

Project concept and implementation strategy

The project is based on the principle of regional and international partnership, in particular between:

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
- Organization of African Unity (OAU);
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- African regional organizations (ADB, ATU, RASCOM);
- Subregional organizations for economic cooperation (ECOWAS, ECCAS, COMESA);
- all African and non-regional institutions interested in the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies in Africa.

Budget and contributions expected from partners

The budget for implementation of the project is estimated at USD 2 700 000 (two million seven hundred thousand US dollars). Funding consists of 40% (one million US dollars) from ITU, based on its equity capital, with the remainder - i.e. USD 1 700 000 - to be sought from regional and subregional organizations and other partners concerned with telecommunications and information and communication technologies.

Location

The project is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the ITU Regional Office for Africa.

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The four sections of the project are as follows:

- 1 studies of long-term requirements (telecommunications, information technologies) together with proposals for investment projects;
- 2 inventory of industrial units which exist in the region and types and features of their products, with proposals for assistance projects;
- 3 mobilization of industrial partnership and finance to implement identified projects;
- 4 promotion of activities to provide backup for industry.



Regional telephone demand is high in Africa

Telephone connections — orange line
 Population — blue line
 GDP/inhabitant — green line

REGIONAL ASSISTANCE
 PROJECT FOR THE
 DEVELOPMENT OF THE
 TELECOMMUNICATION
 INDUSTRY
 IN AFRICA

BACKGROUND

The INDAFTEL regional assistance project for the development of the telecommunication industry in Africa – 09/RAF/97/044 – is the response to a request for assistance made by the African countries to UNDP, UNIDO and ITU, and is designed to promote a telecommunication and information technology industry in Africa.

In particular, the project is the instrument for implementing:

- 1 Chapter X of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, relating to the development of research and of the local manufacture of telecommunication equipment suited to the African environment;
- 2 Recommendation ATDC-90/REC1 of the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (Harare, Zimbabwe – 1990), concerning the manufacture of telecommunication equipment in Africa;
- 3 Recommendation 7.5 of the “African Green Paper”, which calls for a telecommunication industry for Africa;
- 4 Objective 6 of UNTACDA-II concerning the development of the local manufacture of telecommunication material and equipment in Africa.

The project is the result of consultations held with the countries and with regional and subregional organizations during the preparatory assistance studies US/RAF/90/279 (UNIDO) and RAF/87/170 (UNDP-ITU). The project is being executed by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and in cooperation with regional institutions (ATU, RASCOM, ADB) and subregional institutions (ECOWAS, ECCAS, COMESA).

Development objective

The aim of the INDAFTEL regional project is to create conditions in Africa for fostering the local manufacture of telecommunication material and equipment geared to African needs and the African environment, promoting the rapid development of telecommunications and information technologies, and contributing to improvements in the quality of service in the region.



Expected results

- 1 practical expression of African governments' wish to strengthen cooperation on the assimilation of new information and communication technologies, for the benefit of development;
- 2 general improvement in the situation of the telecommunication sector, with a view to the establishment of the African information society;
- 3 reductions in equipment imports and massive foreign exchange transfers;
- 4 promotion and development of private manufacturing firms and of local subcontracting activities;
- 5 transfers of appropriate technologies geared to African needs and the African environment;
- 6 tapping of local financial, human and natural resources to help combat unemployment;
- 7 creation of favourable conditions for the emergence of an integrated regional telecommunication market, through standardization and combined community supply;
- 8 contribution to regional economic integration through the promotion of regional industrial partnerships and common use of resources;
- 9 promotion and use of regional expertise in the development of telecommunication infrastructures and of industry.



Africa is the region of the world paying the highest prices for its telecommunication equipment