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**3rdSG13 Regional Workshop for Africa** on

“**ITU-T Standardization challenges for Developing Countries working for a connected Africa”**

**(Livingstone, Zambia, 23-24 February 2015)**

**Session 1: Africa’s involvement in Standardization**

This session will discuss the main standardization issues in African Countries and the possible ways to promote the participation of these countries in the standardization processes in order to prepare them for new technologies.

***Abstract on presentation “ICT standardization including Cloud Computing in Zambia”***

**The process of Standardization in the ICT sector in Zambia started in 2012 after the MoU with the national standardization body the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) was signed. Before, ICT standards where just used in various guidelines by ZICTA, by service providers when purchasing equipment and for interconnection purpose only. Some of the challenges that the standardization process has faced include:**

* The fact that Standards utilisation has been more prevalent in major service providers and large enterprises
* The Lack of relevant telecoms standards in ZABS Standards catalogue
* Critical shortage of experts in standardisations field in general and ICTs in particular
* Limited awareness of Zambia’s ICT standardisation policy and legal framework
* Lack simplified standards implementation guidelines
* Lack of quality culture and strategy in most local institutions
* Lack of compliance monitoring and enforcement capacity
* Lack of quality ICT training facilities –
	+ Standards related training in Zambia is mostly provided by Telecoms and ICT Equipment Vendors/Contractors mostly when they purchase new equipment/systems,
	+ Training agencies abroad,
	+ Local training by only done by external (non-Zambian) experts.

**On a larger perspective, standardization in Zambia is governed by**

1. **The ZABS Act of 1994**
2. **The ICT Policy of 2006**
3. **The ICT Act No. 15 of 2009**
4. **The National Quality Policy of 2010**
5. The ICT Standardization Policy of 2011

As can be seen, ICT standardization is just the drop in the ocean to the entire picture. However, its contribution as an economic enabler cannot be overemphasized. This presentation is going to focus on the ICT Standardization Policy of 2011 the basis for the ICT standardization activities in Zambia. A special focus will be given to the standardization effort for cloud computing so far achieved.

The 2012 to 2014 roadmap review will also be looked at to show lessons learnt along the way on this exciting journey. Recommendations will be drawn from this experience and a way forward in the Zambian perspective.