



Economic Commission
for Africa

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

ARAPKE





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I Introduction

Over the last years, many African countries have taken advantage of the opportunities provided by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and have put in place National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Plans to support their socio-economic development efforts. These successes have been made possible thanks to the combined efforts of all stakeholders under the leadership of Governments and support by regional and international organizations as well as bilateral partners and the private sector. These efforts need to be extended to remaining African countries so that they can benefit from the knowledge economy. In this context, a coordinated and multi-pronged strategy at both the national and sub-regional levels is essential for rolling the knowledge economy in the continent. This Action Plan, which aims at building a region fully benefiting from ICT services by the year 2015 will be adopted by African leaders through several fora, including the African Union Summit. The Framework for African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy and a matrix detailing the key areas of the Framework are presented on page

II Background

The proposed framework for the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) was developed as a direct outcome of the Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS, held in Accra, Ghana from 2-4 February 2005. It is based on the “Accra Commitments for Tunis 2005”, and defined by both the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), under the leadership of the African Union.

By building upon the recommendations and results reached from the Accra Conference, this is a Regional Action Plan for the continent. In addition, the Action Plan is expected to contribute to the realization of the Millennium Declaration Development Goals (MDGs). Within this context, it is designed to:

- Define an African approach and positions in the process of preparation of the second phase of WSIS, to become the African approach in the current debate on the main issues of the WSIS,
- Create a foundation for national, regional and international cooperation over a period of 10 years, up to 2015, with the aim of improving the life of African populations.

The Action Plan development process has been coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with the participation of a Committee of Experts composed of the Bamako Bureau for the WSIS and the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the AISI, as well as experts from member States, the Diaspora, the African Union Commission, The African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

African stakeholders have also provided and continue to provide their input through various discussion lists. The meetings held on the development of the Action Plan were held on:

- 24 April 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as a side event of ECA’s Fourth Committee on Development Information (CODI) meeting; and
- 9 May 2005 in Cairo, as a side event of the Arab Regional Meeting for the WSIS.

The Action Plan was reviewed by the African Ministerial Committee on ICT, held in Cairo on 10 May 2005. Several other meetings are expected to be organized to review and enrich the Action Plan. A final workshop will be organized during the Tunis phase of the SMSI on the morning of the 16 November 2005 to discuss implementation of the Action Plan.

III Policy context

The Plan is developed, under the aegis of the African Union in the context of several frameworks relevant to the African continent, including AISI, NEPAD and the WSIS.

AISI

At the time of AISI inception in 1996, the three major development goals that were articulated by African leaders included: improvement of the quality of life for every African, economic integration of the region, improved trade and other linkages with the global community. It was in that context that the AISI objectives were cast by the African Ministers of Planning, Finance and Economic Development as “supporting and accelerating socio-economic development across the region in accordance with the regional integration goals of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The AISI Vision states that “By the year 2010, there will be a sustainable information society in Africa where:

- Information and decision support systems are used to support decision making in all the major sectors of the economy in line with each country's national development priorities;
- Every man and woman, school child, village, government office and business can access information and knowledge resources through computers and telecommunications;

- Access is available to international, regional and national "information highways", providing "off-ramps" in the villages and in the information area catering specifically to grass-roots society;
- A vibrant business sector exhibits strong leadership capable of forging the build up of the information society;
- African information resources are available which reflect the needs of government, business, culture, education, tourism, energy, health, transport and natural resource management; and
- Information and knowledge are disseminated and used by business, the public at large and disenfranchised groups such as women and the poor, in particular, to make rational choices in the economy (free markets) and for all groups to exercise democratic and human rights (freedom of speech and freedom of cultural and religious expression).

NEPAD

The NEPAD ICT framework notes, “the goals of achieving a Common Market and an African Union can benefit immensely from the revolution in information technology. In addition to fostering intra-regional trade, the use of ICTs could also accelerate Africa’s integration into the global economy. Intensive use of ICTs can bring, unprecedented comparative advantages to the continent. According to the NEPAD framework, ICTs can, among other things:

- Provide an impetus to the democratization process and good governance;
- Facilitate the integration of Africa into the new information society;
- The existing complementarities can be better utilized to provide training that would allow for the production of a

critical mass of professionals on the use of ICTs;

- In the research sector, we can establish African programmes as well as technological exchange programmes capable of meeting the continent's specific needs, with particular regard to the fight against illiteracy;
- ICTs can be used to identify and exploit opportunities for trade, investment and finance;
- Can be used to establish regional distance learning and health education programmes to improve the situation in the health and education sectors; and
- In conflict management and control of pandemic diseases, ICTs will help towards the organization of an efficient early warning mechanism by providing the tools for constant monitoring of tension spots. “

In this regard the objectives of the NEPAD ICT component is to:

- Increase teledensity to an adequate level of access for households;
- Lower the cost and improve reliability of service;
- Achieve e-readiness for all countries in Africa;
- Develop and produce a pool of ICT-proficient youth and students from which Africa can draw trainee ICT engineers, programmers and software developers; and
- Develop local content software, based especially on Africa's cultural legacy.

WSIS

The first phase of the WSIS held in Geneva from 10-12 of December 2003 came up with a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action on building an inclusive information society. The common vision was that of “a common desire and commitment

to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”.

In the Declaration was also a quest that the information society should be a society for all (inclusive) in that everyone should benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer. All stakeholders should therefore work together to:

- Improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to
- Information and knowledge;
- Build capacity;
- Increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- Create an enabling environment at all levels;
- Develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media;
- Address the ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and
- Encourage international and regional cooperation.

The Declaration committed all to move towards an information society for all based on shared knowledge by strengthening cooperation to seek common responses to the challenges and to the implementation of the Plan of Action, which would realize the vision of an inclusive Information Society based on the Key Principles incorporated in the Declaration.

IV Accra commitments for Tunis 2005

General principles

The Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS adopted a number of resolutions on Africa's key issues of concern in the WSIS process and ICT issues in general. The main outcome document, "Accra Commitments for Tunis 2005", is Africa's position and contribution to the WSIS Tunis phase. The outcomes were used by the African Group at the second preparatory committee (Prepcom-2) for WSIS, which was held in Geneva from 15 to 27 February in Geneva. In Accra, "the African information society community agrees on the following general principles:

- Building the information society must be inclusive of all stakeholders including Government, as well as private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other regional and international organizations
- Building the information and shared knowledge society will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals to improve quality of life and eradicate poverty by creating opportunities to access, utilize and share information and knowledge
- The international community will tackle information society building on the basis of commitments to remove obstacles to bridging the digital divide.
- Building an inclusive information society requires the use of the languages of the concerned populations."

Operational aspects

- The operational Aspects of Accra commitments can be

summarized as follows:

- Development e-strategies
- Indicators to assess to implementation of the IS
- Create environment for Partnership
- Adapt Internet Governance to the need of the IS
- Resources mobilization
- International cooperation

V Role of Stakeholders

In an all-inclusive Information Society, each segment of the society has a specific role to play and responsibilities to bear. The major stakeholders range from government, civil society, private sector, bilateral partners and international community. As pointed out by the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Information Society, The African Information Society Initiative (AISI) various role are:

Role of Government

Governments have a leading role in developing and implementing comprehensive, forward looking and sustainable e-strategies. They need to create a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. In this regard, they are expected to foster policies that are supportive, transparent, pro-competitive, and predictable taking into account the need to support an enabling and competitive environment for the necessary investment in ICT infrastructure and for the development of new services that would facilitate access to the entire population. In this context, Governments should provide adequate access through various communication resources, notably the Internet, to public information; however taking into consideration the need to enact legislation on access and the preservation of public data, notably through new technologies.

Role of cities and local authorities

Local authorities, beside States, have a key role to play in promoting new services needed by Local development. For that purpose, the local authorities should have clearly established responsibilities additional to those of the national Governments. Therefore, an adequate legislative framework and a strategy must be adopted in every country to ensure harmonization and synergy of central government and local authorities' responsibilities and field of actions. Cities and local authorities have particularly the responsibility to formulate an e-government agenda and guarantee the inclusion of the marginalized populations through an effective digital solidarity.

ICT constitutes henceforth the basic decision-making tools in the regional development, the planning of public utilities, the prevention and the management of any types of risk: natural, sanitary, industrial and social. The local authorities are directly responsible to ensure the inclusion of all in the knowledge society, to promote a change management based on ICT-enabled possibilities and to settle pragmatic objectives in terms of employment, human capacity building and the consolidation of the bases of the local development.

Role of Private Sector

The private sector has an effective role to play in developing the African Information Society. It is crucial to put in place in Africa a critical mass of business ventures capable of supporting the development and use of the information infrastructure. Public policy, in concert with private initiatives, must work together in achieving an inclusive African information society. In order to support increased participation of the private sector, Governments need to facilitate investments and promote Public Private Partnerships. Since African Small, Medium and Micro-

sized Enterprises (SMMEs) are playing an important role in ICT development and usage in most of the countries, obstacles that are stopping these companies from fully participating in Information Society development should be overcome. In this context, SMMEs should be supported in capacity building, creation of joint ventures and access to capital and markets at the regional and country levels.

Role of Civil Society

Non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations should be considered pivotal to the development of the Information Society as they will act as agents of change. With their good understanding of communities and groups, civil society organizations can substantially increase the impact that government initiatives will have on the population. They should serve as interfaces between donors, Governments and citizens to promote sustainable development through delivery of training and project implementation in a cost-effective manner. In this regard, civil society participation to the information society is crucial for promotion of sustainable and balanced development, human development that is equitable; sustainable; holistic; inclusive of all sectors of society; gender responsive; participatory; people centered and Afro-centric. It can influence policy and ensure that strategies and plans enable the development and the formation of an Information Society based on social justice and human development.

Role of Parliaments

Recent developments in the field of Information require full involvement of publicly elected leaders, especially Members of Parliaments, in the development of the Information Society. When e-democracy, e-governance and e-voting start taking shape, it is essential to underline the institutional responsibility

of parliaments in shaping the Information Society through forward looking laws and regulations. Parliamentarians, in their capacity of elected representatives, are responsible for providing leadership and guidance to their respective constituents in all aspects, including those related to the Information Society in Africa.

Role of Academia

A country's ability to fully develop an Information Society depends on the capacity of society to be educated, to assimilate, and to process complex information. This, according to Manuel Castells, "starts with the education system, from the bottom up, from the primary school to the University." This point underscores the critical role that universities and other higher education institutions have to play in the information society, whilst repositioning themselves for the challenges of globalization and the information age. Worldwide, academic communities have been part of a driving force in creating the Information Society, including spearheading intellectual leadership through a series of knowledge-building activities. They constitute a tremendous reservoir of expertise that could provide vital assistance working with governments, private sector and civil society in an increasingly globalized and complex world.

Role of Media

Addressing the role of ICTs in advancing Africa's development requires society to develop a better understanding of the new means of interaction offered by the global information infrastructure. Furthermore, African capacities to analyze, assess, and create greater awareness has to be stepped up if the continent is to become an active participant in the global information society. In addition to being an essential means for information dissemination, the mass media plays a critical role

in spreading awareness in Africa of the importance and benefits of the information revolution. Newspapers, radio and television provide an easy, accessible and cheap means of carrying information to end-users. Communities in Africa do not have to wait for the Internet to receive much of the information it carries. The mass media can access many of the existing sources of information and provide broad channels of communications to the poor and to remote areas.

Role of International Organizations

Putting in place the Information Society often requires cooperation between countries and the international community, in the form of expertise in formulation of programmes and projects and also in financing. In this regard, the international community, especially the United Nations agencies and International Financing Institutions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa and the World Bank have a fundamental role in the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan. Another important role of the international community is support for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Considering that ICT is a vital factor in the achievement of these goals, it is very important to closely monitor the impact of initiatives supported by the UN and other international organizations in the use of ICT to achieve the MDGs and to widely spread lessons learned and best practices.

Special considerations for the Persons with disability

With the advancement of Information and Communication Technology, one can live in the global village irrespective of distances, national and international boundaries as well as disability.

ICT comprises technologies that can process different kinds of information i.e. voice, video, text, data and facilitates different forms of communications among human beings, including persons with disabilities. Hence, the advent of ICT brings all the populations worldwide together and provides them with quicker access to knowledge and its benefits.

Persons with disabilities are part of the society and constitute a big number of our African population. This category of our population is still considered a burden and liability of the family as well as the community. If we cannot integrate the persons with disability into the mainstream development of the continent our development would be belated. ICT is one of the most important and vital field intervention through which the persons with disability could be successfully integrated into different avenues of development. As such ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities would immensely benefit the disabled persons and the community in return.

VI The African Knowledge Economy

Vision

Africa is called to further integrate into the global economy which is an increasingly knowledge economy. Building the knowledge economy is consequently a major challenge for Africa on its way to establish the information society.

In this framework, the African vision should call for a collective effort to establish the information and to enable the African community:

- To use information to accelerate development, induce good governance and foster stability;

- To provide wellbeing and increase employment, reduce poverty and empower underprivileged groups,
- To enhance the natural capital and human capacity of the region and minimise internal inequalities; and,
- To further benefit from information by fully becoming part of the global information society.

To achieve this vision and create an information society, the African Community needs to develop and implement regional policies that:

- Make the Information Society by making information, communication, and their underlying technologies central to the development of the region.
- Make the Information Society by making information, communication, and their underlying technologies known, available to and accessible by the public, regardless of gender, age, religion, financial status, location, and race;
- Establish the information and communication sector and fostering growth and employment generation in this area,
- Ensure Governments' awareness and use of ICT at all levels to promote efficiency and transparency and provide cost-effective ICT-based information services to citizens.

What it means to Africa

African countries are at diverse levels of ICT and e-economy development. This diversity is reflected in disparities in the use of telephones, computers, and Internet connections as well as network infrastructure. It is recognized that technology is getting cheaper and increasingly driving down prices and improving access and affordability.

However, concerns over differences in ICT availability should

not distract the continent from the fact that Africa has made considerable inroads and achieved more success than was expected. For example, the first meeting of the African Development Forum (ADF '99) organized by ECA in October 1999 argued that, “the African infrastructure is not sufficiently e-commerce friendly, mainly because: the physical infrastructure is insufficient; the electronic transaction infrastructure is deficient; the legal and regulatory framework is still inadequate; the African e-commerce environment is not a nurturing one, mainly because; the level of awareness of e-commerce is not high enough; African entrepreneurs need training in using Internet for business; and African Internet support professionals need training to be able to support E-business oriented ventures”.

Today, the situation is different. In Africa, awareness of the importance of e-economy is widely spread, leadership has been created, regulatory, legal, and economic and policy frameworks have been created in many countries. The result is stunning. The move from fixed telephone lines to mobile has expanded e-commerce outreach. The mobile telecommunication sector has to qualify as one of Africa’s success stories. The continent has witnessed over 13 million new mobile subscribers, a figure equivalent to the total number of telephone (fixed and mobile) subscribers in 1995.

Africa’s mobile lines and market have been the fastest growing of any region over the last five years. The total number of mobile subscribers at the end of 2003 was just short of 52 million and mobile access stood at 6.2 per 100 inhabitants - twice that of the fixed rate. The African mobile communications sector is also performing well financially. In 2003 it broke the US \$10 billion barrier in revenues, with profits estimated at over US \$1 billion. This wealth has spread to other stakeholders such as

governments, which have collected over US \$4 billion in license fees, and equipment manufacturers, who have earned over US \$5 billion in contracts in Africa since 2000.

Thanks to ICT infrastructure development, and in common with the rest of the world, e-commerce is evolving rapidly in areas such as e-marketing, e-commodities, e-government, e-development, e-health, e-banking, e-learning, e-library, e-insurance etc. These elements of e-commerce constitute only a fraction of the whole range of possibilities it could offer.

While the positive impact of ICTs and e-commerce is obvious, particularly on poverty alleviation, this has yet to be demonstrated. Social impact studies and reliable indicators should be developed in order to base future policy frameworks on information.

The context of e-commerce therefore is better developed than when ADF99 was held about six years ago and a consensus on the fact that ICT and e-commerce have become major input factors for economic growth and poverty alleviation is widely reached in Africa. Accordingly, there is need to fully include Africa in the knowledge economy by integrating ICTs into development thinking, including the implementation of the MDGs. This can be done due to the integrative nature of ICTs and their ability to create linkages and synergies between all sectors of the economy.

In addition, looking at the region as one entity points out potentials to cooperate legislatively, economically, and technologically to achieve regional integration. Such a cherished integration is achievable in many forms ranging from collaborative work, tackling the means to open markets and integration, and ending with partnership-based integration. Regional integration is

believed to be an essential condition to cut down on the cost of ICT services. Such a target could be achieved by either call/data traffic reshaping or finding better preferential status when procuring hardware and equipment from foreign markets, or by exchanging the expertise available in the region instead of importing them from outside.

The African community will leverage existing resources, reducing the operating costs of networks and applications, and decreasing the time to implement the African infrastructure and infostructure as well as democratizing access to the advantage of ICTs.

VII Framework for an African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy

Table of the Key Areas of the Framework

Key Accra Commitments	Action Lines
Enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish regional sub/regional coordination mechanisms - To establish legal/regulatory framework for ICT development in Africa
Infrastructure and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Telecommunications backbones - Development of exchange points - Expansion of infrastructure, especially to rural areas - Establishing a conducive policy and regulatory environment - Creating Universal Access service
e-Strategies and Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing NICI Plans & their linkages with MDGs, PRSPs - Developing / implementing sectoral strategies: e-education, e-Government, e-health, e-tourism, e-commerce, etc. - Developing / Implementing sub-Regional strategies - Regional and Sub/regional approaches and methodologies to pilot ICT development processes
e-Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish the legislative framework related to the roles and the responsibilities of local governments in the promotion and the management of the information society, in accordance with the process of decentralization; - Formulate Local e-government agenda by ensuring its integration into the NICI framework; - Establish special action plans for local governments
Information Society Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating an homogenous framework for the countries' e-preparation assessment - Collecting Information Society indicators to measure ICT penetration, deployment and impact to be used as input into the e-Strategies elaboration processes - Collecting indicators on WSIS implementation
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Resources for the KE - Training Institutions & Networks - Training material - Generalization of Information Technology at the School / University

Key Accra Commitments	Action Lines
Research & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnerships between Universities / International Organizations / Private sectors, etc. - African Information Networks for Research - Subventions and supports - Outsourcing South / South and North / South - Innovation & Technological Research - Open Sources Software
Digital Solidarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formulate a Digital Solidarity guide for local government - Establish a stakeholders networks; - Submit a project to the Global Digital Solidarity Funds
Internet Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional and Sub regional Governance Instances (Hierarchical ascendant approach) - Legal Framework on e-commerce - Digital Transaction & Security - Spam - Internet Exchange Points - AfriNic & other Networks - Managing CCTLDs
	Multi stakeholder partnership
Women and the Information Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National machineries for using ICT to empower women - Involvement on e-strategy planning and implementation and in sectoral activities, especially SMMEs
Parliamentarians	Action Plan of the Africa ICT4-D MPs Network
Youth	Action Plan of the ICT4-D Youth Network
Cities and Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create e-local authorities Network; - Support south-south cooperation
Media	Sensitization plans at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels
Harnessing the Digital Diaspora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turn the digital gap into a digital opportunity - Build a platform which aims at using ICTs for the development of Africa

Key Accra Commitments	Action Lines
African Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and establish regional policy and strategies for promoting African Language in the cyberspace - Promote research and development on African Language in the cyberspace - Establish and sustain a broad program of capacity building on African Language in the cyberspace
Persons with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop innovative solutions - Promote and encourage inclusion / involvement of persons with disabilities in the Information Society development - Build special ICT centers equipped with suitable facilities - Develop crash programmes
Resource Mobilization & partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource Mobilization Conferences - Preparation of Project Proposals for bilateral and international partners - Projects for the Digital Solidarity Fund - Creating Specialized and dedicated funding institutions

Matrix of Key Areas of the Framework: Qualifying the Action Lines

1 – ENABLING ENVIRONMENT					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Establish legal/regulatory framework for ICT development in Africa	1. Encourage the development of national legal & regulatory instruments	2006 – 2008	NRAs, Govt, & other Stakeholders, including Development Partners	- National/ regional laws - Implementation & Enforcement	- Competitive markets - Economic Growth
	2. Harmonize national/ sub- regional frameworks into continental instrument	2006 – 2010	Sub-Regional Associations (TRASA, WATRA, AFRALTI, COMESA, etc.), Member States, AU (NEPAD), ATU, ADB, ECA	Model Guideline	Regional integration & cross-border trade
2. Establish regional coordination body	1. Formation of the coordination body from sub-regional associations	2008 – 2010	Sub-Regional Associations	Committee being operational	- Fair Competition - Even playing field - Increase in investment - Security
	2. Establish working guidelines for the body	2008	Sub-Regional Associations, ATU, ECA, ITU	Working Guidelines, Instruments for adjudication	- Development of e-economy

2 - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Develop broadband communications backbone	1. Development of reliable & affordable infrastructure with redundancy	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, NEPAD, ATU, Telecoms, Financial Inst., Postal orgs, Regulators, Broadcasters, Regional organization	Network rollout –terrestrial & satellite Inter-country links Increased tele-density & access to broadcast services	- Increase in volume of intra & inter communications - Improved uptime of networks - Reduction in cost of communications - Improved regional integration
2. To expand infrastructure to under-serviced areas	1. Establish universal service funds 2. Establish enabling laws & regulatory environment 3. Incentivise private sector	2006 – 2010	All of the above except NEPAD & ATU	Increased tele-density & access to broadcast services	- Increase in volume of intra & inter communications - Reduction in cost of communications - Contribute towards poverty reduction
3. Ensure reliable cross border power grid	1. Development of reliable, affordable & integrated power grid	2006 – 2015	Member states, Power utility companies, Financial orgs, RECs	Existence of networks	- Improved uptime - Affordable energy source - Increased access

2 - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
4. Structuring the African Internet	1. Establish alternative for African sub-regional Internet network structures 2. Setup alternatives for exchange points 3. Increase access to African websites 4. Promote African capacities and skills	2006 – 2010	Member states, AU, AFRINIC, ATU, ECA, NEPAD, Internet operators, RECs		- Increase of inter-regional traffic - Economic growth
5. Establish ICT laws, policies & regulations		2006 -2010	Member states, Regulators, AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, RECs	- Compatibility of networks - Increased cooperation	- Increased investment - Improved service to public

2 - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
6. Improve universal access/service	1. Develop policy on universal access/service 2. Develop implementation strategies for sustainable access/service 3. Encourage community participation 4. Promote the establishment of multi-purpose community centers	2006 – 2010	Member states, Civil society, AU, NEPAD, ECA, Private sector, Regulators	- Increased teledensity - Increased access to broadcast services	- Improved provision of e-services - Improved quality of life

3 – E-STRATEGIES and POLICIES

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Development of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish political Leadership 2. Build partnership 3. Establish structures to facilitate NICI process 4. Conduct baseline study 5. Develop policy framework 6. Develop Policy strategies and plans 7. Validate policies with stakeholders 8. Implement policy 9. Raise awareness of stakeholders 	2006 - 2010	AU, ECA, NEPAD, RECs, UN Bodies, Member States, ADB, International partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of countries with e-strategies - Number of countries with legal framework - Number of countries with implementing policy - E-readiness of countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved enabling environment for policy implementation - Improvement in achievement of MDGs/PRSP goals - Expanded information and knowledge society
2. Development and Implementation of Sectoral e-strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish sectoral teams for ICT implementation strategies 2. Develop sectoral e-strategies (e.g. E-health, e-commerce, e-education, e-agriculture etc.) 	2006 - 2010	AU, ECA, NEPAD, RECs, UN Bodies, Member States, ADB, International partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of sectorial teams established - Number of sectorial e-strategies developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening integrated policy implementation process - Improved linkages at sectorial, national and regional levels - Further improvement in achieving MDGs/PRSP goals - Sectoral focus on achievement of MDGs/PRSP goals

3 – E-STRATEGIES and POLICIES					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
3. Development and implementation of sub-regional strategies	1. Establish regional and sub-regional coordination teams 2. Develop regional & subregional e-strategy harmonization framework 3. Develop harmonized regional e-strategies 4. Coordinate the implementation of regional e-strategies	2006 - 2010	AU, ECA, NEPAD, RECs, UN Bodies, Member States, ADB, International partners	- No of regional teams established - No. of regional e-strategies developed - Regional Institutional framework in place	- Enhance regional integration - Expanded information society
4. Establishment of regional and sub regional online ICT Observatories	1. Development of Business model and plans 2. Carrying implementation 3. Cloning	2006-2009	AU, ECA – ADB – Member States – UN Bodies – NEPAD -	- Availability of content management tools	- Improve the ICT watch - Share Information on African programs / projects - Allow ICT Governance - Improve the planning process - Facilitate access to ICT indicators and statistics - Share added value content - Improve decision making

4 INFORMATION SOCIETY INDICATORS					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Collecting Information Society indicators to measure ICT penetration, deployment and impact	1. Development of a Methodological Framework for the Identification and the Collection of suitable Information Society Indicators	2005-2006	Partnership on Measuring the Information (ITU, UN-Regional Commissions, OECD, UNCTAD, UNESCO), RECs, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Research and Statistical Institutions, Regulatory Agencies, Ministries	- Availability of harmonized methodological framework for on Information Society Indicators	- Facilitating the measurement of the development and the impact of Information Society Indicators - Increase in investment in ICT equipment, applications and activities
	2. Adaptation of the proposed methodological framework to meet specific national conditions, requirements and that takes into account the stage of the nation's socio-economic and ICT development	2005 -2006	Idem as above		
	3. Application of the methodological framework by member states to measure their ICT penetration, deployment and impact	2005 -2015	Idem as above	- Number of African countries involved in collecting Information Society Indicators and measuring the impact of the Information Society	

4 INFORMATION SOCIETY INDICATORS					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
2. Collecting indicators on WSIS implementation	1. Development of a methodological framework for identifying and the collection of suitable WSIS Implementation Indicators	2005	AU, Partnership on Measuring the Information (ITU, UN-Regional Commissions, OECD, UNCTAD, UNESCO), RECs, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Research and Statistical Institutions, Regulatory Agencies, Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of a methodological framework to measure implementation of WSIS decisions - Number of African countries involved in monitoring and in the assessment of the implementation the WSIS Plan of Action 	Assessment of progress towards the development of the Information Society by various African countries
	2. Development of the capacity of National Information Gathering Mechanisms and Structures	2005-2006	NSOs, Research and Statistical Institutions, and Regulatory Agencies, Sector Ministries		
	Adaptation and the application of the proposed methodology to national specific requirement and conditions	2005-2015	NSOs, Research and Statistical Institutions, Regulatory Agencies, Sector Ministries		

5 – CAPACITY BUILDING					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Develop individual capacity - to use ICTs for retrieving, using, storing and disseminating information - at technical education level - at professional education level	1. Needs assessment 2. Use of ICT in basic education, e.g. NEPAD e-School 3. Business skill development around ICT sector 4. Digital training for various levels	2005-2010	AU, NEPAD, UN Agencies, member States, ADB, ECA, RECTAS, RCMRD, Regional & International Organizations	Number of Schools connected by year, Number of individuals trained to use ICT	- Digital literacy - Participation in the Knowledge Economy
	5. Launch “1 School / 1 PC” Operation	2006-2008	AU, NEPAD, ECA, ITU, UNDP, Consortium of International organizations with Private sector and Telecoms operators	Availability of computers in each school	- Sensitization of youth and teachers - Preparation of next generations - “Avalanche” effect
2. Develop organizational capacity - to deliver the institutions mandate efficiently - To organize and develop the organization - to reengineer	1. Develop/adapt tools for organizational audit 2. Develop strategic plans 3. Implement, monitor and evaluate strategic plans	2005-2015	AU, ECA, UNDP, other UN agencies, Local partners, Civil society, RECs	Adapt UNDP capacity Development indicators	Efficient organizations

5 – CAPACITY BUILDING					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
3. Develop institutional capacity: - to formulate and implement policy - to coordinate across agencies	1. Elaborate policy framework 2. Raise awareness		AU, UNDP, ECA, Other UN agencies, Local partners, Civil society, RECs		Sound institutions
4. Capacity building at the local community level	Establish partnerships with local communities	2006-2010	Members States, Development partners, Private Sector	- Universal access - Availability of telecentres and other ICT resources	Participation of local communities in the Knowledge society to rip of the benefits

6 – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Creation of ICT R&D Sub Regional Centers of Excellence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify host countries and host institutions 2. Identify specific fields of application 	2005-2010	Members states, AU, NEPAD, ITU, ATU, ADB, Academic and Research Institutions, Private Sector,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of centers created, - Specific fields covered - Publications and patents produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualified manpower in ICTs - Capacity of innovation - Production of hardware and soft ware in Africa to meet our specific needs
2. Creation of ICT incubator centers in each sub region	Identify fields based on demand	2005-2010	Members states, AU, NEPAD, ITU, Private Sector, Research & Development Institutions, UN agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of ICT incubators created - Number of SMEs created - Software and hardware as well as services provided by newly created SMEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase of the number of ICT companies - Reduction of imported ICT products - Reduction of price of access to ICT products
3. Setting up Funds to promote R&D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop partnership for promotion 2. Raise fund 3. Define mechanism for access to the fund 	2005-2007	Members states, AU, NEPAD, ITU, ECA, Private Sector, BAD, Research & Development Institutions, international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fund is created - Contributors have agreed to participate in the fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the number of research activities - Increase in the number of incubators and beneficiaries

6 – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
4. Creation of sub-regional science and technology parks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify host countries and institutions 2. Define the target companies 3. Raise funds 4. Develop partnership for the establishment of science park 	2005-2010	Members states, AU, NEPAD, ITU, ECA, Private Sector, Research & Development Institutions, international organizations, multi national ICT companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The science parks are created - Some relevant ICT companies established as tenants - Incentive mechanisms are established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some multinational/international companies established in the science park - Increase of knowledge ICT companies - Increase of the number of research results applied for specific need (product development,) - Technology transfer - Reduction of brain drain
5. Development of Partnerships between Universities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of research programs 2. Creation of Partnerships 3. Discussion of fields of collaboration 	2005-2009	AU, ECA, Universities, international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choice of Programs - Applications in using the Funds - Universities choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve African Skills in research projects - Improved Intellectual added value brought by African Researchers - Technology transfer
6. Creation of the African Research Network on the Information Society (ARN)	Creating local or Sub Regional R&D Networks	2006-2011	Universities, AU, ECA, UN agencies, international partners, member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of experiences - Common projects initiated - Common funding secured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholders quality - Human resources quality - Content management - Network animation - Network management Funds

6 – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
7. Outsourcing South/South and North / South	<p>1. Setting up local structures for promoting the export of African ICT products (Soft)</p> <p>2. Creating local structures that serve as confidence third party counterparts for partners</p> <p>3. Creating African ICT Market place permitting the use of African resources and skills between countries</p>	2006	AU, UN agencies, European Commission, Operators, international partners	<p>- Marketing models developed</p> <p>- Third part Confidence established</p>	<p>- Creation of an African IT industry</p> <p>- Earning of hard currency</p> <p>- Increase of employment</p>

6 – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
8. Build capacity of Academia to enable active and meaningful contribution to government policy processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize sub-regional workshops for Academia Institutions on PPP 2. Train Academia in policy challenges 3. Assess Academia capacity around sub-regional policy issues and develop policy and strategies of involving Academia in I4D at national, sub-regional and global levels 4. Establish a sub-regional Center on Nurturing I4D Innovations in Africa 	July 2005 – June 2010 (first phase)	National governments, AU, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and Associations, ITU, ATU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy 2. Number of Academia trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner 3. Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available 4. Sub-regional Center on Nurturing I4D Innovations in Africa established 	Increased Academia input in implementing the Information Society

7 INTERNET GOVERNANCE					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Develop a regional Policy on Internet	<p>1. Set up a committee to assess the current situation and draft a regional Policy</p> <p>2. Strengthen AfriNic</p> <p>3. Encourage member states to establish multi-stakeholders body for Internet Governance at national level</p>	2005-2007	AU, ECA, UNDP, ITU, ATU, Member States, RECs, Private sector, international organizations, civil society	<p>- MOU produced and signed</p> <p>- National bodies established</p>	Improved participation of Africa in Internet Governance

7 INTERNET GOVERNANCE					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
2. Create The African Governance Structure	1. Undertaking feasibility Study (Organizational, Technical, Institutional aspects) 2. Development of a Business Model 3. Preparation of a Business plan 4. Securing funding	2005-2006	Member States, ECA, other UN agencies, Civil Society, Telecom Operators, ICANN	Creation of the Structure Adoption of a Governance model	Improved Governance process
3. Create 5 Sub Regional Internet Governance Structures	Same model as above	2006-2007	Same model as above and RECs		Improved Governance process

8 E-Local Government

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
Before 2010, all the local governments will have formulated effective sectorial eGovernment policy, strategy and Plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint a local elected representative; 2. Develop the relevant applications 3. Insure the coordination between the various local, national and regional administrative structures 4. Train adequately the various staffs and the groups of populations 5. Set up an infrastructure of communication using all the potential of the innovative technologies 6. Adopt a strategy of development of tools integrating completely the advantages of free software. 7. Bring an active support to SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED Enterprises to strengthen the dynamism of the local economic and create innovative jobs. 8. Develop a series of indicators and set up a follow-up/support mechanism to help the local governments to benefit from the best international standards, bests practices and failures. 	2006-2010	UNITAR, French Gouvernement, Digital Solidarity Fund, ECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Local representatives appointed at all levels; -Local eGovernment Policy formulated, integrating all aspects related to Human capacity building, Open Source Software, innovative communication tools, multi-stakeholders partnerships, and relevant indicators 	Improved participation of Local authorities in the National Information Society

9 – WOMEN AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
<p>1. Build a steady network among African Women</p> <p>2. Create an active partnership for development projects especially to those which take care of cultural heritage,</p> <p>3. Facilitate access of women to basic information and information coming from specialized agencies of the African Union, ECA and other UN agencies</p> <p>4. Value, reinforce and broadcast success stories in ICTs</p> <p>5. Re-habilitate the African continent's image in general and that of women in particular</p>	<p>1. Create national and sub regional focal points</p> <p>2. Organise studies and exchange trips of leisure to allow African populations to know each other better and to understand each other</p> <p>2. Promote success stories to serve as reference for women all over the continent</p> <p>3. Promote government, civil society and private sector awareness to participate in supporting access costs to ICTs</p> <p>4. Encourage youth access to new ICT jobs</p> <p>5. Encourage Associations and other structures to include in their agenda the basic training in ICT for women</p>	2005 - 2010	AU, ECA, RECs	<p>- Number of visitors of the Web site</p> <p>- Number of focal points created at national and sub regional levels</p> <p>- Survey of people interested on new jobs in the ICT sector,</p> <p>- Number of projects inspired from success stories</p> <p>- Inventory of established partnerships</p>	<p>Effective establishment of databases containing human resources in women</p> <p>Effective presence of women in economic sphere due to the use of ICTs,</p> <p>Effective weight of women in the decision taking sphere</p> <p>Adoption of gender approach for a better access of women to ICTs,</p> <p>The establishment of a real partnership men/ women which guarantees consolidation of equality for all</p>

10 – PARLIAMENTARIANS					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of Impacts	Expected impact
1. Establish a sustainable, functional and effective African Parliamentarians I4D Network and sub-regional entities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launch Africa I4D MP Network 2. Establish host-country agreement 3. Establish administrative framework 4. Promote effective partnerships 5. Establish five sub-regional I4D MPs Network 	June 2005 – June 2007	AU, AU Parliament, ECA and other UN agencies, NEPAD, International partners, ABD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa ICT4D MP Network launched - Administrative facilities established and functional - Partnerships established with various institutions - Five sub-regional I4D MP Networks established 	An effective and functional African Parliamentarian Network for I4D established which will enable Parliamentarians participation in the Knowledge Economy
2. Build Institutional and human capacity of African Parliamentarians to enable active and meaningful contribution to government I4D policy processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize five sub-regional workshops on Information for Development for Parliamentarians 2. Promote the development of sub-regional Parliament ICT Policy and Strategies 4. Undertake global research study on involving MPs in building an inclusive Information society in Africa: best practices examples 	July 2005 – June 2010	Member States, AU, NEPAD, RECs, MPs Associations, ECA, ITU, ATU, UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy - Policy document developed and owned by Parliaments in Africa - Assessment results, interpretation and application of MPs I4D Policy 	Increased MP contribution to I4D policy at national level regarding law, sufficient budget, information for all promotion

11 – CIVIL SOCIETY					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of Impacts	Expected Accomplishment
1. Establish a sustainable, functional and effective Civil Society engagement in the African region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare agreement 2. Establish administrative framework 3. Promote the network at local, national, sub-regional regional and international levels 4. Promote effective partnerships 	June 2005 – June 2007	ACSIS, AU, NEPAD, ECA, international partners, ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal documents adopted - Host country agreement paper signed - Administrative facilities established and functional - Foundation registered - Foundation accredited by international networks and bodies 6. Partnerships established with various institutions 	The establishment of an effective and functional African Civil Society I4D Network Foundation
2. Build capacity of African CS to enable active and meaningful contribution to government policy processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize sub-regional workshops for civil society entities around policy processes 2. Train CSOs in policy challenges 3. Assess CSO capacity around sub-regional and sub-regional policy issues and develop policy and strategies of involving CSO in I4D at national, sub-regional and global levels 4. Undertake global research study on establishing an inclusive Information society in Africa: best practices examples 5. Initiate awards on I4D activities 6. Establish a CSO training Center on I4D 	July 2005 – June 2007 (first phase)	AU, ECA and other UN agencies, Member States, NEPAD, RECs ITU, ATU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy - Number of CSOs trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner - Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available - Publication on findings done and used by CSO - Award concluded and activities promoted - Training Center established in five African sub-regions and fully equipped and operational 	Increased CS input in government processes

11 – CIVIL SOCIETY					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of Impacts	Expected Accomplishment
Capacity building on implementation of WSIS Action Plan	5 sub-regional workshops on WSIS implementation	2006	AU, ACSIS, ECA, International partners, RECs	Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on WSIS implementation	Implementing WSIS Action Plan
<p>“We are committed to realizing our common vision of the Information Society for ourselves and for future generations. We recognize that young people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and well-being.”</p> <p><i>Source: Paragraph 11 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles</i></p>					

12- YOUTH					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected Accomplishment
1. Ensure improved and productive youth participation in Africa's Information Society agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish host-country agreement 2. Establish administrative framework 3. Promote network at local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels 4. Promote effective partnerships 	2006 - 2007	AYIN, AU, NEPAD, ECA and other UN agencies, International partners, ACSIS, ATU, CTO, ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal documents adopted - Host country agreement paper signed - Administrative facilities established and functional - Foundation accredited by international networks and bodies - Partnerships established with various institutions, with availability of contractual agreements 	The establishment of an effective and functional African Youth ICT4D Network Foundation
2. Provide a reference and motivational material on ICTs and Youth Employability in Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get support for the report and interlinked processes 2. Carry out baseline studies 3. Review initial findings and get multi-stakeholder input 4. Publish report 5. Initiate annual global and five sub-regional Youth award on I4D activities 	2006 - 2007	AU, ECA and other UN agencies, International partners, ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement with ECA on study and report - Completion of baseline study in at least 5 countries from each sub-region - Positive feedback from governments, civil society, academia, private sector, media, development partners and international organizations - Report published - Award concluded and activities promoted 	Report on Youth best practices in ICTs and Youth Employment

12- YOUTH					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected Accomplishment
3. Build capacity of young Africans to enable active and meaningful contribution to Government processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify young professionals in sectors that meet governance needs 2. Place qualified youth as interns within Government agencies 3. Assess youth capacity around Government processes 4. Employ qualified youth within relevant agencies 	2006 - 2007	AU, ECA, member States, NEPAD, RECs, Regulatory agencies, ITU, ATU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volume and quality of applications received - Percentage of youth serving as interns in government agencies - Proof that youth interns understand government processes 	Increased youth input in Government processes

13 – MEDIA					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Establish a sustainable, functional and effective Media Network for Information for Development promotion in Africa	1. Organizing launching I4D Media Network	2006-2010	AU, NEPAD, ECA and other UN agencies, International partners, ADB	- Workshop organized and Network launched	Effective and functional Media I4D Network launched on the Continent, sub-region and national bodies promoted and well involved in e-strategies process
	2. Get legal documents			- Legal documents adopted	
	3. Establish host-country agreement			- Host country agreement paper signed	
	4. Establish administrative framework			- Administrative facilities established and functional	
	5. Register the network			- Network registered	
	6. Promoting the Network at local, national, sub-regional regional and international levels			- Network accredited by international networks and bodies	
	7. Accreditation			- Partnerships established with various institutions	
	8. Promoting effective partnerships			- Five sub-regional network established and operational	
	9. Establish sub-regional I4D Media Network on the Continent			- Community radio Network and broadcasting association strengthened	
	10. Establish or strengthen, sub-regional and global Community Radio Network and Broadcasting Associations on the Continent				

13 – MEDIA					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
2. Build capacity of African Media to enable active and meaningful contribution to the implementation of an inclusive Information Society	1. Organize five sub-regional workshops for African Media entities around policy processes	2006-2010	AU, National governments, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and Associations, ITU, ATU	1. Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy	Increased Media professionals and Institutions, input in the building inclusive Information Society in Africa
	2. Train Media professionals in I4D policy challenges and their roles			2. Number of journalists and media professionals trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner	
	3. Initiate research study on policy and strategies of involving Media in building an inclusive Information Society in Africa			3. Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available	
	4. Implement or strengthen, sub-regional Media training Institutions in I4D			4. Training Institutions strengthened or implemented within five Africa region	
	5. Strengthen or establish Media I4D Excellence center or continental database on Continent for providing expertise for media Institutions and professionals in I4D			5. Excellence Center or database established and used by many Media professionals	
	6. Adopt Annual Media I4D festival in Africa			6. Festival annually organized	

13 – MEDIA					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
3. Share ideas, knowledge	<p>Creation of electronic mailing lists at national and regional levels</p> <p>Create tools for local development and training/ ICT online website/colleges</p>	April 2005 to December 2006	As above	<p>Many journalists have had to learn the know how on ICTs through mailing lists and also many have traveled widely to participate in ICT research workshops, conferences, meetings etc. because of being part of mailing lists</p> <p>They also have been aware of what is happening in the ICT arena in the world and have also gained the interest to report on ICTs</p> <p>Creation of web sites specifically for journalists to contribute</p>	<p>Creating awareness,</p> <p>Improve the rate at which journalists access the internet</p> <p>Improved the income of Journalists as many new opportunities are shared on mailing lists of many Journalists have taken upon as a challenge</p> <p>Journalists learn more applications of the internet because of being part of mailing lists</p> <p>Journalists learn to contribute to online publications</p>

13 – MEDIA					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
4. Advance gender equality in African media in reporting on ICT4D	<p>Create an alternative media for women</p> <p>Promote and strengthen women's alternative media</p> <p>Monitor the portrayal and employment of women in the media to ensure greater gender equality and non-sexist portrayal even in the use of ICTs</p> <p>Involve women in decision making process</p>	April 2005 to December 2007	<p>Donor community</p> <p>Regional bodies</p> <p>Media organizations</p> <p>Civil society and NGOs</p> <p>Media Networks on ICT4D</p> <p>Governments</p> <p>Academia/ Universities</p>	<p>Gender issues will receive more coverage</p> <p>Encouraged to write ICT stories with a gender aspect</p> <p>Gender training in ICT reporting will be developed</p> <p>Increase women's community radio and television programming adapted to local needs and language, in both urban and rural areas in Africa</p> <p>Produce visual printed materials in comprehensible languages that share information on issues that affect women's daily lives</p> <p>Usage of training materials</p> <p>Localization of training materials</p> <p>Who is benefiting from the access of this training? Women and male journalists become gender sensitive</p> <p>How many networks are being built, urban or rural areas?</p> <p>Feedback on materials produced</p> <p>Impacting on the people, planet, and profit?</p> <p>Recycling capacity of the newspaper that is produced</p> <p>Renewable energy resources</p>	<p>Gender sensitive reporting in the African media since gender is a cross cutting issue</p> <p>Journalists will be gender aware when ever they write their reports</p> <p>When selecting journalists to cover an ICT event gender should be one of the criteria</p> <p>We will help to have women in decision making positions just as men as they will now be considered to participate and not be left behind</p> <p>Alternative media for women journalists will help to generate interest in women journalists to take up the challenge in reporting on ICTs</p> <p>African women's voices will be in the media and local content will be developed for Africa</p>

14 – PRIVATE SECTOR					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. To establish a sustainable, functional and effective Private Sector Network for Information for Development promotion in Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish I4D Private Sector Network 2. Get legal documents 3. Establish host-country agreement 4. Establish administrative framework 5. Register Foundation 6. Promoting foundation at local, national, sub-regional regional and international levels 7. Accreditation 8. Promoting effective partnerships 9. Establish sub-regional Private Sector Network on the Continent 	June 2005 – June 2007	ECA, AU, NEPAD, eAfrica Commission, ECA, GKP, AYIN, SDC, ePolNet, ATU, ITU, CTO, UNDP, UNESCO, DSF, OIF, HBF, OSIWA, OSISA, AfBD, ArDB, WGIG	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workshop organized and Network launched 2. Legal documents adopted and made available 3. Host country agreement paper signed, and made available 4. Administrative facilities established and functional, with availability of related documents 5. Network registered, with registration documents available 6. Visibility of the Network achieved, with evidence of media features 7. The network accredited by international networks and bodies 8. Partnerships established with various institutions, with availability of contractual agreements 9. Five sub-regional network established and operational 	Effective and functional Private sector Network launched

14 – PRIVATE SECTOR					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
2. To build capacity of Private sector to enable active and meaningful contribution to government policy processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize sub-regional workshops for Private sector Institutions on PPP 2. Train Private sector managers in policy challenges 3. Assess Private sector capacity around sub-regional policy issues and develop policy and strategies of involving Private sector in I4D at national, sub-regional and global levels 4. Initiate research study on Africa PPP Policy and R&D promotion in the Information Society 5. Initiate research study on financing African Information Society and promoting new entrepreneurship 	July 2005 – June 2010 (first phase)	AU, National governments, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and Associations, ITU, ATU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy 2. Number of journalists and media professionals trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner 3. Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available 4. PPP – R& D Policy developed 6. Report produced and used by Government and Private sector Institutions 	Increased Private sector input in implementing the Information Society

15 – HARNESSING THE DIGITAL DIASPORA					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of Achievement	Expected impact
1. To turn the digital gap into a digital opportunity in Africa, mainly by means of capacity building through education and training	Provide computers (new and second hand for equipment of remote and poor areas mainly in the rural districts	From 2006 to 2015	Governments, local authorities, private sector, civil society organizations (mainly African organizations), donors, AU, ECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of training centers - Equipping schools, universities, and research centers in rural, poor disenfranchised areas of cities 	Initiation in computer utilization and Internet as well as other relevant new communication technologies of thousands of rural and other poor populations, mainly young boys, girls and women
2. To build a platform which aims at using ICTs for the development of Africa by strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations and making them visible and forward looking	Create and manage a database to provide African countries with the expertise available in the Diaspora on ICTs and various sectors of development (agriculture, education, health, etc.)	From 2004 to 2008	ACSIS, AU, ECA and other UN agencies such as UNDP, IOM and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of members of the Diaspora who have performed concrete support in program and project design - Implementation and evaluation of concrete activities - Availability of investment and financing of ICT for development 	- Capacity building and financing development activities, for the achievement of the MDGs, NEPAD and civil society objectives, all over the continent.
3. To turn the Information Society into an instrument for poverty reduction, conflict and war resolution, struggle against pandemics like HIV/AIDS, and promotion and protection of human rights through consistent policies for sustainable development	Lobbying and advocacy for permanent mobilisation of logistical and financial means to achieve the objectives of the Millennium Declaration, NEPAD and the Declaration of the international civil society at the first phase of WSIS in Geneva (2003).	From 2004 to 2015	AU, ECA and other UN agencies, The Digital Solidarity Foundation, donor agencies, international organizations, governments etc,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better involvement of the African Diaspora in the prevention and pacific resolution of conflicts and wars - Reduction of the number of conflicts, of the poor and people infected by HIV - Increase good governance in Africa; three workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of peace and development in Africa - Economic growth, more democracy - Increase in knowledge sharing arrangements

16 – African Language in the Cyberspace					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Develop and establish regional policy and strategies for promoting African Language in the cyberspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake baseline study within the Continent through consultancies with Institutions working in the area - Initiate sub-regional debates or workshops - Organize a validation workshop 	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, ECA, National and international partners	Policy document developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamlining of African language in the cyberspace in e-strategy at national and sub-regional levels - Creation of mechanism of digitalization of main languages at national and sub-regional levels

16 – African Language in the Cyberspace					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
2. Promote research and development on African Language in the cyberspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting research and development in language technologies and encourage fora for information sharing on the means of adapting solutions including hard- and software solutions, search engines, automated dictionaries, translation tools, etc.; - Creating and supporting networks of universities, national academies, research and development institutions working in the area of language development to federate action and share know-how and practices; - Federating existing language observatory projects - Establishing networks of language developers; - Supporting the call to establish sustainable funding mechanisms of projects to complete encoding of scripts - Promoting research aimed at policy makers to illustrate the interconnection between language diversity and economic development; - Fostering research and development in human and computer languages technologies for example in the area of key board development - Support IDN project for African Language 	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, ECA, National and international partners	Increased research & development outputs on African language in the cyberspace	- Most of African languages are localized and content increased in the cyberspace

16 – African Language in the Cyberspace					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
3 Ensure and sustained broad program of capacity building on African Language in the cyberspace	<p>Development per nation, sub-region of reliable language tools for all education levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create programme in computational linguistics at all levels of education. - Create master and PhD computational linguistic within sub-regional Universities of linguistics Center - Fostering capacity-building for communities with endangered and lesser-spoken languages to participate in international standard-setting mechanisms with specific provision for representatives from developing countries 	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, ECA, National and international partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Computational linguistics programme integrated in the curriculum of all education levels in many African Countries - PhD and master computational linguistic degrees created within five majors Universities in Africa 	Increase of the presence of African language content in the cyberspace

17 – PERSONS WITH DISABILITY					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Develop innovative and creative solutions for Vulnerable, handicapped, and disabilities persons in term of software and hardware	1. Prepare and make Framework available	2006-2010	Member states, NEPAD, ATU , ECA, ITU, Telecom operators, Private sector	Partnerships established with various institutions	- Improved techniques for disabilities - Comprehensive & Better ICT industries
2.Promote and encourage inclusion / involvement of persons with disabilities in the ICT development cycle, and provide them the opportunity to contribute effectively	1. Prepare and make contractual agreements available 2.Get support for the plan	2006-2008	Member states, AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, Telecom operators, RECs	Legal documents approved and presented	- Increase the human resources - Decrease reliability of the disable on the community
3.Build special ICT centers equipped with suitable facilities, where persons with disabilities can have smooth and easy access to knowledge, resources and useful information from around the world	1.Assess the exact need of these centers 2. Employ qualified instructors in these centers	2006-2012	Member states AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, Telecom operators, Private sector	Availability of Facilities and services	Enhance & enlarge the capacity building spectrum
4.Develop crash programmes should be undertaken to develop and ensure the standard and equality for ICT education	Organizing workshops to setup the most appropriate methodology	2006-2010	Member states, AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, Telecom operators, Regional orgs, RECs	Executive facilities established and functional	Improved quality of education

17 – PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
5. Involve and encourage the private and commercial sectors to provide training on ICT from very basic levels to advanced levels on computer hardware, software and multimedia issues	1. Promoting effective partnership 2. Initiate research study for the benefit of the project	2006-2010	Member states, Private sector	Ensure Quality and sustainability of the program	More positive contribution from private and commercial sectors

18-RESOURCE MOBILISATION					
Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Estimating an overall financial out lay necessary to build the African Information Society	Prepare project proposals at national and regional levels (such projects should be properly costed and coordinated within a realistic framework)	2005 – 2007 (Phase 1)	Member states, AU, ECA, NEPAD, Donors, Investors, DAC/OECD, Private sector, Financial institutions, Arab League Working Group on ICT projects and programs, African Digital Initiative and Financing Agency		(a) Increased investment in ICTs (b) Harmonization of policies between parties for ICT4D (c) Significantly increase the African ICT project basket (d) Making use of best practices in ICT financing (e) Bridging the digital divide
2. Mobilize requisite financial resources to build the African information society and to take advantage of financing opportunities set forth by the WSIS including the DSF	1- Set up the institutional mechanism for/and organize donors and partnership conferences	2005 – 2006 (Phase 1)			
	2- Establish and strengthen institutions with the objectives of collaborating with various stakeholders – project development, investments and partnerships in ICT4D in Africa	2005 – 2006			
3. Build sectoral partnerships and attract investments in ICT4D at National and regional levels	1- Encourage debt-swapping mechanisms in ICT	From 2005			
	2- Make use of BOT investment initiatives in ICT	2006 – 2007			
	3- Encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships in revenue-sharing projects	2006 – 2007			
	4- Recognize the potential role of SMMEs in ICT4D, and assist them in the acquisition of resources from financial institutions	From 2006			
4. Financing African Researchers' mobility	Reserving parts of funds to researchers	From 2006	AU, UN agencies, ADB	Facilities Consideration	Exposure of African Researchers

VIII. PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

List of Projects & Modalities of implementation

Each project is expected to have a designated Lead Agency as well as implementing partners. The Lead Agency will prepare an information note on the project, using the ARAPKE template attached in annex 1. Each Lead agency will coordinate preparation of project proposals and needs assessment if applicable. The Lead Agencies will use their own resources or mobilize resources for preparation of project proposals and carrying out needs assessment.

A continental committee under the aegis of the African Union Commission and the Technical Coordination of ECA will define selection criteria and undertake priority classification of the projects.

On 16 November 2005, from 09H00 to 10H00 and 17H00-19H00 there will be a presentation in Tunis and a partnership announcement on the Action Plan to discuss resource mobilization and implementation issues with stakeholders and partners.

So far, stakeholders have submitted the following project descriptions:

Annex I

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) PROJECTS

Target country/ies.....

Leading Agency/REC's Stakeholders.....

Potential Partners:

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Project Title:

Programme/Project Focus Areas:

- Legal Environment/Enabling Environment
- Infrastructure and access
- E-Strategies and Policies
- Information Society Indicators
- Capacity Building
- Research & Development
- Internet Governance
- Women and the Information Society
- Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media, Local authorities, etc
- African Languages
- Persons with disability
- Harnessing the Digital Diaspora
- Resource Mobilization & partnership
- Other

Brief description:

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Background:

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Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies:

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Proposed Project activities:

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Sub/Regional benefits:

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Anticipated Outcomes:

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Risk Assessment:

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Budget:

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Schedule and Milestones:

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Priority:

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Long-term Sustainability:

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Submitted by:

Date: