

Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)



PRIDA workshop on IMT 700 and 800 MHz and transition from analogue to digital broadcasting



January 31- February 3, 2022

Policy and regulation initiative for digital Africa (PRIDA) project aims to foster universally accessible, affordable and effective wireless broadband across Africa.

The project has several activities to improve the spectrum allocation based on the best international practices, with particular focus on spectrum utilisation for wireless broadband.

In previous activities, comprehensive guidelines to facilitate the introduction of IMT services in those bands identified for IMT systems in the ITU Radio Regulations. The guidelines provided:

- an overview and summary of sharing and compatibility studies between IMT systems and other radiocommunication services/applications operating in-band and in adjacent bands;
- technical and regulatory conditions to facilitate the introduction of IMT services while ensuring the protection of other radiocommunication services;
- best practices of spectrum refarming of different radiocommunication services in different bands and funding mechanisms for the refarming process; and,
- cases of cross-border coordination for IMT v. other systems.

The guidelines was validated with member states in March 2021 and now in the final phase of the publication process.

This workshop will focus on the 700 and 800 MHz bands, known for their superior coverage characteristics, and will provide participants with:

- details of the sharing and compatibility studies between IMT and other systems;
- best practices on refarming those spectrum bands;
- spectrum licensing and pricing; and
- latest market developments.

The workshop will be organised over 4 working days (3 hours a day) as shown in the programme.

The workshop is expected to help participants to identify the shortcomings in their national legislations and regulation and explore opportunities where PRIDA can help the administration in improving their national regulations and facilitating the deployment of IMT in those bands (e.g. providing technical assistance on developing roadmaps for transition from analogue to digital broadcasting).

Based on the feedback from this workshop, the same approach could be generalised for other IMT spectrum bands.