



BENEFITS OF CONFORMANCE AND INTEROPERABILITY TO THE DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

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INTRODUCTION

- Developing countries are spending a large portion of their national budgets on ICT programmes to:
 - close the digital divide that exists
 - enhance the growth of national GDP



ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Governments are building extensive broadband infrastructure to increase access.
- Governments are attracting investments in submarine cable infrastructure to increase bandwidth and to also reduce cost.
- Access to broadband boosts economic growth in all countries, but most especially in developing ones. For every 10% of broadband penetration, economies of developing countries grew by 1.38 percent. (World Bank, 2009)



CHALLENGES

- Lack of conformance, hence less probability of systems interoperability increasing investment costs.
- Influx of inferior products in developing markets.
- Other challenges to developing countries are:
 - Poor market surveillance capabilities ,
 - Lack of human and institutional capacity in conformance and interoperability testing
 - Unavailability of test labs



- Poor Quality of service and negative consumer experiences of inefficient ICT systems do not facilitate the uptake of ICT services and leads to the continuous widening of the digital divide in developing countries.
- Much of the ICT equipment in developing countries is old. The interfaces and protocols of such systems are not able to communicate with any modern systems that are more complex and sophisticated.



- Poor quality of service from the service providers, reduces consumer confidence in ICT products and services.
- Most African countries do not have laboratories to test communications equipment and systems for conformance, reducing the probability of interoperability.



WAY FORWARD

- Regulators welcome certainty in equipment type approval process if conformance and interoperability of systems imported into their countries can be easily facilitated by an ITU endorsed system such as a Mark, Reports from certified labs etc.“
- This will address the Standardization Gap Challenge outlined in **Res. 44 (Johannesburg, 2008)**:
 - The disparity of voluntary standardization;
 - The disparity of mandatory technical regulations; and
 - The disparity of conformity assessment.



- Taking into account the mandate of **WTDC-10 Res. 47, WTSA-08 Res. 76** and the **PP-10 Res. 177** for enhancing/improving awareness and capacity building on Conformance and Interoperability in the regions, there will also be a need for training programmes and workshops for developing countries.



THANKS!

