you all for your attention.

SG02/06/2003

**Remarks of the Secretary General of the African
Telecommunications Union (ATU), Mr. Jan Mutai at the
Roundtable Meeting of Heads of Regional Organisations in
the field of communications, Saint-Petersburg, Russia, 29th
June 2003**

- Chairman of the Board of RCC Communication Administration Heads, and Minister of Communication and Informatization of the Russian Federation Dr. L. D. Reiman;
- Chairperson of ATU Ministerial Oversight Committee, and Minister of Communication of the Republic of South Africa, Dr. Ivy Matsepe - Casaburri;
- Secretary General of ITU Mr. Yoshio Utsumi;
- Director General of UPU Mr. Thomas Leavey;
- The CEOs of Regional Postal and Telecoms Organisations - APPU, APT, CEPT, CITELE, PAFU & RCC;
- Distinguished Delegates;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

I feel extremely honoured, to have this opportunity, to address such a distinguished audience, gathered at this historic city of Saint-Petersburg. I very much applaud, the initiative, of the leadership, of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), in arranging this meeting of Heads of Regional Organisations, especially on the occasion of the centenary celebrations, of this beautiful city. With the excellent hospitality, and courtesies extended to my delegation, since landing on the soil of this great country, I can look forward to very fruitful discussions indeed.

Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the increasingly complex and globalising world that we now live in, the need for innovative methods and forms, for international co-operation, cannot be over-emphasized. Though the world, may be tending towards a global village, for those seeking markets, it is getting wider for those in the rural developing world, seeking

just to live for another one day more. I am therefore delighted to have this opportunity to outreach to my counter-parts from other regions of the world, to exchange ideas and experiences on building an inclusive information society. I am hopeful that we shall conclude on concrete plans of action, for joint activities and programmes, for building, a 'truly' global information society. For many in my continent, this emerging society, is a distant buzz on the horizon. The only evidence of action, has so far, been the seemingly endless conferences, at expensive resorts, where delegates seek better analysis of the 'digital divide' problem, instead of identifying funds, for implementing recommendations, of earlier ones, like the 'Maitland Report', of the 'missing link' fame. This meeting is therefore unique, in the fact that it involves the practitioners in the field, who can really make a difference. On this basis, I have no doubt this RCC organised event, is going to make a lasting difference, in the lives of people on this blue planet. The leadership of RCC, therefore, deserve our heart felt congratulations, for coming up with this event.

Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa, as we all know, has a small footprint, in the ICT world, which we, in ATU, are seeking to expand. In our continent, we are blessed with vast resources, and a population, that is 13% of the global, but have only 2% of fixed lines, and 3% of cellular subscribers. Access is also limited to only 5.8% of the African population, against a global penetration average, of 32.3%, for both landline and mobile telephony. Several initiatives, have been launched in the recent past, with a view to making fast progress, towards the global average. These include the 'African Connection' initiative launched in May 1998, by African Ministers of Communication and the subsequent NEPAD ICT Strategy, endorsed by African leaders, in July 2001. May I at this juncture, once again, thank colleagues, from all Regional Organisations, for the unanimous support to the Resolutions of WTDC2002, and PP-02, calling upon ITU, to engage with NEPAD and ATU, in development of ICT infrastructures and services, in Africa.

Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At ATU, we are keen to explore new practical ways, of co-operating with other Regional Organisations. We have concluded, several co-operation agreements, in the last two years, usually on the occasion of global conferences. For example, we signed with CEPT at WTDC 2002, with RCC at PP02, and with CITELE at WRC-2003. We shall be signing up APT at the next available opportunity.

With benefit of these co-operation arrangements, Africa's contribution to the work of international conference has grown tremendously in the last three years. Our members are proud of achieving 23 African common proposals at PP-02 and 54 at WRC-2003. They look forward, to sustaining these levels of contribution, at the next world conferences - WTSA 2004 and RRC 2004. They are willing and ready to build sustained and deeper co-operation and collaboration with other Regional Organisations.

The mechanisms, for exchange of information and attendance, at each others policy organs and preparatory meetings, is getting consolidated. We now expect to widen the range of co-operation activities to include peer-to-peer capacity building programme. Research has found that in adult learning, peer-to-peer teaching is superior to the traditional expert-to-learner teaching approaches. Thus we are hoping that we can together develop exchange mechanisms in which experts from one region can raise the skills levels of their counter-parts in other regions. From our perspective, priority should be given to capacity building for developing country negotiators, in the radiocommunication treaty-making, given the emerging global preference for wireless broadband communications. A further skills area is the evolution of inter-operability standards for multi-media communication in which ways and means of involving small and medium scale industries in developing countries should also be explored.

Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude my remarks, may I once again thank our host, RCC, the Government and People of the Russian Federation, for putting together this unique forum of Heads of Regional Organisations in the Postal and Telecoms sectors.

I have no doubt at all, that it will be a resounding success. That we shall indeed, inter-alia, come up with an inter-regional co-operation framework, for co-ordinating positions at ITU and UPU Conference and for human resource development and capacity building. We all live in one planet, and really have no choice, in applying our hearts and minds, towards contributing to a stable, equitable, and sustainable world. I believe that working together we shall succeed.

I thank you all for your attention!

SG/Nairobi, 27th July 2003

Re-positioning the Post Office as the frontline of the emerging information society - the 'e-post Africa' project

- Hon. John Michuki MP, Minister for Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kenya and also the Chairman of ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries;
- Mr. Jilani Ben Haddada, Secretary General of Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU);
- Mr. Sammy Kirui, Director General, Communications Commission of Kenya;
- Dr. Dan Ameyo, Post Master General, Postal Corporation of Kenya;
- Eng. John Waweru, Managing Director of Telkom Kenya Limited;
- Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my pleasure to add voice of welcome to you all, and to thank you most sincerely, for finding time, to be with us this morning, as we deepen, the co-operation between our sister organisations of the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) and African Telecommunications Union (ATU). May I extend, a special note of appreciation, to the Minister, for not only affording time, from his very busy schedule, but also, for providing us these marvellous premises, for signing the Co-operation Agreement. In doing so, may I recall, the pivotal role that Kenyan leaders have played, in matters of regional and international co-operation. Kenya responded very quickly, and whole heartedly, to the call from African Ministers of Communication, way back in 1997, when they needed a temporary home, for ATU General Secretariat, following severe conflict and turmoil, in Kinshasa at the time. They also came to the help of the Union, and successfully hosted, at a very short notice, the ATU Ministerial Conference in August 2002.

In the international arena, Kenya, was elected Vice-Chairman of ITU council for 2003. In 2004, it will chair this key decision organ of the pre-eminent institution for radiocommunication treaty-making, standards-setting and policy-formulation.

Hon. Minister, Ladies & Gentlemen,

We meet today, to conclude discussions, between PAPU and ATU, that have been going on for a couple of years. We have recognised, that working more closely, we can overcome the challenges, of the emerging information society, for the benefit of the citizens of our African Continent. Both organisations have common heritage at national level, through links to the same Ministries and Regulatory agencies. They are also, both specialized agencies, of the African Union. It thus makes sense, that in seeking solutions, for bridging the digital divide, and providing affordable access, for all African citizens to ICTs, they should explore opportunities, for co-operation and collaboration. The instrument, we are signing today, is testimony to the collective will, of the respective policy organs, to translate aspirations, into practical joint projects, in the immediate future.

Hon. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all familiar with the extent of the several digital divides in our continent; between countries; between rural and urban locations; between genders; and between the rich and the poor. Even at the global level, we have the North and South divide, manifested most clearly, in the international tariff regimes, where calls North to North, are less than 10% of those South to South or South to North. Europe with similar proportion of global population, as Africa of 13%, has 34% of world telephones, and 29% of internet users.

Whilst Africa only has 2% of phones, and 1% of internet users. Thus we plan to work with PAPU with an aim of doubling internet penetration in post offices every five years. We look forward to the day, when every post office urban or rural, has an internet point of presence. The day indeed when every post office can offer 'e-government' services to consolidate democratic traditions, and rural

empowerment. Further, when rural post offices, offer the talented but poor, craftsmen and women, access to global markets, using affordable 'e-commerce' platforms. We strongly believe, that 'e-post Africa' project, that we envisage as a concrete outcome of PAPU / ATU co-operation, will contribute' to the social and economic development, of our continent. With the RASCOM programme, at long last coming into operation early 2006, a satellite infrastructure, for providing the much needed affordable ICT networks and services, will be in place, when the joint feasibility studies, and pilot projects, between PAPU and ATU are concluded.

Hon. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Co-operation between PAPU and ATU makes sense for all the ICT Stakeholders. For example Governments will move faster in meeting Universal Access obligations to their citizens, whilst the business sector will have substantial market opportunities to grow and thrive. With the goodwill and support of their respective memberships, what we are launching today, will bring tangible benefits for all parties.

On this note, may I once again express our gratitude to our host for taking good care of us, and thank him and all of you for your kind attention.

SG/Nairobi, 18th July 2003

**Creating an enabling environment for ICT
development:- the role of continental organisations.
ATU's perspectives & experiences**

- Hon. Minister of Culture and Communication, Republic of Senegal ;
- Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;
- Representative of ITU Secretary General;
- CEOs of Regulatory Agencies and Telcos;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies & Gentlemen;

I am delighted, to be with you today, to share experiences and perspectives, with such a distinguished audience and speakers, on possible opportunities for building successful public and private sector partnerships, for more rapid development, of ICTs in Africa. This forum, is very timely, as the private sector in Africa, though small, is beginning to be a significant player in the sector, alongside Governments and their counterparts, from the international arena. The leadership of ITU, especially at the Regional office for Africa, are to be complemented, most deservedly, for the initiative of organising this important event. In the same spirit, I would like to very sincerely thank, the Government and People, of our host country, the Republic of Senegal, for the excellent facilities, they have put at our disposal, and for the hospitalities and courtesies, extended to our delegation, since arrival in this historic city of Dakar. For this occasion, I have been invited to reflect on strategies, for creating enabling environments for ICT development, with a special emphasis on the role of continental organisations. Given that this is indeed, a wide topic, I have chosen to share with you, my thoughts on only a few issues; namely the challenge, of growing a wider footprint for Africa, in the ICT world; the need for vision sharing, by key players, on their respective development agendas; progress on building working partnerships, and the essence of always remaining focused on delivering value, that meets the evolving needs and expectations, of all ICT stakeholders in our continent.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The footprint of Africa, in the ICT world, does not match its population, as we all know. In population terms, Africa contribution 13% of global human

resources, who then have very limited access, to telephones (only 2%), and even less access, to the internet (1%).

This represents both a problem, and an opportunity for Governments, the business sector and civil society organisations. The challenge, is in the 'know-how', of creating innovative mechanisms, for transforming this critical problem, into an opportunity. Indeed, converting the digital divide, into digital opportunity, in which ITU has been taking the leading role globally, and ATU at the continental level. There is a lot that Africa can learn, from the European experience. Europe has a similar share of global population, 13%, but much larger share of ICT access, than Africa, for example, their internet users share is 29%. It embarked on the 'road', of regional co-ordination for ICTs, way back in 1959, through the pioneering launch, of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT), whilst Africa joined the bandwagon, eighteen years later in 1977. There is substantial empirical evidence that CEPT as a continental organisation has played a critical role in the development of ICT in Europe which other continental organisations, including ATU, are seeking to emulate and benchmark.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The continent of Africa, has many regional and continental players, that are involved in the ICT development business. Thus, it is useful occasionally, to have forum such as this, 'ITU forum for Africa' in which we can share insights into our respective visions and programs. The forum provides learning, and contributes to building synergies, whilst highlighting arrears for reducing wasteful overlaps. For us in ATU, our top policy organ, the ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries, endorsed seven strategic goals, the achievement of which, is being pursued through five programs. As appropriate, the globalisation era in which we live, one of the key program is for enhancing Africa's contribution to global decision-making conferences in respect of ICT policy-formulation, radiocommunication treaty-making and standards-setting for next generation networks. Performance of Africa, at recent ICT conferences, in Marrakech, Morocco (PP02) and Geneva Switzerland (WRC 2003) give us hope that this program, is delivering value, to its membership and other stakeholders. Another important program, is for regional market integration, within the Regional Economic

Community (RECs) frameworks. Successes in three RECs which include mode ICT policies and the creating REC Regulatory Associations provides ample testimony, that this too, is a valued activity. The other priority programs for promotion of infrastructure investment, and for institutional capacity building, have equally been taken on board, by our Membership and core activity partners. With intervention by ATU Member State delegations, RASCOM, was given sufficient time, to implement its satellite project, by the World Radiocommunications Conference in June / July 2003. Its first satellite, is scheduled for launch, early 2006.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A critical strategy, for creating conducive investment climate, is building partnerships. Following restructuring in 1999, the new ATU, has pursued a path, of building partnerships, for each of its core activity programs. For global decision-making contribution, we have forged closer co-operation with ITU. We have also, concluded co-operation agreements, with other Regional (Continental) Telecommunication Organisation (RTOs) affiliated to ITU. First was CEPT, followed by the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and recently the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL). We are now in the processes, of concluding partnership agreement, with Asia Pacific-Telecommunity (APT), and the Arab Telecommunication Council of Ministers (ATCM). Without doubt, it was through the co-operation and support, of these RTOs, that the African Common Proposals (AFCPs) at the Marrakech Conference (23 AFCPs to PP02) and Geneva Conference (54 AFCPs to WRC 2003) were endorsed by the global community. The ICT resources, so obtained at these conferences, are now available to stakeholders in Africa, to provide benefits of the information society in the continent.

For regional integration, we have co-operated with the African Union, the NEPAD Secretariat and the RECs. Through these organs, we are achieving increased role for the private sector and civil society organisations. With regard to infrastructure, we have or are about to conclude co-operation agreement with sister continental organisations (e.g. PAPU), project promoters (e.g. RASCOM and UNIDO) and financial

institutions (eg. ADB). On capacity building, we have concluded similar memoranda of understanding with relevant institutions (e.g. with African Advanced Level Training Institute (AFRALTI)). The results so far achieved, have justified our partner outreach strategy, and demonstrated that working together, with relevant partners, we can accelerate, availability of affordable access, to ICTs for all in Africa.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Though much has been achieved through restructuring of PATU, and launch of ATU in 1999, the launch of NEPAD in 2001, and the restructuring of OAU and launch of AU In 2002, a lot still needs to be done, if people in our continent, are to enjoy the quality life, and standard of living, taken for granted, in developed economies. It is now conventional wisdom, that ICTs, is not only an attractive investment opportunity, in its own right, but a cross-cutting tool, for rapid social and economic development, towards the Millennium Development Goals of 2015. Thus, it is important for us, as actors in the ICT stage, to remain focused on meeting the evolving needs and expectations, of our stakeholders which are enormous. There is a lot to be negotiated at the global and much to be done in terms of regional integration. For example at the global level we have two important conferences coming up in 2004. One of which is on new allocations of frequencies for digital broadcasting (Regional Radiocommunication Conference May 2004). Another is for setting inter-operability standards for technology convergence in the next generation networks. This will be at the World Telecommunications Standards Assembly (WTSA) in October 2004. Also to be revisited at this later conference, WTSA 2004, are issues for reducing the cost of international internet circuit by 50% (to match that for telephone circuit). It is our hope that internet connectivity, can be made more affordable, through international co-operation, that is technology neutral. African delegations, also hope, to continue the pace, of increasing the level of its contributions to the work of upcoming ICT decision-making conferences. To achieve such results, substantial participation by Africa's private sector in such global decision-making forums will be crucial to the successful outcomes.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Stakeholders in the various RECs, expect faster integration of ICT markets, through broadband consultative processes, for developing regional policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, for eventual national domestication. They expect, such new frameworks, to include appropriate licensing frameworks, for VSAT landing points, and fibre-optic gateways. Progress towards the one-stop-shop facility, already provided, to service providers in Europe, and the Americas, would be beneficial. Further issues, for regional integration, include the whole issue of migration, to next generation networks, and the need for inter-operability standards, between equipment from different vendors. New consultative forums, or standards development organisations (SDOs), for each REC would definitely be required, to address this challenge. SDOs will be the logical forums, in which public and private sectors, would dialogue and would reach recommendations (standards), that would result in more accessible and affordable, infrastructure devices and services. It is also logical progression, after the establishment of REC regulators associations.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For Africa, bridging the digital divide, to provide digital opportunity, starts with infrastructure investments. We look forward to the discussions at this forum, on how we can accelerate deployment of networks, that have been in planning stage for some time, for example RASCOM and COMTEL. In the same vein, how we might attract necessary capital, for new ones, like the 'East African Submarine Cable'.

Further more, how to take advantage, of newly attractive propositions, like deployment of fibre-optic cables, co-located with utilities and transport infrastructure (particularly in rural areas). We should also discuss, ways and means, of progressing towards, universal access to ICTs for all, through projects, currently being promoted, to provide broadband networking of schools (e-schools), and post offices (e-post Africa). These are ideal, and visible projects, for private and public partnership.

Other initiatives for telemedicine, and telecentres, have been discussed at several forums, and expectations have been raised, that now need to be fulfilled, if relevance of forums, such as ours today, are not to be negatively challenged. We should also respond, to moves for lowering internet costs, and improving quality, through

constructing national and regional internet exchange points (IXP), which are being promoted by various stakeholders' including Governments, and Regional Organisations.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To make any sort of impact, at global decision-making, regional integration, or investment promotion, human and institutional capacity-building are at the core of any initiative. For success, at regional and global negotiations, we need engineers, who have some exposure to legal and economic issues, alongside lawyers and economists, who have similar exposure to technical issues of radiocommunication and standards-setting. Professionals indeed who are rooted in their respective disciplines but with fair appreciation of others to be able to work in multi-disciplinary teams. The complexity of policy-formulation, and convergence of technologies, demands this kind of multi-skilled expert in our fast growing ICT markets. Human and institutional capacity-building, should therefore be seen, as an essential investment not an expense, in the drive of transforming current digital divides, into digital opportunities.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding my remarks, may I once again thank the organisers for inviting me to be part of this landmark forum. I look forward to very fruitful outcomes, and thank all of you, for your kind attention.

SG/Nairobi, 28th July 2003

**REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION, MR. JAN MUTAI, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE 1ST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
PLENIPOTENTIARIES, HOTEL IVOIRE INTERCONTINENTAL, ABIDJAN, COTE
D'IVOIRE 26TH AUGUST 2003**

The Chief Guest, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, The Chairperson of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL), The Chairperson of Ministerial Oversight Committee (MOC), The Chairpersons of Conference Preparatory Committee (CPC) and Administrative Council (AC), The Host Minister for Information Technologies and Telecommunications, your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure, to welcome you, all to the first Extraordinary Session, of ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries, in this beautiful city, of Abidjan. We are delighted, that you have found time, from your busy schedules, to be with us this morning. We hope, you will all find value, from proceedings, of this Conference.

May I, at the onset, extend our sincere gratitude, to the Government and People of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, for the excellent facilities, they have placed at our disposal, in this Conference, and related meetings. May I, especially commend, our host, for the warmth, hospitality, and courtesies, extended to my delegation, since we landed, in the great Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Conference is taking place, at a crucial time in the life of African Telecommunication Union, and Africa, as a whole. It will be the first in-depth review, of the activities of the Union, since it was restructured in 1999. The Conference, will receive reports of progress made, in forging partnerships, at Regional and Global levels, and in building a louder voice for Africa, at international ICT Conferences. Based on the review, the Ministers responsible for Communications will commit themselves, to result-oriented plan of action, that will be both practical, and ambitious, for accelerated implementation of the Strategic Plan 2002 - 2006.

In more specific terms, the Conference will deal, with four key issues. The first one, will be on bold initiatives and efforts, for strengthening the financial base, of the Union. Financial resources, are vital, in order to enable ATU General Secretariat, implement the Strategic Plan 2002 / 2006, and carry out activities, and projects, within five Core Programmes namely: -

- proactive response to globalisation;
- regional integration;
- infrastructure promotion;
- institutional capacity building;
- public-private partnerships with its membership framework.

Secondly, the Conference will be deliberating on new methodologies, for more equitable share, of ITU Region D Council seats, between the African sub-regions. A third issue, will be taking cognisance of, the restructuring of OAU, into AU in 2002 and the new policy organs, that have so far been created. ATU was similarly restructured, in 1999, with new policy organs that now need, to have closer relationships, with those of AU.

Fourth, and equally important issue, will deal with the elections, of a new corporate governance body, the Administrative Council, and election of a Chief Executive of the Union, the Secretary General. Election processes, are always strategic, and sensitive, as the future of the Union, will be placed on the shoulders, of the new team, to move the

Union forward, for the period upto the next elections, in 2006. We are hopeful, that we shall get a determined team that will sustain the restructuring of the Union, to deliver increasing value to its stakeholders.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the outgoing team, and on my own behalf, I wish to place on record, my sincere appreciation, and thanks, for the assistance and support, that I have received, from all the people, I had the privilege and honour, of interacting with, as Secretary General of ATU. As the number of such persons, who have supported our efforts, in the global and regional arenas, is too long to enumerate, I shall request them all, to accept this statement as my demonstration of my deepest gratitude for every assistance and help they afforded me. The memories of our struggles, and successes, for elaborating, African common Proposals, at ICT Conferences, in Marrakech 2002, and in Geneva 2003, will always linger with. Other milestones, I shall always reflect upon include, acquisition of orbital slots, and frequencies, for the RASCOM projects, and the establishment, of Regional Regulatory Associations for COMESA, and ECOWAS regions.

As the new team, sets up its work, for the period up to the Conference of 2006, I wish them every success. Africa as a whole is looking to the revitalised ATU, to provide solutions, for achieving the Millennium Development Goals of 2015, through rapid development of information and communication infrastructure and services. With the foundation laid in the last four years, stakeholders expect a louder voice for Africa, at upcoming conferences, which include WSIS 2003, RRC 2004 and WTSA 2004. They also expect closer regional policy and regulatory harmonisation, that will see inter-alia, the establishment of competitive markets, for cross-border 'carrier of carrier' services and integration of regional markets of ICTs.

Chief Guest, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

As I conclude my remarks, may I once again, thank the Organizing Committee and my colleagues from the General Secretariat, for the excellent work done. I look forward to very fruitful deliberations, and to renewed commitment by African ICT leaders, for ensuring that Africa, progresses rapidly towards being a full, and active participant, in the information and knowledge society.

I thank you all, for your very kind attention!

***"The Challenging roles of a Regional
Telecommunications Organisation (RTO) in a
globalizing world: Perspectives and experiences
of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU)"****

- Chairman Management Committee APT;
- Secretary General of APT Mr. Amarendra Narayan;
- Representatives of ITU and RTOs;
- Organising Committee of APT/ MC;
- Distinguished Delegates and Observers;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is an honour, and a pleasure for me, to participate at this 27th Session of the Management Committee, of Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT). I am very grateful indeed for the invitation, extended to me by Secretary General, Mr. Amarendra Narayan, in the spirit of inter-regional solidarity, for building a truly inclusive, global information society. The fact of my presence, here today, is a demonstration, of the close co-operation, between APT and ATU, that we have been building, in the last couple of years. We have used ITU Conferences, as opportunities, for exploring areas, for deepening our co-operation and collaboration. When possible, we have attended each others policy meetings, like I am doing today, and as I did, two years ago in Australia.

May I also, at the onset, extend my sincere gratitude, to our hosts, the Government and People of this great country, the People's Republic of China, for the hospitality, courtesies, and facilities places at our disposal, since we landed, in this beautiful city, and special Administrative Region, of Macau.

With such welcome, and attention, I have no doubt at all, that this event, of our most valued partner, APT, will be a resounding success.

Challenging Africa's global ICT footprint

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we shall all be aware, Africa has been termed, the last frontier, for substantial ICT investment. Presently the penetration of fixed and cellular telephone lines, internet users, and personal computers, are well below global averages, but growing very rapidly. For example, penetration of cellular subscribers, whilst fastest growing in the sector, is at 3.2, whilst global average, is at 15.3 per 100 inhabitants. Similarly, penetration is at 0.8, in Africa, against 8.1 per 100 inhabitants, globally. The very low penetration levels, and equally very limited computer literacy, are a major constraint, to building an information society, when coupled with very meagre incomes, of over 50%, of the African populations. These problems of access, literacy, and affordability of ICT services are now generally being termed as the digital divide challenge. This challenge, has been addressed, by leaders, in Africa and the international community, in past five years, under several digital bridging initiatives. In Africa, we have had the 'African Connection' strategy launched by Ministers of Communication in May 1998 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (ICT) endorsed by Heads of State in July 2001. In the NEPAD strategy, for African led economic and social reconstruction, ICTs, are recognised, both as a key sector, and as cross-cutting tool, for achieving, the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, most Governments in Africa, have reformed their ICT sectors, in order to foster rapid development, of info-communications, to achieve universal access, and full inter-country connectivity. Over two thirds of African countries, now have independent Regulatory agencies, who have through effective licensing regimes, stimulated massive investment flows, into the sector, especially the mobile, and internet service provision.

Core programmes and Partnerships

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The top policy organ of ATU, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, adopted a strategic plan for the period 2002 / 2006, in August 2002 in which one of the key strategic goals, was focussed on, Africa, attaining an equitable share, of

globally negotiated, and allocated ICT resources. Prime resources, in this respect, are the radiocommunication frequency spectrum, and satellite orbital slots.

As a consequence, one of our major programmes in ATU, is on co-ordinating Africa's contribution, to global decision-making conferences. With support from our core activity partners, we have made significant contributions, to recent ITU conferences in Istanbul, Marrakech and Geneva. At Istanbul, at the World Telecommunications Development Conference, the resolution for ITU to engage with NEPAD, which was sponsored by ATU, was adopted unanimously. Subsequently, the Development Bureau of ITU, has obtained resources, for collaborative work with NEPAD and ATU Secretariats. In Marrakech, at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences, twenty three (23) African Common proposals were tabled and deliberated upon, with beneficial outcome for Africa and the world community. Furthermore, at the World Radiocommunication Conference, ATU contributed 54 AFCPs. All these achievements, could not have happened without the support and solidarity, from our partners and friends in ITU, CEPT, RCC, CITELE, ATCM and of course APT. It is through such co-operation and support, that Africa is being integrated, into the global information and knowledge society. On behalf of ATU, may I once again, extend our appreciation and gratitude, to our partners for their continued commitment, to global solidarity, and principle of inclusiveness.

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Co-operation and partnership that we have at global level, is also reflected at regional levels. We have formed partnerships to achieve policy and regulatory harmonisations, private sector investment, in priority ICT infrastructure, and capacity-building, especially for staff of the new Regulatory agencies. We have concluded Co-operation Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with African Union and Regional Economic Communities. We have done the same with regional Postal and Standards Organisations, large infrastructure

promoters like RASCOM, and capacity building entities, like AFRALTI. We have done all these, to build synergies, share resources and avoid duplication, in our efforts for building a truly inclusive information society in Africa.

South-South and South-East Co-operation

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to leapfrog into the information society, we in Africa, are seeking to diversify and deepen, collaboration on south-south and south-East platforms, whilst re-engineering, the North-South relationships. This concept, is very well elaborated, in the policy and strategy documents, of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We have a lot to learn, from the recent success, of the Member countries of APT, in embracing technology, for social and economic development. Such has been their success, that in the UN system, a number are now classified as, Newly Industrialised Countries and some have even qualified to join the OECD.

Thus on behalf of the entire ATU membership, I would like to welcome members of APT, to participate in policy organ meetings and activities of our Union. Through close exchange of information with your secretariat, you will also be notified, of when these events will be taking place. Members and secretariat of ATU, look forward to welcoming you, to their events and activities and to receiving your perspectives and experiences, for social and economic development.

As I conclude my remarks, may I once again thank our host and organisers, for the very warm hospitality and courtesies, extended to all participants. May I wish this 27th Management Committee session, of APT, every success, in its deliberations.

I thank all of you for your kind attention.

ASANTE SANA / THANK YOU VERY MUCH

SG/Nairobi, 18th October 2003

Africa Telecommunications Day 7th December 2003

“Interconnectivity within Africa; Towards ICTs for all”

The theme of this year's Africa Telecommunications Day “Interconnectivity within Africa; Towards ICTs for all” is a wake up call for all information and communications technologies (ICTs) stakeholders of the continent to accelerate programmes in favour of greater access to ICTs and thus effectively promote sustainable socio-economic growth to meet the Millenium Development Goals 2015. It also builds on the theme of the World Telecommunications Day; “Helping all of the world's people to communicate”.

ICT growth in the last couple of years has been phenomenal globally. By the end of the year 2002, there were 1.5 billion cellular subscribers, 1.1 billion fixed telephone lines and 580 million Internet users around the world according to recent ITU Reports. For Africa the figures are 25.8 million cellular subscribers, 21.2 million fixed telephone lines and 6.6 million Internet users.

In spite of this overall outstanding growth, Africa still lags behind other continents by a wide margin. It is therefore necessary to co-operate and implement policies that will enable the continent to use the information and communication technologies to achieve sustainable development for its entire people.

There is no doubt that ICT remains the cross-cutting infrastructure for other infrastructures and utilities and no economic activity in the world can function effectively without its support. In our endeavour to utilise ICT tools to accelerate socio-economic growths, strong partnerships are being established with development partners and technical institutions.

Integrating regional markets is a key objective of African leaders to achieve continental integration. Larger regional economic markets create economies of scale and encourage private sector participation. The harmonisation of policy and regulatory frameworks is therefore imperative for integrating the ICT markets of the Regional Economic Communities in Africa.

To achieve universal access and full inter-country connectivity, it is essential to promote initiatives to attract investment in access and backbone cross-border ICT infrastructure. Regional Economic Communities and ATU are working hand in hand to carry out feasibility studies on integrated infrastructure.

Africa's presence in the Global decision-making process is essential to ensure equitable sharing of globally allocated resources. It also ensures the implementation of decisions beneficial to the continent. Africa with the coordination of ATU has been present and contributed to Global decision-making events for the World Radio Communications Conference, the World Telecommunication Development Conference, the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly, Regional Radio Conference and the World Summit of Information Society.

Information and Communication Technologies are an opportunity that must be used to accelerate progress in our continent. The World Summit on the Information Society due to be held in Geneva in December this year offers the hope of the emergence of a truly inclusive global information society that will enable the whole of mankind to have access to information and knowledge. ATU members are invited to celebrate this year's Africa Telecommunications Day by renewing commitments that will help improve communication and make it accessible to all.

*Message of the Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU)
Mr. Jan Mutai on this occasion of Africa Telecommunications Day*