Contribution of ONATEL for the fourth
World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting
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INTRODUCTION

The contribution of the Office National des Télécommunications (ONATEL) for the fourth World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators meeting, to be held in Geneva on 10 and 11 February 2005, consists of the following items.

1   A brief overview of Burkina Faso

2   Legal and institutional provisions in the telecommunication sector

3   The telecommunication regulator and operators

4   ONATEL

5   Gathering statistics in Burkina Faso

6   Using statistics in Burkina Faso

7   Some difficulties

1   A brief overview of Burkina Faso

1.1   Situation

Burkina Faso is located at the heart of Western Africa, some one thousand kilometres inland. It has borders with six countries: Niger to the east, Mali to the north, and Côte-d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin to the south.

1.2   A few indicators

Area	274 200 square kilometres
Population	approximately 13 million
Per capita GDP	154 800 CFA francs (240 euros)
Rate of GDP growth in 2003	+ 7.9 %
Forecast GDP growth in 2004	+6.6 %
Inflation rate	+ 1.7 % en 2003
Capital city	Ouagadougou
Major urban centres	Bobo-Dioulasso, Koudougou, Banfora, Ouahigouya, Kaya, Fada, Tenkodogo
Number of households	1 800 000 (at 31 December 2003)

2   Legal and institutional provisions in the telecommunication sector

In response to globalization and its economic imperatives, Burkina Faso initiated the reform of its telecommunication sector on 4 December 1998, with the adoption of Law 051/98/AN, the Burkina Faso telecommunication reform act.

The application of this law is the responsibility of the minister of posts and telecommunications.

The new institutional framework includes:

–   a regulatory body to administer the sector

–   the liberalization of some market segments, with the emergence of new operators, investors and service providers

–   the ongoing partial privatization of the incumbent ONATEL mandatory interconnection and unbundling for the switched telephone network etc.

The main objectives are:

–   to promote the development of telecommunication in Burkina Faso by creating an appropriate legal framework, taking into account the demands of liberalization

–   to stimulate private-sector investment in networks and services by opening the market.

3   The telecommunication regulator and operators

3.1   The regulator

Burkina Faso's telecommunication regulator is the *Autorité Nationale de Régulation des Télécommunications* (ARTEL).

3.2   The operators

3.2.1   CELTEL-BURKINA
A commercial cellular operator

3.2.2   ONATEL

This incumbent operator is a 100 per cent publicly-owned state corporation offering fixed and (through its TELMOB subsidiary) cellular telephone service. Along with other ISPs, it offers Internet services. ONATEL has a legislative mandate to provide international Internet connectivity.

3.2.3 TELECEL- FASO
A commercial cellular operator

4 ONATEL

ONATEL is a publicly-owned state corporation with a capital of 12 billion CFA francs. The state is the only shareholder. ONATEL's basic mission is to improve the quality of telecommunication services.

The corporation's objectives are as follows.

–   Set up and operate the public telecommunication service in accordance with existing legislation.

–   Prepare and implement the plan for telecommunication facilities.

The main services offered are as follows.

–   fixed and mobile telephony

–   telex and telegraph

–   data transmission

–   specialized links

–   Internet access

The organization's payroll at the end of 2003 was 1246, and at the end of 2004 it was 1242.

5   Gathering statistics in Burkina Faso

All commercial and public operators are obliged to keep statistics and submit them to ARTEL on demand.

Within ONATEL, statistics are gathered by the central technical services. ONATEL's management information system also collects and centralizes basic indicator data using its information tracing system.

Through its international relations department, ONATEL provides support for surveys on world telecommunication indicators.

6   Using statistics in Burkina Faso

The statistics collected/produced are used by the following.

–   At the national level: the government, the national institute of statistics and demographics (INSD), the Central Bank of the West African States, the Burkina Faso chamber of commerce, industry and small enterprise (CCIA-BF), the *Maison de l'Entreprise*, consultants, and national/private research organizations.

–   At the international level: the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank, the African Telecommunications Union, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Telecommunication Union, the *Revues économiques des Entreprises*, and other development organizations on demand.

7   Some difficulties

The difficulties encountered may be described as follows.

–   Data collection procedures are manual.

–   There is no universal database.

–   Real-time statistics are not made available.

–   The consolidated statistical report produced by the regulator is not routinely available.

CONCLUSION

The IT master plan of ONATEL is in progress. It foresees an information systems component which may resolve the problem of a universal database and real-time availability of statistics.

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