

# Communiqué on Measuring Broadband in SADC Workshop

24<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Gaborone International Conference Centre

Gaborone -Botswana

*Universal and Affordable Broadband Access*  
Broadband for Inclusive Social and Economic Development



## INTRODUCTION

1. The Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa [CRASA] in coordination with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) convened the Measuring Broadband in SADC Workshop.
2. The Workshop was kindly hosted by the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority [BOCRA] and held at the Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone, Botswana on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
3. The Director at the ITU, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, made remarks during the opening ceremony of the Workshop. He said that ITU was committed to its cooperation with SADC and CRASA. He also detailed the work being done at the ITU in regards to the data collection and dissemination. He noted that ITU had now become established in regards to work towards development of global reports on ICT indicators and performance. He, therefore, invited CRASA to write to ITU and request for access to the ITU database in order to assist CRASA in its quest for ICT statistics development to inform policy and regulatory decisions.
4. The Chief Executive of Information Communication Authority of South Africa (ICASA), Mr. Pakamile Pongwana, made remarks during the opening ceremony of the Workshop. He thanked the Government of Botswana and BOCRA for hosting the Workshop. He noted the various SADC Protocols, Declarations and Policies that had recognised the need of universal broadband access in order to stimulate job and wealth creation opportunities for Region. He recognised that CRASA with assistance of the ITU had developed Guidelines on Development of Broadband Plans to assist the Member States in regard to development of their respective National Broadband Policies and Strategies. He, therefore, said that the workshop was critical in assisting the Region to achieve the set broadband targets.
5. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information Communications and Technology (ICT) of Namibia, Mr. Djarakana, officially opened the Workshop. He expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of Botswana, through BOCRA for hosting the Workshop preceding the ITU World Telecommunications Indicators Symposium (WTIS). He also thanked the ITU for supporting the Workshop. He noted that in June 2015 in Walvis Bay, Namibia, SADC agreed to a set of broadband targets to be achieved by the Region by 2025 as well as agreed that SADC Member States should strive to establish their own respective National Broadband Policies and Strategies by 2017. He said that the Region had set targets and timeframes as guided by the ITU Connect 2020 Broadband Targets. He further noted that SADC had commenced with implanting the 4<sup>th</sup> Pillar of the e-Commerce Strategy and Action Plan included the setting up of the SADC ICT Observatory as the central point of reference for reliable, accurate and up-to-date collection and dissemination of ICT indicators, measurement, benchmarking and reports. He said that this would be a vital policy intelligence tool to support the strategic planning of the sub-region in building the Information and Knowledge Society, measuring the digital divide and enhancing Industrialization in SADC through ICT. He noted that SADC had engaged a Consultant, InnoLead, to develop a strategy, structure and implementation plan for the development of the SADC ICT Observatory. He, therefore, said that the strategy would be used in the construction of the database, portal and reports as well as operationalization of the Observatory

6. 31 delegates attended the workshop emanating from seven (7) Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, namely, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Participants also came from the SADC and Southern Africa Telecommunications Association (SATA) Secretariat as well as from various organisations and CRASA partners. The resource persons were drawn from the ITU and Ericsson.

**NOTED:**

- 1) The increased cooperation amongst CRASA and ITU in facilitating achievement of SADC Vision on broadband connectivity and utilisation;
- 2) Various SADC Declarations, Policies and Plans on which sets the Vision of SADC in regards to universal broadband connectivity in SADC;
  - a) SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) 2012;
  - b) SADC Declaration on Infrastructure 2014;
  - c) SADC Broadband Spectrum Plan 2015;
  - d) Guidelines on How to Develop National Broadband Plans 2015;
  - e) SADC ICT Ministers Meeting Records 2015; and
  - f) SADC Frequency Allocation Plan 2016.
- 3) Key baseline parameters to broadband connectivity including the need for high level leadership to achieve universal broadband connectivity and access and development of National Broadband Plans and Strategies;
- 4) The SADC Broadband Definition which states that SADC Members States should strive to set a minimum download speed of 1 Megabit per second (Mbps) as an entry level, which shall be reviewed after every two (2) years;
- 5) Six (6) Broadband Targets which included connectivity to all populations, primary and tertiary schools; health facilities; public sector agencies; households and cost of accessing broadband;
- 6) The work of the ITU in regards to collection, analysis and dissemination of the data that allow for monitoring and reporting on the progress in ICT development including the broadband connectivity;
- 7) The establishment of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) by the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission to take a lead role in developing a final list of indicators on monitoring the achievement of the SDGs;
- 8) The new ICT indicators established by ITU and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in regards to the achievement of SDG goal number four (4), five (5), nine (9), seventeen (17); and

- 9) That at international agreement to keep minimum speed at 256 kbit/s per user and this would pose a bottleneck in regards to benchmarking the SADC Region and other regions.

**RECOGNISED:**

- 1) The need to improve the SADC Broadband Targets and develop both the core and extended indicators on broadband connectivity and utilisation that would cover both supply and demand side allowing to track progress on broadband connectivity in SADC;
- 2) The need to align the SADC Broadband indicators with ITU ICT indicators as well as UNESCO ICT in Schools Indicators to allow for standardisation in collection of information from the relevant stakeholders in SADC.
- 3) The need for quality control in the collection of data that would be used for monitoring and reporting on broadband connectivity in SADC and assurance that the data is presenting active broadband subscriptions; and
- 4) The bottlenecks in achievement of broadband connectivity including affordability of access and devices, backhaul infrastructure availability, increase in the broadband applications and utilisation.

**INVITES SADC:**

- 1) To consider revising the broadband target as set by the SADC ICT Ministers and set the corresponding indicators, as follows:
  - a) Target One: remains the same and to develop indicators aligned to the existing ITU indicators regards to population coverage by broadband;
  - b) Target Two: should be revised where 'tertiary' to read 'secondary' schools; 'e-learning' to be replaced by 'e-education' and remove the term 'usage'; and to develop indicators aligned to UNESCO ICT to Schools indicators;
  - c) Target Three: should be revised by removing the term 'usage';
  - d) Target Four should be revised by removing the term 'usage'; replace with 'e-governance' with 'e-government' and to align to indicators established by SADC Member States including Republic of South Africa;
  - e) Target Five remains the same and should have its indicators aligned to ITU Indicators; and
  - f) Target Six: to revise and ensure that the Price of monthly broadband services should not cost more than 5% of GNI per Capita and its indicators to be aligned to the ITU Indicators regarding cost of broadband access.
- 2) To collaborate with the other relevant sector ministries such as Health and Education in collection of data regarding the targets in broadband connectivity to schools and health facilities; and

- 3) To accelerate the establishment of the SADC ICT Observatory that would allow for effective collection, analysis and dissemination of information on performance in relation to the SADC ICT Indicators, including, Broadband Indicators.

**INVITES CRASA:**

- 1) To assist SADC in the development of broadband indicators (both core and extended indicators) that would include the following aspects:
  - a) By technology (Fixed and Mobile Broadband);
  - b) By population coverage by various technologies (such as 3G, LTE/WIMAX, Next Generation Broadband (5G));
  - c) By utilisation of broadband services and applications across all critical sectors (such as education, health, agriculture, public sector, private sector);
  - d) By active broadband subscriptions;
  - e) By affordability of the broadband access to SADC citizens;
  - f) By quality of service to broadband connectivity; and
  - g) By proportion of access to households irrespective of the type of device used; and
- 2) To consider defining all the terms used in the development of the SADC Broadband indicators in order to provide clarity to the collection of data by SADC Member States.

**INVITES NRAS:**

- 1) To undertake gap analysis in regards to broadband infrastructure and identify the bottlenecks leading to delay in achievement of universal broadband in the Region; and
- 2) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders in the ICT industry and National Statistical Agencies in order to improve on the data collection, analysis and dissemination of the ICT Statistics, especially on broadband connectivity.

**INVITES THE SADC ICT INDUSTRY:**

- 1) To collaborate and cooperate with the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to collect and submit data pertaining to the SADC Broadband Indicators.

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