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Status of regulatory developments in Africa

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ICT landscape in Africa

- Common regulatory Goal
  - Affordable reliable broadband to all
  - Connected cities, lifestyles, everything
  - Promoting innovation to address local challenges
  - Facilitating long term sustainable investment

- The current reality
  - Mobile internet prevalent
  - Public Internet access points popular
  - Increased voice service penetration but internet usage of still low

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Africa's broadcast landscape

- There are low levels of terrestrial television demand in rural areas - due to coverage and affordability
- Only Mauritius has completed roll out for digital migration while a few countries are in advanced stages.
- 87% of countries are concluding notification of the modified GE 06 plan but many have not advanced sufficiently in rolling out DTT infrastructure
- There is increasing use of Single Frequency Networks (SFNs) - *several transmitters can use the same frequency channel without interference*

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Use of TV White Spaces

- test and learn approach has been taken – TV white space pilots for internet connectivity
  - **in Kenya**
    - regulator granted authorisation for 2 rural locations for 12 months from August 2013
    - **Partners** - Microsoft, Indigo Telecom Ltd and Kenya's Ministry of Information and Communications,
    - Focus of pilot - to look at commercial feasibility
    - Limited to 470-694 MHz band on **a non protected, non interference & non exclusive basis**
    - To review after pilot whether to give full licence

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Use of TV White Spaces in Africa – cont'd

- in South Africa
  - Trials done in Cape Town and Limpopo to **inform regulatory process including available channel & acceptable interference**
  - **Limpopo partners** - Microsoft, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the University of Limpopo and Multisource (network builder)
  - **Cape Town partners** - TENET, CSIR Meraka, e-Schools Network, WAPA and Google
  - The Cape Town trial ran for 6 months upto September 25, 2013 for 10 schools in the Western Cape but network is still operational. Limpopo started after and is to end in August 2014
  - ICASA considering **registration based usage with automated coordination and protection like is licensed spectrum based on Short terms leases that can be renewed**

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Use of TV White Spaces in Africa – cont'd

- Tanzania
  - **Partners** - Microsoft , the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), and UhuruOne (an Internet service provider)
  - An urban deployment (targeting University of Dar es Salaam),
  - Focus - Commercial viability
- Malawi
  - Partners – University of Malawi & Marconi Wireless lab
  - Target is hospitals and schools in 5 rural areas
  - Basing on spectrum occupancy but regulations not yet in place

Use of TV White Spaces in Africa – cont'd

- Ghana
  - Partners - SpectraLink Wireless & Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST)
  - An urban deployment

- Rwanda
  - Wanderport in 2014, at a youth village
  - using two channels that are idle

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The key regulatory concerns

- How best and when to allocate or begin using the digital dividend
  - Having dedicated or shared access to spectrum in consideration of reliability and investment certainty,
  - Form of licensing – licence, registration or licence exemption
- On TV white spaces
  - compatibility and protection of existing services from interference from White Space deployments
  - Standardisation especially of devices

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Thank you for your attention