

Association of Regulators of Information and Communications For Eastern and Southern Africa (ARICEA)

Mr. P. Masambu, Vice-Chairman, ARICEA

- Launched in January 2003
- Consultative and collaborative forum
- Aims : Exchange ideas, views and experiences among members on regulatory matters; promote the sustainable development and application of efficient, adequate and cost-effective ICT networks and services in the ESA sub-region

- **Core members:**
 - autonomous regulators in ESA
 - ICT ministries where regulators are yet to be established.
- **Associate members :**
 - Operators, service providers and consultants, or their associations; utility regulators in ESA and ICT Regulators or associations of ICT regulators in other regions of Africa

Relationship with other Organizations and Resource Partners

- Collaborates with COMESA, TRASA, WATRA, EAPTRO, FCC, NARUC, ATU, UNECA, ITU.
- Resources partners : USAID, the major donor; CTO, DBSA.

Achievements include:

- Contribution to the adoption of a Common ICT Policy and ICT Model Bill;
- Elaboration of guidelines on Interconnection, licensing, Universal service, Competition & Pricing
- Contribution to establishment of Network on Capacity Building

Consolidation of ARICEA

- Adoption of rules of procedures, for its meetings;
- Adopted a 5-year business plan framework;

- Technical Committees with initial terms of reference;
- Network on Capacity Building
- Concluded discussion on initial areas of collaboration with TRASA.

Challenges and Opportunities

- ARICEA has benefited from substantial resources from a cooperating partner.
- ARICEA members have made preparations for own funding of a small secretariat starting from 2005.
- Difficulties to raise enough funds from members to to undertake actions envisaged in its action plan.
- Substantial good will from cooperating partners towards the Association.

- Some initiatives, including NEPAD and Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) may support some activities
- The main key issues is Capacity building for regulators.

Conclusion and future plans

- ARICEA has started well.
- Will focus on completing the actions that have been initiated.
- Will also seek to consolidate the gains that have been made in capacity building and other areas.
- will endeavour to cement existing relationships with with other organisations and resource partners and explore new ones.