



**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE**

**22ND EAST AFRICA COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (EACO)**

**CONGRESS**

**24TH - 28TH JULY 2017**

**SILVER SPRINGS HOTEL, KAMPALA UGANDA**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[1.0 INTRODUCTION 3](#_Toc513716172)

[2.0 PARTICIPATION 3](#_Toc513716173)

[3.0 OPENING CEREMONY FOR CONGRESS 4](#_Toc513716174)

[3.1 Welcome Remarks by ES EACO – Mr. Hodge Semakula 4](#_Toc513716175)

[3.2 Remarks by ED UCC- Mr. Godfrey Mutabazi 5](#_Toc513716176)

[4.0. MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE 8](#_Toc513716177)

[4.1 Opening of the Ministerial Round Table 8](#_Toc513716178)

[4.2 Thematic Presentations and Discussions 8](#_Toc513716179)

[6.0 REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF 21ST EACO CONGRESS AND HANDOVER 11](#_Toc513716180)

[7.0 KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE NEW CHAIRPERSON 12](#_Toc513716181)

[8.0 ELECTION OF THE BUREAU 12](#_Toc513716182)

[9.0 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO EACO 13](#_Toc513716183)

[10.0 CONSIDERATION OF EACO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FYs 2014/15 AND 2015/16 13](#_Toc513716184)

[11.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS BY VARIOUS ASSEMBLIES: - 14](#_Toc513716185)

[11.1. Joint Working Committee 14](#_Toc513716186)

[11.2 Assembly of Regulators 17](#_Toc513716187)

[11.3 Assembly of Telecommunications Operators 18](#_Toc513716188)

[11.4. Assembly of Broadcasters 18](#_Toc513716189)

[11.5 Assembly of Postal Operators 19](#_Toc513716190)

[12.0 DATE AND VENUE FOR THE 23RD EACO CONGRESS 19](#_Toc513716191)

[13.0 ADOPTION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE EACO CONGRESS. 20](#_Toc513716192)

[14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS. 20](#_Toc513716193)

[15.0 CLOSING CEREMONY. 21](#_Toc513716194)

[16.0 ANNEXES TO THE REPORT. 22](#_Toc513716195)

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 22nd EACO Congress meeting was held on the 28th July, 2017 at Silver Springs Hotel, Kampala, Uganda. The meetings for the Assemblies of Regulators, Telecommunications, Postal and Broadcasting Operators together with Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (LCAC), Human Resources Development (HRC), EACO IXP Forum and the Joint Working Committee (JWC) preceded the Congress at the same venue from 24th to 27th July 2017.

This report presents the proceedings and decisions of the Congress after considering the reports of the Assemblies, Joint Working Committee, Human Resource and Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

# 2.0 PARTICIPATION

The Congress was attended by;

1. ICT Ministers from Uganda and Burundi
2. DGs of the National Regulatory Authorities from member countries.
3. CEOs of various operators
4. Representatives of UPU, PAPU, ATU, ITU, EAC and AFRALTI
5. Members of EACO and other stakeholders

The following EACO Members and applicants as contained in the attached list hereunder attended the Congress.



# 3.0 OPENING CEREMONY FOR CONGRESS

## 3.1 Welcome Remarks by ES EACO – Mr. Hodge Semakula

The Executive Secretary welcomed all delegates in their respective capacities to the 22nd EACO Congress. In a special way, he extended EACO’s deep appreciation to both the Chief Guest, The Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda for finding time to officiate at the function and the Government of the Republic of Uganda and UCC for the kind hospitality accorded to the delegates and most importantly for Uganda’s continued commitment and invaluable contribution and support to EACO since its establishment.

The Executive Secretary also recognized and commended the leadership of Uganda for its vision in not only recognizing ICTs as an enabler for social economic development but also for putting in place the necessary ICT policy framework together with the critical ICT infrastructure and for championing the adoption and usage of ICTs in Uganda.

He reported EACO had in the last five years since inception grown and positioned itself as one of the key players in the regional and global ICT eco-system. He highlighted some of EACO’s achievements which included among others;

1. Building the institutional framework and capacity of EACO which as consequence has led to the expansion of scope and size of EACO’s programmes and activities further resulting into recognition and appreciation of EACO’s role in the regional ICT eco system
2. Establishing collaborative relationship and partnerships with EAC, AUC, PAPU, ATU, ITSO, Internet Society, Ericsson, University of Stockholm (SPIDER), GSMA, CTO, UPU and ITU which has expanded EACO’s network and visibility.
3. EACO has its Working Groups, has contributed to the development process of the region’s ICT policy, legal and regulatory framework through a number of its recommendations, guidelines and proposed policy frameworks on a number of issues in the ICT sector.
4. EACO has also through its Working Groups successfully coordinated and followed up the work of ICT related regional and international organizations and facilitated development of E. Africa’s positions on global ICT issues in ITU, UPU, ITSO and many others.

He noted that his five-year term and service as Executive Secretary of EACO would be expiring at the end of July 2017 and that not only does he feel proud for the EACO they have been able to build together but, was also pleased with the opportunity he had been given to contribute to this process.

He concluded by thanking all stake holders and partners, with whom the Secretariat has collaborated and worked with in the last five years, entire staff of the Secretariat, recognized and appreciated the support and contribution of the Executive Committee especially the National ICT Regulatory Authorities in EAC which have not only facilitated EACO by hosting a number of its events and meetings but have for the last 5 years paid the salaries of their seconded staff on top of their annual membership contribution. He finally thanked the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and RURA for not only hosting the organization but for its initial contribution towards the establishment of the Secretariat and its relentless support to the organization.

Detailed remarks of the outgoing Executive Secretary are attached herewith.



## 3.2 Remarks by ED UCC- Mr. Godfrey Mutabazi

The Executive Director of UCC welcomed all the delegates the 22nd EACO Congress. He commended the delegates for the efforts put in the week long proceedings which culminated into the Congress, the highest decision making organ of the Organization. He also recognized and welcomed in a special way some of our Special Guests from the region and beyond who came to attend the EACO Congress.

He noted that since its inception five years ago, EACO has been driven by clarity of purpose, commitment and mutual cooperation among member institutions which have made it register tremendous progress in attainment of its objectives.

He saluted the outgoing pioneer Executive Secretary, for a job well done in laying a solid and irreversible foundation at the secretariat. He noted the overwhelming impact and transformative nature of ICTs in our lives, for example the emergency of Mobile Money and e-transactions. However, he highlighted the need for collaborative regulation that can and will lead to digital economy hence boosting entrepreneurship and e‐trade, while enabling e‐government services and sustainable living styles.

He noted that there are opportunities for innovation, through local content development and emphasized that regulators must embrace the digital road and set standards and regulations which protect consumers and the nature of a digital economy.

Detailed Remarks are attached herewith.



**3.3 Remarks by Minister of ICT and National Guidance, Uganda- Hon. Frank Tumwebaze**

The Hon. Minister welcomed delegates to the 22nd Congress of the East African Communications Organisations (EACO), in Kampala. On his own behalf and and on behalf of Government and the people of Uganda, the Hon. Minister extended appreciation to the EACO fraternity for having given Uganda the opportunity to host the important event. He noted that EACO aims to transform our region into a digital village linked to the global Information Society, including the promotion of ICT Innovation through Local Content Development, the theme for the 22nd Congress.

The Hon. Minister also noted that the region had already benefited from EACO initiatives such as the establishment of underground sea cable and other regional communications infrastructure and ICT networks that have made communications services cheaper, affordable and accessible to majority of our people. He emphasized the need to create an East African Information Society in a regionalised and globalised world.

He later invited Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda to officiate the opening of the 22nd EACO Congress.

The detailed speech by the Minister of ICT and National Guidance, is attached herewith.



**3.4 Speech by the Chief Guest, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda**

The Prime Minister of Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, welcomed all delegates to the 22nd Congress of East Africa Communications Organisation (EACO).

He noted that the ultimate goal of the EAC is the full political integration of the partner states, therefore, existence and proper functioning of organisations such as EACO, which bring together government agencies, and the private sector in the ICT field is indeed a step in the right direction to the realisation of this objective.

The Prime Minister also informed the delegates that in Uganda, government set ICTs as one of the strategic intervention areas in meeting the country’s Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs).

He also appreciated EACO for supporting highly innovative ICT development models to harness the ideas, skills and resources of the young people and the private sector partners to create winning strategies that will benefit all. He challenged EACO to consider/support the development of local ICT innovations/applications that can be used to enhance service delivery in other sectors such as agriculture, the backbone of our economies.

The Prime Minister was also pleased to know that the member countries of EACO are active actors in the various global organisations on ICT developments and saluted Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania for being elected to the International Telecommunications Union. (ITU) council.

He also congratulated eminent citizens from the region, Mr Masambu and Mr Hussein upon their election to the leadership of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation and Universal Postal Union respectively.

The detailed speech by the Chief Guest is attached herewith.



# 4.0. MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

The EACO Ministerial Round Table was held on 28th July 2017, under the theme **“Promotion of ICT Innovation through Local Content Development”.**

## 4.1 Opening of the Ministerial Round Table

Following the opening ceremony of the Congress, the Round table followed and was moderated by Mr. Morris Mugisha, a Senior Anchor and News Manager, NTV Uganda.

## 4.2 Thematic Presentations and Discussions

## 

The Round table discussion had thematic questions on;

1. Strategies and Challenges for Promotion of ICT Innovation through Local Content Development.
2. Initiatives put in place to promote ICT innovation.
3. Challenges faced in the promotion of ICT innovation and development of ICT local content.
4. Global trends and developments in the ICTs and the opportunities created for local content providers.

It involved the Ministers of ICT from Uganda and Burundi, the Secretary General, ATU, Regional Director ITU Africa and the Executive Director, Smart Africa.

The Minister of ICT and National Guidance the Republic of Uganda highlighted the deliberate strategies that have been taken to Promote Local Content Development. These included;

1. Buy Uganda Build Uganda Policy that was approved by Cabinet with the objective of “promoting the consumption of locally produced goods and services”. The Minister further related the policy buy East Africa, Build East Africa as a way of promoting Local Content Development in the region.
2. Preferential treatment being given to Local developers in the area of ICT, but still within the confines of the Public procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Act.
3. Establishment of the Innovation Fund
4. Plans are underway to build the ICT Innovation hub at the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology. This will provide a conducive environment for ICT Innovators.
5. The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance is developing the Digital Vision for Uganda to handle the ever changing demographic composition and technology trends which require innovative services.

The Minister of ICT from Burundi highlighted the challenges faced in the ICT Sector that may hinder promotion of ICT Innovation through Local Content Development. These include the following among others:

1. High cost of Internet services
2. Lack of local content itself
3. Lack of awareness of the services
4. Limited affordability of some services like 3G internet that would otherwise promote local Content Development.
5. A cross cutting issue was also raised regarding one of the biggest local innovations, the mobile money service where the owners of the platform used for transactions (Operators) are not Financial institutions yet offering a financial service hence the need for proper regulation of the service.

On the issue of data security in the region, a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement is being embraced to help build data centers since government alone may not handle the costs involved.

**5.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.**

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Remarks by Visiting Institutions-ITU, UPU, ATU, EAC, PAPU and AFRALTI
3. Election of the Bureau
4. Report of the Chairperson of 21st EACO Congress
5. Handing over of Chairmanship
6. Key note address by the New Chairperson
7. Consideration of Applications for Membership to EACO
8. Consideration of EACO Audited Financial Statements for FY 2014/15 and 2015/16
9. Consideration of reports from Assemblies of parties:-
   * 1. Joint Working Committee
     2. Assembly of Regulators
     3. Assembly of Telecommunications Operators
     4. Assembly of Broadcasting Operators
     5. Assembly of Postal Operators
     6. Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
     7. Human Resource Committee
10. Date and Venue for the 23rd EACO Congress
11. Adoption of the Summary of Decisions of the 22nd EACO Congress
12. Closing Ceremony

# 6.0 REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF 21ST EACO CONGRESS AND HANDOVER

The outgoing Chairman specifically thanked and commended the Executive Committee (EXCOM), the Secretariat and Working Groups (WGs) which through their joint effort and commitment sustained and satisfactorily coordinated the various activities and programmes of EACO in the last two years.

He noted that the organization did not only expand its programmes and network but also made some visible contribution to the ICT sector in the region and beyond in the last five years. The outgoing chairman also noted that in 2015, Congress adopted a Three Year Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 which guided the Action Plans and programmes of the Secretariat and the organization in general over the last two years of his term. He briefly highlighted some of the key activities and programmes in which the organization was engaged in during the last two years, including challenges which impacted on the achievement of the set organizational goals and objectives. He also mentioned areas that EACO shall focus on in the next two years. The report was adopted by Congress.

The outgoing Chairman, **Mr. Godfrey Mutabaazi** of Uganda handed over the chairmanship to the incoming Chairman **Mr. Francis W. Wangusi** of Kenya.

The full report of the outgoing Chairman of EACO is attached herewith.

******

# 7.0 KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE NEW CHAIRPERSON

The incoming Chairman expressed his utmost gratitude for the singular honour bestowed on the people and the Government of the Republic of Kenya to serve the region as the Chair of the East African Communications Organization (EACO). He noted with sincere appreciation that Kenya was assuming the mantle of EACO leadership hardly two years after they handed over the same baton to the Republic of Uganda. The incoming Chairman, on behalf of the Kenya delegation promised to do their very best in order not to betray trust accorded to them.

He congratulated the Republic of Uganda on steering EACO to greater heights during their tenure also appreciated the myriad milestones attained so far in the collective endeavor of facilitating access to quality and affordable ICT services to the people of East Africa, through harmonization of ICT policy and legal frameworks and initiatives.

The Detailed Key note address is attached herewith



# 8.0 ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The Congress constituted the Bureau as follows:

Chairman : Mr. Francis W. Wangusi CA

1st Rapporteur : Mr. Andrew Changa UCC

2nd Rapporteur : Mr. Juma Ooro CA

Designated Liaisons: Mr. Godliving Kessy EACO Secretariat

# 9.0 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO EACO

The Congress considered and admitted a total of Four (4) applications for membership to EACO as Sector (03) and Regulatory (01). All the applications were approved by the Congress. The Members are as follows;

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **NAME OF INSTITUTION** | **CONTACT** | **APPLICATION** |
| 1 | National Communication Authority of South Sudan  **South Sudan** | Director General | Regulatory member |
| 2 | Rwanda Information Communication Technology Association  **(RICTA-Rwanda)** | Mr. Ghislain Nkeramugaba | Sector members |
| 3 | Nile Broadcasting Services (NBS)  **Uganda** | Managing Director  Kin Kariisa | Sector member |
| 4 | Radio BENAA Rutana  **Burundi** | Mr. Iddy Jafari/Director | Sector member |

# 10.0 CONSIDERATION OF EACO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FYs 2014/15 AND 2015/16

The financial statements for the two years 2014/15 and 2015/16 were presented to congress by the **ABC Consultants Ltd.**

**Noted 1**

The management of EACO is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirement of its Constitution, and for such internal control as members of the congress determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or errors

**Noted 2**

The financial statements of EACO for the years ended 30 June 2015 and 30th June 2016, prepared on the basis of the accounting policies and that, Auditors reporting to the 22nd Congress as to the best of their knowledge that The Accounts Statement is in agreement with the books and acceptable Principles.

**Noted 3**

The Auditors opinion that, the financial statements were prepared on the basis of set accounting policies; giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of EACO as at 30 June 2015 and as at 30 June 2016; and that the results of its operations for the above years thus ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

**Agreed 1**

Congress adopted the financial statements for the two years as presented by the **ABC Consultants Ltd**

The Auditors report is attached herewith as **ANNEXI.**

# 11.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS BY VARIOUS ASSEMBLIES: -

## 11.1. Joint Working Committee

The Report of the Joint Working Committee was presented to Congress and the following recommendations were noted;

**Noted 1:**

A proposal of establishing a matrix of follow up on action points or Congress decisions by the Secretariat and having regular continuous follow up of the responsible persons/group/country

**Agreed 1:**

For the Secretariat to establish and keep Matrices of performance and conduct regularMonitoring & evaluation on how different states/groups/individuals are implementing the recommendations so as to have regular updates with timely reporting to responsible Authorities on progress

**Noted 2:**

The need to have guidelines or systematic procedure/rule of conduct was found to be essential

**Agreed 2**:

The Task is to be given to the Legal Committee and is to be included in their ToRs for the 3rd cycle

**Noted 3:**

That complaints on forced roaming at the EAC partner States borders have been a lifelong menace**.** Almost this has been echoed in every Congress and Assemblies.

Cross border coordination’s (be it frequency, National Color Codes) is a continuous exercise. Working Group 7 (Numbering Resource) and WG11 (Spectrum Management) have been working together to address this problem and that a Framework has been developed to be addressing such regularly thus needing a definite timeframe.

**Agreed 3**:

To urgently and with diligence address this long time problem once and for all by implementing the Framework, as it can be practicable.

**Request**: That, the Congress direct the Regulators take the center stage and pioneer implementation of the Framework within the next sixty (60) days following the 22nd Congress approval and adoption of the Framework.

**Noted 4:** Operators may not have resources in terms of Human resource and finances to enable them participate in all working groups (2 Committees and 11 WGs).

**Agreed 4:**

There is thus a need to among others to:-

* Review the activities of the working groups and further rationalize the current groups wherever necessary.
* Try having Rotation of meetings in different countries in view to ease/ address logistics
* Carrying out follow up meetings that needs no physical meetings through Teleconferencing
* Create close relationship with the operations e.g face to face interactions with operators

**Noted 5:**

In order to enhance competitiveness in Postal Services, Postal operators and operations needs to embrace ICTs as a necessity no longer a choice.

**Agreed 5**:

The issue of Policy development is under WG01 while Postal and Courier Services development are under WG04 hence a need for the two Groups work together towards establishing An EAC Postal Policy proposal with an emphasis of e-Commerce.

That, WG04 should as a matter of Procedure, send a Liaison Statement to WG01 to this effect addressing the need that will engage both Groups to work out modality and framework they will follow to develop the EAC Postal policy as a matter of urgency.

* **Request**: That the activity of developing the EAC Postal policy as one of the TORs to both Groups during the next (3rd) Cycle

**Noted 6:**

That it has be an uphill task for the landlocked countries **(Land linked)** on the pricing of connectivity to the submarine landing points at the seashores though of recently there has been a reduction, more still can be done.

That there is an ongoing activity at the EAC secretariat in the area of broadband whereby a meeting slated to be held in Uganda soon*.*

* **Observed**: That, one (land linked in particular) can further lower the costs if he is allowed to lease the dark fiber from the Broadband operators and access/purchase the services from the landing point/sub marine cable operators.

**Agreed 6**:

There is need of having a full interconnectivity of the EAC National Back bone systems as one way of coordinating for effective pricing for public services

* **Request:**that, Congress take intentional effort to urge the Regulators in particular and the respective Governments of URT and Burundi at large to operationalize their participation/linkage into One-Networked-Area initiative as one way of regularizing the cost of bandwidth

The detailed report for the Joint Working Committee is attached herewith



* 1. Assembly of Regulators

**Noted:**

1. Assembly of regulators requested Congress to approve the following documents that were developed by the Group:
2. The harmonized spectrum Policy Guidelines
3. The framework on cross-border coordination
4. The framework on cross-border coordination for mobile service.
5. The Information document on licensing of the digital dividend spectrum
6. The structure and EACO preparation towards WRC-19

(ii) Adopt of the report of the Spectrum Management

The detailed report of the Assembly of Regulators is attached herewith



* 1. Assembly of Telecommunications Operators

The report of the Assembly of Telecom Operators was presented and adopted with the following remarks;

1. Operators urged to take effort in addressing the cross-border interference problem by implementing the developed framework by EACO WG11
2. The National Communications Authority of South Sudan urged EACO to consider including study on sim-boxing problem currently prevalent in the One Network Area.
3. There was a concern that the regulators should do more to encourage innovation in the industry

The detailed report of the Assembly of Telecom Operators is attached herewith



## 11.4. Assembly of Broadcasters

The report was presented and adopted

The following reports there in were adopted.

1. A report on the issues on accessibility of premium broadcast content within EACO.
2. The questionnaire on the Harmonized Performance Indicators for Broadcasting Services.
3. A Regulatory framework for “MUST CARRY” channels and the licensing of subscription services on all platforms
4. The guidelines for operations of Non-Terrestrial digital broadcasting within EACO.
5. The report on Emerging Multimedia Services
6. The harmonized spectrumpolicy guideline, to be considered as reference by EAC member states.
7. The EACO informative report on licensing of the digital dividend spectrum for broadband services.

The detailed report of the Assembly of Broadcasters is attached herewith

****

**Agreed**

To adopt the Report of the Assembly of Broadcasters and the proposals contained therein.

## Assembly of Postal Operators

The report of the Assembly of Postal Operators and proposals contained therein was adopted.

A detailed report of the Postal Assembly is attached herewith



# 12.0 DATE AND VENUE FOR THE 23RD EACO CONGRESS

The 25th EACO Assemblies will be hosted by Kenya in June 2018 while the 23rd EACO Congress and the 3rd ICT Exhibitions will be held in Tanzania in 2019. The exact dates will be communicated in due course by the EACO Secretariat.

# 13.0 ADOPTION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE EACO CONGRESS.

The rapporteurs presented their report highlighting the major areas which were noted and/or agreed upon by the 22nd EACO Congress.

Detailed Joint Communique is attached hereunder**.**

****

# 14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no any other business.

# 15.0 CLOSING CEREMONY.

The meeting was declared officially closed by the Chairman of EACO, Mr. Francis W. Wangusi.

***Signatures***

This 28th Day of July 2017

………………………………… ……………………

Mr. Francis W. Wangusi Mr. Andrew Changa

CHAIRMAN 1st RAPPORTEUR

………………………………… …………………………………

Mr. Juma Ooro Mr. Godliving Kessy

2nd RAPORTEUR EACO SECRETARIAT

# 16.0 ANNEXES TO THE REPORT.

**ANNEXI:** Report of the Audited Financial accounts