



## REPORT OF THE EACO WORKING GROUP 1: POLICY AND REGULATORY HARMONIZATION FRAMEWORKS

### 1. Introduction

During the period 2019 – 2021, the EACO WG1 on Policy and Regulatory Harmonization Frameworks held a total of 8 meetings. Those that participated in the meetings included representatives from the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and Agence de Regulation et de Controle des Telecommunications du Burundi (ARCT).

### 2. Progress report

The WG1 undertook to work on the items below during the Strategic Plan Period.

S/N	Work Item	Progress
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1	Development of Model Post & Courier Policy and Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A data collection matrix for Postal Policy issues in EAC Region was developed and circulated to member States.</li> <li>• Collection of data was done: data was received from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania &amp; Uganda.</li> <li>• Draft policy and regulatory framework have been developed.</li> <li>• WG1 Members are improving on the draft policy by inputs and comments</li> <li>• Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i.) In-country stakeholder consultation</li> <li>ii.) Validation under WG1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	Development of Model Digital Broadcasting Policy and regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A data collection matrix for Digital broadcasting Policy issues in EAC Region was developed and circulated to member States.</li> <li>• Collection of data was undertaken: data was received from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania &amp; Uganda.</li> <li>• Draft policy and regulatory framework have been developed.</li> <li>• WG1 Members are improving the draft policy by inputs and comments</li> <li>• Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i.) In-country stakeholder consultation</li> <li>ii.) Validation under WG1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3	Development of Regulatory Framework for Implementing SIM Card registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EXCOM recommended discontinuation of work on SIM Card registration. Consequently, WG01 has removed this work item from its schedule of activities.</li> </ul>

WG01 is currently developing the two policies and regulatory frameworks in parallel and the same are at therefore at the same level of development.

### **3. Challenges**

The following challenges were faced by WG01 while undertaking its work:

- Budget constraints, which impacted the physical meetings, as a result of which all the meetings were held online, leading to a slow progression of the work.
- Frequent lockdowns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in many members were working from home for a long time. This resulted in connectivity challenges that resulted in the postponement of many of the meetings or limited contributions made via text chats during some of the meetings.
- Inconsistent participation in WG's meetings by members.
- Delay in providing data by some members.
- Internet connectivity: Due to poor internet connection, some countries have reported not been able to attend meetings (Burundi and South Sudan).

### **4. Recommendations**

In order to improve the output from WG01, we recommend that:

- Each member state officially designates a permanent member to the WG to ensure continuity of participation.
- Each member state supports their representatives to ensure consistent participation of the designated member of the WG.
- NRAs to ensure that the designated members are accountable and are contributing to the assigned tasks.

### **5. Conclusion**

- a) The Regulatory Assembly is invited to consider, note and adopt Working Group 1 report for the period July 2019 to June 2021.
- b) Provide guidance on the Working Group's activities as it may deem fit.

**Chairperson**  
**Liston Kirui**