

REPORT OF THE 26TH EACO JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE (JWC) HELD AT BANK OF TANZANIA TRAINING INSTITUTE, MWANZA, TANZANIA ON 4TH JULY, 2019.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meetings was opened at 2.30pm.

2. Remarks by Chairperson

The Chairman of the JWC, Mr. John W. Daffa opened the meeting by thanking members for participating to discuss the issues that were cross cutting in the Assemblies of Regulatory, Broadcasting, Telecom and Postal. The following issues were discussed:

3. Discussion of the JWC

3.1 Low participation in Working Groups and Committees and inconsistency of members attending the meetings.

Noted 1:

The JWC noted that there is consistent low participation of members to various activities planned by the EACO. This makes the works of WG and Committees to be of poor quality as well as ineffective.

The Joint Committee Agreed:

- (i) The matter may be brought to the attention of the CEOs to get their commitment;
- (ii) Continuous sensitization by Regulators and other members to take action on importance to participate in meetings;
- (iii) Increase the number of experts participating in the WGs and Committees;

3.2 Poor participation on EACO training programs

Noted 2:

The JWC noted that there is poor participation on EACO training programs even though the training are relatively cheap and relevant to our activities.

Agreed 2:

The Joint Committee Agreed:

The EACO Secretariat to put up a training calendar and communicate to CEOs well in advance for members to plan participation.

3.3 Telecom packages to enable broadcasters to utilize existing infrastructure in order to stream content.

Noted 3:

The JWC noted that broadcasters requested for telecom packages to enable them to utilize existing infrastructure in order to stream content. It was further noted the future of broadcasting services will use internet infrastructure, so there is a need of broadcasters and telecom to collaborate in order to provide affordable and efficient services.

Agreed 3:

The JWC to recommends:

Broadcasters should make their case and engage the Telecoms to utilize existing infrastructure in order to modernize their broadcasting. The broadcasters are advised to join the Internet Exchange Points for digital broadcasting.

3.4 Members countries to set up a team of experts in their respective countries to examine the impact of the proposed options on their mail operations in the light of withdrawal of the USA from Universal Postal Union.

Noted 4:

It was noted the information that the USA has already indicated to the members of the UPU that will pull out from the UPU due to unacceptable remuneration issues is a challenge to the postal sector.

Agreed 4:

The JWC to recommends:

Member countries are to join Africa Expert Group of Terminal Dues that has been formed by Pan African Postal Union to handle the impact of the proposed options on their mail operations in the light of withdrawal of the USA from Universal Postal Union (PAPU).

3.5 Harmonization of cross-border customs regulations differ among the EAC countries.

Noted 5:

The JWC noted that customs regulations differ among the EAC countries. There is a need to harmonize cross-border customs and regulatory issues for ease of exporting and importing of merchandise, goods and cargo within the region.

Agreed 5:

The JWC recommends:

Working Group 4 to carry out a study and identify issues that will enable engagement of the EAC to link with Customs Authorities to smoothen the cross-border and report back to EACO.

3.6 Protection of consumers on forced roaming by member states

Noted 6:

The JWC noted that customers on the borders are forced to roam in their own countries. Noted further that customers need protection and necessary awareness on forced roaming.

Agreed 6:

The JWC recommends:

- (i) The Regulators to undertake awareness campaign to operators and customers.
- (ii) The Regulators should ensure operators comply on implementation of the cross border frameworks.
- (iii) The customers need to be protected and get the necessary awareness on forced roaming.

3.7 Regulators, operators, and other stakeholders to consider migration from IPV4 to IPV6.

Noted 7:

It was noted that Regulators, operators, and other stakeholders consider migration from IPV4 to IPV6 soonest;

Agreed 7:

The JWC recommends:

Regulators, Operators, other stakeholders and government agencies to migrate from IPV4 to IPV6 soonest. Mechanism to be put in place to expedite strategies for migration from IPV4 to IPV6.

3.8 Regulators, Operators and other stakeholders are required to ensure that their Systems are updated to be Universal Acceptance ready.

Noted 8:

The JWC noted that Regulators, Operators and other stakeholders are required to ensure that their Systems are updated to be Universal Acceptance ready.

Agreed 8:

The Joint Committee Agreed:

Regulators, Operators and other stakeholders are required to ensure that their Systems are updated to be Universal Acceptance ready.

3.9 Protection of communication industry from destructive and fraudulent innovations.

Noted 9:

The JWC noted that the communication industry has been facing several frauds (sim boxing, CLI spoofing) causing loss of resources therefore they need to be protected.

Agreed 9:

The JWC recommends:

The Regulators and Operators to enhance compliance in order to offer protection of the communication industry from destructive and fraudulent innovations. National Security Surveillance should be enhanced among the EAC member countries. Regulators and operators need to collaborate to handle fraud cases.

4. Closing the meeting

The meeting was closed at 5.30pm.

MR. JOHN W. DAFFA
CHAIRMAN

MR. HARUNI H.B LEMANYA
1st RAPPORTEUR

MR. LEONIDAS NDAYAHUNDWA
2ND RAPPORTEUR

Ms. NORAH SITATI
EACO SECRETARIAT