



**Communications Regulators' Association of Southern  
Africa  
(CRASA)**

**The 14th Annual General Meeting**

**Birchwood Hotel - Boksburg**

**Johannesburg, South Africa**

**29 to 30 March 2011**

**Implementation of the Action Program 2010/11**

CRASA continued with its principal activities which include:

- 1.1 developing and monitoring the implementation of model ICT regulatory frameworks and tools;
- 1.2 facilitating capacity building of Members and Associate Members;
- 1.3 providing a meeting point for senior officials, regulators and other key stakeholders thus providing a forum for addressing various challenges in the ICT sector;
- 1.4 lobbying for harmonised regional ICT policies and regulations; and
- 1.5 pursuit of long term sustainability through the revenue generation projects.

2. The AGM is invited to note that the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM had agreed to the Action Plan 2010/11 as attached (**Annex 7.1**). The AGM is also invited to note that CRASA had categorised the activities in four parts and these were as follows:

- 2.1. projects which were a result of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICT directives;
  - 2.2. projects which were a result of the CRASA Specialised Committees' Action Plans;
  - 2.3. administrative activities of CRASA; and
  - 2.4. partnership building activities.
3. The AGM is also invited to note the following brief overview of the progress made on implementation of CRASA Action Plan 2010/11:

### **SADC MINISTERS' ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Development of a Framework for SADC Regional Roaming Regulation**

4. The AGM is invited to recall that the SADC Home and Away Roaming was an initiative of the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICTs to look into the avoidance of excessive international roaming charges within SADC. The initiative aims at developing a policy and regulatory framework that would allow for the "SADC Home and Away Roaming" service.

5. The AGM is also invited to recall that much progress on the project has been made since the roundtable discussion on Home and Away Roaming of November 2008 held in Johannesburg, South Africa. At the end of the roundtable, a communiqué was adopted, laying foundation for the establishment of the Regional Alliance Task Team (RATT) on SADC Home and Away Roaming. RATT comprises of representatives of the SADC Secretariat, CRASA, GSM Africa, Southern Africa Telecommunication Association (SATA) and SADC Parliamentary Forum as an observer.

6. The AGM is further invited to recall that the main task of the RATT was to investigate mechanisms of reducing the high cost of international roaming in the SADC region with a view to submit a report to the Ministers for a final decision. Since the Ministers had already taken a principled intervention in this regard, the focus of this exercise was to propose tangible program of action to be considered by the Ministers.

During one of the roundtable discussion of the RATT, it was recognised that there was need for a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) on SADC Home and Away Roaming. Due to financial restraint, a partial RIA was done. The partial RIA aimed at gaining more detailed understanding on the following specific issues:

- i. overview of current roaming both wholesale and retails tariffs charged by operators within different countries in the region and conduction of some benchmark studies;
- ii. implications of international roaming tariffs on regional tariffs, covering these issues: pre-paid and post-paid service offerings Inter Operator Tariffs (IOTs) for termination or origination (where applicable) mobiles calls and International Direct Distance Dial (IDD) rates;
- iii. report on possible market and regulatory factors influencing international roaming wholesale and retail charges; and
- iv. regulatory barriers, such as the cost of international gateway and their implications on current tariffs.

7. The AGM is furthermore invited to recall that a study on the impact of SADC Home and Away Roaming was conducted from the 18th January 2010 by Analysys Mason of UK.

8. The AGM is invited to note that the report was presented to the SADC Ministers meeting of Luanda, Angola, 2010. The SADC Ministers approved the recommendations made by the RATT on the Regulatory Impact Assessment on SADC Home and Away Roaming. The Ministers directed the SADC Secretariat to solicit funding for the second phase of the research study on Regulatory Impact Assessment on SADC Home and Away Roaming (RIA II). The SADC Ministers also directed that the region should adopt a policy for transparency, consumer awareness and empowerment in terms of the regional roaming services.

9. The AGM is also invited to note that RATT met in Maputo on the 26 August 2010 in order to develop a framework to be used in the RIA II research study. The detailed report of the Maputo meeting is presented (Annex 7.2.).

10. The AGM is further invited to note that RATT developed a framework to be used in the RIA II research study. In addition, the Committee agreed that CRASA Members are to communicate to all mobile operators to be transparent regarding the regional roaming charges by 30 January 2011. In this regard, the CRASA Secretariat was to send the notifications to all CRASA Members regarding the need for transparency by mobile operators on roaming charges.

11. The AGM is furthermore invited to note that the RATT developed a template for collection of data from the mobile operators that would allow for determination of the cost of regional roaming services. The template has been sent to Botswana, Lesotho and Tanzania for pilot testing for two (2) months before the template is sent to all CRASA members.

12. The AGM is invited to note that the RATT recommended that CRASA hires a Consultant for the RIA II. The outcome of the RIA II is to be following:

#### **12.1. The Report on the Composition in Costing of SADC Regional Roaming Charges**

The report shall amongst others include the following:

- Analysis of roaming traffic volumes for voice, sms and data within the region;
- Analysis of retail and wholesale tariffs for voice, sms and data roaming;
- Analysis of retail and wholesale revenues for voice, sms and data roaming;
- Analysis of the cost to the network of voice, sms and data roaming;
- The impact of seamless/one network roaming arrangements on competition; and
- The impact of seamless/one network roaming arrangements on operator revenues derived from roaming.

## 12.2. The Draft Harmonisation Policy Framework for SADC Home and Away Roaming

The framework shall amongst others include the following:

- Background to SADC Home and Away Roaming
- Impact of SADC Home and Away Roaming on regional integration and citizens
- Nature of Away Roaming
- The supra-regional regulatory interventions approach to be applied to Away Roaming in the region
- Timeframe for the framework and
- Annexure on proposed maximum ceilings to be applied by licensed operators on the retail prices on voice, SMS and data roaming.

13. The AGM is invited to note that the Executive Committee at their meeting on the 17 December 2010 in Maputo, Mozambique approved that CRASA should utilize USD 80,000.00 from CRASA funds for the hiring of a consultant that would assist in the analysis of the data for RIA II as well as development of the legal framework that would allow for the implementation of the SADC Home and Away Roaming. The Executive Committee had also approved that CRASA Secretariat should use a selective tender in order to engage a consultant.

14. The AGM is also invited to note that the CRASA/SAPRA Merger Committee did consider the RIA II project for inclusion into the Merged Association budget 2011/12 at an amount of US\$ 120,000. The AGM is further invited to note the project status report and milestones achieved and yet to be achieved for the SADC Home and Away Project attached as (Annex 7.3.).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The AGM is invited to note that the progress report on the SADC Home and Away Roaming Project.

The AGM is also invited to note that the CRASA Secretariat had sent the template that would be used to collect data from mobile operators for pilot testing to Botswana, Lesotho and Tanzania. This is to ensure that the data template should be able to provide information that is clearly defined and accurate so that subsequent decisions based on arguments embodied from the findings from this template would be valid. This process will take two (2) months.

The AGM is further invited to note that Executive Committee at their meeting on the 17 December 2010 in Maputo, Mozambique approved that CRASA should utilize USD 80,000.00 from CRASA funds for the hiring of a consultant that would assist in the analysis of the data for RIA II as well as development of the legal framework that would allow for the implementation of the SADC Home and Away Roaming.

The AGM is invited is furthermore invited to note Executive Committee also approved that CRASA Secretariat should use a selective tender according to CRASA Financial Regulations Sections 64 to 68 in order to engage a consultant.

The AGM is invited to consider urging the CRASA Members to appeal to the licensed mobile operators in their jurisdictions to be transparent on roaming charges.

The AGM is invited to consider urging CRASA Members to assist the CRASA Secretariat to collect the required data from the mobile operators that would allow for determination of the cost of roaming services.

### CRASA and SAPRA Merger

15. The AGM is invited to note that this is a substantive agenda item under the CRASA Executive Committee Report on CRASA and SAPRA Merger Report (**CRASA/AGM/14/10.11/9**).

## REVIEW OF SADC UNIVERSAL SERVICE GUIDELINES

16. The AGM is invited to recall that the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICTs meeting held in May 2007 in Maputo, Mozambique directed SADC Secretariat in conjunction with CRASA to develop a report on the '**Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service/Access Funds in SADC**'. This was in response to the concerns raised by Communications operators in SADC that Communications Governments/Regulators had been collecting funds for Universal Service, however, no substantial utilisation of the funds have been done in the region.

17. The AGM is also invited to recall that the CRASA Universal Service Committee recommended that an Assessment on the Implementation of Universal Service/Access in SADC report should be developed. Further that the SADC Universal Service Guidelines should be reviewed in order to align them to the trends and developments in the ICT sector. The development of Assessment on the Implementation of Universal Service/Access in SADC report and review of the SADC Universal Service Guidelines had been included under the ITU/EU HIPSSA project.

18. The AGM is invited to note that the initial draft of reviewed SADC Universal Service Guidelines and Assessment on the Implementation of Universal Service/Access in SADC report was delivered by the Consultants to CRASA in February 2011. This necessitated a validation workshop of the two documents. The CRASA Secretariat in conjunction with ITU was convened the workshop during 14 to 16 March 2010 in Windhoek, Namibia. The ITU/EU/GIZ funded the travel and accommodation for two participants per each SADC Country to attend the workshop. The ITU also funded the travel and accommodation of the CRASA Secretariat.

19. The AGM is also invited to note the validated reviewed draft SADC Universal Service Guidelines and the assessment of the implementation of universal service/access strategies in the region (**Annex 7.17**).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The AGM is invited to note the reviewed draft SADC Universal Service Guidelines and the assessment of the implementation of universal service/access strategies in the region.

The AGM is also to note that the Executive Committee has approved that the reviewed draft SADC Universal Service Guidelines and the assessment of the implementation of universal service/access strategies in the region should be sent to all CRASA Members for their further inputs and comments for a period of three (3) weeks and thereafter, the Secretariat can obtain an approval from the Executive Committee to forward the document to the SADC Secretariat for inclusion into the SADC ICT Ministers meeting agenda scheduled to take place in May/June 2011 in Gaborone, Botswana.

### Development of Toolkit for the Best Practices in Universal Service and Access

20. The AGM is invited to recall that the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICTs meeting held in May 2007 in Maputo, Mozambique directed SADC Secretariat in conjunction with CRASA to develop a report on the '**Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service/Access Funds in SADC**'. This was in response to the concerns raised by SADC communications operators that Regulators have been collecting funds for Universal Service, however, no substantial utilisation of the funds have been done in the region.

21. The AGM is also invited to recall that the Universal Service Committee developed the report on 'Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service Funds in SADC'. The SADC Ministers considered the report and approved that the Region should adopt the recommendations of the report on "Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service/Access Funds in SADC" and also urged SADC Member States to adapt the recommendations in their respective countries. Ministers also approved that the SADC Secretariat, in conjunction with CRASA, mobilise resources and undertake a consultancy to develop a Tool Kit on Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service Funds for adoption by the SADC Member States. The development of the SADC Tool Kit on Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service Funds had been included under the HIPSSA (ITU/EU/GIZ) project.



22. The AGM is invited to note that the Executive Committee Members noted the requirement that the toolkit should be a tool that regulators in Southern Africa can effectively and practically use in implementation of the Universal Service projects intended for the funds. The Toolkit should be adapted to the needs of SADC Regulators.

23. The AGM is also invited to note that the initial draft of Tool Kit on Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service Funds was delivered by the Consultants to CRASA in February 2011. This necessitated a validation workshop of the two documents. The CRASA Secretariat in conjunction with ITU was convened the workshop during 14 to 16 March 2010 in Windhoek, Namibia. The ITU/EU/GIZ funded the travel and accommodation for two participants per each SADC Country to attend the workshop. The ITU also funded the travel and accommodation of the CRASA Secretariat.

24. The AGM is furthermore invited to note the validated draft Tool Kit on Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service Funds(**Annex 7.18**).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**The AGM is invited to note the draft Tool Kit on Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service Funds.**

**The AGM is also to note that the Executive Committee has approved that the draft Tool Kit on Best Practices in Utilisation of Universal Service Funds should be sent to all CRASA Members for their further inputs and comments for a period of three (3) weeks and thereafter, the Secretariat can obtain an approval from the Executive Committee to forward the document to the SADC Secretariat for inclusion into the SADC ICT Ministers meeting agenda scheduled to take place in May/June 2011 in Gaborone, Botswana.**

## ICT Consumer Protection Guidelines in SADC

25. The AGM is invited to recall that the Consumer Issues Committee developed the '**SADC ICT Consumer Rights and Protection Regulatory Guidelines**'. The Guidelines were to allow for harmonisation of ICT Consumer rights and protection. The AGM is also invited to recall that the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM approved that the Guidelines should be forwarded to the SADC Ministers for endorsement.

26. The AGM is invited to note that the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICT had considered and approved in principle the ICT Consumer Protection Guidelines in SADC. The Ministers directed the SADC Secretariat in conjunction with CRASA to amend the Guidelines in order to include issues relating to elderly people and civic education. In this regard, the Executive Committee Members directed the CRASA Secretariat to consult with Convener and Co-Convener of Consumer Issues Committee on the issue.

27. The AGM is invited to note that the Sub Committee on the review of the 'SADC ICT Consumer Rights and Protection Regulatory Guidelines' met in Gaborone, Botswana on the 7 and 8 February 2011 to look into the review. The Committee did review the document and the Reviewed "SADC ICT Consumer Rights and Protection Regulatory Guidelines" are attached as **(Annex 7.4.)**.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**The AGM is invited to note and consider approving the amended 'SADC ICT Consumer Rights and Protection Regulatory Guidelines' to be adopted by the region.**

**The AGM is invited to consider approving that the CRASA Secretariat should publish the amended 'SADC ICT Consumer Rights and Protection Regulatory Guidelines'**

## Analogue to Digital Broadcasting Migration

28. The AGM is invited to recall that CRASA convened a Working Forum on Digital Broadcasting Migration in Ebene, Mauritius in 2009. The Working Forum recommended a draft '**Roadmap on SADC Digital Migration**' that would allow for a harmonized approach to migration from analogue to digital broadcasting technologies. The Roadmap recommended that the region should consider adoption of DVB-T standards for the implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT).

29. The AGM is also invited to recall that the SADC ICT Technical meeting which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 8 to 11 March 2010 had noted that South Africa had requested the region to join them in analyzing further all the standards available in implementation of DTT. This was to ensure that the standard adopted by the region would allow

for further developments of the technology and adaptation for developmental purposes into the region.

30. The AGM is invited to note that the SADC Working Session on Sharing Studies on Technical Aspects on Digital Broadcasting was held in Maseru, Lesotho from 26 to 28 April 2010. The Working Session aimed at deliberating on the issues related to technical standards for digital broadcasting as well as the standards for the Set Top Boxes (STBs). The discussions were to allow for a harmonious migration and for achievement of economies of scale thereby affordable access to digital broadcasting services in the region.

31. The AGM is also invited to note that the Working Session could not reach a consensus on which standard should be recommended to the SADC Ministers. The AGM is further invited to note that the Roadmap was presented and considered by the Ministers meeting of Luanda, Angola in May 2010. The Ministers noted the work done on digital broadcasting migration and urged all SADC Member States to comply with the SADC Roadmap. However, the Ministers considered and approved the setting up of an ad-hoc sub-committee of Member States whose mandate was to undertake further investigations and to advise Member States on the viability of the different technical standards, with a view to moving towards adoption of one common standard. The draft Terms of Reference for the ad-hoc sub-committee, which included an analysis of the implications for the Region adopting different technical standards, were formulated jointly by the SADC Secretariat and Member States.

32. The AGM is further invited to note that the Ad-Hoc Committee presented their report (**Annexure 7.5.**) to the SADC Ministers Special Session on Digital Broadcasting that was held on the 24 November 2010 in Lusaka, Zambia. As part of its analyses, the Committee undertook study visits to France, United Kingdom and Brazil to further investigate and advise on the viability of the three different technical standards of digital broadcasting. The Committee was also informed by the position regarding the status of digital television systems deployment, standards preferences and ongoing plans on Digital Broadcasting Migration among the SADC Member States.

33. The AGM is furthermore invited to note that the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICTs decided that SADC Member States should adopt DVB-T2 with MPEG4 compression

as the digital terrestrial television broadcast standard for the SADC Region, with those SADC Member States that have already started implementing DVB-T Standard proceeding with it but ultimately migrate to DVB-T2 with MPEG4 compression.

34. The AGM is invited to note that the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICTs also decided that any SADC Member State that chooses to adopt any standard other than DVB-T2 with MPEG4 compression should do so in compliance with Geneva ITU GE-06 Agreement of 2006, to which all SADC Member States are signatories.

35. The AGM is also invited to note that the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICTs also approved the revised SADC Digital Television Migration Roadmap (**Annexure 7.6.**) to be adopted by SADC Member states in a bid to harmonise the migration to digital broadcasting in the region.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The AGM is invited to consider approving that the project on Monitoring of Migration to Digital Broadcasting in SADC should be included under the Action Plan Priority List for the year 2011/12.**

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIALISED COMMITTEE WORK PLANS**

### **Frequency Planning, Technology and Advanced Services Committee**

36. The AGM is invited to recall that CRASA through the Frequency Planning, Technology and Advanced Services Committee reviewed the SADC Frequency Band Plan (FAP) which was developed in year 2000. The AGM is also invited to recall that the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM approved that reviewed SADC Frequency Allocation Plan should be presented to the SADC Ministers for endorsement.

37. The AGM is invited to note that the SADC Ministers considered and approved the adoption of the SADC FAP and encouraged Member States to harmonise their national Frequency Band Plan with the approved SADC FAP.

38. The AGM is further invited to recall that the validation workshop for the SADC FAP, which was held in Swaziland in February 2010, identified the following issues that CRASA needs to deal with in order to have a comprehensive harmonised spectrum allocation and management framework:

- i. harmonisation of the HF cross-border coordinated frequencies for trucking;
- ii. harmonisation and development of specifics for Short Range Devices (SRD's);
- iii. harmonisation of spectrum provisions for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR);
- iv. finalisation of the channelization arrangement for all key bands i.e IMT, CB, BFWA and microwaves links;
- v. review of footnotes applicable to SADC in readiness for WRC;
- vi. reconsideration of the deployment of T-DAB in the bands 1452 to 1492 MHz;
- vii. hamornisation of HF usage in SADC which mostly is used for government defense under the SADC military harmonisation initiative; and
- viii. review of the applicable bands for Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) service.

39. The AGM is invited to note that the Frequency Planning, Technology and Advanced Services Committee met in Salima, Malawi from 3 to 7 May 2010. The meeting was held to discuss the outstanding issues which were identified during the Swaziland Workshop 2010. The Report of the Salima meeting is attached as **(Annexure 7.7.)**

40. The AGM is also invited to note that the Salima meeting agreed to do the following:

- a) develop a common SADC Cross Border Trucking License template;
- b) engage with the SADC Military Alliance to formalise the harmonisation of the bands that have been requested for usage for regional defence program;
- c) urge each NRA to review its footnotes in both the SADC Frequency Allocation Plan (FAP) and ITU Plan prior to the SADC WRC Preparatory Meeting;
- d) review the MoU on Cross Border Coordination to allow for effective implementation for services other than GSM and to revive the Subcommittee on Cross Border Coordination;
- e) consider and analyse the option to introduce spectrum trading to manage the spectrum use in SADC;
- f) urge Countries Members to publish their Band Plans and Standards in use;
- g) urge SADC Member States to enforce the implementation of Mutual Recognition of Type Approval in the SADC Region;
- h) resuscitate the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) for SADC in order to overcome the challenge of type approval of equipment from regions other than Region 1;
- i) urge CRASA members should Monitor Usage of 13 harmonised HF frequency channels and to consider alternative use where necessary;
- j) develop CRASA Framework on harmonisation of frequencies for SRD's;
- k) develop CRASA Model Framework on harmonisation of frequencies for PPDR;
- l) prepare Draft Paper with Recommendations on the current ITU Radio Regulations footnotes reflecting SADC country names, to

be circulated to CRASA Members prior to the next WRC-12 Preparatory Meeting;

- m) development of Harmonised radio frequency channelling arrangements for terrestrial fixed and mobile systems in SADC; and
- n) review the “Implementing a Harmonised PMR 446 Two Way Radio Service in SADC” and add the document as an addendum to the new SRD Framework.

41. The AGM is also invited to note that the items from (j) to (m) were done with assistance of a Consultant, Mr. Johan Smit. The Secretariat secured funding from the ITU amounting to Swiss Francs 27,000 to undertake the consultancy on the four Action Plans.

42. The AGM is further invited to note that CRASA Secretariat negotiated with Tanzania to host the validation workshop for the four documents regarding Frequency Planning issues and that the workshop was held from the 17 to 20 January 2011. The AGM is furthermore invited to note that the Tanzania workshop recommended that CRASA should pursue the matter on harmonisation of standards and type approval as a priority in year 2011/12. The Report of the Dar es Salaam Workshop is attached as **(Annexure 7.8.)**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The AGM is invited to note the Draft Review of SADC Country Names Appearing in Article 5 of the ITU Radio Regulations (Annexure 12) and also to note that the documents will be forwarded to the SADC WRC 12 Preparatory meeting scheduled to be held in May 2011.

The AGM is invited to consider approving the following guidelines as CRASA guidelines:

- **Harmonised Radio Frequency Channelling Arrangements For Terrestrial Fixed And Mobile Systems In SADC (Annexure 7.9.);**



- Framework for harmonisation of frequencies for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) in SADC (**Annexure 7.10.**); and
- Framework for the harmonisation of frequencies for Short-Range Devices (SRDs) in SADC (**Annexure 7.11.**).

The AGM is invited to consider to urge CRASA members to adopt the guidelines to allow for harmonisation of frequencies allocation in respect of SRDs and PPDR as well as the harmonised radio frequency channelling arrangements for terrestrial fixed and mobile systems.

The AGM is further invited to consider and approve that the project on development of the Framework for the Harmonisation of Standards and Type Approval should be added under the Action Plan Priority List for year 2011/12.

### **Printing of the SADC Frequency Allocation Plan (FAP)**

43. The AGM is invited to recall that the Frequency Planning, Technology and Advanced Services Committee, with the assistance of a consultant, reviewed the SADC Frequency Allocation Plan (FAP). The AGM is also invited to recall that the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM approved that the SADC FAP should be presented to the SADC Ministers.

44. The AGM is invited to note that the SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICTs had considered and approved the adoption of the FAP by SADC Member States.

45. The AGM is invited to note CRASA Secretariat did engage a Printing Company in Botswana to design, print and publish the FAP. This was to allow for distribution to CRASA Members in order to ease the adoption of the FAP by SADC Member States. In addition, it would allow the Secretariat to upload the FAP on the CRASA website.

46. The AGM is invited to note that the published SADC Frequency Allocation Plan has been distributed to all CRASA Members and CRASA Partners. A copy of the FAP is also available on CRASA Website.



## REVENUE GENERATION PROJECTS

47. The Annual General Meeting is invited to recall that the CRASA Action Plan 2010/11 intended to have three (3) workshops that would allow CRASA to generate some revenue.

48. The Annual General Meeting is invited to note that only one (1) revenue generation workshop was convened by CRASA. This workshop was convened in partnership with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) and NetTel@Africa. The theme of the workshop was **'Spectrum Management and Regulation'**. The workshop took place at Birchwood Hotel - Boksburg in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 to 25 March 2011.

49. The Annual General Meeting is also invited to note that the workshop was led by a team of facilitators with their leader as Dr. Chris Doyle of Apex Economics and Professor at University of Warwick. The workshop aimed at bringing understanding of modern models of spectrum management. The workshop also aimed at debating whether SADC should further liberalise its spectrum markets. The workshop provided a platform for debates on the new role of the ICT regulator regarding management and allocation of spectrum.

50. The Annual General Meeting is further invited to note that the workshop brought together the policy makers, regulators, operators, equipment manufacturers, academia and researchers that were involved in decision making regarding spectrum allocation and usage. The workshop was attended by ninety-five (95) participants.

51. The Annual General Meeting is furthermore invited to note the communiqué of the workshop (**Annex 7.19**).

## ENGLISH TRAINING FOR PORTUGUESE SPEAKING MEMBERS

52. The AGM is invited to recall the Executive Committee's Resolution EXCO/2/2009.10/07 in which they directed the Secretariat to communicate to NetTel@Africa to come up with programs that would benefit the Portuguese speaking members including English training.

53. The AGM is invited to note that CRASA Secretariat managed to get NetTel@Africa to provide part funding for English Training for Portuguese speaking CRASA Members at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. NetTel@Africa offered to pay a ticket for two (2) persons from Angola and Mozambique as well as pay tuition for six (6) persons from Angola and Mozambique.

54. The AGM is also invited to note that the first group comprising of three officers from Angola underwent English Training at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

### **Visit to Democratic Republic of Congo (ARPTC)**

55. The AGM is invited to recall the Resolution of TRASA SGM of TRASA/SGM/2/03.04/5 which approved the admission of Autorité de Régulation de la Poste et des Télécommunications du Congo (ARPTC) of DRC into TRASA Membership. It was noted that ever since DRC became a CRASA Member, they were yet to pay arrears in Membership Contribution amounting to US\$ 227,101.97 as at 31 August 2010.

56. The AGM is also invited to recall that the Executive Committee had established a Task Team which included Zambia, Angola and CRASA Secretariat to visit DRC in order to discuss the Membership issues. The cost of the Acting Executive Secretary to travel (i.e. Air ticket) was paid by Angola while Zambia paid for her per diem. The team's Terms of Reference (ToRs) the Task Team were, among others, the following:

- i. to reintroduce CRASA to DRC;
- ii. to enlighten DRC on the various regional regulatory developments; and
- iii. to seek understanding on the current ICT regulatory issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to obtain an understanding on the reasons behind the inactivity of DRC in CRASA activities.

57. The AGM is invited to note the report of the Task team (**Annexure 7.12.**). During the two day visit the team noted that DRC had challenges in meeting its obligations to CRASA in the past, however, DRC made a commitment to actively participate in CRASA activities. DRC also made commitment to pay its annual contribution for the years 2009/10 and

2010/11. DRC requested CRASA for further negotiations on the DRC payment of arrears for years 2004/05 to 2008/09.

58. The AGM is also invited to note that DRC sent a formal response to the teams visit (*Annexure 7.13*) in which DRC pledged to pay for the annual contributions for the year 2009/10 and 2010/11. However, DRC would like CRASA to waive the arrears prior to year 2009/10 and the interest charges that were added to the arrears due to delay in payment.

59. The AGM is further invited to note that the Executive Committee Members had considered the issue of waiving the ARPTC arrears prior to year 2009/10 and the interest charges charged for delay in payment and the following observations were made:

- that waiving of ARPTC arrears will set a precedent for other future cases regarding the same; and
- that the appropriate body to decide on such issues would be the CRASA AGM.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The AGM is therefore invited to consider approving to waive DRC membership contribution arrears to CRASA prior to year 2009/10 and the interest charges that were added to the arrears due to delay in payment.**

## **PARTNERSHIP BUILDING**

### **SAPOA AGM**

60. The AGM is invited to note that the 9th Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA) AGM was held in Kasane, Botswana from the 25 to 27 May 2010. The CRASA Secretariat made a presentation on “Building synergies in Postal Development: CRASA’S Perspective”.

61. The AGM is also invited to note that the following issues were recognized as being critical for the development of the SADC Postal Sector:

- 61.1. legislative and regulatory reforms to promote postal development;
- 61.2. harmonisation of postal policy and regulatory framework;
- 61.3. redefinition of postal market structures; and
- 61.4. resourcing of regulatory authorities both with Human and financial resources to deal with Sector specific regulatory issues in the National regulatory Agencies.

### **SAPRA AGM**

62. The AGM is invited to note that the 6th SAPRA Annual General Meeting was held in Kasane, Botswana on the 26 May 2010. The main aim of the SAPRA AGM was to discuss the CRASA/SAPRA Merger issue. The meeting agreed to re elect the Executive Committee 2009/10 to allow for continuity especially in the case that there was a pending merger between CRASA and SAPRA.

### **11th Forum on Telecom/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa**

63. The AGM is invited to note that the Secretariat attended the 11th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA-2010). FTRA- 2010 was held at the Kairaba Hotel, Banjul, The Gambia, from 12 to 14 July 2010 under the theme of “Fibre optic broadband and sharing the capacity and open access principles” to achieve Connect Africa Goal 1 of Partnership and regulatory challenges. The Communique on FTRA-2010 is attached as **(Annexure 7.14.)**.

64. The AGM is also invited to note that regulators in Africa met in a Closed Session on the 14th July 2010 during the FTRA- 2010. The Closed Session of regulators met in order to consider and approve the Constitution of the Pan African Network of Regulators (PARENET). PARENET was supposed to be affiliated to the African Union Commission (AUC) as a specialized agency on Regulation in Telecommunication /ICT and Postal services in the African Continent. The Objectives of PARENET in collaboration with AUC were supposed to be to:

- i. co-ordinate regulatory matters and exchange ideas, views and experiences on all aspects of regulation of the

telecommunications/ICT and postal sectors throughout the Africa Continent;

- ii. promote the establishment and operation of efficient, adequate, and Cost effective Telecommunications/ICT networks and services in the Africa Continent in order to meet the diverse needs of customers while being economically sustainable;
- iii. facilitate a uniform level of understanding of regulatory matters; and
- iv. maximize the utilization of scarce resources in specialist areas of Telecommunications/ICT.

65. The AGM is further invited to note that according to the draft PARENET Constitution, every Regulator in Telecommunications/ICT and Postal Services in each country in the African Continent shall be eligible to become a Member of PARENET. Any legal entity involved in co-ordination of Regulation of Telecommunications/ICT within RECs, whether an organization or an institution may become an Associate Member.

66. The AGM are invited to recall that CRASA had agreed on its position regarding the establishment of such an organisation such as PARENET. The following were CRASA positions on the issue:

- a) CRASA agreed in principle to support an option which advocates for the establishment of one continental regulatory body to deal with ICT issues;
- b) CRASA agreed that such a continental body should be established as a result of a merge of the current regulatory associations; therefore, full membership should be Regional/Sub-regional regulatory organizations/Associations within the RECs; and
- c) CRASA agreed that the hosting of such continental body should be considered after finalisation of African Union Specialised Committees restructuring.

67. The AGM is invited to note that CRASA reminded the FTRA 2010 to reconsider the CRASA position. The FTRA 2010 agreed to suspend the establishment of PARENET and requested the Regional Regulatory Associations in Africa to present their final positions on the establishment of PARENET. The FTRA 2010 also requested the Associations to convene a meeting where the Associations should reach a consensus on how they would like the establishment of PARENET to progress especially on the issue of Membership.

### **9TH SABA Annual General Meeting**

68. The AGM is invited to note that CRASA received an invitation to attend the 18th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Southern Africa Broadcasting Association (SABA) which took place in Luanda, Angola from 13th to 14th September 2010. The AGM was being held under the theme 'Striving for a better content in the Digital Era'. The Secretariat had also been approached to make a presentation on 'Digital Migration Experience and Challenges'.

69. The AGM is also invited to note the recommendation of the SABA 18<sup>th</sup> AGM to undertake a review that would take into consideration the economic, technological, social and political changes that have been taking place since the establishment of SABA in 1993. The changing media environment, in particular, has been characterized by:

- i. The growing number and diversity of broadcasting houses;
- ii. Increasing people's access to community, private and public media;
- iii. More access to information through new media, most notably internet, particularly to young, urban population;
- iv. Migration from analogue to digital technology in broadcasting which provides opportunities for more channels and more diversified audiences.

70. The AGM is further invited to note that the SABA 18<sup>th</sup> AGM made recognition of the need for collaboration between CRASA and SABA in accelerating harmonisation of broadcasting policy and regulatory frameworks and broadcasting infrastructure rollout in the region.

71. The AGM is furthermore invited to note that CRASA and SABA Secretariats are negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two associations in order to enhance the working relationships between the two Associations especially regarding the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting issues.

### **Global Symposium of Regulators (GSR 2010)**

72. The AGM is invited to note that the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) 2010 was held at the Meridien President Hotel in Dakar, Senegal, from 10 to 12 November 2010. GSR 2010 was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Post (ARTP) of Senegal.

73. The AGM is also invited to note that the GSR 2010 noted the growing complexity of the ICT market environment and need to rethink the different degrees of regulation to anchor national broadband strategies and regulatory frameworks around the multi-faceted concept of open access to and over networks, which provides for achieving effective competition while ensuring accessible, affordable and reliable services for consumers. The GSR also recognised the new ladder of regulation would be required to set the right balance between service competition and infrastructure competition to address the challenges associated with access to broadband networks and services. This includes ensuring equal and non-discriminatory access to the networks and lifting potential bottlenecks that could prevent end users from enjoying the full benefits of living in a digital world, driven by speed, ubiquity of access and affordable prices, irrespective of the location of the networks providers and users.

74. The AGM is further invited to note that the GSR 2010 recommended Guidelines in enabling of open access to and over ICT networks as detailed in **(Annexure 7.15.)**

### **CRASA Executive Committee**

**March 2011**