

*Opening Remarks by Brahim Sanou on behalf of ITU*

- *Mr. Felix Mugabe, Deputy Secretary, representing the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications in Kenya,*
- *Mr. Andrew Kawamara, representing the ATU Secretary General,*
- *The General Managers, Regulators,*
- *Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Let me first and foremost extend the sincere thanks from ITU to the Government of Kenya, to CCK and to the people of Kenya for their exemplary hospitality, and commend ATU for convening this experts' meeting to develop African Common Proposals.*

*After the very successful African Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Abuja from 5-7 July, 2005, the holding of this meeting is overdue for two main reasons:*

*First, because we operate in such an extremely dynamic field that a decision made seven months ago obviously needs to be reviewed before being submitted in a credible way to its target audience.*

*Secondly, because it is important to take on board the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and translate the outcomes of the regional meeting into the relevant format for the last meeting of the Telecommunications Development Advisory Group (TDAG).*

*By convening this meeting, ATU has demonstrated the perfect synergy in working approach existing between itself and the ITU African Regional Office, and I personally welcome this development.*

*The documents submitted to your consideration are the outcomes of the work of ATU and an expert from ITU. The documents can be distributed into two major categories:*

- *Initiatives which are mainly a holistic reformatting of the outcomes of the Abuja meeting whereby all projects were redrafted into an all-inclusive initiative, and I wish to assure you that all the projects agreed in Abuja were included in their spirit. The team also took on board the outcomes of the study on ITU assistance to NEPAD, which was adopted by the Abuja Ministerial Symposium in July, 2005.*
- *In addition to these projects, the team also included other initiatives, including selected projects from the UNECA-led African Regional Action Plan for the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), as well as projects prepared by the African Union and the NEPAD e-Africa Commission.*
- *Other inputs for the World Telecommunication Development Conference, including resolutions and recommendations.*

*The ITU African Regional Office provided the required support to ATU as part of the implementation of WTDC-02 Resolution 36, a revision of which is submitted for your consideration, but also because successful preparation at regional level will definitely pave the way for the success of the Doha Conference.*

*I wish you successful deliberations.*