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PRESENTATION

**PROPOSED POLICY GUIDELINES FOR
UNIVERSAL ACCESS/SERVICE FOR TELECOMS
SERVICES IN SADC**

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**PROPOSED POLICY GUIDELINES ON UNIVERSAL
ACCESS/SERVICE FOR TELECOMMS SERVICES IN SADC**

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INTRODUCTION

The SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology (Article 10.2) and the SADC Telecommunications Policies and Model Bill provide essential guidance towards the harmonisation of policy and therefore, of telecommunications development across the region.

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PURPOSE OF THE GUIDELINES

- ☞ To serve as a model for harmonisation of universal access/service policy in SADC Member States;
- ☞ To create greater certainty in the policy and regulatory environment for SADC countries; and
- ☞ To promote good governance as indicated in the SADC Protocol.

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OBJECTIVES

- ☞ Achieve the delivery of affordable, equitable, good quality and efficient information and communications services to everyone;
- ☞ Strengthen economic development through greater participation of SMMEs within a fair and competitive environment;

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OBJECTIVES (2)

- ☞ Promote greater private sector participation and encourage competition in the information and communications sector in the SADC region;
- ☞ Achieve greater social and economic development in the SADC region through the use of information and communications technologies, applications and services;

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OBJECTIVES (3)

- ☞ Expand the development of the telecommunications network;
- ☞ Promote foreign investment in the information and communications sector in SADC; and
- ☞ Empower disadvantaged people to have an affordable and good quality information and communications network, on an equitable basis

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STRATEGIES

- ☞ Promotion of fair and effective competition
- ☞ Establishment of Universal Service Fund
- ☞ Obligations on licensed operators to ensure delivery of services in under-served areas
- ☞ Encouragement of community participation in the provision of telecommunication services

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UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

- ☞ Ancillary tool for funding development of the information and communications sector in underserved areas;
- ☞ Telecommunications operators will contribute a percentage of their revenues;
- ☞ The financial activity should be made publicly available on the website and/or by written request of any citizen;

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CONCLUSION

- ☞ The policy on universal access/service for SADC seeks to achieve affordable and equitable access by everyone to information and communications services
- ☞ The policy guidelines are presented to the Member States so that the policy harmonisation process will be enhanced and be conducive to attracting local and foreign investment
- ☞ Member States are urged to scrutinise their respective legislation in the light of the policy guidelines.

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THANK YOU

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