



**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**21ST EAST AFRICA COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (EACO)**

**CONGRESS AND EXHIBITIONS**

**22ND -26TH JUNE 2015**

**SHERATON HOTEL, KAMPALA UGANDA**

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 21st EACO Congress meeting was held from 22nd to the 26th June 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The Assemblies of Regulators, Telecommunications, Postal and Broadcasting Operators and the Human Resources Development and Training (HRDT), Meeting of Joint Working Committee and EACO Workshop preceded the Congress at the same venue from 22nd to 25th June 2015.

This report presents the proceedings and decisions of the Congress after considering the reports of the Assemblies, Joint Working Committee and the Workshop.

# 2.0 PARTICIPATION

The following EACO Members and applicants attended the Congress as per attached list contained in ***Annex I***:-

# 3.0 OPENING CEREMONY FOR CONGRESS

## 3.1 Welcome Remarks by ED – UCC *Mr. Godfrey Mutabazi*

The Executive Director of UCC welcomed all the delegates and thanked them for actively participating in the exhibition and various assemblies and workshops aimed at addressing a range of ICT issues affecting the EAC region. He noted the role played by EACO in promoting cooperation and integration among the five (5) EAC member states with regard to promoting the development and provision of communication services in East Africa. He highlighted some of the achievements made by Uganda in furthering digital inclusion and appreciated the role of operators in embracing technological advancements in the provision of various communication services. He concluded by mentioning some of the benefits achieved as a result of participating in EACO programs and reiterated Uganda’s commitment and support towards initiatives under taken under the EACO framework.

The detailed remarks are attached as ***Annex II***

## 3.2 Speech by Outgoing EACO Chairman and DG-CA; Mr. Francis Wangusi

The EACO Chairman warmly welcomed everyone to the 21st EACO Congress which was being hosted in Kampala. He in a special way extended his deep appreciation to the Guest of Honour for finding time to officiate at the function. He thanked the Government of the Republic of Uganda for the hospitality the delegates have received since their arrival in Kampala.

He congratulated the members for the great achievement in seeking to harmonize the regional policy and regulatory framework. East Africa has now been recognized by as an ICT power house in Africa and called on every one to boost ICT and use of technology to ease integration between trade and countries.

He reiterated the need to prioritize infrastructure development to boost extension and use of broadband services, ensure the smooth transition from analogue to digital migration, ensure better use of spectrum, more particularly the digital dividend as well as effective management of competition in the industry.

The full Speech by EACO Chairman is attached in **Annex III.**

## 3.3. Speech by DG, International Telecommunications Satellite Organization:- Mr. Jose Tocano,

The Detailed Speech is attached as ***Annex IV***

## 3.4 Speech by ITU Regional Director for Africa:- Mr. Andrew Rugege,

The Detailed Speech is attached as ***Annex V***

## 3.5 Speech by Minister of State for, ICT. - Hon. Nyombi Thembo.

The Hon Minister of State welcomed delegates to Kampala and thanked the EACO secretariat and Uganda Communications Commission for hosting the event. He thanked the Guest of Honor for honoring the invitation despite his busy schedule. He expressed satisfaction with the government’s prioritization of ICT among the Key strategic pillars for social economic development and mentioned some of the interventions put in place by the Government to ensure that ICTs play a critical role in the socio-economic development of the country.

He highlighted the contribution of ICT to economic growth in Uganda and the growth achieved by the sector since liberalization. He saluted the member states for establishing and actively participating in EACO initiatives. He applauded them for the significant achievements made especially as regards harmonizing of policies, laws and regulations. He further congratulated them on their election to the ITU council seat representing the African region.

He later invited H.E. Rt. Hon Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda to open the 21st EACO Congress.

The detailed speech is attached as ***Annex VI***

## 3.6 Speech by Chief Guest, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda – Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda

The Congress was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda. He welcomed all delegates to Uganda and thanked EACO and UCC for successfully hosting the 21st Congress of EACO. He expressed hope that the outcome of this Congress will provide very useful technical input in formulation and harmonization of policy on a number of emerging issues on ICT. He saluted EACO fraternity for bringing together key players in the ICT realm to discuss and find harness emerging ICT opportunities.

He informed the Congress how Uganda has highly embraced innovative ICT development models that harness the skills and resources of private sector. The ICT backbone has been extended to all the districts in Uganda, and we are optimistic that the new, higher speed optic fibre will help further leverage our ICT capacity to drive up broadband and enhance the range and quality of services delivered.

The recent developments in ICT provide immense opportunities for development in EAC and Africa, which we should harness. He further called on the congress to explore ways in which the community can take advantage of globalization, facilitate worldwide flows of information, capital, ideas people and products. He further asked the congress to look into issues of ICT and the environment, cyber security, innovation among others.

The detailed speech is presented as ***Annex VII***.

# 4.0. MINISTRIAL ROUND TABLE

The EACO Ministerial Round Table was held on 26th June 2015, under the theme “**Strategies and Challenges on Digital Inclusion in East Africa**”.

## 4.1 Opening of the Ministerial Round Table

The Round table was chaired by Mr. Andrew Rugege, ITU Director for African Region.

## 4.2 Presentations and Discussions.

The following presentations were made during the workshop, highlighting various successes made by the various countries in the drive to bridge the digital divide and achieve nationwide digital inclusion:

1. Implementation of the fibre optic Broadband network in Burundi
2. Success in Meeting the National Broad band targets and the successful rollout of LTE in Rwanda
3. Lessons learned and success gained in the Analogue to Digital Migration process in Tanzania
4. Linking Universal Access to Digital Inclusion and addressing the inadequacy of broadband services in rural areas in Uganda
5. Implementation of the national broadband connectivity plan and how it focuses on bridging the digital divide in South Sudan

During the country submissions, the following critical success factors were identified;

1. Political support
2. Clear and comprehensive policy, legal and regulatory frameworks focusing on achieving digital inclusion
3. Strong relations hip between development partners
4. Increased participation of the private sector
5. Concerted efforts towards capacity building and creating awareness
6. Holistic strategies towards implementation recognizing the roles of all stakeholders

*In addition a presentation was made on undertakings by EAC that EACO can undertake to further the digital inclusion agenda in the EAC*

*The DG ITSO, Mr Jose Toscano further provided insights and focus areas that EAC countries need to consider towards bridging the digital divide. He mentioned that countries need to embrace changing technologies to further digital inclusion.*

The highlights of the workshopare contained in ***Annex VII*.**

# 5.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report of the Outgoing Chairperson of 20th EACO Congress and Handover
3. Key note address by the New Chairperson
4. Election of the Bureau
5. Consideration of applications for members to join EACO
6. Consideration of EACO Audited Financial Statements for FY 2012/13 and 2013/14
7. Consideration of the Assemblies reports :-
   * 1. Joint Working Committee
     2. Assembly of Regulators
     3. Assembly of Telecommunications Operators
     4. Assembly of Broadcasters
     5. Assembly of Postal Operators
8. Date and Venue for the 21st EACO Congress
9. Adoption of the Summary of Decisions of the 21st EACO Congress
10. Closing Ceremony

# 6.0 REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF 20TH EACO CONGRESS AND HANDOVER

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking EACO Executive Committee and Members at large for the support given to him during his tenure to ably accomplish EACO objectives since the 20th EACO Congress. He highlighted the main achievements, challenges and on-going programs being under taken by EACO. He also mentioned areas that EACO shall focus on in the next two years. The Report of the Chairman was adopted by the Congress

The outgoing Chairman **Mr. Wangusi of Kenya** handed over the chairmanship to the incoming Chairman Mr. Godfrey Mutabaaziof Uganda Communications Commission (UCC).

The full report of the outgoing Chairman of EACO is contained in the ***Annex VIII.***

# 7.0 KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE NEW CHAIRPERSON

The incoming Chairman thanked the outgoing chair for successfully steering EACO in the various accomplishments that have been made. He accepted the new role and pledged to work with the secretariat towards successfully executing its assignment. He pledged to steer the organization to greater heights with the continued support and commitment of all the members. He awarded the outgoing chairperson with a token of appreciation for the wonderful work done during his tenure. He further appreciated Prof. Nkoma for the tremendous contribution made to the successes made by EACO and the EAC in furthering the growth of ICT.

The Detailed Key note address is attached as ***Annex IX***

# 8.0 ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The Congress constituted the bureau as follows:

Chairman : Mr. Godfrey Mutabazi UCC

1st Rapporteur : Mr. Andrew Otim UCC

2nd Rapporteur : Mr. Jacques Kabiru RURA

Designated Liaisons: Mr. Godliving Kessy EACO Secretariat

# 9.0 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERS TO JOIN EACO

The Congress considered and admitted a total of 12 applications for membership to the EACO as Sector (10) and Associate (2). All the 12 applications from Uganda (7) Burundi (1), Kenya (2), Rwanda (1) and Tanzania (1) were approved by the Congress. The Members are as follows;

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO** | **APPLICANT** | **COUNTRY** | **MEMBERSHIP APPLIED** |
| 1 | Smart Tanzania | Tanzania | Sector Member |
| 2 | Smart Uganda | Uganda | Sector Member |
| 3 | LACELL | Burundi | Sector Member |
| 4 | Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU ) | Uganda | Associate Member |
| 5 | National Information Technology Authority Uganda (NITA-U ) | Uganda | Sector Member |
| 6 | Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC) | KENYA | Associate MEMBER |
| 7 | Internet Solutions | Uganda | Sector Member |
| 8 | Broad Band Systems Corporation (BSC Ltd) | Rwanda | Sector Member |
| 9 | K2 Telecom Uganda | Uganda | Sector Member |
| 10 | NBS TV Uganda | Uganda | Sector Member |
| 11 | Vodafone | Uganda | Sector Member |
| 12 | Porting Access Kenya Ltd | Kenya | Sector Member |

# 10.0 CONSIDERATION OF EACO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FYs 2012/13 AND 2013/14 by RUMA

The audited financial statements were presented to congress by the EACO Auditors, RUMA CPA (Mr Peter Rutaremara) with an unqualified audit position.

**Noted 1**

1. Congress took note of the Auditor’s report
2. Congress reiterated the need for members to regularly pay their subscription fees for sustainability of the organization

**Agreed 1**

Congress adopted the financial statements for the two years as presented by the Auditors. The Auditors report is attached herewith as ***Annex X***.

# 11.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE ASSEMBLIES REPORTS :-

## 11.1. Joint Working Committee

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

**Noted 2**

1. The rules of procedures for Committees and Working Groups as presented
2. Some Working Groups have not accomplished their ToRs and need to continue until the next Congress
3. The Rules of Procedures for Assemblies and Congress as presented
4. Proposal for EACO to become a Restricted Union of the UPU
5. The Guidelines and Working Methods for EACO Working Groups and Committees as presented, given that Working Parties were not initially provided for in the Guidelines
6. Provisions on Working Parties were not provided for in the Guidelines
7. Article 8 (vi) of the EACO Constitution vests the power to establish Working Groups in Congress which meets every other two years. However, due to the inherent dynamism of the sector, there was need to delegate the powers to form Working Groups and Committees to the Excomm.
8. Liaison statements have not been an effective means of communication especially in handling cross cutting issues
9. The need for the Secretariat to update all the documents uploaded on the EACO website

**Agreed 2**

1. To adopt the rules of procedures for Committees and Working Groups as presented
2. Those Working Groups that have not accomplished their ToRs, should continue until the next Congress
3. To adopt the Rules of Procedures for Assemblies and Congress as presented
4. To adopt the Guidelines and Working Methods for EACO Working Groups and Committees
5. To amend Article 8 (vi) of the EACO Constitution to delegate its power to establish Working Groups to the Executive Committee that meets more frequently
6. To adopt the proposal for EACO to become a Restricted Union of the UPU
7. To ask the Secretariat to schedule joint WGs meetings where cross-cutting issues arise
8. To ask the Secretariat to update all the documents uploaded on the EACO website

The detailed report for the Joint Working Committee is attached as ***Annex XI***

* 1. Assembly of Regulators

The Report of the Assembly of regulators was presented comprising of reports from various committees and Working Groups based on tasks assigned by the 20th EACO Congress. It also considered many other relevant regional issues in the communications sector. Congress noted the following;

**Noted 3**

1. The presentation by the Human Resources Committee on Harmonized human resource development framework in the region, HR Manual and Financial Rules & Regulations, Performance Appraisal system of EACO.
2. The WG 01 model ICT Policy and Regulatory frameworks presented and the proposal to share the report to the EAC secretariat for further consideration by the EAC TCM protocol
3. The WG 02 proposal for improvement of the model guidelines on Infrastructure sharing and co-location and the progress on the mapping of member states national Backbone development towards digital inclusion in the region.
4. The WG 03 Model regional policy and regulatory frameworks for e-transaction presented and the proposal for sharing with the EAC secretariat in the review and sharing of input to the EAC draft E –Transactions Bill
5. The WG04 Report on EACO Postal security, postal quality of Service and Courier, Customs & Carriers and the proposal for the offices of exchange, entry and exit points in Member Countries to purchase mail scanning machines
6. The WG05 proposal for EAIX project creating an enabling environment for regional interconnection and National IXPs through the development and implementation of effective regional policy considering all related aspects; and
7. The Proposal for the national CIRTs/CERTs to continue building partnerships at the national, regional and international levels in cyber security management as well as continue building capacity and awareness creation on cyber security
8. The WG06 report and proposal on the need for subsidization of public signal distributor and zero rating of the Set Top Boxes to enable completion of the digital migration in achieving universal service
9. The membership of EACO in ITU-T SG2 RG-EA with the respective representatives in the ITU meetings as Ms. Susan Nakanwagi (UCC) and Mr. Peter Nyongesa (CA) as Chair and Vice chair respectively
10. The proposal for consistent participation by all parties (NRAs, Telecom Operators, ccTLDs Managers, Internet Service Providers) in the WG07 meetings in order to ensure effective coordination of numbering resource utilization.
11. The need for all telecom operators to implement Network Color Codes (NCCs) according to the recommended 35Kms and Regulatory Authorities to continue monitoring compliance to the assigned NCCs
12. The need for EAC Secretariat to expedite the installation of the required Marine Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Mwanza
13. The need for Governments to put in place measures to address security challenges that will result from use of OTTs and registration of OTTs subscribers through unique IP addresses; and
14. The need for OTTs and Telecom operators to engage and establish commercially viable partnerships
15. The report of WG 09 on Quality of Service and Consumer affairs on the development of Six guidelines and the framework documents for the sector
16. The revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) for WG10 including the two year Action Plan on Sustainable e-waste management
17. The WG 11 developed Guidelines on short range devices, Information document on satellite issues and Tools for licensing and planning on Digital dividend 1 & 2.
18. The establishment of Study Group 17 African Group with its TORs and the respective representation from the EAC Region to ITU Meetings i.e. **Mr. Michael Katundu (CA)** and **Mr Patrick Mwesigwa (UCC)** as Chair and Vice Chair respectively
19. The presentation by Avanti Communications (EACO Associate) on the WRC-15 future Agenda Item 10 on IMT/5G in the frequency band(s) above 31 GHz
20. The presentation by Multimedia University of Kenya (EACO Associate) on “**A Dynamic Regulatory Tool for the Telecommunication Sector”**

**Agreed 3**

The Congress agreed to adopt the report of the Assembly of Regulators and proposals therein

The detailed report of the Assembly of Regulators is attached as **Annex XII**

* 1. Assembly of Telecommunications Operators

**Noted 4**

* The report of the Assembly of Telecom Operators ;

The detailed report of the Assembly of Telecom Operators is attached as **Annex XIII**

**Agreed 5**

* To grant the Assembly of Telecom Operators with the requested period for internationalization of Operator’s comments and feedback.

## 11.4. Assembly of Broadcasters

**Noted 5**

1. The proposed report by the Assembly of Broadcasting Operators on Harmonized technical standards for digital broadcasting, Quality of service parameters for terrestrial digital broadcasting and Framework for cross border coordination;
2. The proposal for EACO to undertake study on the sustainability of FTA TV content and propose appropriate business model for Pay TV service providers to carry FTA TV channels.

The detailed report of the Assembly of Broadcasters is attached as **Annex XIV**

**Agreed 6**

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

## 11.5. Assembly of Postal Operators

**Noted 6**

* The proposals for EACO and EAC to urgently carry out a study on addressing systems and postcodes in the region including clear mechanisms for funding as agreed at the Nairobi Conference.

The detailed report of the Assembly of Broadcasters is attached as **Annex XV**

**Agreed 7**

* To adopt the Report of Postal Assembly and the proposals contained therein

# 12.0 DATE AND VENUE FOR THE 21ST EACO CONGRESS

The next EACO Assembly will be hosted by Rwanda in June 2016 while the 22nd EACO Congress and the 3rd ICT Exhibitions will be held in Burundi in 2017. The exact dates will be communicated in due course by EACO Secretariat.

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

The rapporteurs presented their report highlighting the major areas which were either noted and agreed by the Congress. The Detailed Communique is attached as **Annex XVI**

# 14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no any other business.

# 15.0 CLOSING CEREMONY.

The meeting was declared officially closed by the Co- Chairman, Mr. Patrick MWESIGWA (UCC ).

***Signatures***

This 26 th Day of June 2015

………………………………… ……………………

Mr Patrick Mwesigwa Mr. Andrew Otim

CHAIRMAN 1stRAPPORTEUR ………………………………… …………………………………

Mr Jacques.K.Kabiru Mr. Godliving Kessy

2nd RAPORTEUR EACO SECRETARIAT

# 16.0 ANNEXES TO THE REPORT

## Annex I*:* List of Participants

## ANNEX II*:* Welcome Remarks by Executive Director



## ANNEX III: Speech by outgoing EACO Chairman and Director General; Communication Authority of Kenya, Mr. Francis Wangusi



## ANNEX IV: Remarks by Director General International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, Mr. Joe Tocano,



## ANNEX V: Remarks by ITU Regional Director for Africa Mr. Andrew Rugege,

## ANNEX VI: Speech by Minister of State for, Information and Communications Technology. Hon. Nyombi Thembo



## ANNEX VII: Speech by Chief Guest, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda – Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda



## ANNEX VIII: Summary of discussions of the Ministerial Round Table

## ANNEX IX: Report of the Outgoing Chairperson of 20th EACO Congress



## ANNEX X: Key note address by the New Chairperson

## ANNEX XI: Report of the Auditors on EACO Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2012/13 AND 2013/14



## ANNEX XII: Report of the Joint Working Committee



## ANNEX XIII: Report of the Assembly of Regulators



## ANNEX XIV: Report of the Assembly of Telecommunications Operators



## Annex XV: Assembly of Broadcasters



## Annex XVI: Assembly of Postal Operators



## Annex XVII: Joint Communique of the EACO Congress

