

**REPORT OF THE 24TH EAST AFRICA
COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (EACO)
CONGRESS
9TH JULY 2021
HELD VIRTUALLY AND HOSTED BY RURA-
RWANDA**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 24th EACO Congress meeting was held virtually on the 9th July, 2021 hosted by Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA). The meetings for the EACO Executive Committee, the Working Groups and Committees, the Assemblies of Regulators, Telecommunications, Postal and Broadcasting Operators, the postal workshop on promoting e-commerce in postal sector, preceded the Congress.

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

2.0 PARTICIPATION

The Congress was attended by;

- i. The six DGs of the National Regulatory Authorities from member countries.
- ii. CEOs of various operators
- iii. Representatives of UPU, PAPU, ATU, SAPOA, AFRALTI, GSMA and HUAWEI.
- iv. Members of EACO and other stakeholders.

3.0 OPENING CEREMONY FOR CONGRESS

3.1. Remark by the Executive Secretary of EACO – Dr. Ally Simba

The Executive Secretary welcomed all delegates in their respective capacities to the 24th EACO Congress.

He thanked the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for the commitment to the objectives of EACO, in general and, in particular to the question for positioning East African Region to strategize for emerging technology. He also thanked Rwanda, through RURA, for hosting the year's Congress as well as the consistent support in all areas of our endeavor to achieve EACO objectives.

He seized the opportunity to recognize the presence of all Special Guests.

Detailed speech is herewith attached.



ES REMARKS _
24THCongres virtual i

3.2 Remarks by the Director General of RURA, Dr. Ernest Nsabimana

The Director General of RURA welcomed all the delegates to the 24th EACO Congress. He indicated that Rwanda was proud to host the Congress and was ready to make everything well in the benefit of EACO. 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 the Special Guests from the region and beyond who were attending the EACO Congress.

He noted that EACO is an organization supporting and promoting ICT in the Region and, emphasized on the RURA's commitment to the organization.

He indicated that Rwanda had made many progresses in the ICT sector comprising broadband services, solutions, and digitalization.

3.3. Remarks by the Guest of Honor

The Guest of Honor of Congress was Hon. Prof. Nshuti Manasseh, Minister of State in charge of the East African Community in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda.

He indicated that the theme "*Positioning East African Region to strategize for emerging Technology*" speaks to the current business environment being demolished and reconstructed by COVID-19 uncertainties and the urgency to adapt our ways of work and lifestyles to the new normal. COVID-19 has re-affirmed the importance of telecommunication to trade and globalization.

Using One Area Network (ONA) as example, he demonstrated the importance of harmonizing our ICT policies and frameworks.

The full remarks are herein attached.



Opening Remarks for
Guest of Honour at EA

4.0. HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE

The High-Level Round Table was held on 9th July 2021, under the theme "Positioning East African Region to Strategize for Emerging Technology".

4.1 Opening of the High-Level Round Table

Following the opening ceremony of the Congress, the High-Level Round Table followed and was moderated by ~~Mr. William BARAZA~~ ^{Mr. William BARAZA}, Director, AFRALTI. Page 3

4.2 Thematic Presentations and Discussions

Participated in the High-Level Roundtable the following:

- Mr. John OMO, Secretary General, ATU
- Mr. R. Kolawole Aduloju, PAFU, Assistant Secretary General, PAFU
- Ms. Mercy Wanjau, Director General, CA-Kenya
- Ms. Irene Kagwa Sewankambo, Executive Director, UCC-Uganda
- Dr. Samuel Muhizi, Director General, ARCT-Burundi
- Eng. Napoleon Adok Gai, Director General, NCA-South Sudan
- Dr. Bello Moussa, Director, Huawei

- The key note was given by Dr. Bello Moussa, Director, Huawei.

He highlighted how East Africa is a region full of opportunities:

- East Africa's economies are among the fastest-growing in the world, economy to rebound by +3.2% in 2021;
- East Africa is a key region for many multinational business hub offices, rapid growth of entrepreneurs and tech-based hubs;
- East Africa's economies are slowly transitioning from agriculture to services.

The detailed presentation is attached herewith.



**Huawei presentation
to EACD-9 JULY 2021.**

The Round table discussion had thematic questions, related to emerging technologies, on;

- i. Policy responses to address their rise;
- ii. Approaches;
- iii. Challenges;
- iv. Progresses;
- v. Taxation's experience;
- vi. Coverage in term of broadband.

As outcomes, there is a need:

- To put in place suitable policies and regulatory frameworks in different countries;
- To work on connectivity and transportation
- To ensure the accessibility and affordability of terminals and devices.

5.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Handing over of Chairmanship
4. Key note address by the New Chairperson
5. Consideration of Applications for Membership to EACO
6. Consideration of EACO Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2018-2019 & 2019-2020
7. Consideration of the report of Joint Working Committee
8. Date, Venue and host of the 25th EACO Congress
9. Mr. Thomas Lamanuskas, Candidate ITU – DSG
10. Mrs. Jessica Uwera, New elected Assistant Secretary General of PAPU
11. Adoption of the summary of the decisions of the 24th EACO Congress
12. Closing ceremony.

6.0 REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF 23rd EACO CONGRESS AND HANDOVER

The outgoing Chairman Dr. Jabiri Bakari Kuwe, Director General of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, specifically thanked and commended the Executive Committee (EXCOM), the Secretariat and Working Groups (WGs) and Committees 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 contributions to the ICT sector in the region and beyond in the last two years.

The outgoing chairman also noted that in 2018, the Executive Committee of EACO considered and approved a Five Years Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 which guided the Action Plans and programmes of the Secretariat and the organization in general and, in which all EACO members are invited to contribute. He indicated that the Strategic plan has reached its mid-term review, therefore EXCOM approved the revised one.

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 highlighted some key issues that need to be focused on as EACO members need to take benefit from emerging technologies.

The outgoing Chairman, Dr. Jabiri Bakari Kuwe of Tanzania handed over the chairmanship to the incoming Chairman Dr. Ernest Nsabimana of Rwanda.

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



Chairman Speech on
9th July 2021 - Congr

7.0 KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE NEW CHAIRPERSON OF CONGRESS

The incoming Chairman Dr. Ernest Nsabimana expressed his utmost gratitude for the singular honour bestowed on Rwanda to serve the region as the Chair of the East African Communications Organization (EACO). He promised to do their very best in order not to betray trust accorded to them.

He congratulated TCRA for the achievements during their tenure and also appreciated the good coordination made by EACO Secretariat.

8.0 ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The Congress constituted the Bureau as follows:

Chairman : Dr. Ernest Nsabimana RURA
1st Rapporteur : Mr. Lionel Rwamamara RURA
2nd Rapporteur : Mr. Apollinaire Bigirimana ARCT
Designated Liaisons: Dr. Norah Sitati, EACO Secretariat

9.0 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO EACO

The Congress considered and admitted three (3) applications for membership to EACO as Sector Members. The three applications were approved by the Congress. The Members are as follows;

S/N	NAME OF INSTITUTION	CONTACT	APPLICATION
1	South Sudan Media Authority		Sector member
2	Digitel Holdings Ltd		Sector members
3	Kigali Today Ltd		Sector members

10.0 Consideration of EACO Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2018-2019 & 2019-2020

The financial statements for the two years 2018/19 and 2019/20 were presented to congress by the Chair of Finances and Risk Management Committee of EACO, Mr. Dominic Ooko from CA.

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.

The financial statements of EACO for the period were prepared on the basis of the accounting policies and the Auditors report confirmed the Accounts Statement were in agreement with the books and acceptable Principles.

Thus, the Congress adopted the financial statements for the two years as presented by the Chair of Finance and Risk Management Committee.

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 comprising a certain number of recommendations.

The detailed report is herewith attached.



REPORT OF JOINT
WORKING COMMITTEE

11.2. Assembly of Regulators

The report was presented by the Chairman of the Assembly and was adopted.

The detailed report of the Assembly of Regulators is attached herewith



Report of
27th_Regulators_Asse

11.3. Assembly of Telecommunications Operators

The report of the Assembly of Telecom Operators was presented and adopted.

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



Report of 27th
Assembly of telecom o

11.4. Assembly of Broadcasting Operators

The report was presented and adopted.

The detailed report of the Assembly of Broadcasters is attached herewith.



Report of the 27th
EACO Broadcasters As

11.5.Assembly of Postal Operators

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

A detailed report of the Postal Assembly is attached herewith



REPORT 27th
POSTAL ASSEMBLY -J

12.0 DATE AND VENUE FOR THE 25th EACO CONGRESS

The venue of the 28th EACO Assemblies will be communicated by the Secretariat after consultation with Member States. The 29th EACO Assemblies & 25th EACO Congress will be held in Burundi in 2023. The exact dates will be communicated in due course by the EACO Secretariat.

13.0.Mr. Thomas Lamanuskas, Candidate ITU – DSG

Mr. Thomas Lamanuskas, as candidate for the position of Deputy Secretary General at International Telecommunication Union, has been given opportunity to talk to the Congress, and requested for support from the East Africa countries.

14.0. Mrs. Jessica Uwera, New elected Assistant Secretary General of PAPU

Mrs. Jessica Uwera, as New elected Assistant Secretary General of Pan African Postal Union, has been also given opportunity to talk to Congress. He thanked the EACO Partner States and EACO Secretariat for the support they provided to her; and promised to work hard for the development of the postal sector in Africa.

15.0 ADOPTION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE EACO CONGRESS.

The rapporteurs presented the report highlighting the major areas which were noted and/or agreed upon by the 24th EACO Congress.

Detailed Joint Communique is attached hereunder.



FINAL
COMMUNIQUE OF 24

16.0 CLOSING CEREMONY.

The 24th Congress was officially closed by Dr. Ernest Nsabimana, Director of RURA and New Chairman of EACO.

He thanked each one for his contribution and support during the Congress week.

He noted and appreciated EACO's role of enhancing and coordinating development of ICTs in the region; and reiterated that Rwanda will provide full support on EACO's activities.

This 09th Day of July 2021

.....

Dr. Ernest Nsabimana

CHAIRMAN

.....

Mr. Apollinaire Bigirimana

2nd RAPORTEUR

.....

Mr. Lionel Rwamamara

1st RAPORTEUR

.....

Dr. Norah Sitati

EACO SECRETARIAT