

**REPORT OF THE
WORKING GROUP 1
POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

12 JUNE 2018

Nairobi, Kenya

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1. INTRODUCTION

Working Group 1 is one of the seven (7) EACO's Working Groups constituted by Member States to execute the EACO 's Strategic Plan. The mandate of the Working Group is to harmonize Policy and Regulatory Framework in the EACO member states. During the two previous cycle, some of the accomplishment of the group are but not limited to:

- the review of the existing EAC member States ICT policy and regulatory framework;
- the development of a regional model ICT regulatory framework

The Draft EAC Model ICT Policy and Regulatory Framework was submitted to EAC vide the 7th Meeting of the Committee of the Heads of Communications Regulatory Authorities held in January 2018. The Committee advised that in accordance with EAC Procedures the said frameworks needs to be accompanied by justification and scope.

This report presents the progress and future work plan of WG1 on its Terms of Reference.

2. ATTENDANCE OF WORKING GROUP 1

The EACO Working Group 1 (WG1) dealing with ICT Policy and Regulatory Framework Harmonization met on 12th June 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. It was attended by 17 Participants drawn from 5 EACO Member States, ITU, GSMA, EAC, and Representatives from other sector members. Attendance list is herewith attached as annex I

3. BRIEF ON THE MEETING HELD IN ARUSHA

The EACO Liaison Manager and counsellor of WG1 Mr G. Kessy informed members about the highlights of the previous physical meeting and the first for the third cycle. He took the meeting through the presentation of ToR and action plan that the WG1 elaborated in Arusha from 22-24th January.

Due to the absence of former member during the first physical meeting held in Arusha in January 2018, participants to the pre- assembly meeting of 12th June 2018 explained the need of revisiting the presented ToRs and action plan.

4. REVIEW OF TOR AND ACTION PLAN

During the pre-assembly meeting of 12th June 2018, participants debated on the presented ToR and came up with the reviewed one as shown below:

1. Review policies and regulatory frameworks within the regional on digital Broadcasting, postal, issues and subscriber registration
2. Develop and recommend harmonized regional Policy and Regulatory Framework for digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration
3. Identify and recommend any other relevant policy and /or regulatory framework required for the development of ICTs in the region
4. Analyze and develop harmonized positions relating to ICT policy and Regulatory frameworks under consideration in the various regional and international fora

About the action plan, the WG1 revisited the existing one in consideration of the above ToR. The matrix of it is hereto attached as annex II

5. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In implementing the Action Plan, WG1 agreed on tentative activities which include:

- Exchange of basic data
- Analysis of Policy and Regulatory matters on new & emerging areas
- Regular Online meetings
- One physical meeting in February 2019

The nomination of coordinator per ToR is one of the strategy adopted by WG1 to effectively ensure action plan implementation.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Following the discussion on “The Draft EAC Model ICT Policy and Regulatory Framework submitted to EAC secretariat” it was concluded that there is need for the enhancement of procedures for submission, consideration and adoption of EACO work outputs to EAC.
- ❖ Active participation of members, especially Operators in EACO activities is highly needed.
- ❖ Given the role played by WG in the execution of the strategic plan of EACO, it has been recommended the enhancement of the capacity of the EACO Secretariat in terms of staff to further facilitate the work of the Working Group.

7. POSITION OF THE REGULATORY ASSEMBLY VIS A VIS TO RECOMMENDATION PROVIDED BY WG1

- ❖ Participation of operators in EACO activities is still a problem and the Regulatory Assembly recommended to take the issue to the joint working Committee
- ❖ Enhancement of the capacity of EACO in term of staff , the Regulatory Assembly recommended to bring the matter to the EXCOM, if need be, the EXCOM will seek advice to the Legal and HR committee.

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Christopher K. Kemei

Chairperson of WG1

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Béatrice MUSIKA

Second rapporteur

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Godliving KESSY

EACO, LM/RA

ANNEX II: ACTION PLAN OF WORKING GROUP 1

	TERM OF REFERENCE	ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLE	TIME FRAME	COORDINATOR
1	Review policies and regulatory frameworks within the regional on digital Broadcasting, postal, issues and subscriber registration	Each country to submit policy and regulatory status on digital broadcasting, Postal Issues and Subscriber Registration in member states	Country Status	July 31, 2018	RURA, RW.
		WG1 to analyse the above status in member states including identification of good practice and gaps	Draft Matrix by Secretariat	September 2018	
			Analysis Report	December 2018	

2	Develop and recommend harmonized regional Policy and Regulatory Framework for digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration	Develop an harmonized Policy and Regulatory Frameworks in the region taking into account the above analysis	Draft zero harmonized Policy and Regulatory Frameworks	March 2019	TCRA, TZA
		Benchmark with the global best practice	Draft one	May 2019	
3	Identify and recommend any other relevant policy and /or regulatory framework	EACO members to submit proposals on new areas that requires policy and regulatory framework development	Secretariat prepare submission template Proposals	End of September 2019	

	required for the development of ICTs in the region			End of February 2019	UCC, UG
		Analysis of the above submissions	Report of Analysis	End of April 2019	
4	Analyze and develop harmonized positions relating to ICT policy and Regulatory frameworks under consideration in the various regional and international fora	Identify ICT policies and Regulatory frameworks	Policies and regulatory frameworks identified	Continuous	NCA, SSudan
		Harmonize positions	harmonized Positions	Continuous	
		Disseminate proposals	Proposals disseminated	Continuous	

