

Opening remarks from Marcelino Tayob – ITU Area representative for Southern
Africa- in the ICT Joint ITU/ECA Regional Workshop on ICT Indicators
Gaborone, Botswana 26 – 29 October 2004

Master of Ceremony
Dr. Ramsamy, Executive Secretary of SADC
Mr. Lekaukau, Executive Chairman of the BTA
Mr. Faye, Representative of the ECA
Distinguished Invited Guest
Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and pleasure to me be here today, in this beautiful and peaceful city; Gaborone, representing the ITU in this Joint ITU/ECA Regional Workshop on ICT Indicators kindly hosted by the Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA).

On behalf of the ITU and in my own behalf I would like to first of all to thank the People and Government of Botswana and the BTA in particular for the warm welcome we have experienced since our arrival to this city.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all participants to the Southern Africa Region and to Gaborone.

This workshop, jointly organized by the ITU and the ECA, further consolidates the partnership and good working relations between the two organizations that in the end are working for a common goal in the ICT Development.

We in the ITU believe that we can better serve our membership working through and with Regional Organization, complementing each others synergies rather than duplicate efforts.

In this particular case, ECA and ITU happen to be part of the United Nations System. But the ITU is also working in partnership with other organizations both from public and private sector in its effort of promoting the ICT Development in Africa and around the Globe. Just to give one example, the second Public and Private Partnership Forum (PPP) will take place next week in Kampala, Uganda preceding the 5th Forum for Africa Regulators in Africa. In this Forum, PPP as we call it, the Private Sector that includes various Private and Public Service Providers as well as Telecommunications Regulators will have opportunity to during two days debate issues related to the ICT Development in Africa including the constrain and possible obstacles from their own perspectives. Together we may build a vision and develop a better strategy to achieve the ICT Development we all are looking for.

However unlike in the past where there were few well defined players were in the market, today due to the convergence of technology and the liberalization of the sector, the ICT issues are a cross cutting among various sectors involving various players and interests.

Consequently, to measure the development of the ICT requires possibly new set of indicators to complement or replace the existing ones. Also unlike in the past when most of the information could be collected directly from few Service Providers today when we are talking about ACCESS TO ICT the data collection methodology need also need to be enhanced, involving other methods and cooperation among various institutions and/or stakeholders.

In particular for the Policy Makers the definition of Universal Access to ICT, public and community based, has to be linked to Indicators to measure such access. For example a Mobile Service Provider can provide signal coverage to 100% of the population of the nation but for various reasons the covered population may still have not access to the services.

The information on why such populations do not have access and who have access, what type of services are accessed , etc.; can only be obtained from some sort of survey that can be conducted by the Service Providers themselves or by other specialized institution, such as the National Statistic Offices or similar.

In this regards we hope that by bringing together the NSO, Telecommunications and/or ICT Regulator and the Service Providers in workshops like this can help to bridge the understanding of the various stakeholders information needs and help each other in coming with the appropriate information collection and the methodology of collecting them.

We therefore hope that your deliberation will initiate a new relationship in this particular field of Measuring the ICT Access.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In concluding I would like to on behalf of the ITU, my colleague Esperanza Magpantay from the ITU HQ (that has put a lot of effort to make this workshop a reality) and on my own behalf to thank all the participants for responding positively to our invitation.

A special thanks to the ECA for joining us in the organization of this event and once again my sincere thanks for the BTA Executive Chairman for your support and through you to all BTA Staff involved in the preparation of this event.

We also would like to thank Dr. Ramsamy, for in spite of your heavy schedule, have spare time to be here with us and officially open this workshop.

Thank you for listening

