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2015

**International Telecommunication Union
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA**

Ref. ROA/ADD/MT/mw/L005/2015

Addis Ababa, 11th February 2015

To: ITU Administrations, Regulators, Sector Members, Associates and Academia Members,
Telecom Operators and Service providers, Manufacturers and Academic Institutions of the East Africa region, EACO Secretariat, EAC Secretariat
cc: EACO Secretary, EAC Executive Secretary

Subject: Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) Assessment Study for EAC

Dear Sir/Madam,

Communications networks are migrating to address NGN (Next Generation Networks) and Broadband.

Enabling the interoperability of products, networks and services is one of ITU's core principles. Products developed in accordance with ITU standards should provide the interoperability needed for users of these products to make use of them anywhere in the world.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14) Resolution 47 instructed the BDT Director to assist developing countries in building their capacity, in collaboration with ITU-T, so as to be able to perform conformance testing of equipment and systems, relevant to their needs, in accordance with the relevant Recommendations.


To this end, the BDT is conducting a Conformity and Interoperability (C&I) Assessment Studies on Regional and Sub-regional Basis and promoting collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements. This project aims at identifying the necessary elements and promoting collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements, seeking to present possible scenarios to meet the needs and interests of Member States and Regions.

I have the pleasure to announce that in Africa Region, on request from EACO Secretariat, BDT is going to conduct a study on countries of East Africa Community for assessing the actual situation (in terms of Laboratories, Regulatory regimes, MRAs in force and so on) in EAC countries as specified in the attached Terms of Reference. In close coordination with the ITU-BDT Counterpart, two ITU recruited experts, Mr. Joshua Peprah (joshua.peprahk4@gmail.com) and Mr. Thomas Senaji (tsenaji@gmail.com) will be conducting the Study. I invite the participating countries to collaborate and provide support to the above mentioned ITU experts during the process of the study to enable successful completion and achieve best results of assessing C&I status in the EAC region.

Based on the results of the study, a common and integrated approach for establishing appropriate C&I regimes in EAC countries will be proposed, e.g. building additional labs for C&I Domains (mobile, EMC, NGN, broadband, etc.) and/or encouraging the establishment of Mutual Recognition Agreements - MRAs between countries in the EAC Region.

The results and proposals will be submitted for consideration to EAC Countries and also presented during a Workshop scheduled to be held for those countries in the 3rd quarter of 2015. Date and venue of the Workshop will be communicated through an invitation letter that will be issued by ITU in due time.

With best regards,



Andrew Rugege
Regional Director for Africa and
Liaison to ECA and AU

Annex 1: Term of Reference of the Assessment Study