

AFRICAN UNION

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**STUDY ON HARMONISATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION,
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
POLICIES AND REGULATION IN AFRICA**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 2008

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1. INTRODUCTION

Countries that have harnessed the potential of Telecommunication/ICT networks and services have attained significant social and economic development. In addition, they are rapidly transforming into information and knowledge-based economies. To be perfectly integrated into the globalization process, Africa much among others, strengthen and diversify its productive base by attracting new direct investments for the production of quality manufactured goods and services. Infrastructure development is a primordial prerequisite in achieving this goal

Thus, aware that infrastructure constitutes not only the foundations of physical integration but should, in addition, serve as the engine of economic development and as a facility to stimulate commercial flows as well as social and cultural interactions, development stakeholders in the Continent have placed the Telecommunications/ICT sector at the heart of their priority initiatives.

To that end, many collective and individual initiatives have been deployed by Governments, Regional Economic Communities, networks operators and services providers as well by development partners. However, many actions has been oriented tower the development of infrastructures, networks and services namely at countries level. In fact, regional infrastructure cannot be developed unless there is, at regional level, a policy and regulatory framework that enable stakeholders to build a common understanding on the objectives and a clear definition of the rules of the game that are key factors in attracting consequent investment flow.

It should note that infrastructure development in Africa and its rational operation was recognized at various foras and by conclusions of many recent studies and works, of which those of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) an the African Regional Action Pan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), developed in 2005 the African Union Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) during the WSIS process.

The contribution of the African Union to the development of Telecommunication and ICT sector are embodied by two priority program of its Strategic Plan, namely: "Connecting Africa" and "Bridging the Digital Divide."

As part of these two priority programme, The African Union Commission with the participation of some partners has initiated herewith study on harmonization of policies and regulatory frameworks of Telecommunication and ICT.

To carry out the study, a High Level Committee (HLC) and a team of six African consultants, was set up to support the African Union Commission in the process. The **Annex 1** shows the methodological approach set up to carry out the study as well as the approval process of the conclusions. The report of the study is structured in two parts A and B.

The part A describes the context in the following three chapters.

- The first chapter entitled "Africa in brief" deal with the geography and economy of Africa;

- The second chapter entitled "Status of Telecommunication/ICT sector in Africa" deal with telecommunication and ICT networks and services, policies and regulation frameworks and major challenges to be addressed;
- The third chapter three is a summary of " Efforts deployed from all side to address the challenges";

The part B is composed with three major chapters.

- The need to establish an enabling policy environment is describe in the first chapter;
- The second chapter deal with the Vision, mission and guidelines;
- The third chapter is the main part of the study is composed with the proposed "Reference framework for the harmonization of Telecommunication/ICT policies and regulation in Africa".

This report summarises the findings of the study

2. STATUS OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND ICT IN AFRICA

2.1 Development of networks and services

2.1.1 Unequal Development of Telecommunication/ICT Networks and Services between Africa and the other Continents

On the whole, while efforts are being made to bridge the digital divide in telephony, the differences in broadband services continue to widen considerably. As an illustration, Africa is the only continent where Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services are the least developed. Table 2.1 hereunder, established with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) data, shows the status of the indicators.

Indicators	Continents et the world							
	Africa	Weight of Africa in the World	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	The World	
Population (en million)	2004	863.14	13.5%	877.60	3811.68	786.22	32.64	6371.26
	2006	922.03	14%	901.47	3892.77	813.64	33.37	6563.94
GDP per inhabitant (\$US)	2005	1073		18136	2916	19196	25840	6891
Fixed lines (x 000)	2004	26338.4	2.1%	293564.7	542853.3	327124.2	12631.3	1202522.1
	2006	28507.7	2.3%	292528.2	611107.5	325020	12042	1269215.1
Mobile lines (x 000)	2004	79888.6	4.5%	376014.3	716332.3	570468.4	20096.5	1763033
	2006	204994.5	7.4%	561138.5	1151517.8	807513.7	24096.4	2744250.7
Total fixed +Mobiles (x 000)	2004	106227	3.5%	669579	1259185.6	897592.6	32727.8	2965312
	2006	233502.2	5.8%	853666.7	1762624.8	1132533.7	36138.4	4018465.8
Fixed lines for 100 inhabitants	2004	3.05		33.45	14.24	40.20	38.72	15.06
	2006	3.09		32.47	15.73	39.91	36.57	19.37
Mobile Lines for 100 inhabitants	2004	9.25		42.85	18.79	72.5	61.57	22.08
	2006	22.23		62.27	29.65	99.27	72.64	41.9
Fixed + Mobile for 100 inhabitants	2004	12.3		76.29	33	114.1	73.8	46.54
	2006	25.32		94.6	45.27	139.2	98	61.2
Telecom income (in Million \$ US)	2005	37 600	2.9%	390,900	381,600	446,700	30,400	1,267.2
	2006							
Income per fixed lines (in \$ US)	2005	248	574	268	458	902	394	
	2006							
Total Investissement (in Million \$ US)	2005	8 090	4%	43,980	80,800	63,850	4,780	201,500
	2006							
Investissement per telephone line (Fixed + Mobile)	2005	74.5	701	65.6	79	144.3	71.7	
	2006							

Tableau .1: Statistics of Telecommunications/ICT for Africa and other Continents - Source: ITU

a. Fixed and mobiles services

With 922 million inhabitants representing 14% of the total world population, Africa in 2006 had only 2.1% of the main fixed telephone lines of the world, i.e. 28.5 million lines. The tele-density that stood at 3 main fixed lines per 100 inhabitants is the lowest in the world. Between 2001 and 2006 the overall annual growth rate of fixed lines is 5.8% for the entire continent. This growth rate varies from one country to another and from one region to region. Notable even is the negative growth in some countries due to the very aggressive competition from mobile service operators. Moreover, Africa as at 2006 Africa had a total of 205 million mobile subscribers, representing 7.4%, of the global mobile lines, a figure far below that of other regions of the world although there has been strong growth of mobile services in Africa for well over a decade. Most mobile networks are deployed and operated under license and there is at least two networks per country. The growth off the mobile continuous while one wait has continuous fall off the traffic off the voice one networks PSTN. The growth of mobile continues while the traffic of voice on PSTN networks is decreasing continuously.

In general, the weight of Africa in the world illustrated in figures 1 and 2.by all means is very low.

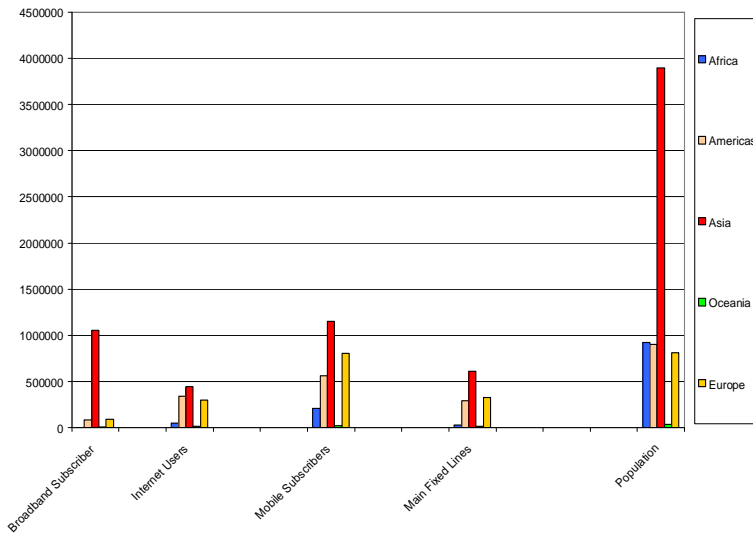


Figure 1: Africa in comparison with other world region (fixed lines, mobile, Internet and broadband. Source ITU)

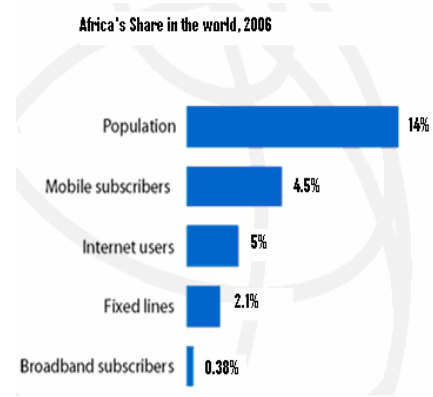


Figure 2: Share of Africa in the World (Source ITU)

b. Internet Services

In 2006 Africa counted 5% and 2.5% of World Internet users and subscribers respectively, which represent less than 5 users per 100 inhabitants versus the world average of 17%, 11% in Asia, 35.7 in Europe and 37% in Americas. Within the African continent the development of Internet is unequal as shown in figures 2.9.a and 2.9.b. Most African countries have a very low Internet host count. About 68 percent of the total number of Internet hosts is concentrated in South Africa, which has 5 percent of Africa's total population.

In Africa, the national access nodes to the global Internet network are generally linked to the Internet Exchange Points (IXP) belonging to international operators

based mainly in the United States, Europe and Asia. Consequently, with the exception of a few countries (Figure 2.5), which have national IXP, it is nearly impossible, in most cases, to create a national or inter-African Internet communication without going out of Africa. Thus, Africa spends between US \$400 million and US\$600 million a year on local traffic transit.

2.1.2. Unequal Development of Telecommunication/ICT Networks and Services in the African Continent

Table 2 and figure 3 below give an overview of the status of Telecommunication/ ICT in the five (5) regions of Africa.

African Regions and Continent	Years	Population	Main Fixed Lines		Mobile Subscribers		Fixe+Mobile		Internet		
		(millions)	Total (x000)	Per 100 Inhabts	Total (x000)	Per 100 Inhabts	Total (x000)	Per 100 Inhabts	Users(x000)	Subscribers (x000)	User/100 Inhabts
Southern Africa	2004	122.62	5861.8	4.99	24549.3	20.02	30411.1	24.79	5090.1	3777.7	
	2006	128.29	5798.8	4.59	49133.2	38.9	54932	43.49	9771.8	4430.5	7.6
North Africa	2004	151.17	15252.2	10	26247.5	17.36	41499.7	27.45	9954	1801.2	
	2006	159.26	16701.5	10.4	67330.5	42.27	84032	52.7	16116.9	3332.3	10.1
East Africa	2004	246.74	2654.9	1.07	8493.5	3.44	11148.4	4.5	3381.9	554.3	
	2006	264.63	2612.4	0.98	23511.3	8.8	26123.7	9.8	8283.6	1306.7	3.1
Central Africa	2004	97.81	230.6	0.23	4747.9	4.85	4978.5	5.08	452.5	44.8	
	2006	104.08	264.5	0.25	9640.5	9.26	9905	9.5	871	69.3	0.83
West Africa	2004	244.8	2338.9	0.95	15850.4	6.47	18189.3	7.4	3417.9	209.4	
	2006	265.77	3130.5	1.17	55379	20.83	58509.5	22	10513.9	2168.7	3.9
African Continent	2004	863.14	26338.4	3.05	79888.6	9.25	106227	12.3	22296.4	6387.4	
	2006	922.03	28507.7	3.09	204994.5	22.23	233502.2	25.32	45557.2	11307.5	4.8

Table : 2.: Statistics of de Telecom/TIC of African regions -2004 and 2006-Source UIT

Telecom and ICT Indicators of African Regions and Continent-ITU 2006

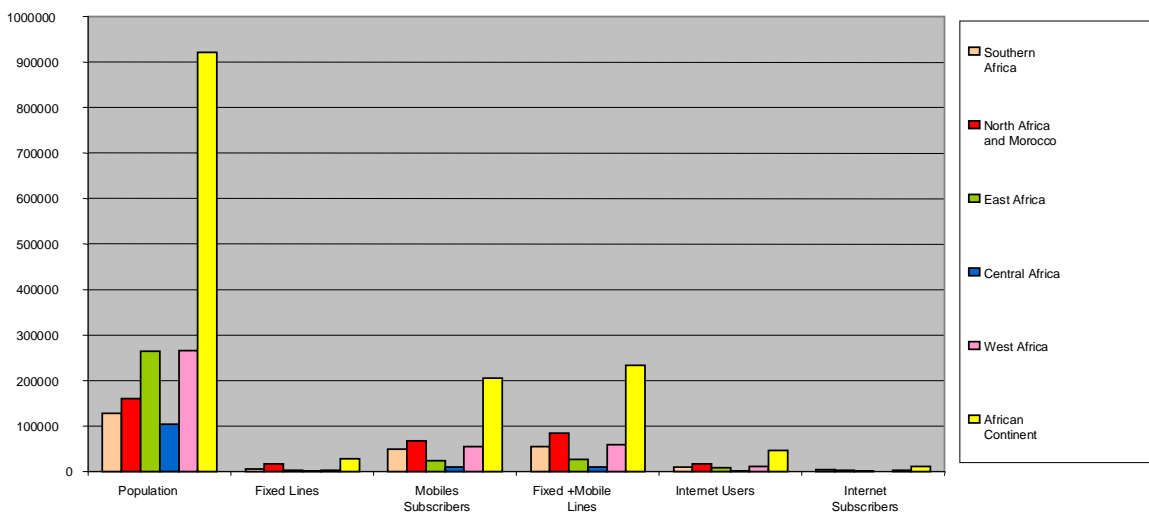


Figure:3 Diagram of Indicators for number of lines, mobile and Internet per Region and of the continent

The following analysis is based on the year 2006 statistics of the International Telecommunications Union compiled according to the needs of the study:

Southern Africa

The Southern Africa region's telephone density is described below;

- Main fixed lines per 100 inhabitants: 4.59
- Mobile subscribers per 100 inhabitants: 38.9
- Fixed and mobile telephone per 100 inhabitants: 43.49
- Internet Users per 100 Inhabitants: 7.6

The Southern Africa region consists of ten (10) States and accounts for 13.9% of the population of the entire Continent. We note that 20.3% of the main fixed lines, 23.96% of mobile phone subscribers and a combined 23.5% of both fixed and mobile telephones of the Africa Continent are in this region. It is the same for 21.4% of Internet Users of the continent are in Southern Africa region. The region's Telecommunication/ICT development is dominated by the Republic of South Africa, which accounts for 37% of the population of the region, and has 81.5% of the main fixed lines, 80.7% mobile subscribers and 52.1% of Internet users in the region. It is also one of the eleven (11) African countries with a national Internet Exchange Point.

East Africa

The teledensities in this region are the followings: 0.98 for main fixed lines; 38.8 for mobile phone subscribers and 9.8 of overall fixed and mobile lines. Moreover this region has 3 Internet users for 100 inhabitants. These figures fall far below the average for the entire Continent. The thirteen (13) countries of East Africa are home to 28.7% of Africa's population. With respect to the Continent's Telecommunication/ICT sector, the region's share is as follows;

- Main fixed lines: 9.1%,
- Mobile subscribers: 11.4%,
- Fixed and mobile telephones: 11.18%;
- Internet users per 100 inhabitants: 3%.

Of the thirteen (13) countries of the region, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Mauritius and Uganda lead the development of Telecommunication/ICT.

Central Africa

The average telephone density for this region is 0.25 main fixed lines; 9.26 mobile subscribers and with a combined total of 9.5 fixed and mobile telephones per 100 inhabitants. The averages of the key indicators for this region are very low compared to the continental averages. Central Africa is made up of nine (9) States, which account for 11.2% of Africa's total population. We have noted that an 0.9% of main fixed lines, 4.7% of mobile subscribers and a combined total of 4.24% for telephone (fixed and mobile) of the continent are in this region. But only 1.9% of the continent Internet users are in central Africa.

Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) claim 78.3% of the region's fixed and mobile telephone. In the DRC, mobile telephone services account for 99.7% of the country's overall fixed and mobile services. This situation seems to be unique in Africa even in many countries the number of mobile subscribers is higher than the fixed lines. The DRC is also one of the eleven (11) African countries with a national IXP.

North Africa and Morocco

The following telephone densities characterize the Northern region and Morocco;

- Main fixed lines per 100 inhabitants: 10.43
- Mobile subscribers per 100 inhabitants: 42.27
- Fixed and mobile telephone per 100 inhabitants: 52.7
- Internet User per 100 Inhabitants: 10.1

The six (6) countries of Northern Africa and Morocco accounts for 17.27% of the Continent's population, and hosts 58.5% main fixed lines, 32.8% mobile subscribers and a combined total of 36% fixed and mobile telephone lines of the continent. As regards Internet, over 35% of the continent's users are in North Africa and Morocco. Of special interest is the region's dynamism including Morocco, in the field Information and Communication Technologies development characterized inter alia, by the development of telephone services, Internet and technological facilities.

West Africa

Around 29% of the population of the Continent resides in the fifteen (15) countries of this region, which have the following telephone densities:

- Main lines per 100 inhabitants: 1.17
- Mobile subscribers per 100 inhabitants: 20.83
- Fixed and mobile telephone per 100 inhabitants: 22
- Internet User per 100 Inhabitants: 3.9

With respect to the entire continent's Telecommunication/ICT sector, this region is contributing by 11% for Main fixed lines, 27% of Mobile subscribers, 25% of Fixed and mobile telephone and 23% Internet users.

In this region five countries are the leading players, namely, Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, in Telecommunication/ICT development. Nigeria is host to over half of the population, 54% of the fixed lines, 58% of the mobile subscribers and 76% of Internet users in the region. Only Nigeria and Ghana have national IXPs in the region.

2.1.3. Conclusion

In conclusion, there are a large unequal development of networks and services between countries and regions. Figures 4 and 5 show respectively the share of each region and indicators for some countries. The Republic of South Africa, Nigeria, Northern African countries and Morocco dominate in the development of

Telecommunication/ICT networks and services in the continent. The following 2006 indicators confirm this:

- The Northern African countries and the Republic of South Africa that count for 22.4% of the African population have about 72% of the 28.5 million main fixed lines and 52% of the mobile subscribers in the Continent;
- The Republic of South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco have each over 10 million mobile subscribers each. These five (5) countries alone account for 62% of mobile subscribers with a percentage of mobile subscriber per 100 inhabitants spanning from and 24 for Egypt and Nigeria, 62 for Algeria and 83 for South Africa;
- As regards Internet and broadband subscribers, the level of development is very unequal between the regions and the countries. The Northern African countries and South Africa represent the main players in this area.

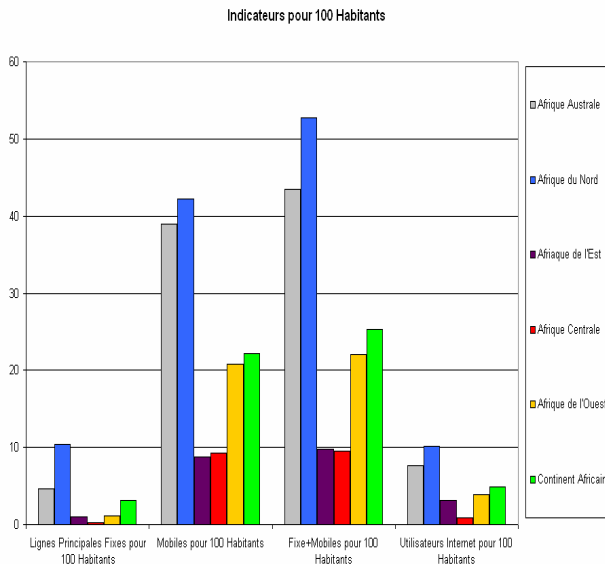


Figure: 2.17: Telecom and ICT Indicators for 100 Habitants

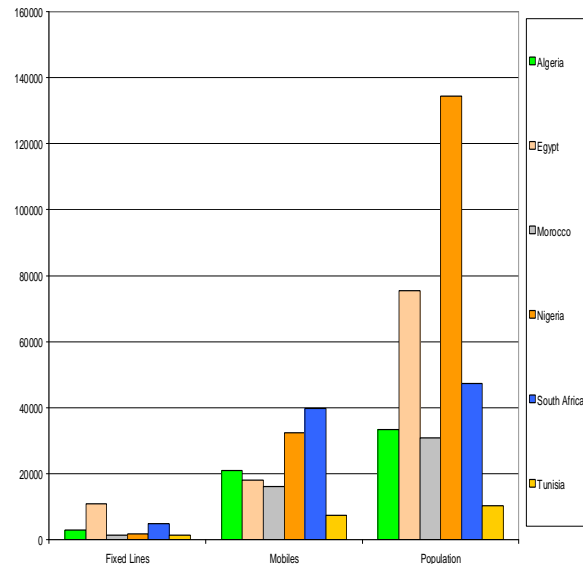


Figure: 2.18 Shares for fixed main lines

The above information shows that the development of telecommunications and ICT is unequal between the regions and the countries of the Continent.

The following reasons may be attributed to the above situation:

- Inadequate political will in some countries to develop ICT Policies – many countries have the entire legislative framework to develop the sector on paper but have not demonstrated the political will to implement the provisions of the legislation; furthermore, there is lack of awareness and sometimes misunderstanding of the potential of ICT on the part of policy makers, parliamentarians, considering that policy directions in most cases have a significant impact in the market place;
- Absence of a clearly defined strategic vision/framework for the ICT sector;
- Capacity constraints to support policy formulation;

- Inadequate legal structure; current laws are not attractive enough in some cases and do not constitute an environment that is conducive to the development of ICT;
- Conflicting mandate/overlap of regulatory bodies e.g. telecom and broadcasting commissions, telecom and competition commissions;
- Insufficient Investment; (due to for example foreign exchange restrictions, high Tax levies and import duties);
- Small market size of many individual African countries;
- Concentration of network infrastructure in urban areas;
- Absence of policy framework on ICT that takes Convergence into account;
- Lack of strategies on e-Commerce even though attempts are made to implement e-commerce projects;
- Lack of clarity on spectrum planning and management;
- Inadequate efforts on harmonization of policies and regulations at regional and continental levels;
- Weak Research Capacity and Unavailability of Reliable Statistics;
- Lack of an established mechanism for countries to share information and experiences;
- Weak Regional Cooperation/Coordination

A number of initiatives are being implemented at the regional and continental levels to improve the telecom/ICT infrastructure in Africa. These are, inter alia,

- The NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP) and the on going Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework Study (MLTS);
- RASCOM satellite launched on 18 December 2007;
- Initiatives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- Initiatives under the aegis of ATU;
- Initiatives coordinated by UNECA.
- Initiatives coordinated by the African Union Commission.

2.2. Policies and Regulation frameworks

2.2.1. At counties level

To develop and modernize Telecommunication and ICT sector, restructuring policies were implemented in most counties. The level of the reforms varies from one country to another; these reforms are characterized in general by what follows:

- Separation of the regulatory function from the functions of network operators and service providers, and the creation of regulatory agencies;
- Liberalization, with introduction of competition in the activities of network operators and service providers and in the service market, including in some countries, and the granting of a second fixed line license. Competitions in most cases generally involve networks and services open to the public, namely: national and international fixed telephony networks and services, mobile cellular phone networks and services as well as Internet/data networks and services. The degree of openness to competition varies according to countries and the type of market;
- Privatization and opening of the capital of the traditional operators.

- Formulation by Governments of National Information and Communication Infrastructure Plan (NICI-Plan) and e-strategies aimed at applying Telecommunication/ICT potentials in achieving development objectives; and
- Formulation and execution of Telecommunication/ICT projects for application to national development priorities; for example, in the areas of education, health, trade and governance;
- Universal access strategy..

2.2.2. At Regional Economic Communities and Continental level

The creation of regional associations of regulation throughout the continent clearly shows the need for the CER and associations of regulation in particular, to learn from each other and to help themselves mutually, inter alia, by sharing their experience, the harmonization of their policy and dealing with legal and regulatory issues. In addition, this approach allows them to share answer on the emerging challenges which appear in the sector and promote the sustainable development of the markets of Telecommunications/TIC as well as new technologies on a global basis. Some of associations of regulation of Telecommunications/TIC created are listed in table 3 hereafter.

Table: 3: Regulatory Association/ Organization		
Name of Regulatory Association/ Organization	Region/ Sub-Region	Year of Establishment
Communications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) former (Telecommunications Regulators Association of Southern Africa: TRASA) (SADC)	Southern Africa	1997
West Africa Telecommunications Regulators' Association (WATRA) (ECOWAS)	West Africa	2002
Association of Regulators for Information and Communication Services of Eastern and Southern Africa (ARICEA) (COMESA)	Eastern & Southern Africa	2003
East African Regulatory Post and Telecommunications Organization (EARPTO) (EAC)	Eastern Africa	2000
Réseau Francophone de la Régulation des Télécommunications (FRATEL)	Francophone Countries	2003
Association des Régulateurs de Télécommunications de l'Afrique Centrale (ARTAC) ECCAS	Central Africa	2004
African Telecommunication Regulators Network (ATRN)	Africa	2003
Arab Network for Regulatory Commissions of Telecommunications and Information Technology Sector	Arab Countries	2003
Africa Forum for Utility Regulation (AFUR)	Africa	2002

According to an ITU report on regional regulatory associations, a common feature among all these associations is that most if not all have similar objectives that include, inter alia, the following:

- Harmonization of Telecommunication Policies and Regulations;
- Development of model guidelines of Telecommunication/ICT legislations,
- Exchange of ideas, views and experiences on all aspects of Telecommunication/ICT regulation;
- Promotion of efficient, adequate and cost effective telecom networks;
- Harmonization and maximization of the utilization of scarce resources – Electromagnetic spectrum, numbering etc.;
- Identification and sharing of best practices within the region;
- Promotion of Human Resource Development and
- Contribution to the integration of their regions.

The report further indicates that several of the associations have developed, or are in the process of developing model guidelines on key issues such as those of interconnection, licensing, tariffs, universal access, regional frequency band plans etc. However, the status of common or harmonized regulatory policies and provisions differs sharply between the RECs and the regions. In the area of policy and regulatory frameworks harmonization, significant progress has been made in some regions, while a lot remains to be done in others.

At the continental level, there is no reference framework for telecommunications /ICT policy and regulatory framework approved by the States. However a study by the ITU “Forum on telecommunications Regulations in Africa”, has proposed the creation of an “African telecommunication Regulators’ Association” to provide inputs to the policy making process at the continental level. Instead of an Association, an African Telecommunication Regulator’s Network was created.

3. CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE TELECOMMUNICATION AND ICT SECTOR

The absence of a regional market generally impacts negatively on ICT development in the regions in view of the restricted size of the national markets. The need for broad ICT dissemination in Africa generates stakes which are not only economic and social, but also and, above all, infrastructural capacity building, contents and financial in nature.

The challenges which have been identified are listed as follows (table 4):

Table: 4: Challenge by Priority areas	
Priorities Areas	Challenges
Establishing Enabling Environments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Level playing field for business/Regional telecommunication/ICT market 2. Enabling Telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory frameworks 3. Innovative universal access policy 4. Integrative e-strategies 5. Relevant and valuable Telecommunication/ICT applications, services and content 6. Integration in the information society and exercise of citizenship rights 7. Management of scarce resources: frequencies, numbers right-of-way 8. Security and reliability 9. Convergence licensing
Technological Convergence and Inter Operability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convergence 2. Standardization 3. Interoperability
Building Broadband Infrastructures and Reinforcement of the African Internet Network	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadband Infrastructures 2. Reinforcement of the African Internet Network 3. Technology neutrality and sustainability
Capacity Building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training Institutions 2. Increasing the pool of available Telecommunication/ICT skills 3. Training a broader base of Telecommunication/ICT professionals 4. Encourage the deployment and utilization of Telecommunication/ICT across all socio-economic sectors in Africa: especially: encouraging girls and women to use Telecommunication/ICT, encouraging the use of Telecommunication/ICT to increase access to lifelong learning 5. Increasing research and development capacity 6. Increasing financing levels for Telecommunication/ICT related capacity building
Mobilization and Efficient use of Financial Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing universal access/service fund mechanisms 2. Developing cooperation, multi-stakeholder partnerships and seed financing 3. Improving coordination of Telecommunication/ICT initiatives and projects 4. Developing domestic finance and promoting foreign direct investment
Industrialization and Research and Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage developing software and hardware in Africa 2. Encourage R&D and industrialization of African ICT systems

4. REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR HARMONIZATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND ICT POLICIES AND REGULATION IN AFRICA

To address the above mentioned challenges, it is proposed to implement a reference framework for the harmonization of policy and regulation for the Telecommunications/ICT sector, taking into account on one hand the vision and mission of the African Union and the following guiding principles on the other hand.

4.1. Guiding Principles

The referential policy and regulatory framework will comply with the following principles:

- Solidarity between African Member States and peoples;
- Cooperation between the AUC, RECs; and other African organizations;
- Partnerships between and amongst African peoples;
- Link to Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSP), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other continental development goals, such as African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);
- Goals of Connect Africa Summit (Kigali, October 2007).
- Principles of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS);
- Finance viability, technical feasibility and political acceptability;

a. Solidarity

The solidarity principle rises from the Constitutive Act of the African Union and aim at realizing a greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and peoples ". This solidarity implies, in addition to African cardinal values, resource sharing heritage of our history which will allow Africans to enter together in modernity.

b. Cooperation

Cooperation between the African Union Commission and the other continental organizations namely the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) involved in the development and the integration of the continent is an important element of the Constitutive Act.

At regional level, the principle of cooperation, as contained in the community objectives enshrined in the Treaty, will allow for expansion and sharing RECs initiatives.

c. Partnership between stakeholders of African Telecommunication/ICT sector

A reference policy and regulatory framework must take into account interests of all stakeholders and the key actors of African Telecommunication/ICT Sector, namely, Governments, regulators, development partners, operators, service providers, the private sector, and most importantly, the consumers.

d. Link to PRSP, MDGs, goals of SMSI and other continental development objectives (ARAPKE, Connect Africa Summit)

The reference framework for the harmonization of policies of Telecommunications and ICT is developed in a context marked by the adoption of commitments in favor of the development subscribed on a world level and regional, such as OMD, PARAES, SMSI objectives and goals of the Connect Africa Summit. Then, the content of the reference framework for the harmonization of policies should be facilitating the achievement of the objectives and goals of these various commitments.

c. Financial viability, technical feasibility and political acceptability

The reference policy and regulatory practices framework must be for Member States and Regional Economic Communities and politically acceptable in order to guarantee its successful implementation. In terms of financial implication and technical feasibility it should not be a source of supplementary problems. On the contrary it must be a value added contribution to efforts that are already being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in terms of measures taken to support the development of the Telecommunication/ICT infrastructures.

4.2. Broad Objectives

The following broad objectives have been identified and are considered the main challenges facing Africa. These broad objectives are enumerated here under;

- i. Establish **harmonized policy, legal and regulatory frameworks** at the regional and continental levels to create an enabling environment that will attract investment and foster the sustainable development of competitive African Telecommunication/ICT regional markets, infrastructures, and to increase access;
- ii. Develop **integrated infrastructures and access networks** as the cornerstone of the e-access, with efficient cross-border interconnectivity to provide increased access to Telecommunication/ICT services for the greatest number of populations in Africa, including the improvement of connectivity of the African continent with the other continents.
- iii. Support the development of industrialization and research on sciences and technology related to Telecommunication/ICT.
- iv. Develop African **human resource and increase awareness** to ensure active participation of Africa in the global information and knowledge-based economy;
- v. Develop relevant and valuable **applications** to encourage the deployment and utilization of Telecommunication/ICT across all socio-economic sectors in Africa in order to improve efficiency and productivity;
- vi. Promote and develop African **content** to increase global presence of African values, cultures, languages and indigenous knowledge;

- vii. Mobilize financial resources by strengthening **regional cooperation** and **multi stakeholder partnerships** and promotion of **public and private partnerships**.

4.3. Strategy to Achieve Objectives:

A. Establishment of harmonized policy and regulatory framework

1. Engage the highest level authorities to enhance the political will to foster the development and harmonization of the Telecommunication/ICT sector.
2. Develop harmonized regional and continental e-strategies.
3. Develop regulatory guidelines at regional and continental levels.
4. Establish mechanisms to encourage and strengthen stakeholder participation in the harmonization process

B. Development of Integrated Infrastructures and Access Networks

1. Promote regional and intra-continental connectivity.
2. Promote open access to infrastructure
3. Promote infrastructure sharing.
4. Promote digital broadcast infrastructures/networks.
5. Promote infrastructure/networks convergence, in particular migration to IP/NGN networks;
6. Promote appropriate and innovative technologies that can improve universal access/service and affordability.
7. Implement technologies/networks that complies to internationally accepted and widely spread standards, taking into account regional interconnectivity and interoperability.
8. Promote African participation in the development of standards at the regional and international levels.

C. Support to Industrialization, Research and Development

1. Encourage developed software and hardware in Africa;
2. Encourage research & development and industrialization of African to develop Telecommunication/ICT systems.
3. Establish regional common research centres.

D. Development of Human Resources and Increase of Awareness

1. Promote attitudinal change and confidence for the adoption of Telecommunication/ICT in the economy as a mode of life.
2. Increase Telecommunication/ICT awareness among political leaders and policy makers at the highest level.
3. Increase the pool of African professionals in all areas of Telecommunication/ICT competencies; encourage their mobility and their retention within Africa.
4. Develop mass e-literacy and promote wide usage of Telecommunication/ICT.

5. Establish and develop centres of excellence and Telecommunication/ICT research institutions, and promote effective cooperation among them,
6. Establish and develop institutions for capacity building for Telecommunication/ICT at various levels, particularly for regulators and policy makers.

E. Development of Telecommunication/ICT applications

1. Encourage the deployment and utilization of Telecommunication/ICT across all socio-economic sectors in Africa; especially in the following priority areas, namely, e-Government, e-Education, e-Commerce, e-Health, e-Culture.
2. Build confidence in the development and use of Telecommunication/ICT applications, taking into consideration better management of the cyberspace, from the producer as well as from the consumer point of view.
3. Promote the development and use of open source software, and build applications on such platforms.

F. Development of African Content

1. Preserve the African heritage in digital format, and its relevant Intellectual property rights.
2. Encourage the creation of African content in diverse languages.
3. Promote global presence of the African heritage, cultures, and indigenous knowledge;

G. Mobilization of Financial Resources

1. Raise political awareness to consider Telecommunication/ICT as a priority sector in social economic development.
2. Allocate public resources for Telecommunication/ICT development.
3. Promote public private partnerships and other multi-stakeholders partnerships.
4. Create incentives for foreign investments and coordinate its usage,
5. Promote the development of domestic finance by providing support to local entrepreneurs and investors.
6. Develop innovative approaches for the creation and management of universal access/service funds.
7. Increase awareness, mobilization, coordination and efficiency on regional, continental and international initiatives and projects of Telecommunication/ICT development

4.4. Programme of Action

The programme of action is attached as **annex 2**

3.5. Priority Programmes

Among the various activities of the programme of action, it is proposed that the following activities constitute a priority programme to be carrying out at national, regional and continental level.

Table 5: Priority programme		
Continental level	Regional level	National level
1. Development and adoption of policy and regulatory Guidelines.	1. Development and adoption of policy and regulatory regional Guidelines;	1. Formulation, adoption and implementation of national Telecommunication/ICT policies taking into account inputs from stakeholders (including consumers);
2. Supporting deployment of regional and continental broadband infrastructures/networks and promoting their interconnection;	2. Promoting interconnection of national networks;	2. Creating an enabling environment taking into account the convergence of technologies, networks and services;
3. Promoting development and interconnection of governmental Telecommunication/ICT networks;	3. Initiating and supporting fora for sharing of knowledge, resources and experience among Telecommunication/ICT - development stakeholders;	3. Deployment of Telecommunication/ICT broadband (backbone and access) infrastructures;
4. Initiating and supporting fora for sharing of knowledge, resources and experience among Telecommunication/ICT development stakeholders;	4. Providing expertise to Governments aimed at translating Regional Policy and Regulatory Guidelines into national frameworks.	4. Formulation, adoption and implementation of national e-strategies.
5. Providing expertise to RECs/Governments aimed at translating continental Policy and Regulatory Guidelines into regional/national frameworks.	5. Measuring and monitoring the development of growth of Telecommunication/ICT industry	5. Continuation of the deployment of public Telecommunication/ICT access points in rural and remote areas;
6. Measuring and monitoring the development of growth of Telecommunication/ICT industry.		6. Building Telecommunication/ICT skills and high-level institutions;
		7. Measuring and monitoring the development of growth of Telecommunication/ICT industry

3.6. Priority Studies

To support and speed up the implementation of the programme of action and in particular the priority program, the studies hereafter are proposed.

Table 6: Studies identified		
Field of Study	Study	Deliverables
A. Policy Guidelines	Develop model of policy guidelines for the continent on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liberalization & Privatization. ▪ Creation of effective Regulatory Body. ▪ Competition ▪ Convergence. ▪ Universal access/service. ▪ Digital Migration. ▪ Process of Consensus building in international foras. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparative analysis of Country and Regional Policies. ▪ Model Policy. ▪ Harmonization methodology. ▪ Consensus building mechanism. ▪ Digital migration strategy.
B. Model Legislation and Regulatory framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop model Telecom/ICT Bill of Law ▪ Develop model Telecom/ICT Regulations. ▪ Assess the need for a Continent-wide Regulatory Body. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparative analysis of Countries and Regional Telecom Act. ▪ Model Telecommunication/ICT Bill. ▪ Model Regulatory Institutional structure. ▪ Model Telecom/ICT Regulations. ▪ Model License ▪ Recommendation on the creation of a continental Telecommunication/ICT Regulatory Body/Regulators Association.
C. Infrastructure Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analysis of current National and Regional Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and missing links. ▪ National Regional and Continental Master plans.
D. Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess the existing institutional capacity ▪ Assess professional human resource capacities and skill ▪ Develop continental policy and implement strategy on capacity building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Database of existing Capacity Building Institutions and assessment of their capabilities. ▪ GAP analysis comparing the actual use of resources with the potential resources, including the expertise of the African Diaspora. ▪ African Human Resource Capacity Building Policy and Implementation Plan.
E. Mobilization of Financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential sources of funds ▪ Establish Coordination mechanism for Pulling of resources and common projects including PPP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mechanism for pulling of resources for common projects. ▪ Incentives for raising domestic and foreign investment.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

The proposed reference policy and regulation framework will provide a catalytic platform that is aimed at creating a harmonized regional and continental policy and regulatory environment. The implementation requires appropriate institutional framework and mobilization of sufficient resources as detailed below.

5.1 The Main Stakeholders and their Missions:

i. African Union Commission (AUC)

The AUC will:

- Supervise and coordinate the implementation of the policy and regulatory framework.
- Mobilize financial resources to support implementation activities of the reference framework.
- Organize continental meetings on Telecommunication/ICT Policy and Regulations.
- Provide a model of guidelines as indicated in chapter 3.4 above
- Establish an African expert Telecommunication/ICT Group.
- Participate in the priorities study identified above.

ii. The Regional Economic Communities: implementation agencies

The RECs will be the driving force for the implementation of the framework in their respective regions. The RECs will benefit from the Advice and inputs from the Telecommunication/ICT Policy and Regulations Expert Group. The tasks that have been identified for the RECs for the purpose of the implementation process will include:

- Develop and implement capacity building programs;
- Translate continental reference framework to regional guidelines.
- Provide Assistance to Member States to translate regional guidelines at the national level;
- Participate in carrying out the priority studies;
- Support and cooperate with regional associations of regulators and operators and;
- Gather and analyze information on the implementation process.

It is expected that ECA, ITU, ATU and ADB including Development Partners will support the RECs in implementing the reference policy and regulatory framework.

iii. African Telecommunication/ICT Policy and Regulation Expert Group (AEG-ICT)

The African Expert Group shall consist of between seven (7) to ten (10) individual African experts selected on the basis of their expertise, gender and regional representation. This African expert Group will report to the AU commissioners responsible for Telecommunication/ICT and will have the following mandate :

- To provide advise to the AU commissioners responsible for Telecommunication/ICT on the implementation of the reference framework.
- To undertake the various studies required for the implementation of the reference framework.
- To prepare all the documentation required for the implementation of the reference policy and regulatory framework.
- To provide technical support to the RECs on the implementation of the reference policy and regulatory framework.
- To submit regular reports of its activities to the AU Commissioners responsible for Telecommunication/ICT
- Undertake any other activities as maybe initiated and directed by the AU Commissioners responsible for Telecommunication/ICT.

iv. **Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee shall be established which shall consist of the representatives of the RECs, NEPAD, AfDB, ATU, RASCOM, African regional/international Organizations UNECA, ITU,) and other observers as may be decided by the AUC; and shall be chaired by the AU Commissioners responsible for Telecommunication/ICT. The Steering Committee will mainly take the responsibility of coordination among the RECs regarding the implementation of the reference Telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory framework, while taking input from the other participants and observers.

The Steering Committee will carry out its mandate and submit its reports to the AUC for consideration and input for the report of the AU to the African Communication and Information Technologies (CIT) Ministerial Conference. The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee shall include, *inter-alia*;

- To meet at least twice annually to assess progress of the implementation of the reference policy and regulatory framework;
- Examine the outcomes of the priority studies; provide inputs and proposals for the attention of the African Union, and the RECs, AU Commissioners responsible for Telecommunication/ICT to accelerate the implementation process.

5.2. **Implementation Planning and budget**

i. **Planning**

The proposed tentative planning is attached as **annex 3**. The total duration of the global process is estimated at 24 months from the adoption of the conclusion of the study by the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Communications, and Information Technology.

ii. **Estimated budget**

The total budget of for the implementation activities is estimated at 5.3 millions and detailed in **annex 4**.

V. CONCLUSION

From analysis of the current situation, the study has highlighted that on several levels Africa's Telecommunications and ICT sector is facing with a lot of challenges. Then, to create an environment conducive to its development, it is proposed that technological convergence and interoperability, building broadband infrastructures and reinforcement of the African internet network, capacity building, mobilization and efficient use of financial resources, industrialization, research and development, be the priority areas to address.

To address the challenges of Telecommunications and ICT sector development, Africa's major stakeholders, especially member States with the support of regional and international organizations and Institutions, have embarked on implementation of policies and projects aimed primarily at building the sector capacities and infrastructures.

The African Union Commission has initiated this study on the Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunication/ICT Policies and Regulation in Africa as its contribution to the development of telecommunications /ICT sector in Africa, that is a factor to attain its ultimate goal of rapid integration and sustainable development of the continent.

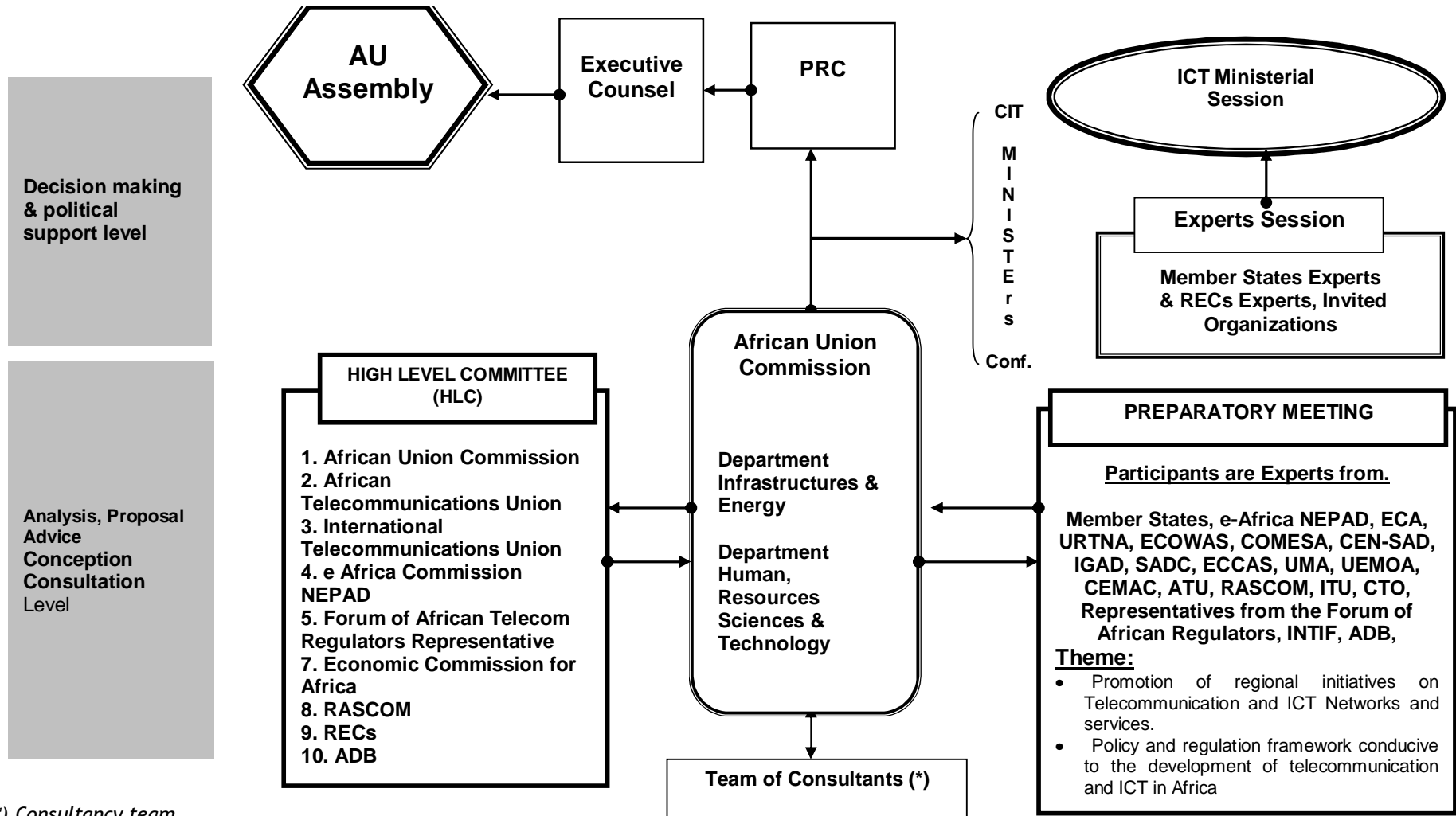
The outcomes of this study, intended mostly for RECs and Member States, will guide and promote the creation of an environment conducive to the development of continental and regional Telecommunication/ICT networks and services.

The major parts of the proposed Reference framework include:

- Broad objectives,
- Strategies to achieve the objectives,
- Priority programmes,
- Priority studies and
- The implementation process.

The estimated total budget necessary for the implementation of the Reference Framework including development of guideline is 5.3 Millions US Dollars and the expected planned duration for the implementation is 2 years.

ANNEX: 1 - Organization for the implementation of the Study and approval of conclusions



(*) Consultancy team

Dr Bonkougou Zouli, Mrs Namahoua BambaTouré; Dr Sherif Guinena; Mr Emmanuel Kamdem; Mr Samuel Chepkonga; Mr Eddie Funde; Mr Shola Taylor.

ANNEX 2 – Programme of Action

BROAD OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEMS
A. Establishment of Harmonized Policy and Regulatory Framework	1. Engage Political Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish ICT commission/body at the very high level of political leadership at national and continental level. • Assign a focal-point – endowed with adequate authority and resources - to enhance regional and intra-continental cooperation.
	2. Telecommunication/ICT Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement e-strategies with the participation of all stakeholders • Develop and implement cyberspace policy and legislations.
	3. Develop Regulatory Guidelines at Regional and Continental Level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and Adopt regional guidelines on Telecommunications and ICT development and regulation, namely: Interconnection, Spectrum, Licensing, Tariffs, Universal Access /Service, Dispute Resolution, Standards and Type Approval, Consumer and environmental Issues • Develop and adopt guidelines on: cyber security, domain name management, electronic signature, etc. • Promote the adoption of fair and sustainable competition policies and guidelines at country/regional and continental level • Promote regional/continental licensing mechanisms to establish regional/continental operators' networks and service providers.
	4. Establish mechanisms to encourage and strengthen stakeholder participation in the harmonization process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regular fora of ICT stakeholders at national, regional and continental levels on specific issues of interest. • Strengthen the coordination of spectrum management, frequency planning, numbering and other scarce resources. • Strengthen regional coordination for the development of a common African positions in international fora; • Strengthen collaboration with African Institutions (ATU, Afrinic, AUB ...) and regulators in charge of Telecommunications, ICT and broadcasting policies.
B. Deployment of Integrated Broadband Infrastructure and Access Networks	1. Promote regional and intra-continental interconnectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement, regional and continental infrastructure master plans taking into account convergence of technologies; • Establish and Support broadband infrastructure projects that promote regional integration. • Establish and enhance regional and continental Internet exchange points IXPs, and their interconnection • Modernize existing infrastructure, and Integrate and complement new infrastructure projects with existing infrastructures • Establish or strengthen regional and continental indicators on infrastructure and access to monitor ICT progress.
	2. Promote Open access to infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Model High Level Policy and Regulatory Framework for regional/continental Telecom/ICT Broad Band Infrastructure network based on open access non-discriminatory Principles. • Promote and foster the portability at national/regional/continental level
	3. Promote infrastructure sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure close collaboration and coordination with basic utilities infrastructure networks such as electricity, water pipe lines and transport networks in the rollout of Telecommunications/ICT infrastructures including broadcasting; • Encourage infrastructure and site sharing among Telecommunication/ICT Operators.

BROAD OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEMS
	4. Promote digital broadcast infrastructures/networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernize the existing broadcasting infrastructures/networks, through acceleration of migration from analogue to digital broadcasting systems. • Digitize broadcasting and media production facilities.
	5. Promote infrastructure/services convergence, in particular migration to IP/NGN networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote implementation of converged infrastructures based on IP/Next Generation Networks (NGN).
	6. Promote appropriate and innovative technologies that can improve universal access/service and affordability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt technologically neutral approach as an incentive to support universal access/service and its affordability
	7. Promote technologies that comply with internationally accepted and widely spread standards, taking into account regional interconnectivity and interoperability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish African Technology Watch Forum to track the development of technologies to provide advice on policies that can enhance Telecom/CT connectivity in Africa, and monitor conformance to standards to assure universality and interoperability of networks.
	8. Promote African participation in the development of standards at the regional and international levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the effective coordination and participation of African Experts in International Standardization Bodies, particularly memberships in working groups • Establish regional and continental working groups on standardization.
C. Encourage Industrialization and R&D	1. Promote local development of software and hardware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create incentives for local assembly of ICT equipment • Create repair and maintenance centres for Telecom/ICT
	2. Promote research & development and technology transfer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create repair and maintenance centers for telecommunications and ICT
D. Development of Human Resources and Increase Awareness	1. Promote attitudinal change and confidence for the adoption of Telecom/ICT in the economy as a mode of life:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement public campaigns to promote attitudinal change for the adoption of Telecom/ICT in the economy as a mode of life; • Increase commitment to the development of enabling policy environment legal and regulatory frameworks for the knowledge-based economy; • Increase commitment for the financing levels of Telecom/CT capacity-building programs, materials, tools, educational funding, and specialized training initiatives, especially for regulators and other public sector employees and organizations;
	2. Increase Telecom/ICT awareness among political leadership and policy makers at the highest level:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement high level awareness and/or training program for political leaders at the highest level to enable them provide effective leadership in Telecommunication/ICT development; • Implement high level training program for Telecommunications/ICT policymakers and regulators;
	3. Increase the pool of African Telecom/ICT professionals in all areas and competencies, encourage their mobility and their retention within Africa:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an African human resource development policy for the Telecom/ICT sector; • Identify training needs and activate coordination between the Ministries concerned with capacity building to harmonize educational needs on Telecom/ICT;

BROAD OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEMS
	4. Develop mass e-literacy and promote wide Telecom/ICT usage:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create regional database of training and ICT educational and research institutions, as well as ICT experts; and disseminate and promote this information for better utilization of available resources. • Develop Telecom/ICT skills for civil servants through intensive end users training schemes; • Introduce Telecom/ICT curricula in schools and universities with special attention to the education of youth, the disabled, girls and women; • Promote Telecom/ICT initiatives with gender perspective; and promote ICT usage for disadvantaged groups, especially between the girl child and women. • Encourage the usage of ICT by establishing community access centers through public existing facilities such as post offices, schools, libraries, etc. and to increase access to education and learning. • Develop databases at the national, regional and continental levels to monitor the implementation of Telecom/ICT policies, legislation and regulation
	5. Establish and develop Telecom/ICT centers of excellence research and research institutions, and promote effective cooperation among them,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen existing centers of excellence and other high level ICT-related training institutions to provide for the deficit of professionals and to produce professionals in the development, application and diffusion of Telecom/ICT systems;
	6. Establish and develop Telecom/ICT institutions for capacity building at various levels, particularly for regulators and policy makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review efficiency of available facilities and create training networks to increase the training capacities; • Support key research institutions, universities and other educational institutions through cheaper and faster internet access and partnerships with more advanced counterparts; • Increase research capacity in Telecom/ICT policies, legislation and regulation, including research on Internet governance policies; • Establish research institution at the national, regional and continental levels to provide expertise in the development of Telecom/ICT policies, legislation and regulation; • Identify and establish a network of African capacity building institutions that offer Telecom/ICT- related curricula to maximize the utilization of available resources.
E. Development of Telecom/ICT Applications	1. Encourage the deployment and utilization of Telecommunications/ICT across all socio-economic sectors in Africa ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access of rural communities to Telecom/ICT services and e-applications to assist in development; • Develop e-government applications to allow easy access to all government services; • Develop e-Health and Telemedicine initiatives and applications to improve access to health services, in particular in rural areas; • Develop e-environment awareness programs to protect the continent environment from misuse (e.g. harmful chemicals and nuclear waste disposals), and to preserve natural resources. • Provide access to public information and to the cultural, historic, scientific and educational heritage of Africa, including its preservation on digital media.
	2. Build confidence in the development and use of ICT applications, taking into account better management of the cyberspace, from the producer as well as from the consumer points of view.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt policy on electronic transactions by adopting policies including issues related to privacy, data protection, authentication, intellectual property, copyright, computer crime and security. • Establish consumers associations to defend consumers' rights.
	3. Promote the development and use of open source software, and build applications on such platforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop user-friendly and affordable software platforms, browsers and interactive applications, and diverse, locally produced multimedia content. • Promote the development and use of open-source and free software.

BROAD OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEMS
F. Development of African Content	1. Preserve the African heritage in a digital format, and its relevant Intellectual property right.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop content and access for e-learning to reduce illiteracy and create equal opportunity for education, taking into consideration cultural heritage of Africa;
	2. Encourage the creation of African content in diverse languages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop content relevant to the needs of the developing world, including material in indigenous languages, information accessible to non-literate audiences
	3. Promote global presence of the African heritage cultures, and indigenous knowledge;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and develop specific African content to preserve and increase global presence of the African values, cultures, languages and indigenous knowledge; • Promote awareness of producers by regional distribution channels for their production
G. Mobilisation of Financial Resources	1. Raise political awareness to consider ICT as a priority sector in social economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlate the direct and indirect benefit factors of the Telecom/ICT sector to the national GDP to encourage governments to promote the Telecom/ICT sector
	2. Allocate public resources for Telecom/ICT development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice governments to contribute in investments directed to Telecom/ICT enhancement in Backbones and Rural Areas.
	3. Promote public private partnerships and other multi-stakeholders partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with development finance institutions and donor governments, in the continent or internationally, to mobilize sustainable financing, especially through multilateral processes, with a view to securing grant and concessional finance to mitigate medium-term risks; • Promote the participation in the Digital Solidarity Fund. • Promotion of PPP on national and regional basis.
	4. Create incentives for foreign investments and coordinate its usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop financial and infrastructure risk management plans. • Address key issues such as: incentives for investors: e.g. low interest rates, risk guaranties, risk reduction and mitigation, financing risky and less profitable projects; financing strategic infrastructures like regional IXPs, submarine cable projects, ... etc; • Awareness and mobilization of African Diaspora to finance regional Telecom/ICT projects.
	5. Promote the development of domestic finance by providing support to local entrepreneurs and investors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote micro-financing mechanisms to incorporate small, medium and domestic investor in the Telecom/ICT development process. • Establish Telecom/ICT business incubators.
	6. Develop innovative approaches for the creation and management of universal access/service funds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct studies and implement pilot projects.
	7. Increase awareness, mobilization, coordination and efficiency on regional continental and international initiatives and projects for Telecom/ICT development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set sound procedures to mobilize and coordinate the use of domestic and foreign direct resources for regional Telecommunications and infrastructures projects;

ANNEX 3 –Implementation Planning

Activities	Year 2008								Year 2009												Year 2009				
	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	
1 CIT Ministers Conference	—																								
2 Finalize and translate reports of the study by incorporating comment of Experts Meeting	—	—																							
3 Organize regional workshops					—	—	—	—																	
4 Mobilize Financial Resources and set Institutional structures			—	—	—	—	—	—																	
5 Implement Programme of Action approved by CIT Ministers Conference			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 Carry out priority studies approved by CIT Ministers Conference				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

ANNEX 4 –Budgetary Estimates for the Implementation

Activities		Units	Quantity	Unit Price (in US\$ 000)	Total Cost (in US\$ 000)
I. Conduct Priorities studies and support the RECs in preparing their Regional Plan of Action for harmonization of Policies and regulation					
1.1	Ten (10) part-time consultants (for total duration of eight (8) months over two (2) years	Man x months	10 X8	6.5	520
1.2	Missions to the RECs;				
	Transport	Unit	4 x 2 x 10	1.5	120
	Mission allowance	Man x Day	50 x 10	0.18	90
1.3	Incidentals: Computer consumables, documents translation and reproduction				20
Sub-Total: I					750
II. Coordination and Management Activities					
2.1	Periodic meetings of the RECs	Units	3 Meeting x 2 years	30	180
2.2	Meetings of the 10 Consultants at AUC Head Quarters (Addis Ababa)	Units	3 Meeting x 2 years	20	120
Sub-Total: II					300
III. Support to the RECs/Consultancy					
3.1	Support to RECS to Evaluation of existing policies and formulation of new policies based on the Reference Framework recommended above	Lump sum	8 RECs	500	4,000
Sub-Total: III					4,000
Total I+II+III					5,050
Contingencies and incidentals					250
Grand Total (in US \$ 000)					5,300