



## 2020 Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

Digital transformation to accelerate achievement of the SDGs  
– Digital development, partnerships and funding

6-7 October 2020, 12:00 – 15:00 A CAT (Virtual meeting)

with preparatory break-out sessions on 5 October 2020 (12:00 – 13:30 CAT time)

### CONTRIBUTION BY

### AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ATU)

**Title:** Summary of implementation status of ATU radiocommunications programmes

**EXPECTED DURATION OF PRESENTATION:** [5 minutes]

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❖ **Africa Regional Initiatives:**

[Yes] AFR Regional initiative 5 – Management and monitoring of the radio-frequency spectrum and transition to digital broadcasting

❖ **Related ITU development thematic:** [Select the thematic area(s) relevant for your contribution]

[Yes] Emergency telecommunications

[Yes] Digital policy and regulation

[Yes] Capacity development

❖ **Year(s) of implementation:**

[N/A] 2018	[Yes/No] 2019	[Yes] 2020	[Yes] 2021	[Yes] 2022
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❖ **COVID-19 response related initiative:**

[Yes] COVID-19 response related initiative

**Background** [max 300 words]

**PART A: COVID-19 response related initiative**

- As a specialized institution (SI) of the African Union (AU) in the field of telecommunications and ICTs. ATU executes tasks assigned to it by the AU from-time-to-time.
- An extra-ordinary meeting of the AU Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT (STC-CICT) was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to “consider strategies and actions to support the continental strategy on COVID-19 pandemic”.



3. As part of the strategies and actions to support the continental strategy on COVID-19 pandemic, the said meeting approved an Action Plan on ICT Sector COVID 19 Response in which one of the short term action items is *“empower Member States with options on how the radio spectrum bandwidth can be exceptionally released to (and used by) Member States’ operators to enhance mobile broadband connectivity during the crisis in order to meet the increased demand.”*
4. ATU pursuant to the above stated short term action item developed, circulated and published a paper on ***“OPTIONS AND FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION on Special Spectrum Release or System Authorization in Fight against COVID-19 and the Mitigation of its Impact”***

## PART B: Normal/General Programmes

In the area of Radiocommunication, the following programs are currently ongoing:

1. Preparations for WRC-23 as well as implementations of outcomes of past WRCs;
2. Development of recommendations on the implementation of emerging technologies aimed at guiding African countries on implementing these emerging technologies e.g. 5G;
3. Development of recommendations aimed at guiding African countries on modern spectrum management practices. This is partnership with Ericsson.
4. Optimization of the FM Broadcasting Frequency Plan (the GE84 Plan) for Africa aimed at identifying new usable channels to sustain the growth of FM radio in Africa;
5. Development of the 1st edition of the African Spectrum Plan (AfriSAP) aimed at being the reference for sub-regional and/or national spectrum plans;
6. Development of a strategy for satellite orbital and frequency resources management aimed at optimizing the acquisition, retention and use of these resources in Africa; and,
7. Development of recommendations aimed at guiding African countries on how spectrum policy, regulations and practices can foster rural connectivity. This is partnership with Mozilla.
8. Harmonization of Frequencies for Emergency Telecommunications

## Proposal

1. Countries are kindly invited to consider adoption the elements in the Options paper on special spectrum release, and that,
2. Countries are kindly invited to support the work of ATU on the various outlined programmes.

