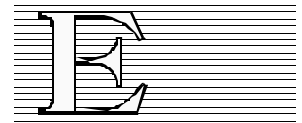




UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distribution: GENERAL

E/ECA/CODI/5/9
27 April 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth Meeting of the Committee on
Development Information (CODI V)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
29 April – 04 May 2007

**Follow-up to the World Summit on the
Information Society: Report to the Fifth Committee on
Development Information (CODI-V)**

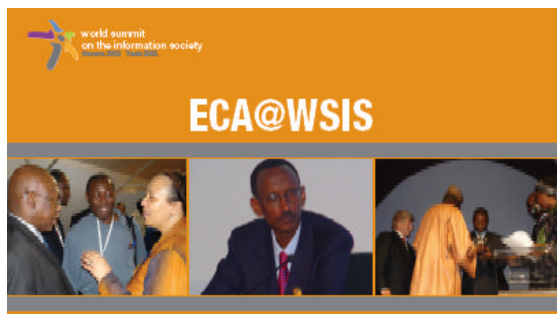
**ICTs, Science and Technology Division (ISTD)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**



Follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society

1. Summary

On 21 December 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 56/183 endorsing the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The World Summit provided a global platform where key players from Governments, United Nations agencies, the private sector, and civil society, came together to develop a common vision and a common understanding of the Information Society. It adopted a declaration and a plan of action as well as an agenda to facilitate the effective growth of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society and to help bridge the Digital Divide.



The Summit was held in two phases, the first in Geneva 10-12 December 2003 and the second phase in Tunisia 16-18 November 2005. The Geneva Phase adopted the “WSIS Declaration of Principles” and the “WSIS Plan of Action”. The Tunis Phase adopted the “Tunis Commitment” and the “Tunis Agenda for the Information Society”.

During the WSIS process, the African countries coordinated their participation through two preparatory conferences held respectively in Bamako in 2002 and Accra in 2004, which yielded the Bamako Declaration and the African Regional Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), which was adopted in September 2005, a few weeks before the Tunis Phase of the Summit.

The Geneva and Tunis documents (<http://www.itu.int/wsis>) as well as ARAPKE (<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/docs/ARAPKE%20doc1.pdf>) entrusted ECA with follow-up activities, especially through promotion and coordination of African efforts in the post-summit process and provision of support to member States to implement the WSIS decisions. In this context, ECA has organized or participated in several workshops, coordinated Africa’s participation in several forums and spearheaded finalization of ARAPKE.

This document will concentrate on the following key activities in relation to ECA’s direct involvement and participation in selected follow-up activities:

- Meetings/Workshops on Internet Governance, held respectively in Geneva, Athens, Addis Ababa and Cairo;
- Conference on Access to Information and Knowledge for Development held in Addis Ababa;
- Follow-up of selected WSIS decisions in forums organized in Marrakech and Tunis; and
- Implementation of ARAPKE.

The above activities are documented in the following chapters.

2. Internet Governance

Following adoption of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society at the WSIS held in Tunisia in December 2005, the United Nations Secretariat organized consultations on the convening of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as requested by world leaders. In Tunis, the Summit decided to keep in place existing arrangements for Internet Governance (IG) and stressed the need for a transparent, democratic, and multilateral process, with the participation of governments, private sector, civil society, international organizations and all stakeholders. It was in this context that several consultations and meetings were held and led to the first IGF



convened by the United Nations Secretary-General in Athens in October 2006 (www.intgovforum.org). It is worth noting that the mandate of the IGF was set out in Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by world

leaders at the Second Phase of the WSIS held in Tunis in December 2005.

2.1 Consultations on Internet Governance, Geneva, 15 - 17 February 2006

Objectives of the consultations

The aim of the consultations was to develop a common understanding among all stakeholders on the nature and character of the IGF. Participants discussed the IGF's scope of work, themes and priorities as well as aspects related to its structure and functioning. Participants also discussed the convening of the inaugural meeting in Greece and the priority agenda which would be addressed.

Africa's participation in the IGF consultations

Africa's participation in the consultations was limited, with only a few countries and two civil society organizations attending. Hence, in order to bridge the gap caused by the absence of African delegates, and upon the request from Ghana, which serves as Chair of the African Ministerial Committee on Information and Communication Technology (ICT), ECA played a key role among African delegates and held online consultations with major African stakeholders in order to prepare a contribution on behalf of the continent.

Conclusions from the Chair

The Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Nitin Desai concluded the event putting emphasis on the multi-stakeholder nature of the IGF, as confirmed by the consultations. He also requested further submissions from all interested parties to make written proposals on the following issues: (a) the name and possible composition of the multi-stakeholder management group; and, (b) The possible priority themes to be dealt with by the IGF. This would enable him to submit his report and recommendations to the UN Secretary-General to facilitate convening of the First Meeting of the IGF.

2.2. The First Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum

The IGF was expected to be development-oriented in order to take care of the concerns, needs and expectations of developing countries.

Themes of the first IGF

As decided by the Tunis Phase of the Summit, the overall theme of the first year of the IGF was "Internet Governance for Development", with an agenda structured along the following broad areas: (a) openness: freedom of expression; (b) free flow of information, ideas and knowledge; (c) security: creating trust and confidence through collaboration; (d) diversity: promoting multilingualism and local content; and (e) Access: Internet connectivity policy and cost.

Objectives of the first IGF

The main objective of the meeting was to enable exchange of information, experiences and best practices among various stakeholders in order to advance the Internet Governance agenda at global level, with the aim of imparting knowledge and skills to participants, especially those from developing countries.

The different themes of the meeting were discussed in panels with an innovative format of interactive questions and comments from the audience in the room and with remote participation via blogs, chat rooms, and e-mail. There were also 36 workshops held in parallel to the main sessions, which were attended by over one thousand two hundred participants.

Meeting of the African Group

ECA organized the meeting of the African Group on 1 November 2006 under the chairmanship of the Egyptian Minister of Communication, to exchange views on IG issues and discuss the way forward. The main objective of the meeting was to exchange ideas on African participation in the IGF, and post-Athens future perspectives for adequate responses to African issues.

The meeting emphasized the importance of the Forum in the IG process and the need for the continued collaboration of all stakeholders on the continent for a better synergy, underlining the fact that IG requires the participation of all actors. Participants recalled the fundamentals of the IGF itself, which is a new process to introduce dialogue on IG and emphasize the key role of the African business and industrial sectors in making the Internet a solid vector for a complete overhaul of life and living on the continent. They also believed that the IGF process would deepen understanding on issues that are of priority to Africa, such as security, spam, exchange points, privacy, freedom of expression, diversity, access, multi-lingualism, capacity-building, etc. The meeting agreed that these IG issues could only be resolved through multi-stakeholder cooperation.

At the end of the meeting, participants agreed to develop an African Road Map, which would portray the continent's IG vision for the next five years. In this context, it was agreed that

an African Forum on Internet Governance would be created beginning February 2007. This Forum would be a virtual platform for evaluation and exchange of IG initiatives. The resulting proposals of this Forum would be presented to all partners and to the ICT Ministerial Conference.

ECA agreed to establish this online discussion list.

The second IGF will be held in 2007 in Brazil, the third session will be held in 2008 in India, while the Fourth IGF will be organized by Egypt in 2009.

2.3 Training course on Internet Governance for African policy makers, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



The lack of ICT awareness among African policy makers is one of the daunting challenges of Africa's participation in the global information society. The region needs well-aware and visionary policy makers on ICT and development. This can be achieved by building the capacities of policy makers and other stakeholders that are involved in the African socio-development process.

Strengthening a mutually beneficial and sustainable relationship between policy makers and other stakeholders is essential.

It was in this context that ECA, in the framework of the United Nations Development Account, launched a series of training courses on IG for African policy makers, supported by the Diplo Foundation of Malta, the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (CePRC) and ICANN. The first training course was held 2 - 6 July 2006 in Addis Ababa.

Objectives

The main objective was to build the capacity of African policy makers to facilitate their participation in the debate on ICT for Development at the national, regional and international levels, including meaningful contribution in the IGF.

Expected impact of the training course

41. African Anglophone Permanent Secretaries, Diplomats, Directors and Advisors from 19 countries took part in the training course. It was expected that the capacity-building exercise would enable African policy makers to be aware of the ICT policy issues at all levels: national, subregional, regional and international levels.

At the end of the training, participants discussed Africa's participation in the IGF and adopted recommendations, which are presented in annex 1.

Developing online courses for policy makers



As the on-site workshop was limited to only a few policy makers from selected countries, development of online courses would be instrumental in reaching as many policy makers as needed from all the member States. Hence, during and after the training course, an online curriculum for capacity-building of African policy makers and other stakeholders on ICT policies and strategies, especially on IG was put in place. The course module was added to the African e-Learning Initiative of ECA's Information Technology

Centre for Africa (ITCA) to enable African policy makers to gain access to the online manual from their respective locations see (www.epolafrica.org/elearnafrica).

Establishment of an online discussion forum

Before the training course, an online IG discussion forum for policy makers was established to exchange views on the training activities and discuss follow-up activities after the end of the course. The address is: aisi-ig-1@dgroups.org

2.4 African Preparatory Meeting on Internet Governance, Cairo, 18-21 September 2006

As a recommendation of the IG training course for African policy makers that was held in Addis in July 2006, the Egyptian Government and ECA convened the African Preparatory Meeting on Internet Governance in Cairo.

Objectives

Organized under the title “Africa on the Road to Athens”, the aim of the meeting was to consolidate the views of African stakeholders before the Athens IGF. Over 100 Government officials, private sector, academia, civil society and international organizations operating in Africa attended the meeting.

Output of the meeting

The meeting highlighted the significant importance of capacity-building at all levels, inclusive access to the Internet as well as the security, diversity and openness of the Internet. The meeting recommended the annual convening of an African Internet Governance Forum (AIGF). In this regard, participants underscored the importance of concerted African efforts and of coordinating African stances at all levels to address the common challenges ahead. The meeting further recommended establishment of national taskforces and the inclusion of IG in all the national ICT strategies. Participants adopted a Communiqué, which is presented in annex 2. More information on the Cairo meeting is available at: <http://www.tra.gov.eg>

3. Conference on Access to Information and Knowledge for Development, Addis Ababa, 27 – 30 March 2006



The Conference was organized by ECA, in collaboration with the IFLA Government and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) and Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), to fill a big gap between the WSIS recommendations and the current state of readiness of African information and knowledge service institutions.

Objective

The main objective was to brainstorm on issues and methodology for the development of an action framework for implementing the recommendations of the WSIS in Africa in the spheres of access to information and knowledge for development in Africa.

Outcome

Over 80 librarians and information specialists, including national librarians and library association presidents, from 18 countries and 10 regional organizations took part in the conference. Eighteen presentations were made. The topics included: WSIS outcomes related to libraries, and access to information and knowledge; information access in development strategies; advocacy for effective information policies and strategies; African libraries as access centres for information and communication technologies (ICT), and local content in physical, digital, hybrid and virtual formats; freedom of access to government and inter-governmental information; access to institutional digital repositories and open access to e-content. The outcome included:



- An agreement on the relevant elements of an action framework for local, national and pan-African strategies and activities;
- The creation of a model resolution for introduction of the issues at various national political levels; and
- The formation of an action network: Access to Information Network - Africa (AINA).

The above activities will complement efforts already underway by the ECA Library through the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN), within the guidelines provided by the sub-committee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development (KLIS).

4. WSIS Follow-up Forums in Marrakech and Tunis

Funding for Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) was one of the two most important issues addressed by the participants in the Second Phase of the WSIS. One of the major breakthroughs was the agreement reached on the issue of funding mechanisms, which was the major contentious issue during the First Phase held in Geneva. However, even though the Digital Solidarity Fund was accepted as an innovative funding mechanism that complemented existing ones, there were no commitments from Governments and stakeholders in terms of contribution.

Moreover the chapters on funding mechanisms listed a series of options and challenges for closing the Digital Divide. These remain, however, at the level of recommendations, with no obligation attached. Subsequent to the last phase of the WSIS, two meetings were organized at the African level to review funding of e-strategies and make recommendations.

4.1 International Forum on Information Strategies and Investment, Marrakech, 1 – 3 March 2006



The International Forum on Information Strategies and Investment (IFISI) held in Marrakech in March 2006 is expected to be organized annually to help find solutions to the funding of national, local and corporate ICT projects by bringing together project proposers and investors.

Objectives

The goal of the 2006 forum was to enable countries and organizations to present business plans of their ICT investment projects and strategies to a varied audience of venture capitalists, private equity funds, and other capital providers. The forum was also convened to provide networking opportunities for interaction among organizations seeking capital and prospective investors. Moreover, it provided a forum to showcase ICT investment projects in the exhibition area.

The specific objectives of the forum were to:

- Present and discuss worldwide case studies of national ICT strategies with their successes and failures;
- Establish partnerships between stakeholders;
- Evaluate the development of the ICT industry in specific areas;
- Present current and future technological trends, their impact on national ICT strategies and measures to be taken to refine such strategies;
- Identify common policies and orientations;

- Facilitate networking activities between ICT initiatives and experts;
- Present ICT investment opportunities for financing to investment companies, banks, private investors, capital ventures...etc; and
- Identify key pilot projects to be financed and marketed.



Participants included ICT Ministers, Trade and Industry Ministers as well Secretaries of State, Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies, Presidents of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, senior representatives from the United Nations, the World Bank, national and international organizations, coordinators of incubators, science and technology parks and ICT start-ups.

Outputs

The organizers had reserved adequate space and appropriate rooms in the Conference centre to cater for negotiations among participants, in order to broker cooperation arrangements between funding institutions and requesting countries/institutions. In addition, during the plenary and parallel sessions, several success stories and best practices were presented to enable participants to learn from each other's activities and benefit from proven experiences.

IFISI was considered as a meeting point for ICT project stakeholders and investors. It facilitated discussions between potential investors and project recipients in the form of round tables and panels, informal discussions and an exhibition for projects and technology. Information is available at: <http://www.virtualis-net.com/ifisi/>

4.2 Tunis +1: ICT Investment in Africa, Hammameth, 26 -27 October 2006

The Government of Tunisia convened in Hammamet, Tunis, a conference entitled: "ICT4ALL, Tunis+1: ICT investment in Africa".

Objectives

The forum aimed at contributing to the discussion on policy and strategy for channel lines domestic and foreign investment in the development of Knowledge Economy in Africa, one year after the Tunis Summit.

The forum brought together more than 60 participants including five (5) Ministers, from ten (10) African countries. Also representatives of regional and international organizations, domestic and international private sector actors and civil society organizations participated in the forum.

Output

The forum was centred on the following main themes:

- E-strategies and ICT development in Africa;
- Enabling environment for ICT Development in Africa;
- Public private Partnership; and
- Opportunities for investments in ICT.

The forum was concluded by a Round Table on ICT Development Perspective in Africa.

Recommendations

At the end of the forum, participants adopted a set of recommendations including the following:

- Sustaining Tunisia's initiative in the organization of this forum « ICT4ALL» and in its commitment to make of it a periodic forum to address various questions related to ICT development in Africa;
- Promoting inter-African cooperation toward sharing experiences and creating ICT development synergies at the level of the continent, in line with the WSIS-Tunis decisions;
- Establishing an African strategy in order to sensitize the international community to the need to step up efforts for Africa and to promote investments in the ICT sector;
- Inviting donors to study the possibility of promoting regulations in order to ensure greater participation of local/regional enterprises in implementing projects they finance in African countries; and
- Promoting South-South regional cooperation at the level of techno parks as well as the mutualization and sharing of resources, in order to promote the exchange of experiences between enterprises and research institutions in various countries, and to facilitate the creation of regional multidimensional techno parks.

The forum was opportune, since the financing of the Information Society constitutes the main challenge for African countries. Many governments, looking at innovative solutions, encourage the private sector to invest in the ICT sector by providing concessions and providing a level playing field.

5. The African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)



ARAPKE was requested by a recommendation of the Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS, held in Accra, Ghana 2-4 February 2005. In addition, the Khartoum Summit of the African Union also urged the continent to develop an Action Plan on the WSIS. The above decisions prompted ECA to start working on ARAPKE.

The Action Plan is based on the “Accra Commitments for Tunis 2005” and the vision defined by both AISI and NEPAD, under the political leadership of the African Union. The Regional Action Plan was prepared to implement the WSIS recommendations for rolling out the information society on the continent over the next 10 years. With the aim of improving the life of African populations, it is expected to contribute to the realization of the MDGs and the NEPAD goals.

ECA prepared an ARAPKE draft framework, which was discussed in several meetings and circulated on various discussion lists to seek contributions and the views of stakeholders. By the end of December 2005, 89 project proposals were received from African stakeholders and regional / international organizations for inclusion in ARAPKE for funding. The Conference of African ICT Ministers held in Cairo on 20 April 2006 decided to select a limited number of projects from ARAPKE for submission to a resource mobilization conference. Following this decision, two ARAPKE meetings were convened by Egypt in September and November 2006 to adopt criteria for selection and follow-up of ARAPKE projects and to review the various project proposals. The list of selection criteria is given in annex 3.

6. Conclusions

The above activities indicate that Africa is in full motion in implementing the WSIS decisions at the regional level, especially on IG aspects. This may have been prompted by the complexity of the subject but also by the high level of commitment from African leaders during the two phases of the Summit. In addition, some countries have started mobilizing stakeholders at the national level to establish national forums on IG, which are expected to be linked at the regional level with the AIGF.

On other WSIS-related, follow-up issues, the Conference of Ministers of Communication and Information Technologies of the African Union, with the support of ECA and other partners, has put in place a Governance structure, that is expected to roll out the Information Society at all levels, in member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECS).

As the WSIS decisions were adopted at the highest level by Africa’s leaders, it is expected that CODI-V will spearhead implementation at the national level and be fully involved in subregional activities in order to monitor progress in WSIS follow-up.

Internet Governance Training Course for African Policy makers
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2-6 July 2006

Recommendations

We, the participants of the Internet governance training course for African policy makers, held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, from 2 to 6 July 2006,

Having discussed a number of issues and aspects related to Internet Governance, technical, political, social and economic;

Reaffirm the crucial developmental role of the Internet and Internet Governance, particularly for Africa, that contributes to an enabling environment for the development of our countries, to attain the development goals including the MDGs;

Recognize that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism;

Further recognize the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and in particular the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the Advisory Group (AG) on the Internet governance;

Reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) and other relevant Information Society projects and programmes adopted by African countries;

Note that the engagement of African countries in the evolution, and the process of management and the governance of the Internet and its resources have so far been very low, especially if compared to other regions;

Agree on the significant importance of:

- *Capacity-building* at all levels: technical, academic, professionals, policy makers, regulators, legal, business and users; using available national and regional expertise and resources – and also to encourage the active involvement of African research institutions in global IG research initiatives;
- *Access*, inclusively, to the Internet through national/regional policies as well as international cooperation mechanisms that enables affordable Internet connectivity to everyone in our countries, which should be facilitated through the reduction of international Internet connectivity cost;
- *Security* on the Internet is crucial not only for the stability of the network and its further development, but also for building the confidence among users in using the Internet and

for building the up-take in our countries for using the Internet, especially e-commerce applications, which will also promote access objectives and will eventually create the critical mass that would further enable the affordability of using the Internet in our countries; the importance of aligning policies at national and regional level;

- **Diversity** of the Internet, which will facilitate the development of Internet in Africa, by further promoting the development of *relevant* local content that reflects our interests, and by allowing for **multilingualism** in light of the high number of local languages on our continent;
- **Openness** of the Internet, by empowering access to knowledge and allowing free flow of information that further contributes to human development in our countries.

Recommend

- That African countries should mainstream Internet Governance public policy issues in their national ICT4D processes, policies and action plans;
- That further effective participation of African countries and African relevant entities in the relevant events and in the decision making process of the Internet, internationally and regionally, is needed. This requires adequate attention on the national level as well as further support from the international and regional development organizations for facilitation of meaningful African presence in these events, both physically and by building capacity;
- Promotion and establishment of more technical solutions/facilities that will reduce the capital flight in use of Internet, and further increase the intra-regional exchange of Internet traffic among African countries. This includes, amongst other things, the promoting use of ccTLDs, copies of root servers, and IXPs;
- That ECA establish a mechanism for capacity building in African countries in relation to the processes of redelegation of CCTLD;
- That ECA put in place a mechanism to facilitate cooperation among African countries on Internet Governance issues;
- Development of relevant technical entities in Africa, including AfriNIC, AfNOG, and AfREN, and also the harnessing of these entities for the development of capacity in our region on all levels;
- Promotion of dotAfrica (or equivalent) as a regional TLD for Africa for use by African organizations, business, and users;
- A regular training programme for policy makers, including a training of trainers programme should be supported by ECA and other partners.

Further recommend

The close cooperation and coordination amongst African experts – technical, academic, professionals, policy makers, regulators, legal, business and users - in an open scheme allowing for the effective exchange of information, knowledge, and expertise by using various online negotiation and deliberation tools in the IG process including establishing an electronic e-mail discussion group gathering all African experts and diplomatic representatives posted in countries where significant IG-related activities take place.

**The African Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum
18 – 21 September 2006
Cairo, Egypt**

Final Communiqué

The African Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum held at Mövenpick, Cairo, Egypt from 18 to 21 September 2006, for the purpose of sharing views and exchanging thoughts regarding the upcoming first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Athens during the period from 30 October to 2 November 2006.

The meeting was held in two stages:

- The first was in the form of an awareness day where African experts received orientation on international relations/ diplomatic aspects of IG, by the DiploFoundation;
- The second was a two-day meeting of the African Group where participants debated over a wide variety of issues related to IG covering its technical, political, legal, social and economic aspects as well as the holding, structure, form, mandate and future prospects of the IGF.

The Meeting recalled the African commitments and positions within WSIS and on IG issues, as demonstrated and expressed in the Accra Commitments, the Dakar Declaration, as well as in the outcomes of both Phases of WSIS.

Further, the Meeting stressed upon the African commitments to the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) endorsed by the African Union and other relevant Information Society projects and programmes adopted by African countries.

The Meeting acknowledged the outcome of Diplo/UNECA (UN Economic Commission for Africa) training course for policy makers on Internet Governance, Addis Ababa 2-6 July 2006, addressing the practical needs of the African countries regarding Internet Governance. It was noted that the engagement of African countries in the evolution, and the process of the management and the governance of the Internet and its resources have so far been very low, especially when compared to other regions; and accordingly; it was recommended that further support was needed from the international and regional development organizations for the facilitation of the African meaningful presence in these events, both physically and by building capacity, and that a regular training programme for policy makers, including a training of trainers, should be supported by UNECA and other partners.

The meeting, having discussed a number of issues and aspects of Internet Governance covering its technical, political, legal, social and economic aspects, ahead of the holding of the first meeting of IGF, scheduled to take place in Athens during the period from 30 October to 2 November 2006:

1. ***Recognizes*** the essential developmental role of the Internet and Internet Governance, particularly for Africa, which contributes to the creation of an enabling environment for the development of our countries to attain all our goals including the MDGs;

2. ***Reaffirms*** that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue on the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of all stakeholders including governments, private sector, civil society, international organizations, academics and professionals as well as individuals. An equitable distribution of resources, access for all and a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism should be ensured;

3. ***Acknowledges*** the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and in particular the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF);

4. ***Considers*** the work of the IGF Advisory Group established by the UN Secretary-General;

5. ***Reiterates the commitments*** and positions as expressed in the Accra Commitments, the Dakar Declaration, the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as well as the Tunis Commitment;

6. ***Further Reiterates the commitment*** to the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) endorsed by the African Union and other relevant Information Society projects and programmes adopted by African countries;

7. ***Notes*** that the engagement of African countries in the evolution, and the process of management and the governance of the Internet and its resources has so far been very low, especially when compared to other regions;

8. ***Agrees on the significant importance of:***

a) Capacity-building at all levels: technical and academic experts, professionals, policy makers, regulators, legal experts, businessmen, users, and media; using available national and regional expertise and resources, with the support of international organizations and development agencies, as outlined in the Tunis Agenda and the encouragement of the active involvement of African research institutions in global IG research initiatives;

b) Access, inclusively, to the Internet through national/regional policies as well as international cooperation mechanisms that enable affordable Internet connectivity to everyone in

our countries, which should be facilitated through the reduction of international Internet connectivity cost;

c) Security on the Internet is crucial not only for the stability of the network and its further development, but also for building the confidence and trust among users in using the Internet and for promoting Internet services in our countries, especially for e-commerce applications. This will also promote access and will eventually create the critical mass that would further enable the affordability of using the Internet in our countries; the importance of aligning policies at national and regional level should be ensured;

d) Diversity of the Internet, which will facilitate the increase of Internet penetration in Africa, and further promote participation and development of relevant local content. This will reflect our interests, and allow for promoting *multilingualism* in light of the high number of African languages and the needed coordination of IDN (internationalized domain names) related initiatives in our continent; with the requisite support of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) and UNESCO in accordance with action lines of the Tunis Agenda on the Information Society;

e) Openness of the Internet, by empowering access to knowledge and allowing free flow of information that further contributes to the human development in our countries. Regimes of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) should not hinder the free flow of information and access to knowledge on the Internet.

9. *Recommends that:*

a) An African Internet Governance Forum (AIGF) be convened annually under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on Communication and Information Technology (CIT), with support from UNECA and the African Union Commission (AUC);

b) African countries mainstream Internet governance public policy issues in their national ICT4D processes, policies and action plans;

c) Africa's active participation in the IGF process should be encouraged, including all stakeholders;

d) African countries establish national multi-stakeholder taskforces and put in place national strategies for Internet governance;

e) African delegates, civil society members, private sector, academics and professionals, and other stakeholders including individuals effectively participate to relevant events and decision-making processes of the Internet, internationally and regionally, with the encouraged participation of women. This requires adequate attention on the national level as well as further support from the international and regional development organizations for the facilitation of the African meaningful presence in these events, both physically and by building capacity;

f) Promotion and establishment of more technical solutions/facilities be encouraged to reduce the capital flight in use of Internet, and further increase the intra-regional exchange of Internet traffic among African countries. This includes, amongst other things, the promotion of registration to African ccTLDs, copies of root servers, IXPs and content as a driver for access;

g) ECA should establish a mechanism for capacity-building in African countries in relation to the processes of management and redelegation of ccTLD. The emergent AfTLD should be a useful resource in that regard;

h) A mechanism to facilitate cooperation among African countries on Internet Governance issues, including the facilitation of participation of African delegates, civil society members, private sector and other stakeholders in the IGF and the AIGF be established in the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on CIT;

i) The relevant technical entities in Africa, including AfriNIC, AfNOG, and AfREN be strengthened and also harnessed for the development of capacity in our region at all levels;

j) dotAfrica be established as a regional TLD for use by African organizations, businesses, and users;

k) An African meeting to discuss issues pertaining to African languages in cyberspace be organized under the auspices of ACALAN with the participation of all African relevant parties.

10. ***Further recommends that:***

a) Africa adopts a unified and aggregated approach and a clear action plan to address common Internet governance challenges ahead (e.g. security, openness, international Internet connectivity costs and peering);

b) Close collaboration and coordination amongst African experts, policy makers, and other relevant groups, using open schemes, be promoted to allow for the effective exchange of information, knowledge, and expertise by using various online negotiation and deliberation tools;

c) Electronic e-mail discussion groups be established to bring together African experts, policy makers, and diplomatic representatives; and

d) Equitable access and free flow of information is ensured.

This Communiqué shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Communication and Information Technology.

Annex 3: List of Selection and Follow-up Criteria for ARAPKE Projects

Criteria	Remarks
Context	
Global Policy	Africa's commitment vis a vis international decisions (WSIS outcomes, etc.)
ARAPKE pillars	Does the project fall in the framework of the expressed concerns in the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)?
Regional impact	Does the project have a value added characteristics at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subregional level? • Continental level?
Project's contribution to local vision and local socio-economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments' local vision • Expected influence and impact on leadership (quality of local e-governance, transparency, consultations, participation of disenfranchised groups, empowerment, etc.) • Contribution to economic and social development, particularly focused on MDGs and PRSPs • Sustainable development and environment protection
Participatory approach in project preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the context • Involvement of stakeholders in consultations • Awareness raising • Experience of project bearers
Feasibility and Sustainability	
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relation of cost and profitability • Economic viability • Cost • Existence of a market • Viable business model Commitment
Technicality and functionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological platform (wireless, low cost solution, FOSS, proprietary, etc.) • Standards and interoperability • Convergence of technologies • Local content and languages
Human resource development	Promotion of local skills and production capacities
Risks and change management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the local practices and mentality adapted enough and in agreement between them to absorb such project • Can the project survive change of governance, etc.
Replicability and adaptability	Is the project replicable and adaptable within Africa or/and outside?
Follow-up	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting • Dissemination • Popularization
Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and use of a network of experts • Feedback from implementers & stakeholders • Setting up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms • Organizing Restitution seminars & workshops