



Documents of the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference
(Abidjan, 1996)

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU



AFRICAN REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
(AF-RTDC-96)
Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), 6-10 May 1996

Document DT/1-E
6 May 1996
Original: English

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

DRAFT
STRUCTURE OF THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
(AF-RTDC-96)
Abidjan, 1996

The draft agenda of the Conference appears in Resolution 1084 which was adopted by the Council at the ninth Plenary Meeting of its 1995 session.

Bearing in mind Nos. 356 to 367 inclusive of the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, Geneva, 1992, the following committees with their terms of reference are suggested. These terms of reference have been drawn up within the framework of the Constitution and Convention, the Conference agenda and in the light of experience at previous conferences.

Committee 1 (Policies and strategies)

Terms of reference:

Restructuring to further development

- Examination and approval of African Green Paper
- Reform and regulatory issues
- Information infrastructure
- Trade-in-Services
- Importance of licensing

Role of regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa

- Ways and means to strengthen their role

Industrialization and manufacturing (including technology transfer)

Committee 2 (Development of networks)

Terms of reference:

Priorities for LDCs

- Development of national telecommunication infrastructure, in particular in rural areas
- Management
- HRD/HRM
- Maintenance
- Planning

Importance of Management Information System (MIS) to enhance know-how in network management, traffic routing and performance indicators

Regional networks (RASCOM, PANAFTTEL and others)

Regional projects

- On-going projects (e.g. sub-marine project AFRICA-One)
- Revitalization of previous projects (PANAFTTEL)
- New initiatives (e.g. SPACECOM)

Committee 3 (Finance)

Terms of reference:

Mechanisms for financing telecommunication development

- Using national/international resources
- Regional and sub-regional cooperation
- Role of the private sector

Committee 4 (Editorial)

Terms of reference:

To perfect the form of the texts to be included in the resolutions, decisions, recommendations or reports of the Conference without altering the sense, for submission to the Plenary Meeting (Nos. 362 and 363 of the Convention, Geneva, 1992).

Committee 5 (Steering)

Terms of reference:

To coordinate all matters connected with the smooth execution of work and to plan the order and number of meetings, avoiding overlapping wherever possible in view of the limited number of members of some delegations (No. 360 of the Convention, Geneva, 1992).

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TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**



**AFRICAN REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
(AF-RTDC-96)**

Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), 6-10 May 1996

Document DT/2-E

6 May 1996

Original: English

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

DRAFT

ALLOCATION OF DOCUMENTS

The Plenary, in considering the proposals for allocation of documents to Committees, has come to the conclusions contained in this document (with reference to Documents 1 to 51 submitted to the Conference).

Documents with numbers higher than No. 51 will be allocated to the respective Committees in consultation with the Chairman of the Conference and Committees.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

Annex: 1

ANNEX

Document	Submitted by	Title	Allocated to			
			Plenary	COM-1	COM-2	COM-3
1	SG	African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 6-19 May 1996) - Draft agenda	x			
2	BDT	The African Green Paper - Telecommunication policies for Africa		1.1		
3	BDI	Contribution to AF-CRDT-96	0.2			
4	SUDATEL	Sudan Telecommunication Sector - Restructuring		1.1		
5	MOZ	Legislative, structural and regulatory reform - The case of Mozambique 1981-1993	0.2			
6	ZAI	Mechanisms for financing telecommunication development: regional and subregional cooperation - Revitalization of PANAFTTEL project			2.4 (Part II)	3.1 (Part I)
7	ZAI	Changes in the policy and regulatory spheres - Importance of the licensing system in Zaire	0.2 (Part II)	1.1 (Part I)		
8	Economic Commission for Africa	Development and application of mobile communication in Africa			2.4	
9	SEN	Industrialization and manufacturing - Development of the telecommunication sector in Senegal - PANAFTTEL: a good example of international cooperation	0.2 (Part II)	1.3 (Part I)	2.4 (Part III)	
10	ITC	ITC and its support to teletraffic engineering			2.2	
11	BDT	Development of networks - Priorities for LDCs			2.1	

Document	Submitted by	Title	Allocated to			
			Plenary	COM 1	COM 2	COM 3
12	BDT	The development of telecommunications in Africa and the General Agreement on Trade in Services		1.1		
13	BDT	Towards an African information infrastructure		1.1		
14	BDT	Development of telecommunication industries in Africa		1.3		
15	SG	Disaster Communications: Draft Convention on the provision of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operation			2.4	
16	BDT	New initiatives: the United Nations system-wide special initiative for Africa			2.4	
17	SEN	Mechanisms for funding telecommunications: use of national and international resources				3.1
18	UGA	The Regional Satellite Communications (SATCOM) Training Centre Project (Kampala)			2.3	
19	Rapp. Q.4/2	Understanding rural telecommunication infrastructure			2.1	
20	BDT	Africa calling: trends in African international telephone traffic		1.1		
21	BDT	Revitalization of the PANAFTEL and management information system projects			2.4	
22	BDT	Evaluation of the follow-up and implementation of decisions from AF-RTDC-90, WTDC-94 and PP-94	0.1			
23	BDT	Role of the regional and subregional organizations in Africa		1.2		
24	MLI	Pan African Telecommunication Union: prospects for the future		1.2		

Document	Submitted by	Title	Allocated to			
			Plenary	COM 1	COM 2	COM 3
25	Rapp. Q.5/1	Telebrás inductive card payphone system: a successful case of telecommunications improvement through technological development, transference of technology and industrialization in Brazil		1.3		
26	RASCOM	RASCOM, an operational regional organization for the development of an integrated African telecommunication network		1.2		
27	BDT	African Telecommunication Indicators	0.2			
28	TEMIC	Executive management training			2.1	
29	PATU	Review of the PANAFTEL network			2.4	
30	PATU	Role of regional and subregional organizations		1.2		
31	BDT	Management Information System (MIS) - On going activities in Africa			2.2	
32	BDT	Africa Telecommunications Finance Colloquium: executive summary				3.1
33	CAN	The role of development lines of contribution (DLOCs) in financing rural telecommunications projects in Latin America				3.1
34	INMARSAT	Telemedicine and developing countries - Progress Report			2.4	
35	INMARSAT	Policy and regulatory framework for the mobile-satellite services		1.1		
36	BDT	SPACECOM Project: a new model of partnership to promote the introduction of pilot projects in developing countries based on applications of modern satellite communications in combination with terrestrial wireless technologies			2.4	

Document	Submitted by	Title	Allocated to			
			Plenary	COM 1	COM 2	COM 3
37	UNECA	Africa's Information Society Initiative (AISI) - An action framework to build Africa's information and communication infrastructure		1.1		
38	KEN	Telecommunications network growth in Kenya since AF-RTDC 90 - Policy and regulatory development in Kenya since AF-RTDC 90 - Stronger regional organizations for Africa - Industrialization and technology transfer	0.2 (Part I)	1.1, 1.2, 1.3 (Parts II, III, IV)		
39	France Telecom	The migration of telecoms systems and networks to information highways			2.3	
40	BDT	Preliminary results of ITU/BDT telecommunications sector survey for Africa		1.2		
41	CAF	Development of national telecommunication infrastructure, in particular in rural areas			2.1	
42	BDT	International Symposium on the role of telecommunication and information technology in the protection of the environment (Tunis, 17-19 April 1996)			2.4	
43	BDT	Financial responsibilities of the Conference	x			
44	BDT	Africa Telecommunications Finance Colloquium				3.2
45	BDT	BDT Action Plan: Programme 1.F - Financing				3.3
46	USA	Leland initiative: Africa GII gateway			2.4	
47	USA	Contribution to the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference		1.1	2.1, 2.4, 3.1	
48	Intelsat	INTELSAT Dama - A solution to rural integration			2.3	

Document	Submitted by	Title	Allocated to			
			Plenary	COM 1	COM 2	COM 3
49	BR/ITU	ITU-R activities of relevance to developing countries with emphasis on WRC-97	-	-	-	-
50	BDT	ITU-D Telemedicine Programme for Africa (1996-1998)			2.4	
51	SG	Telecom Interactive 97 and Africa Telecom 98	x			

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Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), 6-10 May 1996

Document DT/3-E
8 May 1996
Original: English

COMMITTEE 3

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

The African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (AF-RTDC-96)
(Abidjan, 6-10 May, 1996),

noting

Recommendation 6 "Economic, financial and tariff issues in the African Green Book",

recognizing

- a) the vast financial needs required to lift African telecommunication operations and services to more acceptable levels in the worldwide context;
- b) that within the context of the global tendencies towards free capital flows and telecommunications liberalization, it is imperative for Africa not to remain on the sidelines of the combined drive in technology, convergence and competition,

considering

- a) that sound financial management structures and operations are the preconditions for attracting fresh flows of investment by the reallocation of existing resources and from new sources, both private and public, as well as local and worldwide savings;
- b) the financial implications of a variety of innovative regional projects and the need to coordinate all projects;
- c) the evolving role of traditional institutional development banks and the increasing role of the private sector;
- d) that the ITU/BDT is concerned and has been already deeply involved in policies and ways for financing telecommunications infrastructure (BAAP, Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference, Study Groups);
- e) that at the request of the African countries a Colloquium on financing telecommunications in Africa was held in Abidjan (25-29 March 1996) in preparation for the AF-RTDC,

the Conference recommends

1 that Administrations and the ITU/BDT

- a) urge multilateral and bilateral financial institutions to continue direct lending, in addition to giving policy advice with emphasis on liberalization, competition, regulatory and tariff reforms, especially during the implementation of reforms ("transition phase"), as telecommunications, particularly in the group of least developed countries is expected to produce the largest multiplier effect for economic and social development;
- b) attract other interested financial institutions, both in the public and private sectors, to the African Telecommunications scene;
- c) encourage various consortia in the financing and implementation of regional projects;
- d) give top priority to the financing of rural telecommunications taking into account modern technologies which satisfy the criteria of affordable cost, robustness and an acceptable rate of return on investment,

2 that Administrations in collaboration with ITU/BDT

- a) develop new configurations of joint financing of management and revenue sharing schemes and of temporary licensing arrangements for providing services which are proposed or have been piloted,

3 that Governments and Administrations

- a) recognize that **sound financial management structures and operations** are the precondition for attracting investment by the reallocation of existing resources and from new sources, both private and public, as well as local and worldwide savings;
 - b) encourage telecom operators to adopt a business-like approach of financial policy and strategy-making and to have transparent management;
 - c) give high priority in setting appropriate tariffs in order to be self-sufficient in financing;
 - d) recognize that within the context of the global tendencies towards free capital flows and telecommunications liberalization, it is imperative for Africa not to remain on the sidelines of the combined drive in technology, convergence and competition as **Africa has the potential to join the other continents in growth and trade expansion;**
 - e) be aware of the financial and economic implications of the GATS which are creating a **new international trade policy environment;**
 - f) coordinate a coherent approach to the WTO and other critical negotiations with appropriate **ITU/BDT support and guidance especially for the benefit of the least developed countries as a group,**
- 4** that the ITU/BDT be responsive to demands received from the countries in order to:
- a) take appropriate measures to assist countries in the formulation of their financial strategies and policies, organizational reforms and technological development, with due respect for the specific telecommunication sector structure that countries wish to implement;
 - b) offer rapid and competent **financial and investment planning assistance** in particular via expert missions, country and inter-country workshops, case studies and guidance material, financial database and counselling;

- c) organize **expert meetings** and training that will **focus on the multiple practical new tasks confronting African financial telecommunication managers in the current transition period** to increase their awareness of competition, commercialization and collaboration with the private sector;
 - d) facilitate **partnerships with and among public and private entities**, in line with its objective to strengthen telecommunication development;
 - e) evaluate the comparative merits and demerits of new configurations of joint financing, management and revenue sharing schemes and licensing arrangements;
 - f) compile the information on case studies in financing of rural telecommunications for the use by administrations, telecom operators and others as well as in various workshops and fora; and to concurrently discuss ways and means with manufacturers and suppliers in order to reduce installation, operation and unit costs;
 - g) undertake and review studies on community-based telephone services in the form of cooperatives to satisfy the requirements of areas with low population density;
 - h) continue to give necessary support and coordination on costing and tariff, and on strengthening regional or subregional tariff groups, (e.g. TAF Group), to promote harmonized tariffs at regional and subregional levels, and to put into place relevant information inflow systems on experiences of countries where competition exists.
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