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Connect Africa Summit
Outcomes Report

The *Connect Africa Summit* took place in Kigali, Rwanda, 29–30 October 2007, and gathered some 1036 participants from 54 countries, including six Heads of State and Government. Forty-three countries in Africa were represented, including 23 at the Ministerial level. Some 20 industrial leading companies also participated, along with development banks, international organizations and other stakeholders.

The Summit was held under the patronage of the President of Rwanda, Mr Paul Kagame, as well as the Chairman of the African Union and President of Ghana, His Excellency, Mr John Kufuor, represented by Professor Alpha Konaré, Chairman of the African Union Commission. It was organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the African Union, the World Bank Group and the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development, in partnership with the African Development Bank, the African Telecommunication Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Global Digital Solidarity Fund.

Following an Opening Ceremony, the Heads of State and Government present, including Rwanda, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Malawi and Senegal, addressed participants in a special session, each outlining their vision for the Summit and pledging their full support to the Connect Africa initiative. Then, over the course of two days, delegates participated in a series of interactive sessions (http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/connect/africa/2007/summit/programme.html) debating issues related to the themes of broadband ICT networks, rural connectivity, capacity-building, applications and services, and an enabling environment. Expert overview papers were presented at each session.

The primary aim of the Summit was to mobilize the human, financial and technical resources required to bridge major gaps in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure across the continent, with the aim of supporting affordable connectivity and applications and services to stimulate economic growth, employment and development throughout Africa. In doing so, the Summit will help accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and in turn, support the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015 in Africa, building on and reinforcing existing activities, such as the flagship initiatives of the African Union Ministerial Conference on CIT (as per the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy - ARAPKE), as well as the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan programmes and others on the continent.

Connect Africa Summit Goals

To reinforce the need to accelerate the implementation of the WSIS targets, the Summit programme was framed around five goals, which reflect the challenges and opportunities in the Africa region. These Goals were endorsed earlier by Ministers and experts from African administrations (see Annexes 1 and 2):

- **Goal 1:** Interconnect all African capitals and major cities with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthen connectivity to the rest of the world by 2012.

- **Goal 2**: Connect African villages to broadband ICT services by 2015 and implement shared access initiatives such as community tele-centres and village phones.

- **Goal 3:** Adopt key regulatory measures that promote affordable, widespread access to a full range of broadband ICT services, including technology and service neutral licensing/authorization practices, allocating spectrum for multiple, competitive broadband wireless service providers, creating national Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and implementing competition in the provision of international Internet connectivity.

- **Goal 4:** Support the development of a critical mass of ICT skills required by the knowledge economy, notably through the establishment of a network of ICT Centres of Excellence in each sub-region of Africa and ICT capacity-building and training centres in each country, with the aim of achieving a broad network of inter-linked physical and virtual centres, while ensuring coordination between academia and industry by 2015.

- **Goal 5:** Adopt a national e-strategy, including a cyber-security framework, and deploy at least one flagship e-government service as well as e-education, e-commerce and e-health services using accessible technologies in each country in Africa by 2012, with the aim of making multiple e-government and other e-services widely available by 2015.

Summit Commitments

To help achieve the Connect Africa Summit Goals, many participants announced major commitments on the occasion of the Summit, totaling some US $55 billion, including:

- Mobile operators of the GSM Association announced US $50 billion between now and 2012 in new investment across the continent to expand and upgrade networks. This builds on more than US $35 billion invested over recent years in Sub-Saharan Africa;

- The World Bank Group announced that it expects to double its commitment to ICT in Africa to US$2 billion by 2012 from its current investment program of US$1 billion, over the last five years. The financing will continue to promote private sector participation, while supporting public private partnerships to address market gaps, with an emphasis on affordable high-speed Internet. This commitment builds on the recent announcement of the US$424 million Regional Communications Infrastructure Program for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and on the IFC financing of the Eastern African Submarine Cable Systems (EASSy), together with partners including the African Development Bank.

- The European Commission announced that the EU-Africa Partnership for Infrastructure has been established to support trans-African networks that facilitate interconnectivity. An EU Trust Fund for Africa has been established with the European Investment Bank and ten EU member states, for almost 100 million Euros in grants and some 260 Million Euros for loans for the period 2007-2008. Building on this start-up phase, the fund will be substantially replenished at the end of 2008. This fund will finance cross-border projects or national projects with a regional and continental impact in ICT, energy, water and transport. In addition, the EU announced 6 Million Euros for ITU's regulatory reform initiatives in Africa.

- The African Development Bank has scaled up its investments in infrastructure, and is expecting to invest 60% of its concessional resources on infrastructure, including ICT, in the next three years. ADB has committed close to US$65m to two key regional infrastructure projects: RASCOM and EASSy. It will continue to focus on the development of regional integration projects and private sector development through its existing instruments, including the NEPAD – Infrastructure Project Preparation Fund and Enhanced Private Sector Assistance (EPSA) Facility.

- New Centres of Excellence (in support of Goal 4) were announced by Rwanda and Tunisia (with African Development Bank). Spain also announced a 1 million Euro contribution to ITU for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Portuguese and Spanish-speaking countries in Africa, as well as ICT scholarships and internships for youth and support for ICT training centres.

- ITU and the AfDB announced that they will collaborate on interconnecting all African capitals and major cities with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthen connectivity to the rest of the world by 2012. ITU and AfDB will jointly undertake feasibility studies and develop project proposals for consideration by funding partners, including members of the Africa Infrastructure Consortium. ITU and AfDB also agreed to collaborate in assisting countries to develop policies and regulations to encourage new ICT infrastructure investments.

Additional commitments can be found at: http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/connect/africa/2007/commitments/index.html.

The co-organizers of the Summit presented a number of recommendations in each of the session background papers in order to achieve the Connect Africa Summit Goals, which participants were encourage to implement where appropriate, according to their own unique needs. Session papers can be found as part of the Summit programme at: http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/connect/africa/2007/summit/programme.html.

Tracking Progress Toward the WSIS Goals

ITU and Microsoft teamed up to launch "ITU Global View" at the Summit, an online platform (using Microsoft Virtual Earth) to showcase ICT development projects and track progress towards WSIS goals. Starting in early 2008, this platform will be hosted by ITU, but will be open to all stakeholders — governments, industry, international and regional organizations, as well as civil society — allowing users to check status, identify gaps and avoid overlap in collaborative efforts to achieve the WSIS goals.

CONNECT AFRICA MINISTERIAL MEETING
SERENA HOTEL KIGALI, RWANDA
Saturday 27 October 2007

1- INTRODUCTION

In the framework of the Connect Africa Summit, the Ministerial Meeting was held in Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda on the 26th of October 2007.

2- OPEN SESSION

The meeting was officially opened by the Hon, Eng, Albert Butare, Minister of State in charge of Energy and Communications of Rwanda, who welcomed the Ministers present. In his welcome address, he highlighted the objectives of the Kigali Summit emphasizing that it is a Multi-Stakeholder event and a Summit of Actions.

Dr. Ahmed El-Sherhini, representing the Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt, thanked the Rwanda Government for hosting the Summit and also thanked the ITU, especially the ITU Secretary-General, and other partners for organizing the Summit. He highlighted Egypt's commitments to the development of the continent, given its geographical position that allows the linkage between Africa and Middle East.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the Secretary-General of the ITU, thanked the Government of Rwanda and all Partners for their support and organizing the Summit. He also thanked the Ministers for their presence noting that the turn-out was much higher that initially expected, which shows the African Governments' commitments. He also stressed that the Summit should be an opportunity for the establishment of partnerships and promotion of investments and business opportunities. The Summit should be about action and commitments, rather than recommendations and resolutions, as there are already recommendations and resolutions from other events such as WSIS, WTDC, etc

2- REPORT FROM EXPERT GROUP MEETING

The report from the Expert Group Meeting held on 26th of October 2007 was presented by Ms. Alicia Makone, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology of Botswana, the Rapporteur of the Expert Meeting.

The report was adopted with the amendments and is attached.

3- PRESENTATIONS

3.1. The Representative of UNECA presented for the consideration of the meeting the Recommendations from the Regional workshop on ICT policies regulations, public and community-based access and Internet Governance, held in Kigali, Rwanda on the 24 and 25 October 2007.

3.2. The presentation of ongoing connectivity initiatives and projects followed, namely:

- NEPAD E-Africa Commission UHURU and UMOJA networks;
- TEAMS (The East Africa Marine Systems) Project;
- Eassy (East Africa Submarine System);
- SEACOM;
- COMESA CNS/ATN (high level air traffic control);
- Digital Solidarity Fund.

3.3 In course of discussions, opinions were expressed on the following key issues:
- the need to reduce the cost of accessing international bandwidth;
- the importance of African ownership of submarine cables;
- creation of enabling environment for investments, such as the harmonization of regulatory frameworks;
- rural connectivity, rural access and affordability;
- flexibility of the conditions by financial institutions;
- the availability of energy and possible integrated projects;
- the importance of terrestrial connectivity complementing submarine systems;
- the importance of countries to match business opportunities with development goals.

4- FINAL REMARKS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The ITU Secretary-General informed the meeting that ITU will continue to play its catalytic role in the promotion of the outcomes of the Summit and the promotion of partnerships for the achievement of the goals. Annual evaluation will be introduced: the first evaluation will take place during the forthcoming Africa Telecom 2008 to be held in Egypt in May 2008. He further requested the countries to include in their large-scale national projects the regional connectivity component.

The chairperson requested ITU to work together with Connect Africa Partners to come up with a roadmap for the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit.

EXPERT GROUP MEETING
Kigali, 26 October 2007

Introduction

In the framework of the Connect Africa Summit, an Expert Group Meeting was held in the Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda on 26 October 2007.

Opening ceremony

The meeting was officially opened by H.E.M. Albert Butare, Minister of State in charge of Energy and Communications, in the presence of Mr. Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, Director of ITU/BDT, and the Representative of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt, Chairman of the African Union Ministerial Conference on Communication Information Technology (CIT).

In his opening speech, the Minister welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Rwandan Government. He highlighted the aims and objectives of the Kigali Summit and emphasized that this Summit is a multi-stakeholder initiative which intends to accelerate the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes. He stated that there is nothing new in this Summit, rather concrete commitments by concerned countries as well as the development partners.

The Representative of the Minister of Egypt in his remarks thanked the Government of Rwanda for hosting the meeting and expressed his support to the ITU for the initiative of organizing this Summit. He also emphasized the need for African countries to adopt a coordinated approach in bridging the digital divide, and referred to the important role played by the Ministerial Conference in this regard.

Presentation of the theme and Goals of the Summit

The ITU presented the theme and Goals of the Summit on behalf of the Organizing Committee, comprising the co-organizers and the partners. After recalling the background, the presentation highlighted the main objectives of the Summit as follows:

- Global multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize the human, financial and technical resources required to bridge major gaps in ICT infrastructure in Africa;
- An inclusive process to accelerate and reinforce existing public and private sector ICT projects and investment;
- A Summit of commitments and a Summit of actions.

The presentation also laid out the following Goals of the Connect Africa Summit:

- **Goal 1:** Interconnect all African capitals and major cities with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthen connectivity to the rest of the world by 2012.
- **Goal 2**: Connect African villages to broadband ICT services by 2015 and implement shared access initiatives such as community tele-centres and village phones.

- **Goal 3:** Adopt key regulatory measures that promote affordable, widespread access to a full range of broadband ICT services, including technology and service neutral licensing/authorization practices, allocating spectrum for multiple, competitive broadband wireless service providers, creating national Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and implementing competition in the provision of international Internet connectivity.

- **Goal 4:** Support the development of a critical mass of ICT skills required by the knowledge economy, notably through the establishment of a network of ICT Centres of Excellence in each sub-region of Africa and ICT capacity-building and training centres in each country, with the aim of achieving a broad network of inter-linked physical and virtual centres, while ensuring coordination between academia and industry by 2015.

- **Goal 5:** Adopt a national e-strategy, including a cyber-security framework, and deploy at least one flagship e-government service as well as e-education, e-commerce and e-health services using accessible technologies in each country in Africa by 2012, with the aim of making multiple e-government and other e-services widely available by 2015.

In addition to the general overview presentation, the following background documents of the Summit were distributed to the participants:

1. Towards A Vision to Connect Africa
2. Broadband infrastructure in Africa
3. Extending Rural ICT access in Africa
4. Services, content and capacity-building
5. Creating an Enabling Environment for Investment

The meeting reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the above-mentioned documents and debated the five proposed Goals for the summit. The issue of financing the expected summit outcomes was also discussed, stressing the need to further explore new improvements and innovations in financing mechanisms, including those referred to in para 27 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. In this regard, the Summit should urge all stakeholders, particularly African states, to join the Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF), contribute to its financing, and implement the "1% digital solidarity contribution".

The meeting agreed on the proposed Goals of the Summit in their general terms as broad guidelines that could serve the ultimate goal of developing ICT Infrastructure in Africa. It also acknowledged that the Summit would be one of commitments and actions by development partners, UN Organs, as well as financial institutions to help African countries achieve the identified summit goals.

Conclusions and recommendations

As a result of the discussions on the presentation as well as on the background documents of the Summit, the participants agreed on the above-mentioned objectives and Goals to be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting for its consideration.