ICT Standardization activities in Africa
ATU key role

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outline

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About ATU

- The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) is the leading continental organization fostering the development of information and communication technologies(ICTs) infrastructure in Africa;

- ATU was established in Addis Ababa on 7th December 1977as the specialized agency of the African Union (AU) in the field of telecommunications/ICTs.

- By 2023, ATU has a total of 51 Member States and 56 Associate Members.

- ATU is also, an ITU Sector Member and recognized as a RTO for Africa region.

The vision for ATU is:

"an inclusive information society and strong digital economies for sustainable social, economic and environmental development in Africa".

To realise the above vision, the ATU mission is:

"to accelerate the development of the telecommunications/ICTs in Africa in order to achieve digital economies".

ATU Structure

The statutory organs of the Union (Article 7 of the Constitution):

a) The Conference of Plenipotentiaries (the PP) – *meets every four years;*

b) The Administrative Council – *meets annually;*

c) The Technical and Development Conference – *should meet bi-annualy;*

d) The General Secretariat (Management)

ATU Key Activities

a) To *promote* the development and adoption of **appropriate African telecommunications policy and regulatory frameworks**;

b) To *prepare* special programmes for **Africa's Least Developed Countries (LDC's) and rural telecommunications development**;

c) To *promote* **human resources development** in the field of info-communications;

d) To *promote* the establishment of **info-communications industries** and digital innovation eco-system in Africa;

e) To *co-ordinate* the strategies and positions of its Member States in **preparation for and at international meetings,** *and* ***promote*** co-ordination between Africa and other regions;

f) To *promote* regional co-ordination in areas of **projects, value-added services, equipment certification, technical standards and harmonization of tariffs**;

gj) To *foster* **co-operation and partnership** between and among Member States and Associate Members.

h) To *promote* and encourage the **exchange of information, expertise and technology** relating to info-communications for the benefit of all Member States and Associate Members;

i) To *undertake* **studies in the field of info-communications** for the benefit of Member States and Associate Members;

j) To *undertake* **all such activities not defined above** which may assist in achieving the vision and mission of the Union.

ATU role in Standardization sector

Studies and projects
Among others, ATU developed the following documents:
1. E-waste management guidelines;
2. Model framework /guidelines on data centers and cloud computing for Africa.

Ongoing studies
1. a common policy and standards on digital security for networks infrastructure and information systems

Strategy & policy frameworks
1. Strategy Framework on the Migration from IPv4 to IPv6 for Africa
2. The fourth Industrial revolution Strategy framework;
3. Etc..

Capacity Building
With its partners, ATU provides capacity building and certification programs:
1. IPv6 certification
2. Cloud computing
3. Cybersecurity

Cooperation/Partnership
ATU signed agreements as follows:
1. **ITU TSB** on bridging Standardization Gap (WTSA Res.144)
2. Afrinic on IPv6 migration
3. **Afralti** on capacity Building;
4. **Huawei** and **Nokia** on ICT technologies including innovation
5. **RIFEN** to promote Women and girls in ICT sector.

Coordination, facilitation & Support
As RTO, ATU plays a key role in the preparation of ITU conferences and both regional and interregional coordination process. ATU provides online meetings with interpretation facilities, to its Members including the African Study Groups (all sectors) as needed. ATU also provides fellowships to LDCs participants to strengthen their participation.

Conclusion

While implementing of the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS) and SDGs, the Standards of ICT/ Telecommunications become increasingly critical for Africa, to achieve the following objectives:

- Acceleration of the development of digital infrastructure and bridge the digital gap;
- Guarantee of the access and connectivity for All;
- Security, Resiliency and QoS of the ICT infrastructure;
- Deployment of Digital platforms, e-services and e-applications;
- Creation of Digital industries;
- Users Protection.

ATU is committed to provide the necessary support to its Members.

Merci beaucoup
Thank you

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