

REPORT OF THE EXPERTS MEETING FOR AFRICAN PREPARATION FOR WTDC -06

(Nairobi, Intercontinental Hotel, 9-10 february 2006)

1. Introduction

The African Experts Meeting for the preparation of World Telecommunications Development Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya 9 – 10 February 2006.

The official Opening Ceremony was presided over by Mr. Felix Mugabe, Deputy Secretary on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication of Kenya. The Meeting was also addressed by:

- Eng. Ernest Ndukwe, Vice Executive Chairman/CEO of Nigeria Communications Commission in his capacity as Chairman of the Abuja RPM-Africa
- Mr. Brahim Sanou, Head of the ITU regional office for Africa
- Mr. Andrew Kawamara representing Mr. Akossi Akossi, Secretary General of ATU

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda (see Annex 1) was adopted without amendment.

3. Summary of deliberation

3.1. Introduction of the Agenda and structure of the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-06)

The document was presented by Mr. Sanou, the ITU Regional representative, who highlighted the agenda and the structure of the WTDC-06. The document was noted.

3.2. Review of the Regional Initiatives Proposals

The meeting, considered five regional initiatives deriving from decisions of the RPM-Africa (Abuja), the Ministerial Symposium (Abuja), the WSIS outcomes as well as other African initiatives including African Regional Action Plan for the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), the NEPAD e-Africa Commission projects, African Union Commission initiatives.

After discussion the meeting agreed to adopt the five regional initiatives (see annexes) as African Common Proposals namely:

1. Development of a broadband infrastructure and achievement of regional interconnectivity
2. Strengthening and Harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks for an integration of African ICT Market

3. ICT- Applications
4. Human and Institutional capacity building
5. Introduction of digital broadcasting technologies

3.3. Review of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations

The Meeting considered the resolution and recommendations of WTDC-02 and made proposals for amendment, cancellation or adoption. It was further agreed that the draft proposals would be circulated to Member States for their final review in the course of their preparation in respect of WTDC-06.

With regard to resolution 35 (Istanbul, 2002) the meeting decided to refer it to NEPAD Secretariat through e-Africa Commission and other stakeholders for enrichment and submission to ATU for further consideration by Member States. Following conclusion of this process, the draft resolution will be submitted to the WTDC-06.

The Resolution 36 (Istanbul, 2002) was considered and accepted for submission to WTDC-06.

The meeting requested the African countries to pay due attention to Resolution 6 and 29 in their preparation to WTDC-06.

3.4. Review of the Doha Declaration

The meeting was briefed about the process of preparing the Doha Declaration and African countries were urged to contribute content to the text.

3.5. Review of the Structure of the WTDC-06

The meeting considered the structure of the WTDC-06 and strongly stressed the desirability of Africa to assume Chairmanship of either Committee 3, 4, or the Working Group of the Plenary on strategic Plan of the Conference. The meeting requested ATU to progress this task in consultation with Member-States and Regional Organisations

3.6. Next steps

The meeting decided to mandate, Nigeria in its capacity as chairperson of the RPM-Africa (Abuja) to submit the five regional initiatives to the ITU for processing.

ATU is instructed to initiate the usual process for formal endorsement of the proposals by Member States and subsequent submission to the ITU.

With regard to the coordination of the Regional initiatives, ATU is requested to consult Member States in order to identify the countries/institutions willing to assume the role of coordinator in association with ATU.

4. Conclusion

The meeting expressed its deepest appreciation to the Kenyan Administration for hosting the meeting and the excellent hospitality extended to the participants.

The meeting also commended the ATU and the ITU for convening the meeting and providing the necessary working documents.