



International Telecommunication Union

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA

Ref. ROA/ADD/AR/sm/L051/2013

Addis Ababa, 13 May 2013

To: ITU Administrations, Regulators, Sector Members, Associates and Academia Members, Telecom Operators and Service providers, Manufacturers and Academic Institutions of the Africa region

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

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-10) 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, BDT is conducting a Conformity and Interoperability (C&I) Assessment Studies on Regional and Sub-regional Basis: 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, BDT is going to conduct a study on countries of Southern African Development Community for assessing the actual situation (in terms of Laboratories, Regulatory regimes, MRAs in force and so on) in SADC 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 joshua.peprahk4@gmail.com) and Mr. Thomas Senaji (tsenaji@gmail.com) are 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 SADC region.

Based on the results of the study, a common and integrated approach for establishing appropriate C&I regimes in SADC 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 SADC Region.

The results and proposals will be submitted for consideration to SADC Countries and also presented during a Workshop scheduled to be held for those countries in November 2013.

With best regards,



Mr. Andrew Rugege
Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Africa



Annex_1: Term of Reference of the Assessment Study