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(ATU)

**STRENGTHENING AND HARMONIZING POLICY AND
REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR AN INTEGRATION OF
AFRICAN ICT MARKETS**

A. Objectives

To facilitate and enhance the reform of Africa's ICT sectors in order to achieve sub-regional and regional integration of ICT infrastructure, services and markets.

B. Expected Results

Establishment of a conducive environment in Africa through regional and sub-regional harmonization and coordination of ICT policy and regulatory frameworks in order to facilitate:

1. Development of competitive African ICT markets;
2. Development of freely accessible Pan-African services;
3. Harmonization of technical standards to provide increased connectivity of networks and services;
4. Reduction of the level of intra-continental traffic forwarded by extra-continental transit centres;

5. Development of universal access to networks and services taking on board the special needs of youths, women, disadvantaged people and indigenous populations;
6. Tangible increase in investments and support to existing industrialization facilities;
7. Reduction in costs of equipments and services;
8. Harmonization of service cost and tariff structures;
9. Industrialization of the sector through the establishment of equipment manufacture units at regional level;
10. Migration of existing infrastructure to the new generation networks taking into consideration Convergence;
11. Strengthening of information security and combating of spamming and cybercriminality
12. Optimal use of the continent's scarce resources, including the frequency spectrum and the numbering plan.
13. Markets and economy integration

C. Participants

1. ITU Member States: Africa countries.
2. Regional and/or international organizations: ATU, African Union, UNECA, ITU, PAFU, URTNA, NEPAD e-Africa Commission. African Regulators' Associations (WATRA/ARTAO, TRASA, ARTAC, ARICEA, ARN).
3. Potential donors: African Development Bank, World Bank, European Commission.
4. Other stakeholders: Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, COMESA, CEN-SAD, SADC, ECCAS, UMA, IGAD, WAEMU, CEMAC).

D. Linkages with the ITU-D Action Plan and the WSIS Action Plan

Corresponding BDT Programmes	Corresponding WSIS Activities and Action Lines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technologies, Telecommunication Network (and Security) Development ◆ Regulatory Reform ◆ Capacity Building ◆ Special Programme for Least Developed Countries ◆ ICT Statistics, Indicators and Information ◆ Partnership and Promotion ◆ Gender and Youth-related Initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ C1 : Role of public governance authorities and all the other stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development ◆ C2 : Information and Communication Infrastructure ◆ C4 : Capacity Building ◆ C6 : Enabling Environment ◆ C11 : International and Regional Cooperation

E. Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Preliminary Phase – April - December 2006

Tasks
1.1 Survey of existing rules and Establishment of a strong policy framework that facilitates the adoption of consistent mechanisms for smooth implementation of the initiative.
1.2 Strengthening of sub-regional regulatory bodies
1.3 Establishment of a concertation mechanism of African ICT sector regulatory bodies to facilitate information sharing and harmonization.

Phase 2: Implementation Phase – January 2007 - December 2009

Tasks
2.1 Evaluation of ICT sector reforms at national, sub-regional and regional levels and identification of relevant best practices.

2.2	Identification of the major obstacles to ICT development in Africa and development of models, guidelines and recommendations.
2.3	Design and implementation of an African ICT development master plan aimed at achieving universal access to infrastructure and services.
2.4	Design and establishment of ICT market watches/observatories at sub-regional and regional levels to bridge the data divide.
2.5	Design and implementation of an ICT unified numbering space in Africa, taking into account the new generation networks.
2.6	Development and implementation of an ICT policy and regulatory capacity building plan for Africa.
2.7	Design and implementation of an ICT policy and regulatory harmonization plan in Africa, revision of the African “Green Book”.

Phase 3: Operation Phase – January 2008 - December 2009

Tasks	
3.1	Assistance to countries for the implementation of reforms of ICT national policies and regulations.
3.2	Publication of periodic analyzes on ICTs in Africa for the use of the players in the sector, including policy-makers and investors.
3.3	Development of a regulatory framework for the implementation of cross-border networks and Pan-African services such as regional “roaming”.

Phase 4: Evaluation Phase – July 2009 - December 2009

Tasks	
4.1	Assessment of the implementation status of reforms at national, sub-regional and regional levels.
4.2	Assessment of the ICT development level and their socio-economic impact at national, sub-regional and regional levels.
4.3	Assessment of the impact of the initiative aimed at integrating African economies and markets at sub-regional and regional levels

E. Coordinating Agency

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ACRONYMS

ICT	Information and Telecommunication Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ATU	African Telecommunication Union
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
PAPU	Pan-African Postal Union
URTNA	Union des Radiodiffusions et Télévisions Nationales d'Afrique (Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa)
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
COMESA	Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
CEN-SAD	Economic Community of Sahel and Sahara States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
UMA	Union of Arab Maghreb States
IGAD	Intergovernmental Agency for Development
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
ITU-D	ITU Development Sector
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WATRA	West African Telecommunication Regulator Assembly
TRASA	Telecommunication Regulators' Association for Southern Africa
ARTAC	Telecommunication Regulators' Association for Central Africa
ARICEA	Association of Regulators of Information and Communication for Eastern and Southern Africa
ARN	Arab States Telecommunication Regulators' Network

ANNEXE 1

(Regional Initiative on strengthening Policies and regulations)

PROJECT FOR THE CREATION OF UNIFIED TELECOMMUNICATION NUMBERING SPACE IN AFRICA

I. Objectives and beneficiaries

1.1 Objectives

1. Stir the interest of telecommunications operators to build regional networks with African Internet exchange points;
2. Promote and step up the harmonization of telecommunications policies;
3. Strengthen the interconnection of networks and promote the establishment of Pan-African services
4. Provide a powerful symbol for African unity and integration;
5. Contribute to strengthening cooperation between regulatory organs and officials in charge of telecommunications and ICT policies and regulation;
6. Contribute to increasing competition and the telecommunications and ICT services market in Africa;
7. Contribute to reducing the digital and implementation of the Geneva 2003 WSIS Plan of Action SMSI;

1.2 Beneficiaries of the project

The principal beneficiaries are:

- African countries Network operators and service providers;
- Users
- The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Inter Governmental Organizations;
- Investors in telecommunications and ICT networks and/or services;

II. Present numbering situation & option for the creation of a Unified Space

2.1 Present numbering situation

On the basis of recommendation E164:

- Africa countries as other countries received individual international codes;
- USA, CANADA, the Pacific Island and the Caribbean constituted the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) with + 1

2.2 Option for the creation of a Unified Space

a) Creation of unified space with integrated numbering plan

It would be difficult (obtain the agreement of the ITU, other non-African countries have a code beginning with 2), costly (harmonization of current country plans, denumbering, etc.) and not indispensable to achieve the target objectives if we choose to create an integrated numbering space with the number +2 like the NANP.

b) Creation of an African Telecommunications Numbering Space (ATNS)

Like the European ETNS, the ATNS approach consists of:

Obtaining from ITU, in conformity with recom. E164 a country code (+28 or +288) common to the group of African countries that will co-exist with the current individual codes;

This common code will be used by Pan African services essentially oriented towards ICT

c) Strategy for the creation

Given that projects should be in line with a long term vision and considering the rapid technological and regulatory changes in the telecommunications and ICT sector, the creation of a unified numbering space may be envisaged within a developing framework. The following two principal phases are therefore proposed:

- **Phase 1:** Creation of the ATNS which will co-exist with the current individual country codes;
- **Phase 2:** Development towards an integrated numbering plan with the integration of other functions

III. Implementation methodology

3.1 Major steps to create ATNS

- I. Mobilize the required resources
- II. Carry out studies (technical, legal, commercial, etc.)
- III. Obtain the commitment of States for a MoU to support the application for the attribution of common country codes (group of countries)
- IV. Submit and support application for common country codes to ITU
- V. Prepare and submit to States and ATNS Convention
- VI. Study the structure, functioning as well as putting the ATENSA (managing organ) in place

3.2 Institutional framework and organization

a) Decision-making framework

It consists of:

- Meeting of Experts;
- Conference of Telecommunication and ICT Ministers;

b) Operational implementation framework:

- The Inter-Institution Coordination Committee (IICC) Decision EX.CL/Dec.101 (V) of the AU: ADB, ECA, RECs, ATU, AU, PAPU, RASCOM;
- The project execution team.

3.3 Activities to be carried out:

- I. Mobilise resources
- II. Carry out studies and acquire common country codes
- III. Examine and adopt results of feasibility studies
- IV. Organized seminars/Workshops for ATNS beneficiaries
- V. Effective installation of ATNS

3.4 Required resources and planning

- The key resources required are Experts and Miscellaneous services and supplies. The budget is **1 5000 000 US\$**;
- From the 1st activity (meeting of Experts Addis Ababa) to the last activity (taken off ATENSA activities and the exploitation of ATNS resources) Overall time limit for execution is from **2 years**

IV. Decision and recommendation from Experts meeting March, 22-24, 2005 Addis Ababa

- The complexity of the project and consequently calls for a strong involvement of different players
- The member state should encourage telecom operators and regulators to adhere to the project;
- The creation of the ATNS while maintaining the present numbering plan to each country and the evaluation of ATNS towards a unified numbering plan;

The meeting adopted the Implementation methodology and made the following recommendations:

- Initiate the necessary contacts for the mobilization of resources with a view to launching the initial preparatory activities, which include the economic studies;
- Elaborate a public relation plan for the promotion of the project with a view to sensitizing all the players and stakeholders, enlisting the support from other regions of the world;
- Organize an exchange forum through the website;
- Conduct sensitization and information campaign during regional or international vents organized in the sector.