**SUMMARY**

**Second Study Group 13 Regional Workshop for Africa on “Future Networks: Cloud Computing, Energy Saving, Security and Virtualization”
(Tunis, Tunisia, 28 April 2014)**

The panel addressed the importance of standardization for African countries. Specific consideration was given on:

* How ITU-T standards can help African governments to setup security and assurance frameworks in order to guarantee user data privacy in cloud computing.
* What strategies African countries should be developing in order to narrow the digital gap and embark on the digital economy noting the current limited Internet access and lack of broadband networks in Africa.
* To what extend are the platforms and solutions technically appropriate to support the requirements of African countries pertaining to the cloud-computing framework.

Generally it was stated that cloud has a good opportunity in Africa. Security is considered to be reflected well in the ITU-T standardization but should also include the legal perspective from the African side. Furthermore service agreement pertaining to cloud computing needs to be better addressed. This comprises quality, security routes, the concept of class of requirements (at least from basic services) and DSL price. The ITU-T has to set up functional requirement standards of cloud computing platforms that help the African operators. It was requested to also set up evaluation methodologies for cloud computing that will allow periodic analysis. ITU-T is considered to be very relevant to the standardization process especially for the developing countries due to its special role as the specialized telecom agency of the United Nations. It brings together all players in telecommunication comprising governments, regulators, operators and vendors. The ITU mark (else we face uncertain products) brings trust, assured that this is a good product to bring value.

ITU-T Fellowships drop, so ITU-T needs to reexamine a few issues – investments in partners and in particular to invest in developing countries (there are young people and growing market opportunities in developing countries).

In order that African countries gain from ITU-T standardization on cloud computing by offering sufficient internet access and broadband networks they have to implement the action plan related to a futuristic view on telecommunications in Africa, as stated at the 2007 African Summit in Kigali. In order to achieve that goal it is required that African countries have an appropriate ICT strategy, enhanced ICT policies and the right infrastructure in place. Furthermore, appropriate education of the young African people is required; the latter represents 50%-60% of the population of the African continent and forms a strong work force. Cloud computing is not only a technology but also an ecosystem. Vendors are able to support with their solutions the requirements of African countries. Anyway cloud standards are required to invoke strong competition between them and to go beyond now. ITU-T can support that with appropriate requirements for security and platforms.

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