Regulation Environment in Africa

BY

Moses Bayingana
ICT Expert
African Union Commision

UbuntuNet Conference
November 18-19, 2010

09:29

Outline

- Governance – ICT Sector in Africa

- Background

- Rationale

- Ministerial Conference & Summit Regulatory Decisions

- Planned Activities of the Reference Framework for the harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT policies and regulations in Africa.

- HIPSSA Project

- Conclusion

Continental Governance of ICT Sector

The AUC reports on Africa's Information Communication Technology programmes to the African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for ICTs , a platform in the AU for the Ministers in charge of Information Communication Technologies to periodically deliberate on continental matters in Information Communication Technologies.

09:29

There is a growing interest in backbone infrastructure and submarine cables in the developing world, particularly in Africa, although the political, economic and regulatory differences in most AU Member States pose major challenges for meaningful cross-border interconnection and policy harmonisation.

09:29

- The need for policy and regulatory harmonization framework originates from the potential impact of ICTs on economic growth and regional cooperation.

- Considering that AU Member States are at different stages of ICT development in terms of penetration of ICT infrastructure, service provision and are following different policy processes.

Regulatory Decision

The 2nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Communication and Information Technology Ministerial Conference that was held from 11 to 14 May 2008, in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt adopted at the end of its deliberations a Declaration named "2008 Cairo Declaration" in which, they endorsed among others the reference framework for the harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT policies and regulations in Africa.

09:29

Summit Decision

- The Addis Ababa Declaration on Information Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development undertook to intensify the activities to implement the Reference Framework for Harmonisation of Telecommunication and ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa.

09:29

Planned Implementation Activities of the reference framework

- **Sensitize and engage political authorities**

- **Develop Regulatory guide lines at regional and continental levels**

- **Develop models of legislation at regional and continental level**

- **Establish mechanisms to encourage and strengthen stakeholders participation in the process**

09:29

- The project has a global objective of creating a harmonized ICT market in the region by supporting the African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to develop and promote use of harmonized ICT policies and regulatory frameworks

09:29

Conclusion

- The African Union Commission will continue to work with Regional Economic Communities, Regional Regulatory Associations and Member States through the HIPSSA to encourage development of models of legislation and regulatory guide lines that promote cross-border interconnection and policy harmonization.

- The African Internet Exchange System and the African Connect for Research and Education projects need to work with the HIPSSA project on regional regulatory issues

09:29

Thank You