

REPORT OF THE 29TH EACO ASSEMBLY OF BROADCASTING OPERATORS HELD ON 27TH JUNE 2024 IN NAIROBI-KENYA

1.0. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The 29th Assembly of Broadcasting Operators of EACO was held on 27th June 2024.

Mr. Jonas Ndikumuremyi, the Chairperson of Broadcasting Assembly and Director General of Radio Television Nationale Du Burundi (RTNB) welcomed the participants present to the 29th Assembly of Broadcasters of EACO, and thanked the members of WG5 for their endeavours to achieve the ToRs that were assigned to the Working Group during the year.

The meeting was attended by 12 members who included Broadcasting Operators and National Regulatory bodies of the EACO members, namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and coordinated by the EACO Secretariat

2.0. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

In accordance with the Rules and Procedures of the EACO, the Assembly of Broadcasting Operators elected the Rapporteurs of the bureau as follows:

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|------------------------|--|
| a) Mr. Barnabas Kimeli | <i>1st Rapporteur-Kenya</i> |
| b) Mr. Meddy Kaggwa | <i>2nd Rapporteur- Uganda</i> |

3.0. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without amendments as attached in *Annex I*.

4.0. REPORT OF OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE BROADCAST ASSEMBLY

Mr. Jonas Ndikumuremyi, the outgoing chairperson presented his report on the work that he has done during his tenure to the Broadcast Assembly.

The following were highlighted from the report of the outgoing chairperson:

- i. Implementation of the new EACO strategic plan (2023-2028). This contains priorities for broadcasting sector under EACO Working group 5.

- ii. Preparations for WRC-27
- iii. EACO WG5 is working on a number of Frameworks, strategies and guidelines and these shall be highlighted in the report of WG5 that will be presented by its Chairperson.

4.1 Challenges in the sector which include:

- i. The broadcasting sector content developers are affected by Copyrights infringement and piracy challenges.
- ii. Local content development and regulation
- iii. Changes in traditional broadcasting delivery with the emergence of online media options facilitated by the ever-increasing use of the internet.

As you will realise, many activities under WG5 were fronted to counteract the challenges highlighted above

4.2 Recommendations:

- i. Broadcast Operators are encouraged to actively participate in the work of EACO under WG5 so that core issues in the area of broadcasting are discussed and prioritised.
- ii. Identify and address topical issues affecting the ICT industry on broadcasting in East African Region

The details of the report are provided in *Annex 2*.

5.0. HANDOVER OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The outgoing Chairperson of Broadcasting Assembly and Director General of Radio Television Nationale Du Burundi (RTNB), Mr. Jonas Ndikumuremyi, has handed over the chairmanship to Mr. Job Karimi, the Manager Technical Services at Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Kenya.

Mr. Job Karimi, thanked the outgoing chairman for his leadership as well as the WG5 for the achievements made and committed to continue the good work that was realised for the last year.

6.0. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE WG5

Mr. Dut Acol De Dut, the chairperson of WG05 on Broadcasting Development, Spectrum Management & Media Services Regulations gave a presentation on the works of WG5.

The details of this WG5 report are available in the *Annex 3*.

7.0. IDENTIFY CROSS CUTTING ISSUES TO BE SHARED IN THE JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE

The Broadcast Assembly meeting identified the following cross cutting issues:

- i. Cross border Frequency coordination requires participation of both broadcasting and mobile operators;
- ii. The emerging technologies in digital radio (DAB+ and DRM).
- iii. Inconsistent participation of the Member States
- iv. Sensitization of broadcasting in East African Region to bring more broadcasters into the regional body

8.0. WAY FORWARD FOR THE TORS IN REGARD TO BROADCASTING AND PLAN FOR THE BROADCASTING ASSEMBLY FOR THE NEXT CYCLE

The following were identified as way forward for the Broadcasting Assembly for the next cycle, 2024/2025:

1. Develop a Harmonized Model Digital Broadcasting Policy and Regulatory Framework (Adopted from abolished WG1);
2. Development of harmonized framework on the Authorization and Use of Maritime Frequencies, Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSI) and call signs within the region;
3. Development of harmonised guidelines for Broadcasting content;
4. Development of guidelines on the Authorisation and use of Amateur radio frequencies in the region;
5. Development of guidelines on the authorisation and use of Meteorological frequencies in the region;
6. Development of guideline on the authorisation and use of Aeronautical frequencies in the region;
7. Review existing EACO cross-border frequency coordination framework;
8. Development of a regulatory framework for Local Content Development and Management;
9. Conduct studies on the impact of emerging technologies on regulation (including spectrum management and broadcasting);
10. Coordinate the implementation of mobile cross-border frequency framework;
11. Coordinate the implementation of FM Radio cross-border Framework.
12. Continue with the studies on the sustainability of FTA television broadcasting services.

9.0 Recommendations from the Broadcasting Assembly:

1. Follow, understand and build capacity in the latest Broadcasting technologies
2. Continue the work on Sustainability of FTA and come up with harmonised approach to sustain the FTA television broadcasting services

3. Encourage attendance of broadcasters in the work of EACO
4. Promote Digital Sound Broadcasting (DSB) development and determine the right standards and licensing approach
5. Broadcasting Satellite project for East Africa should be spearheaded to ensure that the objectives are realised.

10.0 CLOSING OF THE BROADCASTING ASSEMBLY

In the closing remarks, the Chairperson thanked the members and other participants for their participation in the Assembly meeting and were encouraged to actively participate in the future work of the Broadcasting Assembly.

The Chairperson therefore declared the meeting closed at 13:00 hrs EAT

11.0 CONCLUSIONS:

The Assembly is invited to;

- Note the work done by Working Group 5 in FY 2023/2024;
- Acknowledge the recommendations listed and approve the proposals tabled under each observation
- Provide any further guidance the Assembly may deem necessary towards the effective and efficient performance of Working Group 5

SUBMITTED

Job Karimi

Chairperson

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1: AGENDA FOR THE 29TH BROADCASTING ASSEMBLY



Broadcasting
Assembly 2024- Age

ANNEX 2: REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE BROADCAST ASSEMBLY



Report of
Outgoing Broadcast

ANNEX 3: REPORTS OF THE WG05



EACO WG 5
Presentation Assembl

ANNEX 4: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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