Harmonized Policies & Legislations for the ICT in ACP countries

Cybercrime
A global Project for the ACP countries

- An effectively functioning ICT sector is a key driver for development, growth and employment
- ITU, the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat agreed on a global project to provide “Support for the establishment of harmonized policies for the ICT market in the ACP states” at the end of 2007
- 3 regional sub-projects addressing specific needs of each of the region
- Cybercrime identified as priority by all regions

**HIPCAR (Caribbean)**
Enhancing competitiveness through the harmonization of ICT Policies, Legislation and Regulatory Procedures (3 years)

**HIPSSA (Sub-Saharan Africa)**
Support for harmonization of the ICT Policies (3 years)

**ICB4PAC (Pacific Countries)**
Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks (2 years)
The ITU-EC Project focuses on stage 1, 2
Stage 3 and 4 will need to be considered over the time to ensure quality and update
Stage 1: Regional Level

- Assessment of the current situation in all countries
- Identification of regional best practices and lesson learned
- Comparison and assessment against international best practices
- Discussion on the pros and cons of each model, in order to have the stakeholders deciding on the best model suited for their region
- Definition of Policies (building blocks)
- Drafting Legislative Guidelines
- A first cycle of institutional and human capacity building
Stage 2: National Level

Further to the completion of the Regional Guidelines the project moves to In-Country Support (National Transposition)

- Transposition into national frameworks in line with the national strategic objectives of each country

- An opportunity to expose a larger audience to the provisions of the new draft policy & legislation:
  - ICT ministry and regulator
  - Other relevant ministries (internal affairs, justice, finance, etc.)
  - MPs
  - Law enforcement, prosecutors, magistrates, judges, etc
  - Civil society such as consumers associations, NGOs, etc
  - Private sector such as business councils, professional associations, operators, internet service providers, etc.
Stage 2: National Level (Cont’d)

The philosophy of a National Transposition (to be adapted to each country)

- Two fold strategy - national experts (local knowledge) working together with international expert (regional and international perspective)
- Harmonizing national legislations with the regional Guidelines;
- Drafting process performed by a national team with the support, where necessary of the experts pool
  - Elaboration of a first draft for comments
  - Production of a second draft taking with the necessary amendments
- Validation workshop where amendments and changes are discussed and approved
- A second cycle of institutional and human capacity building
Current status

Caribbean (15 countries)
- Regional Policy and Legislative Guidelines developed (end 2010).
- National transposition (In Country Support) currently ongoing

Pacific (15 countries)
- Regional Policy and Legislative Guidelines developed (August 2011).
- National transposition (In Country Support) will follow

Sub-Saharan Africa:
- Central Africa
  - Regional documents developed with ECCAS and CEMAC jointly in order to avoid duplication.
  - Regional activities ongoing. Workshop planned before the end of the year.
  - National transposition (In Country Support) will follow

- Southern Africa
  - Regional activities ongoing. Workshop planned before the end of the year or early next year.
  - National transposition (In Country Support) will follow
Conclusions

The Global ITU-EC-ACP Project is a platform for sustainable harmonization

- Bottom up approach. Robust regional deliverables:
  - Assessment of the current situation in all the countries to identify regional best practices and lesson learned
  - Alignment with international best practices
  - Regional policy Guidelines
  - Regional legislative Guidelines
- In Country support: transposition into individual countries
- Linking the policy and legislation development process to human & institutional capacity building
- Incorporating existing efforts undertaken by others (e.g. international and regional organizations) to build synergies