



Outcomes of the SG 11 Regional Workshop for Africa

**“Counterfeit ICT Devices, Conformance
and Interoperability Testing
Challenges in Africa”**

(5 April 2017, Cairo)



Current situation - combating counterfeiting in Africa Region

- Generally, “counterfeit device ICT” are interpreted as “fake devices”
- There is huge proliferation of counterfeit ICT equipment in Africa Region
- People must be connected through the Internet using different ICT devices. Most of them do not care about a brand of the end-device (they may wish to use counterfeit device rather than brand state-of-art device)
- The genuine brand new end-devices are not affordable for everyone
- There are many negative impacts of using counterfeit devices (e.g. health, ICT infrastructure) – the negative impact need to be assessed somehow (e.g EMC, SAR)
- There is no testing laboratories in the Region which can be used for combating counterfeiting

The way forward

Combating counterfeiting in Africa Region (1/3)

- **The ITU-T SG11 activities and relevant action plans on the implementation of Resolution 96 and 97 of WTSA-16 are very important for the Africa Region**
- **Africa Region proposes a need to identify unique, reliable, robust, secure and resistant to duplication identifiers to be used for combating counterfeiting**
- **Type approval can be used as one of the tools towards combating counterfeiting**
- **The Region supports ITU-T activities on developing identification procedures which are aimed at identifying genuine products**

The way forward

Combating counterfeiting in Africa Region (2/3)

- **Definition of “substandard of ICT device need to be further explored via contribution**
- **There is a need to raise awareness on the combating counterfeiting – strong education programmes are needed**
- **Bilateral and region cooperation on combating counterfeiting are needed**
- **There is a need to set up the international and national databases which list genuine ICT devices. It may help user to check their devices before making a purchase
*(different identifiers may be used)***

The way forward

Combating counterfeiting in Africa Region (3/3)

- **Manufacturers should produce genuine devices yet affordable in Africa Region. Promotion of local manufacturing of mobile phones will make it affordable**
- **Testing Labs within the Region should be identified as Centres of Excellence to allow for capacity building, detection of fake products and identification of genuine products**

Current situation

Conformance and interoperability issues in Africa Region

- **There are few testing laboratories in the Region which may perform the tests**
- **Majority of African countries do not have “Testing labs”**
- **Lack of capacity and ITU training events on C&I need to be organized on regular basis**
- **Well established laboratories in Ghana (SAR) and Tunisia (EMC) for the region need to be recognized and used as centres of excellence in the Region. ATU, ITU and regional organizations such as WATRA, SADC, EACO must work on this agenda**



The way forward

Conformance and Interoperability in Africa Region (1/2)

- **Collaboration between CASC and Africa regional certification/accreditation bodies is needed**
- **ITU-T Recs. candidates for new certification schemes which are used in the region need to be proposed to CASC**
- **ITU-T action plan on the implementation of the C&I Programme is needed, taking into consideration the topics which are of interest in the Region**
- **ITU training events on C&I for the Africa Region need to be identified**



The way forward

Conformance and Interoperability in Africa Region (2/2)

- **Test specifications which are used in the Region can be proposed to be adopted as new ITU-T Recs.**
- **The Implementers Guides for some ITU-T Recommendations are needed**
- **ITU needs to recognize testing laboratories in the Region to be used for C&I testing**
- **Development of MRAs between members, as well as test labs in the Region are needed**

