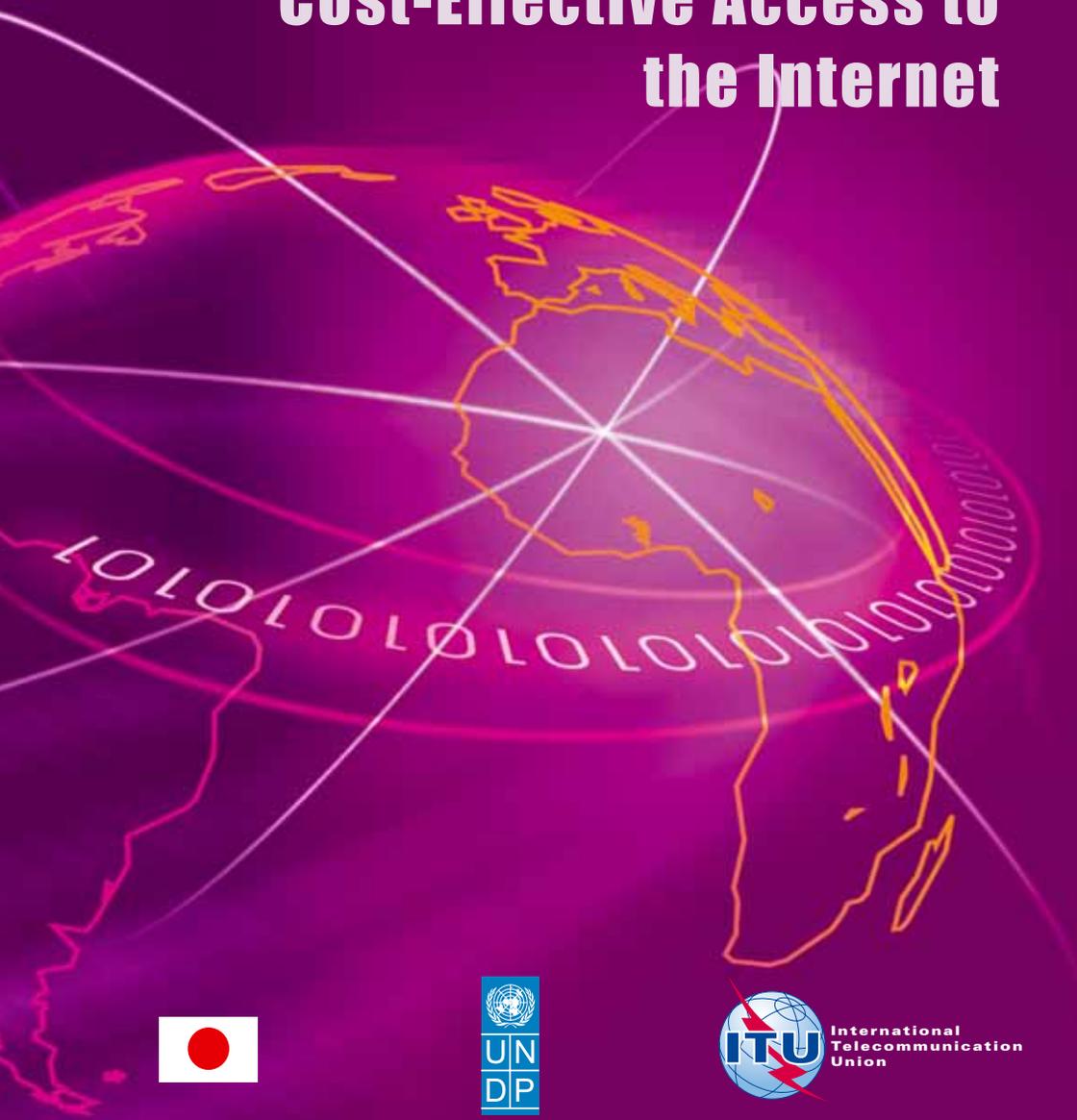# International Telecommunication Union

Strengthening African Capacity for Cost-Effective Access to the Internet

UNDP

ITU International Telecommunication Union

Description:

The overall aim is to help developing countries acquire affordable Internet access and connectivity by coordinating assistance and assisting in the implementation of national and regional Internet backbones and exchange points plus any other critical infrastructure projects that have been identified during an initial feasibility study and endorsed for implementation.

The project expands technical cooperation among developing countries in which successful experiences and best practices from other developing regions serve as a model for transformation supported by new public and private partnerships and investments. The project also supports the development of policies aimed at stimulating universal access to ICTs and mechanisms to help countries adopt new technologies.

Expected outcomes:

- The project will contribute towards the building of a strong infrastructure backbone in Africa
- Improved Internet connectivity in Africa
- Capacity development in the area of Internet connectivity through exchange of expertise and knowledge sharing among countries of the South
- Cost-effective access to Internet for poor segments of communities in cities and rural areas

Type of project:

Network infrastructure development and capacity building

Partners:

ITU, UNDP, Government of Japan and host countries.

Value:

This project is valued at USD 2,460,000.
Other contributions and partners are welcomed.

Timeframe:

June 2004 to June 2007

Targeted Communities/Regions:

Africa (sub-Saharan); Arab States; Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

References to WSIS Plan of Action:

- Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the information society

- Optimize connectivity among information networks by encouraging the creation and development of regional ICT backbones and Internet exchange points, to reduce interconnection costs and broaden network access

Reference to the Istanbul Action Plan:

- IsAP Programme 3 – E-strategies and e-services applications Advise Member States in formulating relevant national and regional strategies and policies for the development and use of the Internet Protocol and e-services/applications

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