Conformance and Interoperability (C&I)
Validation Workshop for EAC Region

Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya
21st – 23rd October 2015

Assessment Study on Conformance and Interoperability for EAC Countries

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CONFORMITY AND INTEROPERABILITY ASSESSMENT ON A REGIONAL BASIS: Maghreb countries

- **Collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for Establishing common Conformity and Interoperability (C&I) Programmes and Mutual Recognition Agreements**

EAC region C&I Study

- The objective is to carry out the Conformity and Interoperability Assessment on a Regional Basis. This project aimed to identify all the necessary elements and promote the Collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Programme and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). It also presents possible scenarios to meet the needs and interests of Member States and Regions on C&I. The Assessment covers, among other items:

- **General aspects of EAC region**
- **Regulatory framework and Institutions**
- **Accreditation, Laboratories, certification bodies and Marking**
- **Recommendations for establishing common C&I programme and MRAs.**

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Methodology for conducting the Study

International Telecommunication Union REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA

ROA/ADD/MT/mw/L005/2015

Addis Ababa, 22nd January 2015

To: ITU Administrations, Regulators, Sector Members, Associates and Academia Members,
Telecom Operators and Service providers, Manufacturers and Academic Institutions of the East Africa region, EACO Secretariat EAC Secretariat
Cc: EACO Secretary, EAC Executive Secretary

Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) Assessment Study for EAC

Dear Sir/Madam,

Communications networks are migrating to address NGN (Next Generation Networks) and Broadband.

Enabling the interoperability of products, networks and services is one of ITU's core principles. Products developed in accordance with ITU standards should provide the interoperability needed for users of these products to make use of them anywhere in the world.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14) Resolution 47 instructed the BDT Director to assist developing countries in building their capacity, in collaboration with ITU-T, so as to be able to perform conformance testing of equipment and systems, relevant to their needs, in accordance with the relevant Recommendations.

To this end, the BDT is conducting a Conformity and Interoperability (C&I) Assessment Studies on Regional and Sub-regional Basis and promoting collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements. This project aims at identifying the necessary elements and promoting collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements, seeking to present possible scenarios to meet the needs and interests of Member States and Regions.

I have the pleasure to announce that in Africa Region, on request from EACO Secretariat, BDT is going to conduct a study on countries of East Africa Community for assessing the actual situation (in terms of Laboratories, Regulatory regimes, MRAs in force and so on) in EAC countries as specified in the attached Terms of Reference. In close coordination with the ITU-BDT Counterpart, two ITU recruited experts, Mr. Joshua Peprah (joshua.peprahk4@gmail.com) and Mr. Thomas Senaji (tsenaji@gmail.com) will be conducting the Study. I invite the participating countries to collaborate and provide support to the above mentioned ITU experts during the process of the study to enable successful completion and achieve best results of assessing C&I status in the EAC region.

Based on the results of the study, a common and integrated approach for establishing appropriate C&I regimes in EAC countries will be proposed, e.g. building additional labs for C&I Domains (mobile, EMC, NGN, broadband, etc.) and/or encouraging the establishment of Mutual Recognition Agreements - MRAs between countries in the EAC Region.

The results and proposals will be submitted for consideration to EAC Countries and also presented during a Workshop scheduled to be held for those countries in the 3rd quarters of 2015. Date and venue of the Workshop will be communicated through an invitation letter that will be issued by ITU in due time.

With best regards

Andrew Rugege
Regional Director for Africa and
Liaison to ECA and AU

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Annex 1: Term of Reference of the Assessment Study

Methodology for conducting the Study

ernational Telecommunication Union Arab Regional Office
Union Internationale des Télécommunications Bureau Régional Arabe

Reference: ……017532…… 5 May 2014
H.E. Mr. Habib BEN YAHIA
Secretary General of Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Rabat-Morocco (sent to all Administrations of Maghreb also)

Subject: Conformance and Interoperability Assessment Study for Maghreb Region
Excellence,

Reference to our letter No. 017461 dated 4 February 2014, regarding the intention of the BDT to conduct a Conformity and Interoperability (C&I) Assessment Studies on Regional and Sub-regional Basis: Collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs).

This project aims at identifying the necessary elements and promotes the Collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements, seeking to present possible scenarios to meet the needs and interests of Member States and Regions.

I have the pleasure to recall that in Maghreb Region, BDT is going to conduct an Assessment study on C&I for the actual situation (in terms of Laboratories, Regulatory regimes, MRAs in force and so on) in the Maghreb Region as specified in the attached Terms of Reference. In close coordination with the ITU-BDT Counterpart, an ITU recruited expert, Mr. Karim LOUKIL (karim.wakil@cert.mincom.tn), is conducting the Study. Therefore, I would appreciate your kind action to facilitate a meeting with the ICT division in the Maghreb Union and Mr. LOUKIL during the process of the study to enable successful completion and achievement of best results of his mission.

Based on the result of the study, a common and integrated approach for establishing appropriate C&I regimes in Maghreb countries will be proposed, e.g. building additional labs for C&I Domains (mobile, EMC, NGN, broadband, etc.) and/or encouraging the establishment of Mutual Recognition Agreements - MRAs between countries in the Maghreb Region.

The results and proposals will be submitted for consideration to Maghreb Countries and also presented during a Workshop scheduled to be held for those countries in the second half of 2014.

Yours sincerely,
Ebrahim AL HADDAD
Regional Director,
ITU Arab Regional Office
Annex 1: Term of Reference of the Assessment Study.

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Questionnaire on C&I in the region

CONFORMITY AND INTEROPERABILITY ASSESSMENT ON A REGIONAL BASIS:

SECTION ONE
A) Geography and ICT Indicators
B) Service Providers
C) Regulatory Framework and Institutions (Per Country)
D) Accreditation
E) Laboratories
F) Certification Bodies and Marking

SECTION TWO
G) Demographics
H) Economy

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Deliverable/Outcome of Assessment Study

The deliverables of this assessment include the following recommendations, namely:

- Possible scenarios for establishing Common C&I Programme and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs);
- Possible ways to facilitate the implementation of ITU Conformity and Interoperability programme
- Programme especially in the areas of Capacity building and the Establishment of Test Centres on regional and sub-regional basis.
- Regional or sub-regional organizations suitable to perform conformity assessment testing including the function of MRA coordination;
- Entities that are capable of providing funding opportunities to support the establishment of testing centers in the region.

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Deliverable/Outcome of Assessment Study

Final Outcomes and Recommendations coming from the Assessment Study for EAC region and the final workshop for will be presented and discussed during:

Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) Validation Workshop, Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya 21st – 23rd October 2015

➔ Results and Outcomes of the Workshop

- C&I Assessment Study for EAC region: Survey Findings
- Outcomes
- Recommentations: In Country C&I Test Lab
- Criteria for selecting countries for establishing regional test centres
- Proposed plan for a EAC framework MRA

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Thank you

C&I [Portal](#)

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