

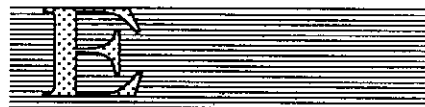


**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth Session of the Committee
on Development Information (CODI-V)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
29 April – 06 May 2007



Distribution: General

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**Report of the Annual Meeting of the Fifth African Technical
Advisory Committee (ATAC V)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) Conference of Ministers adopted the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) in May 1996. The conference's resolution 812 (XXXI) mandated ECA to institute an African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) made up of African experts in information and communication technologies (ICT) and the Information Society, to provide advice on the implementation of AISI. ATAC members are also expected to play an advocacy role, identifying best ICT practices, and assisting ECA in mobilizing resources for its work programme.
2. Five committees (ATAC I, II, III, IV and V) have been established since 1997. ATAC V members were appointed in September 2006 and the first meeting took place from 12 - 14 December 2006, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as reported below.

Session I – Opening Session

I. Welcoming and introductory remarks

3. In her opening remarks, Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer-in-Charge (OIC), ICTs, Science and Technology Division (ISTD) welcomed the participants and thanked them for accepting to serve as ATAC members for the two years term. She briefed participants on ECA's repositioning exercise which focuses the Commission's work on two pillars: regional integration and meeting Africa's special needs. She informed the meeting that as a result of the repositioning, the Development Information Services Division (DISD) ceased to exist and a new division called ICTs, Science and Technology Division (ISTD) was created with a focus on implementing AISI.
4. Ms Opoku-Mensah highlighted the important role ATAC members play in assisting ECA realize its work programme and business plan. She said: "this year's ATAC membership is a very special one, as most of you are not just experts and/or advisors but colleagues and friends who have been working with us for a while and it was only natural that at this particular moment-when we are celebrating the 10 years of AISI - we wanted ATAC to be more of a family gathering than a simple advisory committee." Ms. Opoku-Mensah also called for the active participation of ATAC members in the Fifth Committee on Development Information (CODI-5) meeting, scheduled to take place in late April 2007.

II. Introduction of participants

5. This first meeting of the Fifth African Technical Advisory Committee was attended by ATAC members and ECA Secretariat. The ATAC members present at the meeting were:
 - a) Mr. Abdoulaye Ndiaye
 - b) Prof. Clement Dzidonou
 - c) Ms. Opportune Santos
 - d) Ms. Olive Chikankheni
 - e) Dr. Ahmed Hussien

f) Mr. Ebrima Jobe

6. The following ATAC members sent apologies:

- a) Mr. Massani Koroney
- b) Mr. Mzwandile R. Mabuza
- c) Dr. Nagwa El Shenawy
- d) Mr. Moses Bayingana
- e) Ms. Natalie Sunker

7. The full list of participants is attached as Annex 3.

III. Adoption of Agenda

8. Participants adopted the provisional agenda and proceeded with the main deliberations. The Agenda is detailed in Annex 1.

IV. Introduction to ATAC, Objectives and Terms of Reference

9. Ms. Opoku-Mensah detailed the origins and objectives of ATAC, the role of its members and their terms of reference. She commended previous ATACs, in particular ATAC IV for its instrumental support to ECA in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process by actively participating as resource persons. The presentation also reflected on the challenges faced with by ATAC and the steep learning curve for new members to acquaint themselves with ECA's activities. To address this challenge, it was decided that ATAC V members would be those experts with some familiarity with ECA's work programme – the AISI. The presentation also charted the way forward on ATAC V's contribution to the AISI.

V. Election of Officers

10. The meeting elected the following officers for ATAC V:

- a) Chairperson: Prof. Clement Dzidonou
- b) Vice-chairperson: Ms. Olive Chikankheni
- c) Rapporteur: Dr. Ahmed Hussien

Session II: Review of activities

VI. Report on activities: Status, Challenges and the Way Forward

11. ATAC V members reported on their activities in Information and Communication technologies for Development (ICT4D), and the situation in the countries where they are working, in order to share experiences and any lessons learnt. The contributions from ATAC members were also needed as input to two upcoming ECA publications: one focusing on

AISI+10 and the other on status and impact of national e-strategies in Africa; as well as for the development of eGovernment indicators and the 2007 – 2009 ISTD work programme.

VI.1 Rwanda, Ghana, and Nigeria

12. Professor Clement Dzidonu presented the Rwanda, Ghana and Nigeria National Information Society Initiatives (NICI's), the Ghana Scan-ICT and the e-Traditional Governance.

Rwanda

13. The NICI process in Rwanda comprises four plans, which are not mutually exclusive but are rolling plans. The plans were derived from the review of the NICI-2005 plan, ensuring continuity in the NICI-2010 Plan. The presenter advised that the NICI-2010 Plan with ECA's support had been approved by the Rwandan Cabinet and has 10- pillars each translating into a sub-plan.

Ghana

14. The Ghana ICT4D Policy, based on the NICI methodology, was approved in 2003 and the plan is currently being formulated. To facilitate policy implementation and ownership, sectoral strategies and Ministerial ICT Policy statements have been developed. Work in progress included the translation of the 14 pillars into corresponding sub-plans and the formation of the appropriate coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation structures.

- a) *e-Traditional governance* - the implementation of the network (fibre optic backbone) has been completed at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi. The network includes an e-museum and a management decision support system.
- b) *Scan-ICT* – the outcomes of this ongoing pilot initiative are:
 - i. The Ghana Basket of ICT4D Indicators.
 - ii. The Framework for Integration of ICT4D Status and Impact Monitoring and Measurement Indicators into the National Statistical System.
 - iii. The ICT4D Indicators Integration Tools, Methods and Mechanisms
 - iv. The Ghana Core ICT4D Indicators Compilation and Analysis Demonstration Project

Nigeria

15. The Nigerian ICT4D Plan was designed to contribute to the country's socio-economic development policy priorities and government programmes. The ICT4D Plan-2010 is organized in terms of a number of broad policy focus areas and sub-plans. Implementation is to be undertaken by a number of agencies at the federal and state levels, while ownership will be at the Implementation Agency level. The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) will play an implementation and coordination role as opposed to being the sole institution for implementing the Plan.

VI.2 Malawi

16. Ms. O. T. Chikankheni, the Director of the Department of Information Systems and Technology Management Service at the Malawi Ministry of Information and Tourism, made the

presentation on the Malawi NICI process. The Malawi national ICT4D mission is to facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for efficient, effective and sustainable utilisation, exploitation and development of ICTs in all sectors of the economy in order to create an information rich and knowledge based society and economy. Some of the major objectives include the need to improve the ICT human resource capacity of Malawi to meet the changing demands of the economy; the development of a highly competitive ICT-driven value-added services sector; the development of an export oriented ICT industry; and the transformation of the country into an ICT aware and literate nation.

17. The pillars of the policy are:

- a) Strategic Leadership for ICT for development
- b) Human Capital
- c) Governance
- d) ICT Industry
- e) ICT Infrastructure
- f) Growth Sectors
- g) Community
- h) Legal and Regulatory Framework

18. The Malawi stakeholder consultative process led to the development of a draft policy, which is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Finance prior to submission for Cabinet review. In the meantime, a National ICT4D Plan is being developed with financial assistance from UNDP Malawi. Although the Malawi ICT4D Policy development process has been lengthy, several ICT4D catalytic programmes are underway, especially e-government initiatives aimed at modernizing and improving the efficiency of the public sector.

19. In subsequent discussions, the role of ECA in the development of NICI policies and plans was acknowledged. It was also acknowledged that some countries with approved NICI's had not made much headway in implementing the respective plans. Modalities of "operationalizing" policies and plans - strategies for mobilizing policy implementation resources should be explored.

20. In response to this, it was clarified that although ECA's support focused on developing the policy and plan, it played a significant role in the bringing development partners on board to support member States in implementing the plans. In some cases, development partners had effectively used the ECA NICI blueprint as a platform for funding activities as the process has gained a wide recognition such as the Geneva declaration and plan of action. Emphasis was placed on the need for political leadership to guarantee success on the NICI process – the need for champions.

VI.3 Chad and Togo

21. Mr. Abdoulaye Ndiaye and Ms. Opportune Santos (NICI Consultants) made a presentation on the status, challenges and the way forward regarding the NICI process and its gender dimension in Chad and Togo.

22. Togo NICI policy is being developed with the full support of the head of state, who has further instructed that the process be accelerated. It is currently undergoing sectoral studies and is expected to be finalized in March 2007. A specific study will also look at mainstreaming gender in the NICI and the report is expected in February 2007. Main risks that could impact on the process include: (i) political instability, (ii) conflict between the Minister of telecommunications and the Minister of ICTs (iii) lack of focal point capacity and constant mobility of staff with no committed staff in the Ministry to the NICI process. However, there is a high-level of commitment and strong buy-in from stakeholders including the private sector, women and youth associations.

23. In Chad the process was compromised by a conflict between two agencies (the former Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts and the Ministry of Communication), which was finally resolved by merging the two Ministries to form a new Ministry of ICT & Posts. The process is quite identical with the Togo one but was suspended between April and August 2006 due to rebel attacks. Risks include political instability; constant mobility of focal points and a lack of ICT capacity from stakeholders.

24. Regarding gender mainstreaming, current proposals in the Togo and Chad NICIs constitute a great opportunity to improve the situation as far as AISI implementation is concerned. The final result can be showcased and be a lesson for other processes. To sustain this exercise and ensure full gender equity in these NICI processes, it was recommended that women should constitute one-third of the NICI committee members. ECA Divisions responsible for ICTs and for gender issues should collaborate on mainstreaming ICTs in ongoing gender initiatives.

25. The following issues were raised during discussions:

- a) Mainstreaming gender in the NICI process should look at two main approaches including:
 - a. How ICTs can be used to resolve gender inequality
 - b. How to put policies in place to address gender inequality, and the value ICTs could bring.
- b) Despite the fact that there are still some misunderstandings on how to deal with ICT and Telecommunication ministries even at international level, ECA could work with the African Union Commission to address the creation of two Ministers dealing with different ICT issues and related conflict to advise heads of States on the structure of their government in the ICT domain or advise that ICT coordination should be done by the Cabinet.
- c) Sensitization workshops should be organized for both countries to fine-tune the strategy of mainstreaming gender into the NICI.
- d) Engendering the NICI process should be based on comparative advantage according to each country. It needs to be oriented towards empowering women and enhancing their

productivity and livelihoods (the experiences of Morocco, Mali and Malawi were raised to highlight this point).

VI.4 Ethiopia

26. Dr. Ahmed Hussein, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the HiLCoE School of Computer Science and Technology presented the NICI process in Ethiopia and the role of academia. The main issues include the first stakeholder's seminar on policy organized in 1983, existing laws and institutions related to ICTs, and the conceptual NICI framework adopted in 1998 under the coordination of the Prime Minister. The process is still on-going; a new authority, the Ethiopian ICT Development Authority (EICTDA) was established in 2003, detailed plans and implementation strategies are designed (NICI 2010, NICI 2020), and yet to be presented to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. On the ground there are a couple of ICT-led initiatives going on in terms of human resource development, infrastructure development, e-payment application, etc. Academia is involved through different research activities, including localization, and the ECA- VarsityNet research activities. The main hindering factors of the development of the ICT sector in Ethiopia can be attributed to various obstacles to the growth of the ICT Private Sector, which could be the driving force for development.

27. Main issues/recommendations raised during discussions include:

- a) Can governments empower the local private sector to participate in policy processes? Current ICT infrastructure growth is being driven by external private firms. Experiences from Ghana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, Malawi and Senegal were shared and the final consensus was to:
 - a. Undertake research on developing a framework to involve the private sector in building the African knowledge economy at the national and sub-regional levels;
 - b. Niche of priorities should also be taken into consideration in devising the framework, and two approaches should be considered:
 - i. Using ICT for private sector development as a tool;
 - ii. Developing the ICT private sector.
 - c. Also, a Private Sector Development Plan should accompany the NICI process.

VI.5 The Gambia

28. Mr. Ebrima Jobe from The Gambia made a presentation on the status of NICI implementation and the Scan-ICT project in The Gambia. A national task group composed of various stakeholders was formed to lead the NICI process and efforts made to link the NICI process with the national development agenda (Vision 2020) as well as the PRSP process. Activities are currently at the implementation stage based on the identified NICI pillars. The main challenge is lack of resources, and there is a plan to organize a resource mobilization roundtable. In addition, UNDP is being approached to support some of the programmes in the framework of the UNDAF and PRSP process.

29. With regard to the Scan-ICT project, achievements so far include: the formation of a national task force chaired by the director of the National Statistics Office (NSO), holding of the launching workshop, identification of core indicators, and the data collection exercise both from secondary and primary sources. The process is at its final stages with analysis of the data and writing the final report. However, the expert who was leading the whole process from the NSO has gone on fellowship to the UK, and the process has been stalled. Since he was the person in charge from the very beginning, and has only returned in mid December, efforts are being made to continue pressuring him to work on producing the analytical report. Due to this, ECA was asked to extend the deadline for submitting the report by mid February. The Secretariat explained that as a requirement of the normal reporting procedures to partners, at least a report on the current status should be prepared before the end of the year and submitted to ECA while discussions can continue regarding final deadlines and the procedures.

Session IV - Review of selected current ECA activities

VII. Two publications titled: “10 years of the AISI” and “NICIs: Status, challenges and the way forward” were discussed.

30. Makane Faye and Sizoo Mhlana made presented the outline for the AISI+10 publication and the NICI publication respectively.

31. The AISI+10 outline:

- a) A preface by ECA Executive Secretary
- b) Origins of AISI
- c) NICI development in Africa - extract from the NICI publication
- d) ICT Measurement
- e) Regional Integration
- f) Knowledge Management and capacity building
- g) AISI and Stakeholders
- h) The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
- i) Partnerships in implementing AISI
- j) Conclusions: re-engineering AISI.

32. The NICI publication outline:

- a) A foreword by ECA Executive Secretary
- b) An overview on NICI
- c) Country case studies
- d) Regional and sectoral dimensions
- e) Development activities and NICI
- f) The Knowledge Economy
- g) Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)
- h) ICT measurement
- i) The status and the way forward.

33. *Discussions/Main recommendations:*

- a) The outlines are well presented and addressed all the areas. Most of the required information is available, there is need to do some desk research to update existing content and document lessons learnt.
- b) There is a need to point out very clearly the purpose and objectives of the publications, whether as a stocktaking exercise or showcasing best practices and lessons learnt in the process to serve as resource material for further studies and chart future directions.
- c) Focus should be made on lessons learnt and best practices especially the lack of capacity to implement NICIs
- d) The preliminary results from the NICI questionnaire need to be unpacked and elaborated further to indicate the challenges in these areas.
- e) Countries such as Mauritius that have shown serious commitment to move forward with the knowledge economy by developing concrete plans and allocating the necessary resources should be showcased.
- f) It was suggested to commission an independent study on evaluating why implementing NICIs in a number of African countries was not working, and learn from lessons and re-engineer the process. This publication can supplement the NICI book.
- g) The idea of “new generation NICIs” may create some misunderstanding in those countries, which are already developing/implementing NICIs. Therefore, it was suggested that it would be better not to introduce it in the publication.
- h) Support to specific projects might be considered as a viable option in addressing the challenges of implementing NICIs.
- i) In re-engineering AISI, focus should be in implementation.
- j) An ISTD/ATAC retreat should be organized to review the ISTD working process, procedures and work programme culminating in the adoption of concrete and implementable proposals for re-engineering AISI and mapping-out how best the ISTD can function to effectively deliver on its mandate and programmes in the repositioned ECA.

VIII. Proposal on e-Government indicators

34. Afework Temtime of ECA presented the proposed areas for identifying e-Government indicators, providing the background for the need of ICT indicators for e-Government including assessing e-readiness; use and impact of ICTs for eStrategies formulation and implementation. He also cited several relevant recommendations such as the WSIS plan of action, Scan ICT programme, the partnership on measuring ICT4D and ECA's role as coordinator of the e-government Task Group.

35. There are seven proposed areas of e-Government indicators, which are public sector management; delivery of public services; facilitating development of the private sector; legal and judicial reforms; policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; strengthening the capacity of parliaments; and empowering local authorities. The presentation concluded by highlighting the purpose of the identified areas for e-Government indicators.

- a) ATAC to focus on core indicators for use of ICT in Government within an African perspective
- b) ATAC to review the proposed areas and make recommendations for a preliminary list of indicators for making government services available through ICTs.

36. The following issues were raised during the discussions:

- a) How far is the Scan-ICT programme linked with this practice? It was indicated that the SCAN methodology be used in addition to desk research.
- b) Some countries have recognized ICT as an investment sector providing various incentives. Will there be indicators to capture efforts made by governments to promote ICT investment? It was pointed out that the area on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks would cover it.
- c) e-Government requires ICT literacy at all levels, within government as service provider and citizens at large as users of the services. Where do we measure levels of ICT literacy? One suggestion is to measure indicators on literacy as Government to Business (G2B), Government to Citizens (G2C), and Government to Government (G2G).
- d) ECA needs to put in place a strategy in the NICI process to identify ways and means to fast track e-Government programmes, especially in relation to G2G, G2B and G2C.
- e) A framework to guide the e-Government indicators should take into account the broad purpose of the indicators, and more importantly the framework should be cast in the Scan ICT Capacity, Utilization, and Transformation (CUT) methodology, which was adopted by ECA and Scan-ICT countries in 2005.
- f) A need to clarify the purpose of the exercise. Once this is achieved, the indicators can be classified into two groups based on supply and demand. The supply side could measure government's level of investment using indicators for e-Government capacity, e-Government system development and e-Government service delivery. In the demand side indicators would measure the capacity of citizens to use the services.

- g) How to look at the acceleration of public service delivery in light of the various challenges faced by Governments.
- h) Governments need to realize that e-Government is not about interests of development partners who are keen to support such initiatives, but about Governments' relationship with its citizens, its private sector, etc.
- i) There is a need to define the framework to guide ATAC members in the process of identifying the indicators.
- j) The relationship of these indicators with other indicators identified by other entities such as ITU; and issues of harmonization, standardization and interoperability of technology in governments. It was indicated that the topic of e-Government is not addressed by others, and was delegated to ECA, as education was delegated to UNESCO.
- k) The discussion on the indicators could be one of the topics ATAC members would deliberate on in their online discussion.

IX. Partnership between ICT Team and Natural Resources Canada and presentation on eCommunications Regulations

37. Mr. Omar Allam representing the Earth Sciences Sector of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) made a presentation on the partnership between ECA and NRCan, outlining how the alliance came into effect. Current activities in Africa were (i) Land Management in the Knowledge Economy, (ii) Harnessing Science & Technology & Innovation for Public Health and (iii) Developing a National Geomatics (ICT) Framework in Support of the Senegalese NICI plan. The presentation ended with the vision for the way forward for NRCan's partnership with ECA being shared: a) leveraging expertise and support b) coordinated / harmonised approach c) progress towards global goals such as MDGs, NEPAD and G8 Africa Action Plan.

38. Ms. Tuula Broman, a Finnish consultant representing ECA, made a presentation about EU telecommunications regulation and competition. EU competition laws and harmonization directives were discussed. This was followed by a focus on two directives concerning neighbouring areas namely the TV without frontiers directive and the e-business directive. The presentation concluded by stressing that coordination is needed between several actors including ITU, World Bank, EU, Canada and Finland for an "all-to-all connection in Africa".

Discussions/Main recommendations:

39. A discussion ensued and the following points and recommendations were made:

- a) As a very rapid innovation cycle exists in ICTs, the economic and legal consequences of innovation should be considered in telecom regulation.

- b) Guidelines exist in Africa which are similar in nature to the EU directives, these get updated as and when things change.
- c) Africa is not on a par with the EU in terms of the model developed for the ICT and telecommunications industry however best practices can be adopted.
- d) Content needs to be regulated as convergence can identify loopholes in regulation, eg. broadcasting over the Internet.
- e) Africa specific challenges need to be addressed *vis-à-vis* issues such as convergence, a mechanism to take stock of what is out there and of measuring whether guidelines are being followed and to identify the gaps needs to be put in place.
- f) An issue of how ECA can leverage NICI plans was raised. The bad experience of liberalization in Africa was highlighted and the need to pull donors to support clusters of countries and avoiding bad experiences was stressed. It was also recommended that harmonization should not be done at a continental level due to the large size but at the sub-regional levels.
- g) The case where emerging technology, such as VoIP, has not been regulated in the EU until such technology matures was highlighted. The recommendation that Africa should be regulated at a regional level was reaffirmed. It was also stressed that liberalization without regulation is a wrong approach.
- h) The work done to operationalize the NICI plans together with CePRC was outlined.
- i) ECA and NRC to work together on an approach to integrate SDI into NICIs.
- j) The African Development Network, chaired by Mr. Ndiaye was a resource that ECA and NRC can tap into.

Session V: Review of ISTD's Work Programme 2007 - 2009

X. ISTD's work programme 2007 – 2009

40. ECA presented the ISTD work programme for 2007-2009, informing ATAC members of the new Division in charge of Information Society issues composed of the following three sections: ICT for Development, Geo Information and Science and Technology. The objective of ISTD is to strengthen and sustain the African Information Society and Knowledge Economy and develop capacity for the formulation, adaptation and implementation of appropriate science and technology programmes. The ICT for Development programme will focus on the following:

- a) Development of national e-strategies (NICIs) with a view to improving the capacity of African countries to formulate, implement, coordinate and evaluate policies and strategies for information for development, with consideration given to gender equality.

- b) Development of regional e-strategies with a view to improving capacities of Regional Economic Communities to harmonize and coordinate e-strategies in their respective sub-regions as well as spearhead development of sectoral sub-regional strategies on emerging issues.
- c) Development of sectoral strategies in order to enable implementation of the NICI policies and plans that have already been developed. Emphasis should be on trade, government, education, and health. Development of e-security strategies would also be undertaken.
- d) ICT measurement will be carried out in the framework of SCAN ICT and the Partnership for Measuring ICT in order to improve capacity of African countries to collect, analyse and disseminate data on ICT4D indicators to support the policy making process, and promoting the Information Society in Africa with focus on the MDGs.
- e) Capacity Building will be geared to improving the capacity of member States and stakeholders in ICT4D through the Information, Science and Technology Centre for Africa (ISTCA). Training would be both awareness raising and technical. In this context, on-line training modules would be developed to enable access from all over Africa.
- f) Involvement of Stakeholders in the activities of the Division will be continued at the national and regional levels in order to build capacity of stakeholders in ICT4D process, including Research and Innovation activities.
- g) The TIGA Awards will be launched starting from 2007 in cooperation with CePRC with the objective of recognizing African Governments in the effective use of ICTs for public service delivery focusing on the following categories:
 - a. Public service delivery to citizens and communities
 - b. Improved health services through the use of ICTs
 - c. Improved educational services through the use of ICTs
 - d. Public Private Partnership in economic and financial e-Service delivery
- h) Studies and publications will be carried out in several domains of relevance to the Division's work programme.
- i) Servicing of Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies
- j) Field project on emerging issues.

41. In this session, Girma Dessalegn from ECA demonstrated the e-learning platform under development by ISTCA outlining its features, design, and functionality. He mentioned that the platform is being developed under the framework of the African eLearning Initiative (<http://www.epolafrica.org/elearnafrica>). As it is a work in progress, ATAC members were requested to provide their comments and feedback.

42. After the presentation, the committee reviewed and discussed the work programme.
43. ATAC members sought clarifications on the process of preparing; presenting and publicizing the ISTD work programme as well as the composition, governance structure and mandate of the new Division.
44. ISTD staff gave the necessary clarifications and expressed the need to involve ATAC members in supporting implementation of the programme, especially activities dealing with extra budgetary resources. On publicizing the ICT4D programme, ATAC members were informed that several channels were used including the CODI meetings, the AISI websites, various discussion groups, international fora, newsletters and travel of regional advisors to member States.
45. Copies of the ECA Business Plan were distributed and reviewed. ATAC congratulated the Executive Secretary for work well done and promised to lend all their support in advising on the implementation of the ISTD sub programme. In this context, there were discussions on the need to bring GIS and S & T to rally around ICT in order to come up with more comprehensive frameworks on STI in member States building on the NICI process. As a result, ATAC asked ECA to convene a retreat, which would look deeper in the linkages between NICI, RICI and SICI. They also emphasized the need to consolidate GIS as an integral part of the NICI process.
46. On the African eLearning Initiative, ATAC congratulated ECA and requested that the online modules be extended to the entire Commission and provided with required staff.
47. On the TIGA Awards, ATAC promised to participate in the nomination process and ensured that African Governments are on board.

Session VI: Closing

XI. Recommendations on the way forward

48. The meeting made a series of recommendations for future action, which are listed in Annex 2.

XII. Date & venue of next meeting, and AOB

49. Next meeting will be held in 2007 with dates and venue to be confirmed. However, ATAC members will be participating in CODI V, scheduled for late April in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

XIII. Closing remarks

50. Chairperson of ATAC, Professor Clement Dzidonou thanked all the participants for their active involvement and exchange of knowledge and experiences. He said all members are committed to supporting ECA in implementing the AISI as described in the ATAC ToR. It was noted that the meeting had been enlightening on the ongoing activities and the members would actively digest the information so as to offer expert advice on the variety of issues discussed.

51. In her closing remarks, Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah thanked the members on her behalf and also on behalf of the ECA Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh. She requested ATAC members to provide ECA with comments and feedback on the ECA Business Plan, which will serve as the basic framework for ECA's work in the coming years. She emphasized the importance of the central advocacy role played by ATAC in terms of providing policy and intellectual leadership support to member States. She also supported the suggestion made by members to organise a retreat for ATAC and the secretariat so as to review the business plan, NICI methodology in particular the private sector development component, as well as re-engineering AISI and recommendations of the meeting. Measurable outputs were required from ECA and ATAC. Ms Opoku-Mensah stressed the role of ATAC in supporting ECA in reviewing its products such as the AISI+10 and NICI publications. Finally, she highlighted the AISI ambassadorial role of ATAC members and requested for their active participation in CODI 5 and the Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) Awards programme.

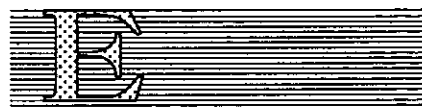
52. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm on 14 December 2006.

Annex 1 : ATAC V Agenda



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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of the Vth African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
12 - 14 December 2006, United Nations Conference Center

AGENDA

Tuesday, 12 December 2006

Session I:

Opening Session

14:30 – 14:50

Welcoming and introductory remarks
Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, OIC, ISTD

14:50 – 15:10

Introduction of participants

15:10 – 15:25

Introduction to ATAC, objectives and Term of References
Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, OIC, ISTD

15:25 – 15:40

Election of Officers (Chair person, vice Chair & Rapporteur)

15:40 – 16:00

Coffee Break

Session II:

Review of activities

16:00 – 16:30

Report on activities: Status, Challenges and the Way Forward

Ghana: NICI, SCAN-ICT & ICTs for Traditional Governance

Nigeria: NICI

Rwanda: NICI and SCAN-ICT

*Prof. C. Dzidonu, NICI Consultant, International Institute for
Information Technology (INIIT), Ghana*

Malawi: NICI

Ms. O. Chikankheni, Department of Information Systems & Technology Management Services, Malawi

16:30 – 17:00 Q&A session

Wednesday, 13 December 2006

Session III: **Review of activities (Cont'd)**

9:00 – 10:30 Report on activities: Status, Challenges and the Way Forward

Togo and Chad: NICI and Gender

Mr. A. Ndiaye and Ms. O. Santos, NICI Consultants

Ethiopia: Academia

Dr. Ahmed Hussein, HiLCOE, Ethiopia

Gambia: NICI & SCAN-ICT

Mr. Ebrima Jobe, Department of state for communication and information technology (DOSCIT), Gambia

10: 30– 10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45 – 13:00 Q&A Session

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch Break**

Session IV: **Review of selected current ECA activities**

14:30 – 15:00 Publication on 10 years of the AISI
Makane Faye, ISTD

Publication on NICIs: Status, challenges and the way forward
Sizo Mhlanga, ISTD

15:00- 16:00 Q&A Session

16:00 – 16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15 – 16:45 Proposal on e-government indicators
Afewerk Temtime, ISTD

16:45 – 17:15 Q&A Session

17:15 – 17:30	Partnership between ICT Team and Natural Resources Canada <i>Mr. Omar Allam, Natural Resources Canada</i>
17:30 - 17:45	eCommunications Regulations <i>Ms. Tuula Broman, Telecommunications Regulation Expert/Consultant, ISTD</i>
17:45 - 18:15	Q&A Session

Thursday 14, December 2006

<u>Session V:</u>	Review of ISTD's Work Programme 2007 - 2009
9:00 – 9:20	Presentation of ISTD's work programme 2007 – 2009 <i>Eskedar Nega, ISTD</i>
9:20 – 10:30	Q&A session
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
<u>Session VI:</u>	Closing
10:45 – 11:15	Recommendations on the way forward
11:15 – 12:00	Date & venue of next meeting, and AOB
12:00 – 12:30	Closing remarks

Annex 2: First Meeting of ATAC V: Recommendations

Annual Meeting of the Fifth Vth African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

12 - 14 December 2006

United Nations Conference Center

Following a three-day meeting, members of the African Technical Advisory Committee on the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) adopted the following recommendations:

General

- In re-engineering AISI, focus should be on implementation.
- An ISTD/ATAC retreat should be organized to review the ISTD working process, procedures and work programme culminating in the adoption of concrete and implementable proposals for re-engineering AISI and mapping-out how best ISTD can function to effectively deliver on its mandate and programmes in the post reform ECA.

Review of ECA activities on Information Society: Challenges and the Way Forward

- ECA's NICI development methodology and framework, developed and refined over the years, should be vigorously promoted to facilitate the NICI development in member States.
- ATAC should assist ECA to continue to promote high-level leadership in the NICI countries, including promotion of the NICI development process.
- ECA should continue to use its convening power to support member countries in the development and implementation of their NICI policies and plans and encourage the countries to put in place suitable and appropriate national organizational structures to support implementation of their NICI policies and action plans.
- Support to specific sectoral projects might be considered as viable options in addressing the challenges of implementing NICIs
- Although ATAC recognizes that ECA by itself does not have financial resources to support the implementation of NICI policy programmes and initiatives in member States, it still felt that ECA can assist in resource mobilization using its convening power targeted at members of the Partnership for Information and Communication Technology in Africa (PICTA) and other development partners. ATAC acknowledges that without these efforts by ECA it will be difficult for the NICI countries to implement their NICI programmes.
- There is need to find ways and means to fast track the NICI process in some countries notwithstanding challenges faced by ECA and the NICI consultants.
- ECA should look examine ways and means to have deliberate plans for local private sector development as part of the NICI at national and sub-regional levels. It is proposed that ECA leverages on its partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to

facilitate key involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the NICI programmes in member countries.

- In order to avoid conflict between various departments dealing with ICT issues in a country, it is recommended to include in the NICI committees all relevant government agencies and to provide for additional focal points, thus reducing frustration.
- ECA should intensify its coordinating role as per the NICI process in member countries to avoid duplication of efforts that could result from different donor agencies and development partners trying concurrently to assist member States in developing separate NICI policies and programmes.
- The need to address gender issues as an integral component of the NICI process should be encouraged with a focus on the following two main approaches:
 - How ICT can be used to resolve gender inequality issue
 - How to put policy in place to address gender inequality created by ICT
- There is the need for ECA to identify and encourage member States to mainstream into the NICI process best practices resulting from the implementation of the AISI to-date

Review of selected current ECA activities

Publication on 10 years of the AISI and NICI publication

- There is a need to clearly spell out the purpose/objectives of the publications, as stocktaking exercise and showcasing best practices and lessons learnt in the process to serve as resource material for further studies and chart future directions.
- As a complement to the NICI book, ISTD should commission a study to establish the challenges that member States are facing in rolling-out their NICI processes and propose ways to address those challenges with the assistance of ECA.

Proposal on e-government indicators

- A deliberate sensitization and awareness raising activity should be launched to assist governments to realize the importance of e-government and the backstopping needed to make it happen.
- ECA needs to put in place a strategy in the NICI process to identify ways and means to fast track e-government programmes, especially in relation to G2G, G2B and G2C.
- ATAC recommends that a framework to guide the e-Government indicators takes into account the broad purpose of the indicators, and more importantly the framework should be cast in the SCAN ICT "CUT" methodology, which was adopted by ECA and Scan countries in 2005.

Session on Partnership between ECA & NRC and Telecom Regulation

- Africa specific challenges need to be addressed vis-à-vis convergence and competition; in this regard harmonization should be implemented at the sub-regional and regional levels
- Natural Resource Canada (NRC) should work closely with ECA in order to devise a joint-approach in the integration of SDI into the e-strategies of countries, which are recipients of the NRC support.

- ECA should identify African competencies, including the Network of African Developers, to work on ICT projects.

Review of ISTD's Work Programme 2007 – 2009

- ATAC in its advisory role to the ISTD needs to take into account the new focus and orientation of the ISTD resulting from the restructuring of ECA.
- ATAC endorses ISTD's strategy of supporting the development of NICI policies and strategies in member States and facilitating selective development and implementation of targeted and catalytic sectoral ICT programmes in areas like e-education, e-commerce and trade, e-government and e-security.
- ATAC recommends that ISTD should take an integrated approach in its operations and in particular, GIS should be consolidated as an integral part of the NICI process.
- ISTD should further the development of on-line learning at ECA and include material from other Divisions.
- ITCA should include French language in its online course modules and provide training to francophone member States.

Annex 3: List of Participants



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**UNITED NATIONS
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Annual Meeting of the Vth African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

12 - 14 December 2006, United Nations Conference Center- **Large Briefing Room**

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