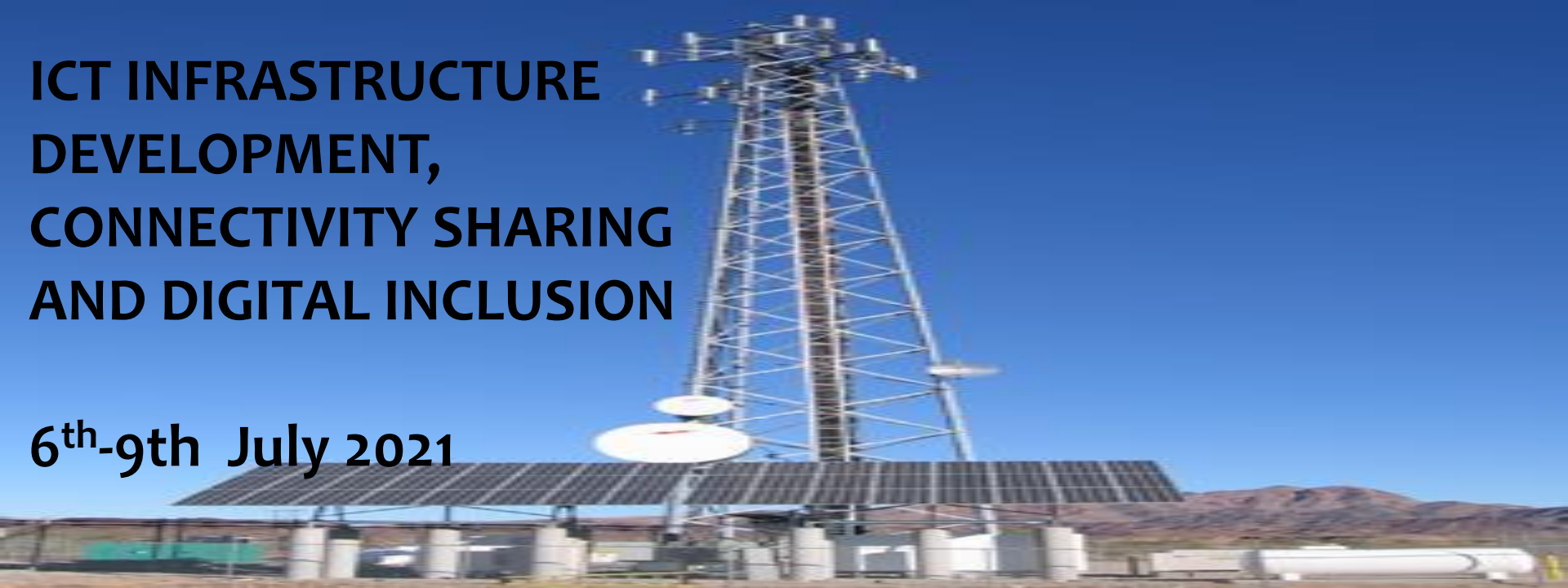


# **EACO WG-02 REPORT TO THE EACO 27<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLIES ; KIGALI-RWANDA**

**ICT INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT,  
CONNECTIVITY SHARING  
AND DIGITAL INCLUSION**

**6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July 2021**



# Background

- EACO exco approved Merging of WG02+WG05=WG02
- WG2 mandate
- To to study and/or deliberate issues on Infrastructure development, Connectivity sharing and Digital inclusion within EACO Member States.



# General Objective of WG2



Research and Identify infrastructure gaps among EACO Partner States.

Propose solutions and formulate regulatory frameworks to close the gaps.

- ***Infrastructure covers both passive and active***

## Time frame

**Two year Period**

**June 2019 To June 2021**



# The Working

- Six (6) WG2 meetings held.
- All WG2 meetings were held online.
  - ✓ 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019
  - ✓ 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - ✓ 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020
  - ✓ 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021
  - ✓ 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Also held a Roundtable  
discussion  
In collaboration with  
Access Partnership.**

**Topic; Accelerating  
Infrastructure Deployment and  
Achieving Universal Access:  
Lessons Learned From Covid-19  
Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

## Specific TORs

- **To review the existing communication infrastructure facilities in all the EAC Partner States and make recommendations on how to address the identified infrastructure and connectivity gaps or challenges in the region.**
- **Develop framework on the management of critical infrastructure the EAC region.**
- **Develop a guideline and toolkit for Universal Access and Service and develop strategies and guidelines for achievement of digital inclusion in the region.**
- **Establish guidelines to promote peering and interconnection in the East African region**
- **To make recommendations on best practices for systems/network management issues within the region**
- **EACO clearing house: Conduct desk survey & Research on Clearing House, developing a Project Concept on Clearing House.**

# TOR Implementation Status

## TOR 1

## STATUS

1. To review the existing communication infrastructure facilities in all the EAC Partner States and make recommendations on how to address the identified infrastructure and connectivity gaps or challenges in the region. And develop infrastructure sharing guidelines

- **Completed.**

Document is available for endorsement by the EACO Assemblies

## TOR 2

Develop a guideline and toolkit for Universal Access and Service and develop strategies and guidelines for achievement of digital inclusion in the region.

## STATUS

- **Completed.**
- Document is available for endorsement by the EACO Assemblies



### **TOR 3**

To make recommendations on best practices for systems/network management issues within the region

### **STATUS**

Work is under review by the WG (in progress)

## **TOR 4**

Establish guidelines to promote peering and interconnection in the East African region

## **STATUS**

- Work in Progress
- Request was made to the NRAs for experts support on the peering protocols.

*Feedback received from Burundi, others yet to respond*

## **TOR 5**

EACO clearing house:  
Conduct desk survey &  
Research on Clearing  
House, developing a  
Project Concept on  
Clearing House, develop  
Project write up

## **STATUS**

- Its work in progress

*In some countries like  
Uganda, the idea was  
advanced to the industry  
& early insights to help in  
the concept paper*

## **TOR 6**

Provide guidelines on management of critical infrastructure

## **STATUS**

- Template for the report developed.
- *Most partners states have provided input.*
- *development of the draft document on-going*

## DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTION AND ENDORSEMENT

The following documents have been successfully completed under WG2  
WG2 recommends EACO Assemblies to accept the documents for adoption and endorsement.

- i. A toolkit for Universal Access and Service Toolkit and Digital Inclusion strategies
- ii. Infrastructure Sharing Guideline

# Challenges

## 1) Consistent and regular Participation by members.

- Regulators to nominate working group members to consistently attend
- Respective country RAs should take responsibility in fast tracking EACO deliverables with the working group members.

## 2) Minimal participation from Private sector

- EACO secretariat to establish reasons and recommendations on increasing private sector participation.

## 3) Un-reliable connectivity during online meetings.

- RAs to ensure dedicated capacity and facilities during online meetings

## 4) Data availability issues ( no data base for the region)

- Data base project not yet complete with full datasets

# Activities for next year

- I. Develop Framework on peering and interconnection and hold a Stakeholders forum on Peering & Interconnection
- II. Complete development of recommendations on best practices for systems/network management issues within the region
- III. Develop Concept paper on establishment of an East Africa clearing house.
- IV. Develop Guidelines on management of critical infrastructure
- V. Develop strategy document on Gender and ICT inclusion for EACO & organise a virtual workshop on ICT and gender and closing the gender digital divide and (this is a new activity added)



Thank  
you!!