

## **EACO REPORT OF THE TELECOM OPERATORS' ASSEMBLY**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The meeting of the Telecom Operators Assembly was held from 18th - 20th June 2014 in Arusha Tanzania. The meeting was opened by the Interim Chairperson Mr. Redemptus Magufwa of Tanzania Communications Company Ltd (TTCL) who welcomed all members to the meeting. He thanked the outgoing Secretariat for the excellent job they had performed and wished the new meeting fruitful deliberations in the 3 day meeting.

### **2.0 Attendance**

The meeting participants were drawn from EACO Member countries namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda and EACO Secretariat. The full attendance list is in **Annex 1**.

### **3.0 Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as follows:

- i. Opening of The Meeting
- ii. Election of the Bureau
- iii. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme
- iv. Report of the Chairman
- v. Country status reports.

- vi. Presentation of the reports of the Working Groups
  - a. WG2 - Infrastructure Development, Connectivity and Digital Inclusion
  - b. WG3 - ICT Services & Applications
  - c. WG5 - IP Networks, Standards and Cybersecurity
  - d. WG6 - Broadcasting Development and Regulation
  - e. WG7 - Resource Planning, Allocations and Management
  - f. WG8 - Communications Service Pricing and Industry Analysis
  - g. WG11 - Spectrum Management
- vii. 'Electromagnetic Compatibility Issues in Telecommunications'-presentation by Multimedia University of Kenya
- viii. Presentation on the Status of the National ICT Broadband Backbone of Tanzania.
- ix. Consideration and Adoption of the Report
- x. AOB
- xi. Closing of the meeting

#### **4.0 Report of the Chairman**

The outgoing Chairman presented the 20<sup>th</sup> Telecom Assembly report which was discussed by members. The full report is provided in **Annex 2** . The Chairman highlighted the following matters among others;

**Noted 1:** That there has been poor attendance of the Telecom Operators in the WG meetings

**Noted 2:** That a number of Telecom Operators have not paid their annual contributions.

**Agreed 1:** Telecom Operators were encouraged to increase their participation in the WG meetings.

**Agreed 2:** Operators were encouraged to select their contributory units and to pay their annual contributions in order to support the operations of the EACO Secretariat.

## **5.0 Country status reports**

Countries presented updates on the Agreements from the 20th Telecom Operators Assembly as attached in **Annex 3**

### **5.1 SIM card registration.**

All EACO member states had begun the process of SIM card registration. The exercise was ongoing and countries were at different levels of implementation of the SIM card registration. Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya had already registered all existing subscribers and Uganda was finalizing registration by end of August 2013.

### **5.2 Cyber security**

All countries except Burundi had established the National CERTs. Burundi was in the process of establishing its National CERT.

### **5.3 Regional Roaming**

EACO was in the final stages of engaging a consultant to undertake a study on International Mobile Roaming. It was expected that the study would be concluded by November 2014.

### **5.4 Migration from IPv4 to IPv6**

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania had commenced the migration from IPv4 to IPv6 while Burundi had not started the migration process. Rwanda's approach during the transition period was to adopt a dual-stack method.

### **5.5 Spectrum pricing**

It was noted that Spectrum pricing still remained prohibitively high. The method to determine spectrum pricing differed from country to country- and hence there was need for a systematic market based approach. . A draft concept paper on spectrum pricing had been developed for a harmonized spectrum pricing..

## **5.6 LTE 4G (Long Term Evolution)**

Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda already had operators utilizing the LTE spectrum whereas Burundi was still in the process of availing the mobile broadband frequencies. In the case of Kenya, the process of allocating LTE spectrum was ongoing.

## **5.7 The East African Internet Exchange (EAIX) Project**

A feasibility study was done by EACO on IXPs in the region and an Action Plan was developed for the implementation of the project. The Phase 0 of the EAIX project had commenced and countries were at different stages of the implementation of the project. Additional details on the EAIX project are in WG 5 report.

## **5.8 Mobile Number Portability (MNP)**

Kenya and Rwanda had completed the implementation of MNP. Tanzanian had undertaken a study and was planning the implementation process. Burundi and Uganda had not yet started the process.

## **5.9 Harmonization of emergency short codes through East Africa**

The harmonized short codes within EAC region had not been fully implemented. Most countries had implemented the emergency short codes. The commercial short codes were still pending implementation. Detailed country reports are provided in the attached matrix.

## **5.10 Vandalism**

Fiber optic cuts directly related to vandalism had not been experienced among the operators. However, it was noted that fibre optics cuts were mainly caused by constructions (road, bulding) and other human activities

## **6.0 Presentation of the report of the Working Groups**

The various WGs presented their reports to the Telecom Operators Assembly and the following general remarks from all the WGs were noted and agreed during presentations.

**Noted 3:** That there was poor attendance of the Telecom Operators in the WG meetings

**Noted 4:** That communication sent by EACO Secretariat for WG meetings did not reach the operators on time from Regulators and therefore Operators did not have ample time to budget for the meetings.

**Noted 5:** that some Telecom Operators had concerns about the value preposition of the WG meetings.

**Noted 6:** that some operators had concerns that EACO was not providing the required solutions to the needs of the Telecom Operators.

**Agreed 3:** Telecom Operators were encouraged to increase their participation in the WG meetings.

**Agreed 4:** Communications should be directed to the CEOs and copies sent to WG members so as to ensure receipt of the communication. Telecom Operators were requested to provide their contact details to EACO Secretariat.

**Agreed 5:** EACO Secretariat to follow up with the responsible WG members to ensure receipt and response to communication.

**Agreed 6:** Members were encouraged to hold online meetings to compliment the physical meetings.

**Agreed 7:** An almanac of the meetings for the whole year should be provided so as to enable timely planning by the Telecom Operators.

## **6.1 Presentation by WG2 - Infrastructure Development, Connectivity and Digital Inclusion**

**Noted 7:** That Universal Access Fund in Rwanda was used for connecting schools (e-learning through 1 laptop per child) and tele-medicine (connecting Hospitals).

**Noted 8 :** That in Tanzania the USF was being used to roll out communications to the rural areas.

**Noted 9 : That** Burundi was in the final stages of formulating the Policy on Universal Access.

**Noted 10 :** For Kenya, the Access Fund had not been operationalized although it had been provided for by the Law.

**Noted 11:** Infrastructure sharing was already being implemented in some countries though with limitations especially where some Operators were reluctant to share the facilities with the competitors. Infrastructure sharing was done on technical and commercial viability.

**Agreed 8:**Infrastructure sharing should be encouraged based on the current model

## **6.2 Presentation by WG3 - ICT Services & Applications**

Recommendation: taxation and levies on ICT services should not hamper growth and service delivery to the consumers.

## **6.3 Presentation by WG5 - IP Networks, Standards and Cybersecurity**

**Noted 12:** Implementation of the EAIX project had commenced and countries were at different levels of implementation of the National IXPs.

**Noted 13:** AUC would fund 3 national IXPs in the Eastern Africa region to grow into regional IXP

**Agreed 9:** The National Regulators should encourage peering by ISPs at their respective national IXPs

**Agreed 10:** The EACO Secretariat to communicate with the respective Regulators in engaging the stakeholders on the roll out of Regional IXPs and to improve their National IXPs.

**Agreed 11:** The EAIX Feasibility Study report should be circulated to all stakeholders.

**Agreed 12 :** EACO member countries should respond to the AUC expression of interest for funding for the EAIX project.

#### **6.4 Presentation by WG6 - Broadcasting Development and Regulation**

**Noted 14:** There are still licensing issues on digital dividend e.g. whether licensing should be done at national or regional levels.

**Noted 15:** There were concerns on cross border transmissions and there cross border checks on cross border interference needed to be done by end of March 2015.

**Noted 16 :** Refarming and or re-allocation of frequencies after full migration from analogue to digital TV transmission

**Agreed 13:** That C-band should be reserved for civil aviation and VSAT networks.

**Agreed 14:** The Telecom Operators and Regulators to engage on the best option in respect of licensing of the digital dividend; whether to use auction, beauty contest or hybrid.

#### **6.5 Presentation by WG7 - Resource Planning, Allocations and Management**

**Noted 17:** Telecom Operators took note of the report of the WG7.

#### **6.6 Presentation by WG8 - Communications Service Pricing and Industry Analysis**



**Noted 18:** Multiple taxes and levies for ICT services in the EACO Member states (Regional, National, District) .

**Noted 19:** A study/analysis will be conducted by EACO on International Mobile roaming in the EAC.

**Agreed 15:** To involve all stakeholders in the Roaming, broadband and Infrastructure share pricing discussions

**Agreed 16:** Spectrum is a scarce national resource that requires good national management for effective utilization and hence pricing should depend on each national policy.

**Agreed 17:** There is a need to standardize the methodology of determining allocation and pricing of the spectrum within EACO member states.

**Agreed 18:** taxes and levies should be streamlined and harmonized across the EACO member states.

#### **6.7 Presentation by ‘Electromagnetic Compatibility Issues in Telecommunications’- presentation by Multimedia University of Kenya**

The presentation was noted by the Telecom Assembly.

### **7.0 AOB**

Presentation on the status of the National ICT Broadband Backbone in Tanzania.

### **8.0 Decisions**

Congress is requested to approve and adopt the above decisions/recommendations

## ANNEX 1 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### List of Participants - Telecom Assembly Meeting held from 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> June 2014, Arusha, Tanzania

NO	Names	Organization & Country	Job Title	email	Tel.
1.	CONSTAQUE HAKIZMANA	ARCT BURUNDI	CHIEF OF SERVICE	<a href="mailto:hakizimanac@yahoo.fr">hakizimanac@yahoo.fr</a>	+25779922190
2.	FELICITE NIRAGIRA	U-COM BURUNDI	SECRETARY GENERAL	<a href="mailto:felicite@eaco.int">felicite@eaco.int</a>	<a href="tel:+25779949145">+25779949145</a>
3.	JEREMIE HAGERINGWE	ONATEL	NAN-NANAGU	<a href="mailto:jhageringwe@yahoo.com">jhageringwe@yahoo.com</a>	+25777757807
4.	BARRY APODO	TESPOK	TECHNICAL MANAGER	<a href="mailto:barry@tesposk.co.ke">barry@tesposk.co.ke</a>	<a href="tel:+254720899750">+254720899750</a>
5.	EMMA BOKEA	KENIC	AG. CEO	<a href="mailto:emma@kenic.or.ke">emma@kenic.or.ke</a>	+254724449577
6.	MWENDWA MAUNDU	SAFARICOM	PRINCIPAL OFFICER	<a href="mailto:mmaundu@safaricom.co.ke">mmaundu@safaricom.co.ke</a>	+254722977893
7.	EMMANUEL TARUS	SAFARICOM	SENIOR MANAGER REGULATORY	<a href="mailto:echeburet@safaricom.co.ke">echeburet@safaricom.co.ke</a>	+254714555111
8.	SHEILLAH NYANZI	SMART UGANDA	LEGAL & REGULATORY DIRECTOR	<a href="mailto:Sheillah.nyanzi@smart.ug">Sheillah.nyanzi@smart.ug</a>	+256 752607877
9	FRANCIS KAREMERA	NEW ARTEL / Rwanda	CEO	<a href="mailto:fkaremera@artel.rw">fkaremera@artel.rw</a>	+250 788303929
10	Baitwababo Daniel	Smart Tanzania		<a href="mailto:daniel.baitwababo@smart.co.tz">daniel.baitwababo@smart.co.tz</a>	+25579820111
11	Anita S. Moshi	TTCL/ Tanzania	Manager Regulatory Affairs	<a href="mailto:anita.moshi@ttcl.co.tz">anita.moshi@ttcl.co.tz</a>	+ 255 713 476 067
12	Thomas Nicholas Lemunge	Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited/ Tanzania	Commercial Officer - NICTBB	<a href="mailto:thomas.lemunge@ttcl.co.tz">thomas.lemunge@ttcl.co.tz</a>	+255 732200301
13	Judica William	TTCL/ Tanzania	ES/IP Transit & VPN Operations	<a href="mailto:wjudica@yahoo.com">wjudica@yahoo.com</a>	+255784 791 588
14	Redemtus.B. Magufwa	Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited/ Tanzania	Engineering Supervisor- Transmission systems.	<a href="mailto:redemtus.magufwa@ttcl.co.tz">redemtus.magufwa@ttcl.co.tz</a>	0732200684/0784340659

15	Peter Nyongesa	Communications Commission of Kenya	Assistant Manager/ Numbering	<a href="mailto:nyongesa@cck.go.ke">nyongesa@cck.go.ke</a>	+254 703 042000
16	Caroline Koech	EACO Secretariat	Liaison Manager, ICT	<a href="mailto:ckoech@eaco.int">ckoech@eaco.int</a>	+250735122775

## ANNEX 2 - REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN



Chairman's Report -  
Telecom Assembly.do

## ANNEX 3 – COUNTRY STATUS REPORTS



TELECOMS-COUNTRY  
REPORT- KENYA-2014  
EAC