



Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) focal points meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. December 17th-18th, 2019

MEETING REPORT

Summary

The second focal points meeting for PRIDA project took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on December 17th-18th, 2019. The meeting was attended by 39 representatives, coming from:

- the European Union (EU) – three representatives;
- the African Union Commission (AUC) – one representative;
- the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), including the Regional office for Africa and the PRIDA project management team – five representatives; and
- 30 representatives coming from 28 African countries.

A panel consisting of:

- Mr. Vincent Durruty, representing the EU (EEAS),
- Mr. Moctar Yedaly, representing the AUC,
- Mr. Andrew Rugege, representing the ITU,
- Mr. Oscar Rodriguez, the ITU project manager for PRIDA, and
- Mr. Jean Jacques Massima, PRIDA ITU TechComm President

welcomed the participants and emphasised on the importance of the project for the cooperation between the EU and Africa. Participants were briefed about the project objectives and goals and their importance for the ICT and digital economy sectors in Africa. They were also reminded about the need to achieve gender balance also at focal point level, encouraging Regulators to nominate female PRIDA focal points.

Mr. Rodriguez, PRIDA project manager, presented the expected project outcomes and the planned activities to achieve them. He also introduced the draft project management plan for the year 2020.

Each national focal point presented the current status of spectrum management framework, spectrum allocation and assignments, cross-border coordination agreements and migration to the digital broadcasting in their respective countries.

In addition, national focal points voiced the challenges they face and the expected technical assistance and cooperation within the scope of PRIDA project.

Country requirements were analysed and discussed during the meeting and, where applicable, incorporated at the revised 2020 action plan.



Analysis of country requirements

Each focal point presented the situation in his/her country and the expected areas of cooperation and technical assistance within the PRIDA project.

Issues related spectrum management tools, spectrum management training, spectrum pricing and auctions and the ITU satellite and terrestrial filing procedures, were the most common requirements.

Other requirements included issues related to Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR), aeronautical and maritime radiocommunications, Quality of service, numbering resources and procurement of spectrum management software and monitoring tools.

Some of these requirements were obviously out of the scope of PRIDA project.

During the meeting, the project management team analysed such requirements and introduced the amended action plan for the year 2020.

The project management team stated that only issues that fall within the scope of the project could be considered. Also, in order to achieve the necessary continental impact, resources should allocated to activities benefitting at least five countries.

The requests received can be classified into these broad categories:

Legal and institutional frameworks for spectrum management

While it is not the case in most countries, few participants shared their concerns about the legal and institutional framework for spectrum management in their countries.

In particular, very few countries indicated that spectrum management decision making is distributed among different governmental entities, which creates difficulties in managing the spectrum resources efficiently.

Some others also flagged that spectrum management authorities are not financially autonomous and there is a lack of funding that affects performing the main regulatory functions.

Other few countries are expecting to receive a technical assistance within the PRIDA project in order to update their national frequency allocation tables, which are outdated and not aligned with the ITU Radio Regulations.

Although these issues are only affecting a few countries, the project management team will consider providing a direct technical assistance to countries on this topic if at least five countries request for it.

Should the project team receive any request for direct assistance with a specific scope, the team will assess such request and decide whether it can be addressed within the scope of the project or not.

Broadband networks have been developed at various levels among African countries

While some countries are preparing for awarding 5G spectrum in several bands (e.g. 700 MHz and 3.5 GHz), some others have not yet deployed 4G networks.

Such variation among countries may hinder spectrum harmonisation and create difficulties for cross-border coordination.



Within the scope of the PRIDA project, the usage of spectrum as of today as well as in the foreseeable future will be assessed. Guidelines on spectrum harmonisation, coordination and refarming will be also developed.

Some countries are still struggling with analogue TV switch off

Some countries indicated that the transition to digital TV is not yet implemented in practice.

Several countries have awarded the first and/or second digital dividend bands for mobile broadband deployment.

In some cases, digital dividend bands have been freed up, but they have not been awarded yet for wireless technologies.

The status of the digital dividend bands will be considered within the scope of the PRIDA project.

Spectrum pricing

Setting a fair price for spectrum resources seems to be a common issue in several countries.

Several countries requested direct technical assistance in updating their spectrum fees. Some focal points have also indicated the need for technical assistance in spectrum auctions, as a way of determining the fair price for spectrum resources.

Within the scope of PRIDA project, guidelines for spectrum pricing will be prepared.

The project management team considered that a direct support on setting a country-specific spectrum fees may not be feasible within the scope of the project. Determining the appropriate level of spectrum fees in a specific country could be a complex exercise and would require significant resources.

Instead, capacity building workshops might be provided to help transposing the spectrum pricing guidelines, to be developed within the scope of the project, into national legislations.

Cross-border frequency coordination agreements

Most of the countries have signed bilateral/multilateral cross-border frequency coordination agreements. However, in many cases participants indicated that they did not reach agreements with some neighbouring countries.

Some participants requested technical assistance and capacity building in order to implement the HCM4A agreement.

The issues related to the cross-border frequency coordination are within the scope of the planned activities of the PRIDA project.

Spectrum management software and monitoring tools

Several participants indicated the need for training on the ITU Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC). Some others requested advanced training or using a “*train the trainers*” approach.

Some countries indicated that they are using more advanced commercial tools for spectrum management.



Within the scope of the PRIDA project, two trainings were already conducted on the SMS4DC during the first year of the project.

Given the fundamental role that such spectrum management tool plays in managing spectrum resources, it was decided to run three regional seminars on SMS4DC in the first quarter of 2020.

Training on the ITU processes for the notifications of satellite and terrestrial networks

Many participants requested capacity building training or direct technical assistance on the ITU satellite and terrestrial filing procedures and associated software.

Some participants requested urgent direct assistance to deal with satellite filing requirements based on the outcomes of the WRC-19.

In particular, the amendments on the ITU Radio Regulations (Appendix 30A), created the need for some countries to modify their Broadcasting Satellite Plans by May 2020.

The project management team stated that these issues are out of the scope of PRIDA project, but they will liaise internally within the ITU in order to ascertain which support can be provided by ITU on the matter.

Action plan for 2020

The draft action plan for 2020 was amended in order to take into consideration the country requirements and suggestions proposed by participants.

The list of activities planned for the year 2020 includes the following:

- Developing Guidelines on radio frequency regulation based on ITU Radio Regulations, ITU-R Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks, regional harmonisation frameworks, case studies, country experiences and regional consultations.
- Developing Guidelines for national radio frequency spectrum coordination including refarming methods.
- Collect information on the availability of the backhaul links (incl. fibre).
- Based on the Guidelines above propose improvements of national radio spectrum regulations.
- Based on the Guidelines above propose harmonized refarming plans for the usage of frequency bands identified for wireless broadband.
- Based on the Guidelines above propose roadmap and priorities for wireless broadband deployment in Africa.
- Providing technical assistance for national spectrum entities to transpose these roadmaps.
- Preparing Guidelines for radio frequency spectrum licensing for wireless broadband + Preparing Guidelines for pricing + Preparing Guidelines for usage + Preparing Guidelines for HCM4A
- On request assisting countries in specific cases for cross border frequency coordination and providing technical assistance for the resolution of critical situation
- Providing policy outreach on concept and business models of IoT.
- Providing overview on the ITU activities and ensuring participation in relevant ITU meetings.
- Organizing workshops on digital technologies and relevant frequency issues in relation to IoT.
- Organizing capacity building workshops.
- Organizing a 5G annual African Continental Conference -PRIDA focus-



- Provide direct technical assistance to countries (on demand), on: a) The transposal of our Guidelines for pricing; b) Digital Migration; c) Implementation of modern spectrum management regulatory framework; d) Updating national allocation tables; e) Others (as requested by countries)

In addition, the following events will be organised:

No.	Event	Period	Duration	Location
1	PRIDA [EN]: East + South Africa regional capacity building workshop. Modern spectrum management + Spectrum Mgmt. Software (SMS4DC)	2-6 March	5d	Zanzibar
2	PRIDA [FR]: Central + West Africa regional capacity building workshop. Modern spectrum management + Spectrum Mgmt. Software (SMS4DC).	16-20 March	5d	Cote d'Ivoire
3	PRIDA [EN]: North Africa regional capacity building workshop. Modern spectrum management + Spectrum Mgmt. Software (SMS4DC).	30 March - 3 April	5d	Tunisia
4	PRIDA [EN+FR]: Knowledge sharing workshop (and/or) Training on HCM4A (and/or) on spectrum auctioning. 1 week, back to back	May	5d	<i>To be confirmed</i>
5	5G African Continental Conference [EN + FR]	June	3d	<i>To be confirmed</i>
6	PRIDA focal points meeting 2020 [EN + FR] + TechComm [EN]	15-17 September	3d	<i>To be confirmed</i>
7	PRIDA [EN]: East+South Africa on broadband technologies + digital technologies and relevant frequency issues related to IoT	5-9 October	5d	<i>To be confirmed</i>
8	PRIDA [FR]: Central + West Africa on broadband technologies + digital technologies and relevant frequency issues related to IoT	19-23 October	5d	<i>To be confirmed</i>
9	PRIDA [EN]: North Africa on broadband technologies + digital technologies and relevant frequency issues related to IoT	2-6 November	5d	<i>To be confirmed</i>



Annex - List of country participants

ITU PRIDA National Focal Points meeting 17-18 December 2019, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

#	Name	Country
1	Codjo Simplicite Vital CHANHOUN	Benin
2	Arnaud DAMIBA	Burkina Faso
3	Deogratias BIZINDAVYI	Burundi
4	Abdouramane El HADJAR	Cameroon
5	Kaissoine Abdou	Comoros
6	Benjamin MOUANDZA	Congo
7	Issouf DIARRASSOUBA	Cote d'Ivoire
8	Pontien NGOIE	Democratic Republic of the Congo
9	Abdallah ALI MOHAMED	Djibouti
10	Mohamed ABDELGHANY	Egypt
11	Bonifacio ANDEME	Equatorial Guinea
12	GUIBINGA NGOUESSI Robert Serge	Gabon
13	Suun FAYE	Gambia
14	Patrick MUSIYAPO	Malawi
15	Coulibaly SIAKA	Mali
16	Mohamed Fadel ETABOU	Mauritania
17	Dorendra (Yasheel) PURSUNON	Mauritius
18	Ahmed JEAN BORAUD	Niger
19	Ismail Angri	Morocco
20	Cecilio SACRAMENTO	Sao Tome and Principe
21	Liban Abdulkadir	Somalia
22	Richard MAKGOTLHO	South Africa
23	Ndukayo ZANBA	South Sudan
24	Majdaldeen Musa	Sudan
25	Yao DHOSSA	Togo
26	Tawfik Rojbi	Tunisia
27	Alfred Bogeger	Uganda
28	Mutinta CHOLWE	Zambia
29	Henry ILUNGA KANTENGA	Democratic Republic of the Congo
30	Olfa Jammeli	Tunisia