



CONCEPT NOTE

Subject : Initiative of a subregional social media in Central Africa.-

1. Concept of a subregional social media in Central Africa

The broadcasting of fake news, hostile revelations and all kinds of manipulation are become common practice on social media. To this end, the spreading of *fake news* in very large quantity nowadays is made possible by technologies that enable both the manipulation of social media algorithms and the deceit of citizens, by showing them an alternative truth filled with exacerbated problems requiring radical solutions.

This disinformation fuelled by active groups with hidden agenda has serious consequences that could result into the destabilisation of a State.

The ideal would have been making the different social media and other platforms on Internet responsible for the contents published on their site as is the case with traditional media.

This approach is only possible if we can conveniently control the infrastructure that conveys the contents posted in a social media. Hence, the need and urgency for Central African subregion, to establish a social media that is totally under its control and open to the rest of the world.

In addition, the optical fibre cross-border connection of some countries of the subregion is already operational. This cross-border connectivity, coupled with Internet Exchange Points will eventually advocate a favourable subregional ecosystem for the development and use of local computer applications.

2. Objective of the concept

The aim of the concept is to establish a social network that facilitates subregional integration while maintaining the security of exchanges and personal data and citizens and States.

3. Advantage of a subregional social media in Central Africa

With regard to the current state of evolution of the world, the advantages are numerous:

- Facilitate social communication between people with almost similar culture;
- Facilitate economic exchanges and social diversity in the subregion;



- Facilitate the control of “Fake News” thanks to the hosting of servers in the subregion;
- Better preserve the freedom of speech and opinions of citizens;
- Better control of the personal data of citizens;
- A better access to programming and applications interfaces;
- Take ownership of local digital solutions and improve subregional confidence;
- Train young people in the development of applications and take ownership of the best current technologies...

4. Advocated approach

The concept is presented in five (05) phases:

1st phase: Validation of the concept at the subregional level

Each State should express its adherence to the concept through a formal commitment of its Minister in charge of ICT to implement this initiative. A focal point of the concept will be designated per country.

2nd stage: Conduct of a subregional feasibility study and business plan

Once the first phase is completed, a feasibility study and a business plan will be established at the subregional level, in order to submit a bankable project document that could help seek for financing.

This phase is crucial for the continuation of the project.

3rd phase: Search for financing

Financial backers like the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa... will be called on to provide financial resources.

4th phase: Implementation of infrastructure

The results of the feasibility study will be translated in concrete actions. A steering committee made up of the focal points assigned to the various countries will lead the implementation of the project. It is important that this concept be implemented by Africans themselves.

5th phase: Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation will be conducted by the steering committee of assigned focal points from the various countries.

Done in Yaounde, on

Mrs Minette LIBOM Li LIKENG