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**PART I:
INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES AND POSTS**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) are important Organs of the African Union (AU). They were established under Article 25 of the African Economic Community Treaty (the Abuja Treaty). With the transformation of the OAU into the AU, the STCs were included in the Constitutive Act of the African Union under Articles 14 to 16.
2. The STCs are expected to work in close collaboration with the various departments of the Commission so as to provide well-informed inputs in their areas of specialization to the work of the Executive Council. They should also, be involved in monitoring program development and implementation by the AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
3. Therefore, the operationalization of the STCs becomes imperative, given the overall objective of accelerating continental integration and the importance attached to the effective implementation of programs and projects of the Union. To this end, the Assembly of the Union adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) reconfiguring the existing STCs and creating one on Communication and Information Technologies called Committee on Communication and ICT (CCICT).
4. The CCICT meets on a biennial basis. Its main activities and objectives are the following:
 - (i) Approve projects and programs of the Union; on Communication and ICT;
 - (ii) Ensure the supervision, follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of adopted programs and decisions taken by the organs of the Union;
 - (iii) Ensure the coordination and harmonization of projects and programs of the Union on Communication and ICT;
 - (iv) Carry out any other functions assigned to it for implementation of the provisions of the African Union Constitutive Act;
 - (v) Support resources mobilization and capacity building for the implementation of projects and programs on Communication and ICT
 - (vi) Oversee the promotion, co-ordination and the strengthening of Communication and ICT programs for economic growth of Africa;
 - (vii) Promote public investments on Communication and Information Technologies infrastructure, services and applications;
 - (viii) Approve frameworks for the harmonization of policies and regulations in the Continent.
5. The second CCICT-2 is scheduled to take place on 20-24 November 2017 at the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

SECTION I:
PROGRESS REPORTS

**Report of the CITMC Outgoing Bureau
Doc-01/Bureau-Rpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017**

6. The Outgoing Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (Bureau-CICT) Chaired by the Republic of Mali¹ held its Ordinary Meeting on 28 April 2016 at AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, and considered the following:

- Overview of the Rules of Procedures of the STC-CICT;
- Decision of the Executive Council meeting, January 2016, on the report of the first STC-CICT, held 31 August -04 September 2015, in Addis Ababa;
- Consideration and adoption of the report and recommendations of the Assembly of Users of the Pan African e-Network (PAeN);
- Consideration and adoption of the Action Plan for implementing Declarations and Decisions on Communications & Information Technologies (CIT) adopted by African Union Organs;
- Consideration of the AU Draft Declaration on Internet Governance.

7. The outcomes are as follows:

The Bureau took note of (i) AU Plans and projects of the Communication sub-sector, as well as the AU Communication and advocacy Strategy 2014-2017, AU Branding Campaign, the Communication Strategy for Agenda 2063 and the media initiatives, (ii) Progress made in implementing the decisions namely the consideration by the STC of Finance and Economic affairs of the Reports on Financial inclusion, addressing and electrification of Post Offices in rural areas, (iii) the outcome of the meeting of the Assembly of Users of the Pan African e-Network and (iv) the following decisions:

- Request to the AU Commission to amend the Rules of Procedure in order to enhance the role of the Bureau between consecutive sessions of the STC; the work is in progress.
- Amendment to Article 12 to accommodate the Working Languages of the AU, as follows: “The working languages of the Assembly of Users are the official languages of the African Union namely English, French, Arabic and Portuguese. However, in case of financial constraints / limitations, English and French will exceptionally be used as working languages “
- Further request to the AU Commission to make extra efforts to allocate funds from the regular AU 2017 and 2018 budgets especially for activities related to Cybersecurity, Internet Governance, Dot Africa and e-Strategies
- Convocation of an Extraordinary STC session on Internet Governance and Cybersecurity in 2016. Due to various circumstances, this decision could not be implemented.
- Expression of concerns on the further delays encountered in the implementation of

¹ Chair of the Bureau: Mali (West Africa); 1st Vice Chair of the Bureau: Tanzania (East Africa); 2nd Vice Chair of the Bureau: Gabon (Central Africa); 3rd Vice Chair of the Bureau: Algeria (Northern Africa) and Rapporteur: South Africa (Southern Africa)

DotAfrica programme on one hand and on the US courts presiding over extra territorial matters of the continent on another hand.

8. The Bureau and the AUC organized an extraordinary session of the STC CICT on Internet Governance as stipulated by the rules of procedures. The outcomes of the extraordinary session are the report of the ministers and the final declaration on Internet Governance attached as **Annex 1a** and **Annex 1b** respectively.

9. The Chair and other members of the Bureau have played a pivotal role for implementation of activities related to ICT development notably the implementation of:

- The Pan African e-Network sustainability action plan;
- Dot Africa project;
- African Internet Exchange System project.

10. **The Ministers are invited to:**

- (i) Take note of the report of the Bureau;
- (ii) Request Member States to support the AUC to implement AU organs decisions related to Communication and Information Technologies (CIT);
- (iii) Invited Member States to largely use the DotAfrica and Axis projects outcomes;
- (iv) Further recall Member States and the Bureau on the need to attend international fora and meetings notably those related to the vital issues on Internet governance.

SECTION II:

HARMONIZATION OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)
Doc-02/IED- PRIDA/Rpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017

11. The ICT in the AU space has been characterized among other things not only by a low access to broadband services but also by a lack of harmonization of policies and regulations as well as low level of coordination of common positions on many issues of global interest. Many decisions adopted by the AU technical organs have called for better harmonization of policies and regulations² and participation in the global debates especially those related to Internet Governance (IG).

12. After many unsuccessful resources mobilization activities and following 3 years of negotiation with European Union, the AU Commission is now starting a new project – Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)- aiming at addressing the following issues:

- (i) Create and operate a collaborative pan African digital platform for harmonization of policy and regulation in Africa. This platform to be used also intensively by the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) and Regional Associations of Regulators (RARs), will among others:
 - Establish coordination mechanism among all African stakeholders
 - Develop harmonization method and tools
 - Set up evaluation and Monitoring Systems for implementation and harmonization of policy legal and regulation
 - Create African proper statistics, outlooks and reporting
 - Develop communication tools and knowledge sharing: Publications and decisions, Calendars and events, pool of expertise, sharing news and inquiries etc...
- (ii) Building African Capacity on Internet Governance (IG) and safety use of the ICT. This program shall allow permit to:
 - Enhance Africa's Involvement and Advocacy on IG
 - Develop African IGF Culture and Build the required Institutional Competence
 - Create and promote an ecosystem for the safe use of Internet for socio-economic development.

13. The Ministers are invited to:

- (i) Take note of this key initiative;
- (ii) Request Member states to promote and actively participate in the implementation of the PRIDA activities notably to participate in the capacity building programs, to contribute, use and promote the digital platform ;
- (iii) Urge Member States to provide AUC with required statistics and information to develop the PRIDA programs.

² AU reference Framework for the harmonization of Policy and regulation in Africa – adopted in 2008 by the CITMC 2 and endorsed by the Executive Counsel

Harmonized Use of the Digital Dividend Spectrum in Africa
Doc-03/IED-DD/Rpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017

14. In the emerging markets of Africa, the potential of communications technology to advance economic growth and deliver social benefits is greater than anywhere else in the world. Spectrum policy is fundamental to any effort to realize information and communication technology (ICT) growth. Thus, regulators, policymakers, and stakeholders throughout the region need to develop coherent spectrum policy frameworks that will ensure that the value of spectrum is maximized for Africa, for its member states and for all its citizens.

15. It is a well-known fact that African delegates to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) were the key drivers towards the allocation of both the 800 MHz and the 700 MHz as first and second digital dividends (DDs) at WRC-2007 and WRC-2012 respectively. Despite such efforts, Africa still lags behind other regions in releasing and assigning the dividend bands for broadband services. Due to the delay in planning and releasing the bands, Africa continues to lose potential benefits of broadband penetration that directly correlate to GDP growth.

16. In an effort to promote maximum benefits from the use of radio spectrum, in particular the digital dividends (DDs), as a scarce common resource and, as per the AU Executive Council Decision Assembly/AU/11(XIV) adopted in July 2010 calling for the harmonization and efficient management of radio spectrum at both national and regional levels, the AU Commission (AUC) commissioned in 2016 a study geared towards ensuring that Africa region as a whole maximizes the benefits from its 2007 and 2012 WRC investments in realizing the first and second digital dividends..

17. The harmonized and efficient utilization of the digital dividends spectrum will be a great opportunity for African countries to enhance the low level of broadband penetration. In taking advantage of this opportunity, governments will gain the potential to unlock economic development and consolidate the ICT market in Africa by enabling economies of scale and fostering the provision of new affordable ICT and internet based services.

18. Trends show an explosive growth in the delivery of broadband services over wireless infrastructures and the crucial role played by radio spectrum in fostering universally accessible, affordable and effective mobile broadband as an alternative to increase connectivity within African countries notably in remote and rural areas.

19. Details of the guidelines on the harmonized use of the Digital Dividends in Africa including recommended channeling plans as well as policy and regulatory guidance on the harmonized use of the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 850 MHz and 900 MHz bands are presented as Annex 2.

20. The Ministers are invited to:

- (i) Request Member States to adopt the proposed channeling plans for the digital dividends (DDs) and to use to extend possible the AUC "guidelines on the harmonized use of digital Dividends" to develop policy and regulatory frameworks for a harmonized and optimized utilization of these frequency bands across Africa.
- (ii) Further request Member States to use the digital dividends to consolidate the ICT market in Africa by enabling economies of scale and fostering the provision of new affordable ICT and internet based services.
- (iii) Urge Member States to promote the use these resources to enhance broadband penetration and provide access to rural areas and underserved populations across the continent.
- (iv) Request the AU Commission to commit budget annually for the development of harmonized spectrum policies and implementation of WRC decisions.

**Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of Postal Services in Africa
Doc-04/IED-Post-Rpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017**

21. In implementing the decision EX.CL/Dec.900 (XXVIII) Rev.1, related to the sustainable development plan of the postal services, two Ad-hoc reports on: i) Addressing and postcode systems in Africa and, ii) Electrification and Connectivity of Post offices have been submitted to the following three STCs:

- a) Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Integration
- b) Specialized Technical Committee on Public Services, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization.
- c) Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism:

22. The three STCs Decisions, resolutions and recommendations are summarized as follows:

- To prioritize and to include in national development plans the address and postcode systems as part of the infrastructure needed to increase access to basic services;
- To encourages member States implementing such projects to make the necessary political commitment, to prioritize effective internal coordination for implementation and to resolve project funding challenges prior to the start of the project;
- To integrate and/or prioritize addressing and postcode systems in national development plan and to support the implementation by the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) of its continent-wide project on address and post codes;

- To urge member States to explore multiple sources of funding, such as national budgets, universal service funds, public-private partnerships and international development partners, with a view to ensuring successful implementation of the project;
- To establish and/or to optimize addressing systems infrastructure and to improve road naming in rural areas,
- To request the AU Commission and its partners to provide political and technical support to Member States to ensure the connectivity and electrification of post offices in rural electrification programs.

23. The Committee also took note of the ongoing debates on the reform of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), considered its impact on African Postal sector Development and recommended the organization of an ad hoc meeting for further and deeper discussions.

24. The Ministers are requested to:

- (i) Take note of the progress made in the implementation of postal projects and initiatives;
- (ii) Call upon Member States to continue providing support to the postal sector development to ensure effective social, digital and financial inclusion for populations in remote and rural areas:
- (iii) Requests the PAPU Secretariat General to organize, in collaboration with the AU Commission, a special meeting on the UPU reform to develop an African Common position and submit its outcome to the meeting of the Bureau of the STC for consideration and submission to the Executive Council.

SECTION III:
MASTER PLANS

**The Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA):
Implementation Progress Report
Doc-05/IED- PIDA- Rpt/ CCICT-2/Exp/2017**

25. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is designed to close the infrastructure gap in Africa and improve access to integrated transport, energy, ICT and trans-boundary water infrastructure and networks.

26. Following the adoption of the PIDA and its implementation governance as well as the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA), by the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, the implementation of PIDA PAP was planned and done jointly between AUC, NEPAD Agency and AfDB on an annual basis.

27. All activities leading to facilitate finance mobilization, capacity building for implementation of projects are on-going. The current status of PIDA PAP effective implementation is summarized as follows:

(i) PIDA PAP in general Implementing PIDA as a whole is summarized as following:

- Organization of the PIDA Week 2016 with key recommendation to conduct the PIDA mid-term review
- The setup of the PIDA Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM) for early project preparation, using Abidjan-Lagos corridor as pilot project
- The Continental Business Network (CBN) for private sector engagement in the projects implementation
- PIDA Capacity building project to support RECs, NPCA, AUC and projects implementers with experts and trainings on infrastructure project preparation
- Development of the African Infrastructure Database (AID) and the Virtual PIDA information Centre (VPIC) for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the PIDA PAP projects
- Implementation of projects on the ground;
- Taking PIDA into account in various initiatives, programmes or agreement such as the Reference Group for Infrastructure of the JEAS Action Plan, the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) developed with UN Systems agencies to boost the AU priorities implementation, the First 10 Years Action Plan of the AU Agenda 2063.

(ii) ICT PIDA PAP

28. It is important to recall that the ICT strategies or projects to be implemented in the Priority Action Plan (PAP) are as following:

- Establishing an enabling environment
- Terrestrial Connectivity: (i) Each country to have fiber access to at least two different submarine cables by two alternate routes and for land locked countries to have guaranteed access to the coast, (ii) each country interconnected by fiber optic to all of its neighbours
- National and Regional Internet Exchange Points

29. The implementation of the ICT specific component in PIDA PAP include therefore:

- African Internet Exchange System-AXIS Project (Axis is one the main programme of ICT component of the PIDA PAP, a specific presentation will made on its implementation);
- The alternative infrastructure for ICT in transport and energy projects: Power Transmission, Rails, Trans African Highway and Smart Corridors;
- The follow up of the development of projects profile for the selected priorities ICT Fiber optics projects of the ECCAS
- Coordination with NEPAD IPPF projects preparation and formulation of new priorities such as the project "Enhancing Cyber Infrastructure Development in Africa" aiming at supporting Member States to set up cybersecurity infrastructure (Internet Exchange Points & Data Centers) and set up National CERTs in countries where they don't exist and the African CERT
- ICT projects financed and implemented under AfDB Programmes: Trans Sahara Optical Fiber Backbone, Central Africa Backbone,

30. **The Ministers are invited to:**

- (i) Commit to work with their counterparts Ministers in charge of transport and energy to ensure that ICT duct or fiber are deployed on transport and energy regional infrastructure, as alternative infrastructure, a strategy adopted in PIDA PAP implementation to speed up ICT broadband services deployment and to secure countries connectivity to submarine cable.

Strategy for Unlocking Access to Basic Infrastructure and Services for Rural and Remote Areas.

Doc-06/IED- Rural Access-Rpt/ CCICT-2/Exp/2017

31. Overall, African continent is by all measures the least endowed region of the developing world in infrastructure, even compared to low and middle-incomes countries in other regions of the world.

32. Rural areas with 60% of the Africa's population bear the brunt of the lack of infrastructure:

- Only 34 % of African rural population live within two km of rural road, compared to 90% in East Asia;
- Urban and rural electrification rates are 71% and 28%, respectively;
- On water supply and sanitation, the rate of access to drinking water in rural areas varies from one country to another. Rates of 23% and 99% were observed
- it is estimated that 15% of the crop produce is lost between farm gate and the consumer because of poor roads and inappropriate storage facilities
- Regarding ICT, available data do not provide information on internet penetration in rural areas. However, the situation should not be better since, as per recent literature, the majority of countries have Internet penetration of less than 10%.

33. This results from:

- Failure to take into account rural areas in designing projects. e.g.: electricity, paths and roads, communities' center, water reservoirs for surrounding villages on both sides of gas pipeline, highway, optic fiber line...
- the non-inclusion of surrounding villages development in financing agreements like environmental impact;
- Lack of defined plan or coordination leading to smooth; implementation of several projects at the same time or on a given period
- Infrastructure in general and particularly rural infrastructure is as public sector issue due to the supremacy of financial approach to the detriment of economic of investment in infrastructure;
- Private sector disinterest in investing in infrastructure and moreover in rural infrastructure given the lack of profit.

34. The concept of unlocking access to basic infrastructure and services for rural and remote areas is designed to reverse the trend. It consists of developing high level strategic approach for efficiently implementing integrated and sustainable infrastructures and services in rural and remote areas of the continent.

35. The concept is in line with Aspiration 1 of the AU Agenda 2063 namely A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development and Goal 1 "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and

foster innovation and mostly Goal 10 reduce inequality within and among countries of the SDGs.

36. The Overall objective of the concept is to design, plan and implement basic Infrastructure projects (Energy, Water, ICT and transport) in an integrated manner with a view to:

- Empower communities to contribute to Infrastructure development
- Develop collaborative / shared Economies in the digital era
- Develop sound strategic Policies
- The benefits are:
 - Cost effectiveness
 - Socio-economic impacts
 - Accelerated integration of the continent

37. The Guiding Principles are as follows:

- Basic Infrastructure projects (Energy, Water, ICT and transport) should be conceived, planned and implemented in an INTEGRATED manner.
- Each subsector of Basic Infrastructure would support other ones hence all resources will be optimized
- Routes of Basic Infrastructure must be optimized to cover as much as possible remote and rural areas
- Every major Infrastructure project must factor how to provide access to Rural and Remote (R&R) areas and the authorities should contribute to facilitate/promote this principle
- Policies should be adopted to stimulate investments in R&R areas
- Exploring innovative financial mechanism with focus on PPP is a key factor for success
- A coordination mechanism including the ONCE POLICY” and the “EMPOWERING OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES” should promote and enhance National/Regional/International programs.

38. **The Ministers are requested to:**

- (i) Welcome the initiative towards the development of an integrated approach to Unlocking Access to basic infrastructure and Services for Rural and Remote Areas;
- (ii) Call upon the AU Commission to prepare a strategy paper for this approach
- (iii) Invite the partners notably Regional Economic Communities (REC), AfDB and UNECA to support the Approach.

SECTION IV:

INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND CYBERSECURITY ISSUES

The Africa Internet Governance Forum (Af-IGF)
Doc-07/IED- AfIG/Rpt/ CCICT-2/Exp/2017

39. The Africa Internet Governance Forum (Af-IGF) was launched in 2011 and held its inaugural meeting in Cairo in September 2012. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Af-IGFs were held in Nairobi, Abuja, Addis Ababa and Durban respectively.

40. Regional and sub-regional IGFs are the building blocks of the Af-IGF. Currently all the 5 AU geographical regions have IGFs but not all member states have national IGFs. In line with the CITMC-4 Khartoum Declaration, the AUC and NEPAD Agency have been working to encourage RECs *‘to support the establishment of national IGF to create dialogue between all stakeholders on ICT for development issues and facilitate the countries' participation in the regional and African IGF processes as well as in the global IGF’*.

41. The African Union Commission as a Secretariat of the African IGF is planning the 6th AfIGF 2017 that will take place from 4 to 6 December 2017 in Cairo, Egypt.

42. The African Union Commission is working on a large scale capacity building initiative on IG to enable African stakeholders to actively participate in the Global IG debates.

43. **The Ministers are invited to:**

- (i) Encourage Member States, that have not yet done so, to accelerate the establishment of their national IGFs;
- (ii) Encourage Member States to commit technical and financial resources to support national and regional IGF;
- (iii) Encourage Member States to support the Organization of the African IGF as the continental multi-stakeholder vehicle for Africans to reach common positions on IG matters.
- (iv) As such, call for the institutionalization and funding of the Forum as a key annual Conference for Africans to discuss internet development on the Continent and pursue mainstreaming of Digitalization into African policy development.
- (v) To set up and promote an African Union Academia on Internet Governance to build capacity in IG especially among youth
- (vi) Request the AU Commission to commit budget annually for the organization and support of the Annual African IGF and Internet Governance Academia

Cyber Security
Doc-08/IED- Cybersecurity /Rpt/ CCICT-2/Exp/2017

44. The importance of the Internet and Information & Communication Technologies (ICTs) as effective tools for achieving socio-economic growth is widely recognized by governments, financial institutions, and development partners. As the continent increasingly rely on digital infrastructure to perform its essential functions such as the delivery of e-services, issues related to cybersecurity are emerging hence the need for African countries to urgently address them in order to enable their citizens to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by ICTs.

45. To address these issues of cybersecurity and despite the many challenges to mobilize resources and implement comprehensive African cybersecurity programs, the AU Commission implemented the following activities in cooperation of partners:

- (i) Report on “Cybersecurity and Cybercrime trends in Africa” prepared in collaboration with Symantec and US Department of State within the framework of the “Global Forum on Cybersecurity Expertise”
- (ii) Guidelines on Internet Infrastructure Security for Africa prepared in collaboration with Internet Society (ISOC)
- (iii) The AU Malabo Convention Toolkit: To facilitate domestication and implementation of the AU Convention on Cybersecurity and personal data protection” also known as The “Malabo Convention
- (iv) Contributions to workshops on Cybersecurity, Cybercrime and Electronic evidence organized respectively by US Department of State and Counsel of Europe.

46. Three years after its adoption by the Heads of State, the Malabo convention has been signed by 9 countries and ratified only TWO. In addition there is a very low rate of Cyber policy, Cyber strategy and cyber legislation adopted in the continent. This makes the Cybersecurity in the continent very challenging especially with regard to Cybercrime and Personal Data Protection.

47. **The Ministers are invited to:**

- (i) Request the AU Commission to dedicated appropriate resources for the implementation of a comprehensive Cybersecurity programs including assistance to AU Member states to adopt cyber strategies and Cyber legislations and to establish CIRT/CERT ³
- (ii) Request the AU Commission and the AU Member States to provide all necessary resources to speed up the ratification of the AU the Malabo Convention
- (iii) Urge AU Member states to take stock of the provisions of the Malabo Convention, the Budapest convention and the Guidelines on Internet Infrastructure Security for Africa (Annex 3) prepared in order to promote a safer African Cyberspace.

³ Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) and or Computer Emergency Response Team (CERTs)

(iv) Direct the AU Commission to: (i) Form an Africa Cyber Security Collaboration and Coordination Committee (ACS3C) to advise AUC and policymakers on Cyber strategies (ii) draft guidelines on Personal Data Protection, (iii) Organize yearly an AU Conference on Cybersecurity in collaboration with Industry and Academia and (iv) to establish a continental Cybersecurity awareness month.

SECTION V:

SPECIFIC INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

**The Pan African e-Network (PAeN) for Telemedicine and Tele-education
Doc-9/IED- PAeN- Rpt/ CCICT-1/Exp/2017**

Background

48. The Pan African e-Network (PAeN) is connecting 48 Member States of the AU by satellite network (within Africa) and fiber optic cables (India to Africa) and is providing namely Tele-education and Tele-medicine services and diplomatic communications (VVIP services). This project was funded, implemented and operated (for 8 years) by the Government of India at an estimated budget of 150 Million USD with the Assistance from AUC.

49. It is to recall that the AU Commission responsibilities as per the signed Memorandum of Understanding in 2005 are notably to: (i) Facilitate the implementation of the network, (ii) Prepare a take-over plan for the management and operation of the Network at the end of the technical and financial assistance of the Indian Government.

Achievements

50. Up to 150 VSAT terminals have been installed in 48 AU Member States participating in the Network and the Satellite Hub Earth Station has been installed in Dakar (Senegal). A total of: (i) 21 280 students enrolled from 39 participating countries graduate disciplines in various different Indian universities through the network; (ii) 771 Tele-medicine consultations took place; (iii) 6771 Continuous Medical Education (CME) sessions held.

Actions undertaken

51. The initial five (5) years of Indian's technical and financial assistance was planned to terminate on July 2014. At this date, the operation and maintenance of the PAeN should have been fully transferred to a managing and operating structure set up by African Parties. This, unfortunately, did not happen. The AUC and the Indian Government agreed twice to extend this financial and technical assistance. First until July 2016 and then up to 31st March 2017.

52. In 2014, the AUC recognized the PAeN as a flagship project of the first ten years Action Plan of the AU Agenda 2063. The AU Assembly adopted the decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.497 (XXII)) requesting the Commission to prepare an action plan for the sustainability of the services of the network in preparation for the handover of the ownership and operation of the Network to African Party. The recommendations of the sustainability plan have been presented two years ago at the (STC-CICT-1) held in Addis Ababa from 31 August to 4 September 2015.

53. The Assembly of Users of the PAeN and the Bureau of the STC-CICT met on April 2016 approved an arrangement for the continuity and sustainability of the services of the network and proposed a new governance structure of the PAeN for managing and operating the network after its transfer to African Parties.

54. A consultative meeting of the Assembly of Users was held in July 2017 to consider the status of the implementation of the sustainability plan and provide guidance on the way forward. Considering the end of the Indian Technical and Financial Assistance on 31 March 2017, the meeting made recommendation, among others, for the use of the satellite based network.

55. On April the AUC was notified of the Government of India decision to close down the existing satellite VSAT and Hub station operations effective from 01 July 2017. The hub station was transferred to the AUC following a hand over process held on August 2017. The outcomes of the hand over process are mainly two legal documents as follows:

- Agreement between the AUC and CIL for the Transfer of the PAeN Hub Station at Dakar, Senegal to the AU signed by AUC and TCIL;
- Agreement between the AUC and the Republic of Senegal on the PAeN Hub Station custody, following its transfer by the Government of India to African Parties, signed by AUC and Senegal Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

Conclusion

56. Given the high stakes and the value of the network as a promoter for improving education and health care on the continent and the fact that the satellite infrastructure is already installed and not to be wasted, the following options are to be considered for the future uses of this infrastructure on the RASCOM Satellite as to promote the latest:

- To continue using the PAeN for Tele Education as requested by the Assembly of user consultative meeting held on 6 July 2017 (under a management and operation by a selected existing entity or a Cooperative Entity according to Member States decision); This will require from the participating countries a contribution of 100,000 USD a year;
- Opportunities of providing news services such as :i) Build a new mass education TV dedicated to the development and promotion of Talent (DIY) and African Content to address digitalization issues, ii) Promote independent and communication (videoconferencing via the VVIP set up) among African leadership, iii) Supporting the African Virtual and e-University project, iv) Use the infrastructure to start the Pan African TV, v) supporting ongoing and new e-health projects covering nationwide, vi) sharing of African content with regard to pan-African television, accessing ICT continental and regional data statistics platforms

57. The Ministers are invited to:

- (i) To note the options proposed for future use of the PAeN satellite infrastructure
- (ii) Request the African Union Commission to present to the next bureau of the STC for approvals a project proposal on the use of this infrastructure for the Pan African Mass Education TV for Talent and content development (DIY TV) and VVIP communications
- (iii) Urge Member States to participate and contribute to the implementation of the Pan African TV for Mass Education and for Talent and Content development.

African Internet Exchange Systems (AXIS) Project
Doc-10/IED- AXIS/Rpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017

58. Africa is currently paying overseas carriers to exchange “local” (continental) traffic on our behalf. This is both a costly as well as an inefficient way of handling inter-country exchange of Internet traffic.
59. The Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly adopted a declaration that undertook to strengthen national programmes and regional cooperation for the development and interconnection of broadband infrastructures and the deployment of Regional Internet Exchange Points.
60. Furthermore the PIDA has highlighted the importance of establishment of Internet Exchange Points in its priority action plan.
61. The AXIS project aims to keep Africa’s internet traffic local by providing capacity building & technical assistance to facilitate the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXP) and Regional Internet Exchange Points in Africa.
62. Having regard to relevant AU decisions related to the AXIS project, the African Union Commission signed an agreement with the Lead Financier (Luxemburg Development Agency) to support implementation of the AXIS project funded by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and the Government of Luxembourg.
63. Capacity Building Support has been extended to the following 32 AU Member States: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic, Côte D’Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland and Togo.
64. A total of 553 participants have been awarded certificates on Technical Aspects of Setting up, Operating and Administering Internet Exchange Points.
65. Following the support of the African Internet Exchange System Project, the following fifteen Member States have since set up their Internet Exchange Points (IXPs): Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, Seychelles and Swaziland.
66. Five Regional Internet Exchange Point workshops have been held for Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, Western Africa and Central Africa.
67. Following the regional internet exchange point workshops organized in the five AU geographical regions, three call for proposals for internet exchange points to be supported to grow into regional internet exchange points have since been issued by AUC.

68. Following the three calls for proposals issued through open tendering, internet exchange points in Congo (Central Africa), Egypt (Northern Africa), Gabon (Central Africa), Kenya (Eastern Africa), Nigeria (Western Africa) Rwanda (Eastern Africa), South Africa (Southern Africa) and Zimbabwe (Southern Africa) have so far been awarded grants to become regional internet exchange points.

69. The following grant amounts are yet to be allocated after the three call for proposals;

- Western Africa (US\$ 150,650)
- Northern Africa (US\$ 170,000)
- A final call for proposals has been issued for the unallocated amounts

70. With the support of the AXIS project, regional ICT cross-border interconnection policy & frameworks have been developed for Central, Southern, Western and Northern Africa. EAC cross-border interconnection regulations were also developed with the support of the AXIS project.

71. Capacity building was also extended to Internet Service Providers to grow into Regional Internet Carriers.

72. **The Ministers are invited to:**

Commend the efforts made by the African Union Commission to implement the African Internet Exchange System project.

Dot Africa
Doc-11/IED- DotAfricaRpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017

73. The dotAfrica (.africa) Top Level Domain (TLD) was proposed as a new generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) for the promotion of Africa business, peoples and culture on the Internet. It is a real illustration of the integration of the continent in that it enables Africa to have its own Digital Identity;

74. The Dot-Africa Top Level Domain has been delegated by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to the ZA Central Registry (ZACR) on 15 Feb 2017; On 15 February 2017 at exactly 14:58:59, the first .Africa domain name extension (www.nic.africa) was added to the root zone managed by the Public Technical Identifiers (PTI);

75. The AUC, ZACR and the Internet community in Africa can finally start working towards establishing a world class domain name registry operation for the dotAfrica Top Level Domain (TLD) for the benefit and pride of Africa;

76. The delegation also paves the way to start the process for the creation of the dotAfrica Foundation as an alternative source of funding that will oversee various developmental projects and initiatives related to Internet development in Africa;

77. DotAfrica completed its Sunrise operation period in June 2017 and that 1003 premium names were approved. We have met 80% of our target for this Sunrise period in terms of number and quality of applicants. Compared to what has been done in the past by other domains during launching period, we are among the top 10 in the World;

78. The Land Rush phase (2nd phase) has also been completed and effective 04 July 2017 the domain name was available to the general public. The milestone of 4th of July means that on that day and beyond anyone can have (purchase) any domain name he/she wishes -provided it is available (not reserved or already bought by someone)- on a first-come-first-served basis;

79. Since April 2017, the African Union Commission has been consistently requesting African Governments to protect domain names of geographic, economic, cultural, religious and linguistic values and of public interest through the process of the Government Reserved Names List (GRNL). This reserved name list will also allow governments to guard against offensive names on the basis of race, ethnicity, political association, gender, culture ...etc in order to prevent abusive registrations;

80. People usually get confused because they are used to the three or two letters domain such as: .com, .int, .org etc... Our .africa domain name is at the same level as those ones. Before our initiative, Asians got .Asia (Dot Asia), the Europeans preferred eu (Dot EU - not .europa). Africa is the second in the world with such geographic Top Level Domain Name. For instance, pretty soon you will see our website reflected in one of the following domain names: www.africanunion.africa; www.african_union.africa; or www.auc.africa;

81. In the next few weeks, the team will be working with MIS and Communication departments to prepare a dotAfrica migration plan to be considered by the AUC ICT Advisory Committee for final proposal to AUC management;

82. An awareness campaign (Dot Africa Road show) within the continent has commenced during January Summit and will finish by the January 2018 Summit. It is intended to encourage African people and businesses to use the DotAfrica TLD.

83. The Ministers are requested to:

- (i) Note the delegation of **dotAfrica** domain name is an example of Africans from all walks of life working together to achieve a common goal and that Africa has now its own Digital Identity;
- (ii) Urge Member States who have not yet nominated focal points for dotAfrica Reserve Name List (RNL) to do so.
- (iii) Urge African Governments to redeem their Government Reserved Names List (GRNL) as per the GRNL policy;
- (iv) Urge Member States to actively participate in DotAfrica Road Show awareness campaign within the continent;
- (v) Urge Member States to start using dotAfrica domain names.

PART II
INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES

AU Communication and advocacy Strategy 2014-2017
Doc-12/DIC- Com StrategyRpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017

84. The DIC elaborated the second communication strategy for the AU (2014 -2017) that took into account the pressing need of popularization and enhancing the visibility of the organization.

85. The communication strategy successfully guided the Commission's efforts in terms of providing relevant information to different stakeholders.

86. With regard to key communication activities, the DIC has worked to enhance visibility in the following areas:

- Building AU Brand Identity
 - Launch of Brand Identity and Style Guide to ensure common alignment and use of AU Brand iconography in all communication channels
 - Drafting of Communication Policy to ensure conformity with AU rules and procedures. Once the policy is approved this will ensure all staff respect the AU brand identity and are aligned to the organisation's communication procedures thus ensuring AU speaks with one voice to its stakeholders
 - Successful implementation of the 1st African Union Leadership Debate – MjadalaAfrika which allowed Africans to have a better understanding of the role of the Chairperson of the AUC as well as participate through social media
- Increased awareness of AU through use of Digital Platforms
 - Re-launch of the AU Website in 2015
 - Launch of Social Media Advertising Campaigns
 - Creation of digital platforms to popularise key programmes and projects of the Union e.g. Financing of the Union, African Economic Platform
 - Live streaming of key events to regional and global audiences
 - Increased use of Social Media platforms to send out key messages from the Union
 - To increase diaspora engagement, websites have been designed for the AUC representational offices and are awaiting final approval
- Publications
 - Production of the AU handbook yearly which aims to provide information about the AU to all stakeholders
 - Production of the AU ECHO which highlights the successful mainstreaming and implementation of AU decisions, as well as the impact of the AU in transforming African lives. All editions are guided by the annual AU theme.
- Audio-Visual (AV) Content
 - During the AU Summits, produced video content and animated creations to raise awareness e.g. From OAU to the AU Agenda 2063, Treaties of the AU, which are regularly screened at main AU events such as summits
 - Initiated long overdue project of refurbishing and purchasing new AV equipment to increase capacity to produce communication content through purchase of basic equipment as well as relocation of AU studio from old facilities in the AU Headquarters. Once the procurement process and refurbishment of the studio is finalised, the output of the improved capacity should be visible in 2018.

- Media Engagement
 - Organised two African Editors Forum in 2016 as part of efforts to work with and through the media to increase the quality and quantity of coverage of Africa's development agenda
 - Organising Africa Senior Media dialogue in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the AU and the United Nations
- Outreach
 - Conducted regular tours of the AU premises, thus opening up the AU to the African people
- Training
 - Workshop conducted for Press Attaches of Member states
 - Organising workshop for all AU communication officers. This serves to create a database of all information officers, to introduce officers to each other, understand the work of officers in different offices and regions and to ultimately harmonise all communication efforts of the AU so as to communicate as one AU
- Innovation
 - To increase AU's presence on digital platforms especially mobile, in 2017 the DIC has worked on development of the following Mobile Apps:
 - Completed: AU Summit
 - Under development AU Procurement, AU Corporate App, AU Treaties, Agenda 2063, African Economic Platform, AU Procurement,

87. In terms of new initiatives specifically aimed at supporting Agenda 2063 the DIC initiated the following activities in 2017:

- Documentary Film Production

On-going development of documentaries to enhance awareness of the work of the following departments and flagship programmes

 - Trade and Industry – Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), Commodities Strategy
 - Peace and Security - Silencing the Guns
 - Infrastructure and Energy – Grand Inga Dam Project
- These materials include video profiles of departments, fact sheets, articles for publication in major international magazines. Content was also developed for Agenda 2063, Financing of the Union, and the African Union. The remaining departments will be covered in 2018.
- DIC is also placing advertorials in regional publications with wide reach the following topics
 - Silencing the Guns, Agenda 2063, African Union, CFTA, Single African Air Transport Market, Commodities Strategy, AU Reforms, AU Financing, African Economic Platform

88. In terms of having one aligned communication strategy, the DIC supported AU offices, specifically NEPAD / NPCA to develop their own communication plans based on the main communications strategy and guided by Agenda 2063.

89. **The Honourable Ministers are invited to:**

- (i) Commend the ongoing communication efforts, especially the new initiatives that have enhanced the Union's awareness raising and the support lent to other AU offices
- (ii) Urge to Commission to continue efforts to give the AU more communication capacity, especially the incremental setting up modern communications equipment that will enable the Commission to produce and disseminate international standard communication products as well as the right staffing level to ensure faster implementation
- (iii) Request the Commission to produce the next information and communication strategy 2018-2022.

AU Branding Campaign Doc-13/Brand/Rpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017

90. The AU branding campaign is guided by the decisions of the Assembly of the AU, including decision AU/Dec.151 (V111); and Assembly /AU/Dec.267 (XIII). Decision AU/Dec.267 (XIII) requested the Commission to take all necessary measures to reproduce the new flag with all the islands represented, distribute it to all Member States and popularise it among partner countries and other parts of the world;

91. In this respect, the following was done:

Updating the AU flag

- After Morocco joined the AU in January 2017, the flag was amended to reflect the 55 member countries.
- The branding campaign, under the slogan "I am African I am the African Union" is ongoing. It features the AU flag.
- At the first STC CCICT held in 2015, the ministers committed themselves to join efforts to enforce the visibility of the symbols and image of the AU at national levels.
- In this regard, the AUC has undertaken the following tasks to popularise the AU logo and key messages:

Ensuring a common understanding of the significance of the AU Emblem and Developing a Brand Style Guide

- The Commission identified that there were many numerous interpretations of the AU emblem as well as abuse through individual redesign of the emblem to suit individual initiatives resulting in misrepresentation and incongruence as relates to AU iconography.
- DIC undertook to ensure that there is a common understanding of the significance of the various elements of the AU emblem and these should correctly applied at all times. logo of the AU and is taking measures to ensure it is popularised among staff members. The campaign on the emblem was also extended to social media

advertising to create a common understanding by African's on the significance of the emblem of their pan-African organisation.

- A comprehensive Style Guide has also been developed to ensure correct execution in various communication elements.

Launch of the Know the AU Campaign

Being cognisant of significant role social media can play in popularising a brand. The Know the AU Campaign was rolled out on social media to ensure a wider reach as well as awareness of the AU and its activities

Producing and distributing promotional merchandise and visibility material

- Billboards – Placement of AU billboards in Addis Ababa during summits at the International Airport as well as ongoing placement in areas with high vehicular and foot traffic
- Corporate Merchandise –AU Diaries and Calendar, and branded promotional items distributed during events e.g. water bottles, wrist bands, bags,
- Site branding – production and placement of banners placed at the Headquarters to popularise the key messages of AU. These were prominently displayed during the summit of July 2017.following

92. Ongoing work includes, among others:

- Production of advertorials and documentary films to enhance awareness about the AU its mandates and Agenda 2063

93. **The Honourable Ministers are requested to:**

- (i) *Commend the efforts made AUC on AU branding, especially the amendment of the AU flag and development of a Brand Style guide*
- (ii) *Encourage the Commission to continue and enhance efforts to popularise all the activities of AU*
- (iii) *Provide guidance for improvement;*
- (iv) *Call on Member States to accept and adopt the AU branding*

Book of African Records (African Fact Book) Doc-13/Com/Rpt/CCICT-2/Exp/2017

What is the African Factbook

94. The Book of African Records (BAR), also known as the African Fact Book project is guided by the AU Pan African Vision of Agenda 2063 and Aspiration Five (5), which seeks to enhance the strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics of Africa.

95. The African Factbook will be one of the tools of communication available to build a common understanding of key facts about Africa in order to build continental pride in the history, culture, economic successes and achievements of Africans across various spheres of society. It chronicles the great work done by African people through the ages. It helps Africa to take charge of its narrative by presenting well researched and authenticated facts about where we have been and what we have done.

96. In this respect, the following was done

- In 2016, under guidance of the Chairperson's Office, the DIC worked with BAR on the correct formulation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and ensured it was signed by the AU Commission and BAR on December 8, 2016. The objective of the MoU is to collaborate in the publication, on a yearly basis, of The African Factbook, which shall contain useful facts about Africa and the African peoples for the purpose of information dissemination, education, entertainment, reference, statistics and documentation.
- July 2016- press conference on the book of African Records at 27th Summit of the AU in Kigali, the first edition of the FactBook was presented to all African Heads of State and Government at the Rwanda summit
- July 2016- the FactBook was presented to then AUC Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.
- On 24 August 2016, the DIC visited BAR in Harare for purposes of familiarization with the implementation of the MOU signed with the AUC in Dec 2016 and to get a first-hand appreciation of the work in progress. The outcome was a report that contained proposals which are being discussed before implementation.

Future goals

97. The AU Commission will continue to execute its responsibilities under the MoU, which include article 3 i.e. Promoting the Africa FactBook among member states of the African Union.

98. The Honourable Ministers are requested to:

- (i) Commend the work done by the AU Commission to implement Agenda 2063, through the production of the Africa Fact Book
- (ii) Urge all member states to adopt the Africa Fact Book as an educational tool, to enhance their knowledge of and pride in Africa
- (iii) Request the AU Commission to continue its cooperation with BAR, under the MOU, to produce more editions of the book and in more AU working languages, in order to build common understanding of key facts about Africa in order to build continental pride.

**PART III
CONTRIBUTION
FROM THE
PARTNERS**

PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION (PAPU)
Doc-15/PAPU-Input/CCICT-2/EXP/2017

Status of Implementation of the "Electrification and Connectivity Project of Post Offices in Africa".

99. You may recall that the following countries were identified to participate in the project as pilot countries: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

100. In order to assess the level of implementation of the project by the pilot Member States, the General Secretariat of PAPU carried out an evaluation exercise via questionnaires which were sent out to them on 7th March, 2017. Only three countries responded to the questionnaire by the due date of 24th March, 2017, as follows:

- Burundi-The five pilot post offices have fully been electrified using solar energy and connection to the national grid. Moreover, all of them have been connected to internet through optic fibre. The government has included the project in her national development plan in line with Declaration No AUISTC-CICT-1;
- Uganda- Although Uganda has identified sources of funding in line with Resolution AUC-L10, she has not yet included the project in her national development plan in line with Declaration No AUISTC-CICT-1. She has to connected five pilot post offices, namely Lira, Gulu, Kakira, Iganga and Soroti to the national grid and has managed to prepare the offices in line with the consultant's' report;

101. Future plans are to increase the number of offices participating in the project. The offices will be called Community Communication Centres. The Designated Operator and Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) are currently holding discussions regarding possible funding for the additional offices.

- Tanzania-The five (5) pilot offices in Tanzania are connected to the national grid. Due to power interruptions, Tanzania floated a tender for solar power for back up purposes. Evaluation of the tender has already been done.

102. All the offices have internet services except one as follows:

- Muheza- Broadband connectivity;
- Mwanga-Vodacom mobile connectivity;
- Monduli- Vodacom Mobile connectivity;
- Magenge-Satelite through Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL).

103. As a result of these developments, the following services have been introduced:

- Pension payments for National Social Security Fund (NSSF);
- Payment of examination fees for Government Secondary Schools;

- Offer of banking services as an agent of one bank called CRDB at Monduli Post Office

Recommendations

104. The honorable Ministers are kindly requested to:

- (i) Take note of the work done so far by the three Member States that responded so far;
- (ii) Urge all Member States in the pilot project to uphold their commitment towards the successful implementation of the project made during the 1st African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Information and Communication Technologies (STC-CICT) meeting held in Addis Ababa from 31st August to 4th September, 2015;
- (iii) Urge, in particular all the Countries in the pilot project to explore multiple sources of funding for the project as well as ensure its rapid implementation to ultimately accelerate socio-economic inclusion;
- (iv) Call upon all other interested African governments to incorporate the project into their national development plans and explore multiple sources of funding for this important project aimed at leveraging the postal networks to foster socio-economic development in Africa.

SECTION VII:

**STC GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION, POPULARIZATION AND
PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FOR A**

Coordination mechanism
Doc-16/Coordination/Rpt/CCIT-2/Exp/2017

Coordination of CIT Programs

105. The necessity of coordination, cooperation and harmonization of policies, regulation and programs are encompassed in the major fundamental African Union document:

- Article 15 of The Constitutive Act of The African Union which has been signed and ratified by the 54 African countries
- The Treaty Establishing The African Economic Community known also as Abuja Treaty: Article 3, 4, 28,62, 63 and 64

106. To implement the above decisions for the benefit of the integration of the continent and to fulfill its Mandate, the African Union Commission signed a MoU with 7 RECs out of 8 and with specialized institutions (SI). The Executives of these RECs (Presidents, Secretary Generals) meet with the Chairperson of AUC prior to each African Union (AU) summit and discuss issues related to the development and integration of the continent.

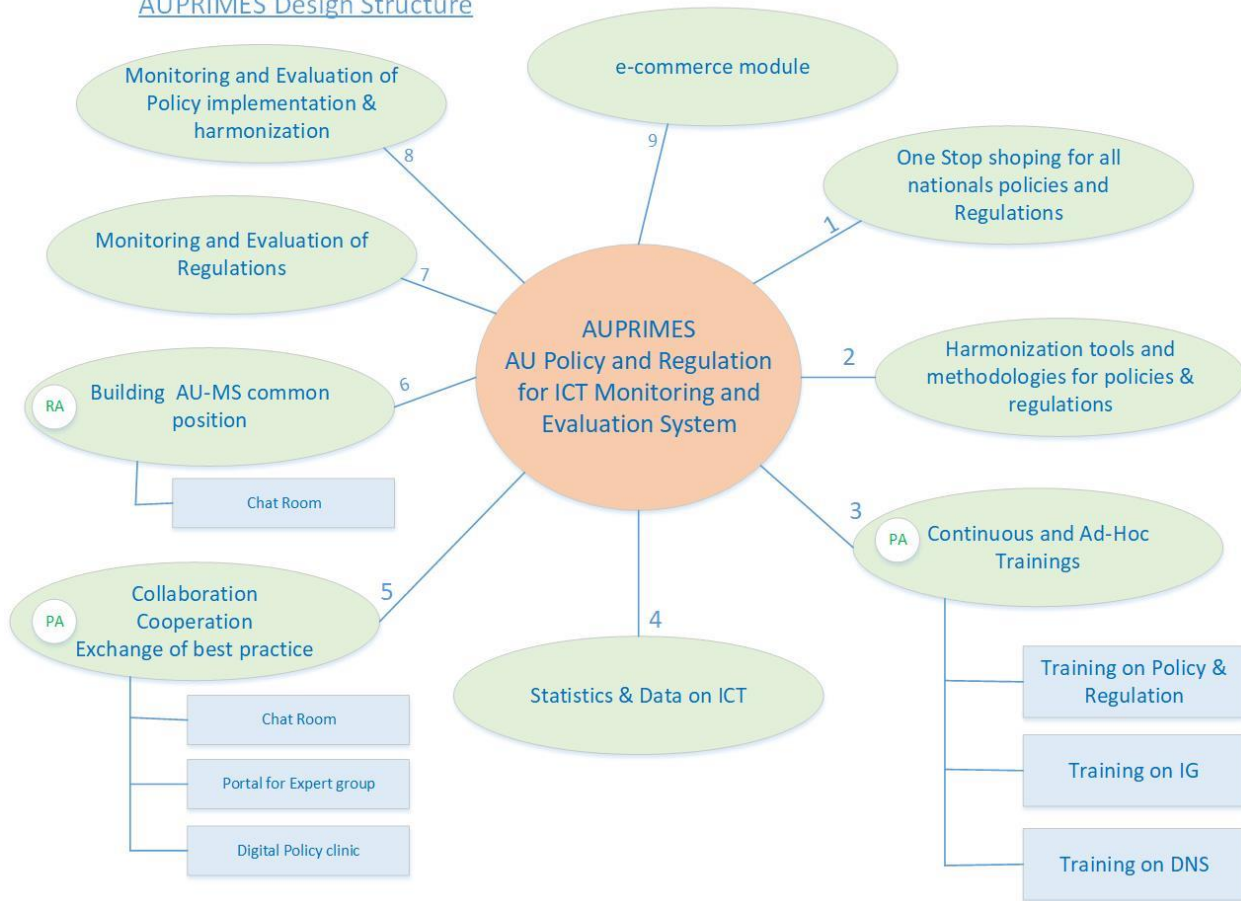
107. The 2012 Khartoum Declaration requested “The AUC, NPCA, RECs, Specialized Institutions (SI), AfDB and UNECA TO SET UP a coordination mechanism taking into account the existing Institutional Architecture, and TO MEET annually on rotational basis in different regions of the Continent to harmonize their programs”

108. The mechanism has been set and the majority of the stakeholders met since every 6 months (Lisbon Dec 2012, Nairobi Mai 2013, Addis Ababa Dec 2013, and Mauritius May 2014, Luxemburg 2015, Addis Ababa 2016, Abidjan 2017). We have been using opportunities provided by the AXIS steering committee and other partner’s event (e.g. IST Africa and Euro-Africa ICT Forum) to organize and fund these meetings.

109. The meetings are becoming the platform for sharing of information and common approach on the development of the continent among the major CIT stakeholders within the regional institutions. We are now enhancing the integration process of the continent and the role and responsibility of each entity. Unfortunately AXIS is finishing in 2018 and some of our partners are not in a position to help in funding the meetings. We will certainly face the funding of the meetings. It has been agreed among the different stakeholders that each of them will fund and host once a year the coordination meeting.

110. In addition to the yearly physical meeting, an objective was set to seize the opportunity of PRIDA project ii) to have more e-meetings and more interaction, ii) to build the digital planform to support coordination and exchange of knowledge and information

AUPRIMES Design Structure



111. The Ministers are invited to:

- (i) Commend the establishment of the coordination mechanism and invite all CIT stakeholders to contribute to its activities and meetings;
- (ii) Request RECs and Specialized to fund and host the yearly coordination meeting.
- (iii) To speed up the setting of the digital platform of coordination

Progress report on the Africa's Participation in International events
Doc-17/Fora/Rpt/CCIT-2/Exp/2017

112. Recall the decision adopted by the CITMC-4, meeting with officials on the nomination of the officers to participate/coordinate in the meetings as appropriate. None of this happened. Recall weak Africa's presence/ participation in the dialog etc.

113. The following International forums are scheduled for the last quarter of 2017 and 2018:

- UPU 27th Congress to be held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in Summer 2018;
- ITU Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in Dubai from 29 October to 16 November 2018 where ITU Officials will be elected;
- ICANN meetings;
- Global IGF meeting in Mexico in 2018

114. The ministers are requested to:

- (i) Urge Member States to fully participate in the international and regional meetings related to Posts and ICT- mainly ITU, UPU, ICANN, ATU, PAPU, GIGF and RECs meetings and recall the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec984 (XXXI) on African candidatures within the International System;
- (ii) Further urge each Member of the CCICT Bureau to appoint an officer to participate and coordinate Africa's and / or their region contributions to the meetings above;

ANNEXES

1. Report of Bureau and Steering Committee
 - 1a-Report of the Extra-ordinary Session of the STC
 - 1b-Declaration on Internet Governance
2. Guidelines on the Harmonized Use of the Digital Dividend in Africa
3. Guidelines on Internet Infrastructure Security for Africa