



## **Framework of collaboration**

between

**Economic Commission for West African States**

and

**International Telecommunications Union**

on

**Mapping of West Africa Information Superhighway**

ECOWAS is responsible for promoting economic and social development in the West African sub-region,

ITU is responsible for bringing the benefits of modern communication technologies to people everywhere in an efficient, safe, easy and affordable manner,

ECOWAS undertakes, among others, activities pertaining to Telecommunications and Information and Communications Technologies development,

Considering that the Connect Africa Summit through its goals 1 and 2 aim at interconnecting all African capitals and major cities with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthen connectivity to the rest of the world, and connecting African villages to broadband ICT respectively,

Considering ECOWAS has mandate, among others, to improve regional connectivity and has produced maps on West African backbones projects,

Considering that ITU' mandate extends, among others, to activities pertaining to the diffusion of knowledge for the improvement of telecommunication networks worldwide; in this respect, ITU intends to produce interactive transmission maps of ICT infrastructure for African region, including West Africa, has started collecting data in this regard,

Recognizing the opportunities to create synergies between the two organizations in relation to their respective initiatives and projects with similar objective,

Recognizing the opportunities to avoid duplication of effort and reduce overall costs to both organizations,

Recalling the above mandates ECOWAS and ITU decide to collaborate to the following:

- 1 ECOWAS and ITU shall collaborate and share information, in order to produce comprehensive, interactive and integrated transmission maps (hereinafter the “Maps”) of the information superhighway for regional members and associate members of ECOWAS and ITU members in West Africa,
- 2 The Maps will be produced in the context of independent and self-sustainable projects of the parties which have similar objective,
- 3 As a first step in the collaboration between ECOWAS and ITU, the Parties shall coordinate their efforts in their projects on producing the Maps pertaining to the ECOWAS member states, as well as the areas that are geographically contiguous with these states;
- 4 ECOWAS and ITU shall use UN approved maps as provided by the Cartographic Section of the UN;
- 5 ECOWAS and ITU shall collaborate to obtain necessary source material and data from nation administrators, regulatory authorities and telecom operators in the Africa region; to the extent that said data is not in the public domain, ECOWAS and ITU shall ensure that the owners of said data consent to the collection, processing and publication of the data in the maps and in the context of the corresponding projects managed individually by ECOWAS or ITU.  
5.1
- 6 ECOWAS and ITU shall utilize one common validation procedure for the data that is gathered as part of the present collaboration;
- 7 ECOWAS and ITU shall retain joint ownership of the Maps and any other output material produced as a result of the present collaboration. The Maps and any other output material shall bear the distinctive marks of both parties which equal prominence. For the above, each of the Parties shall retain full ownership of the work which is produced in the context of their individual projects, but lies outside the scope of the present collaboration;
- 8 ECOWAS and ITU shall ensure that the Maps produced as a result of the present collaboration shall be publicly available, in the appropriate formats, on the websites of each party respectively;
- 9 ECOWAS and ITU shall utilize the seven (7) infrastructures indicators launched at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM) on 7-9 December 2011, and endorsed by the 10<sup>th</sup> WTIM, on 25-27 September 2012.