African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

A Framework for Action

August 2005

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I-Introduction

Over the last years, many African countries have taken advantage of the opportunities provided by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and have put in place National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Plans to support their socio-economic development efforts. These successes have been made possible thanks to the combined efforts of all stakeholders under the leadership of Governments and support regional and international organizations as well as bilateral partners and the private sector. These efforts need to be extended to remaining African countries to make them benefit from the knowledge economy. In this context, a coordinated and multi-pronged strategy at both the national and sub-regional levels is essential to rollout the knowledge economy in the continent. This Action Plan, which aims at building a region fully benefiting from ICT services by the year 2015 will be adopted by our Leaders through several fora, including the African Union Summit.

II- Background

The proposed framework for theAfrican Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) is being developed upon request from the Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS, held in Accra, Ghana from 2-4 February 2005. It is based on the "Accra Commitments for Tunis 2005" and the vision defined by both the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), under the leadership of the African Union.

By building upon the recommendations and results reached from the Accra Conference, a Regional Action Plan is prepared for rolling out the information society in the continent. In addition, the Action Plan is expected to contribute to the realization of the Millennium Declaration Development Goals (MDGs). Within this context, it is designed to:

- define an African approach and positions in the process of preparation of the second phase of WSIS, to become the African approach in the current debate on the main issues of the WSIS,
- create a foundation for national, regional and international cooperation over a period of 10 years, up to 2015, with the aim of improving the life of African populations.

The Action Plan development process is coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with the participation of a Committee of Experts composed of the Bamako Bureau for the WSIS and the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the AISI, as well as experts from member States, the Diaspora, the African Union Commission, The African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

African stakeholders are also providing their input through various discussion lists. The first meetings on the development of the Action Plan were held on:

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- 24 April 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as a side event of ECA's fourth Committee on Development Information (CODI) meeting; and
- 9 May 2005 in Cairo, as a side event of the Arab Regional Meeting for the WSIS.

The Action Plan was reviewed by the African Ministerial Committee on ICT held in Cairo on10 May 2005. Several other meetings are expected to be organized to review and enrich the Action Plan. A final workshop will be organized during the Tunis phase of the SMSI on the morning of the 16 November 2005 to discuss implementation of the Action Plan.

III- Policy context

The Plan is developed, under the aegis of the African Union in the context of several frameworks relevant to the African continent, including AISI, NEPAD and the WSIS.

AISI

At the time of AISI inception in 1996, the three major development goals that were articulated by African leaders included: improvement of the quality of life for every African, economic integration of the region, improved trade and other linkages with the global community. It was in that context that the AISI objectives were cast by the African Ministers of Planning, Finance and Economic Development as "supporting and accelerating socio-economic development across the region in accordance with the regional integration goals of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The AISI Vision states that "By the year 2010, there will be a sustainable information society in Africa where:

- Information and decision support systems are used to support decision making in all the major sectors of the economy in line with each country's national development priorities;
- Every man and woman, school child, village, government office and business can access information and knowledge resources through computers and telecommunications;
- Access is available to international, regional and national "information highways", providing "off-ramps" in the villages and in the information area catering specifically to grass-roots society;
- A vibrant business sector exhibits strong leadership capable of forging the build up of the information society;

- African information resources are available which reflect the needs of government, business, culture, education, tourism, energy, health, transport and natural resource management;

- Information and knowledge are disseminated and used by business, the public at large and disenfranchised groups such as women and the poor, in particular, to make rational choices in the economy (free markets) and for all groups to exercise

democratic and human rights (freedom of speech and freedom of cultural and religious expression).

NEPAD

The NEPAD ICT framework noted that "the goals of achieving a Common Market and an African Union can benefit immensely from the revolution in information technology. In addition to fostering intra-regional trade, the use of ICTs could also accelerate Africa's integration into the global economy. Intensive use of ICTs can bring, unprecedented comparative advantages to the continent. According to the NEPAD framework, ICTs can, among other things:

- Provide an impetus to the democratisation process and good governance;
- Facilitate the integration of Africa into the new information society;
- The existing complementarities can be better utilised to provide training that would allow for the production of a critical mass of professionals on the use of ICTs;
- In the research sector, we can establish African programmes as well as technological exchange programmes capable of meeting the continent's specific needs, with particular regard to the fight against illiteracy;
- ICTs can be used to identify and exploit opportunities for trade, investment and finance;
- Can be used to establish regional distance learning and health education programmes to improve the situation in the health and education sectors;
- In conflict management and control of pandemic diseases, ICTs will help towards the organisation of an efficient early warning mechanism by providing the tools for constant monitoring of tension spots. "

In this regard the objectives of the NEPAD ICT component is to:

- Increase teledensity to an adequate level of access for households;
- Lower the cost and improve reliability of service;
- Achieve e-readiness for all countries in Africa;
- Develop and produce a pool of ICT-proficient youth and students from which Africa can draw trainee ICT engineers, programmers and software developers;
- Develop local content software, based especially on Africa's cultural legacy.

WSIS

The first phase of the WSIS held in Geneva from 10-12 of December 2003 came up with a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action on building an inclusive information society. The common vision was that of "a common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable

development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

In the Declaration was also a quest that the information society should be a society for all (inclusive) in that everyone should benefit from the opportunities that ICT's can offer. All stakeholders should therefore work together to:

- improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to
- information and knowledge;
- build capacity;
- increase confidence and security in the use of ICT's;
- create an enabling environment at all levels;
- develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media;
- address the ethical dimensions of the Information Society;
- and encourage international and regional cooperation.

The Declaration committed all to move towards an information society for all based on shared knowledge by strengthening cooperation to seek common responses to the challenges and to the implementation of the Plan of Action, which would realize the vision of an inclusive Information Society based on the Key Principles incorporated in the Declaration.

IV- Accra commitments for Tunis 2005

General principles

The Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS adopted a number of resolutions on Africa's key issues of concern in the WSIS process and ICT issues in general. The main outcome document, "Accra Commitments for Tunis 2005", is Africa's position and contribution to the WSIS Tunis phase. The outcomes were used by the African Group at the second preparatory committee (Prepcom-2) for WSIS, which was held in Geneva from 15 to 27 February in Geneva. In Accra, "the African information society community agrees on the following general principles:

- Building the information society must be inclusive of all stakeholders including Government, as well as private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other regional and international organizations
- Building the information and shared knowledge society will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals to improve quality of life and eradicate poverty by creating opportunities to access, utilize and share information and knowledge
- The international community will tackle information society building on the basis of commitments to remove obstacles to bridging the digital divide.

- Building an inclusive information society requires the use of the languages of the concerned populations."

Operational aspects

- The operational Aspects of Accra commitments can be summarized as follows:
- Development e-strategies
- Indicators to assess to implementation of the IS
- Create environment for Partnership
- Adapt Internet Governance to the need of the IS
- Resources mobilization
- International cooperation

V- Role of Stakeholders

In an all-inclusive Information Society, each segment of the society has a specific role to play and responsibilities to bear. The major stakeholders range from government, civil society, private sector, bilateral partners and international community. As pointed out by the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Information Society, The African Information Society Initiative (AISI) various role are:

Role of Government

Governments have a leading role in developing and implementing comprehensive, forward looking and sustainable e-strategies. They need to create a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. In this regard, they are expected to foster policies that are supportive, transparent, pro-competitive, and predictable taking into account the need to support an enabling and competitive environment for the necessary investment in ICT infrastructure and for the development of new services that would facilitate access to the entire population. In this context, Governments should provide adequate access through various communication resources, notably the Internet, to public information; however taking into consideration the need to enact legislation on access and the preservation of public data, notably through new technologies.

Role of Private Sector

The private sector has an effective role to play in developing the African Information Society. It is crucial to put in place in Africa a critical mass of business ventures capable of supporting the development and use of the information infrastructure. Public policy, in concert with private initiatives, must work together in achieving an inclusive African information society. In order to support increased participation of the private sector, Governments need to facilitate investments and promote Public Private Partnerships. Since African Small, Medium and Micro-sized Entreprises (SMMEs) are playing an important role in ICT development and usage in most of the countries, obstacles that are

stopping these companies from fully participating in Information Society development should be overcome. In this context, SMMEs should be supported in capacity building, creation of joint ventures and access to capital and markets at the regional and country levels.

Role of Civil Society

Non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations should be considered pivotal to the development of the Information Society as they will act as agents of change. With their good understanding of communities and groups, civil society organizations can substantially increase the impact that government initiatives will have on the population. They should serve as interfaces between donors, Governments and citizens to promote sustainable development through delivery of training and project implementation in a cost-effective manner. In this regard, civil society participation to the information society is crucial for promotion of sustainable and balanced development, human development that is equitable; sustainable; holistic; inclusive of all sectors of society; gender responsive; participatory; people centered and Afro-centric. It can influence policy and ensure that strategies and plans enable the development and the formation of an Information Society based on social justice and human development.

Role of Parliaments

Recent developments in the field of Information require full involvement of publicly elected leaders, especially Members of Parliaments, in the development of the Information Society. When e-democracy, e-governance and e-voting start taking shape, it is essential to underline the institutional responsibility of parliaments in shaping the Information Society through forward looking laws and regulations. Parliamentarians, in their capacity of elected representatives, are responsible for providing leadership and guidance to there respective constituents in all aspects, including those related to the Information Society in Africa.

Role of Academia

A country's ability to fully develop an Information Society depends on the capacity of society to be educated, to assimilate, and to process complex information. This, according to Manuel Castells, "starts with the education system, from the bottom up, from the primary school to the University." This point underscores the critical role that universities and other higher education institutions have to play in the information society, whilst repositioning themselves for the challenges of globalization and the information age. Worldwide, academic communities have been part of a driving force in creating the Information Society, including spearheading intellectual leadership through a series of knowledge-building activities. They constitute a tremendous reservoir of expertise that could provide vital assistance working with governments, private sector and civil society in an increasingly globalized and complex world.

Role of Media

Addressing the role of ICTs in advancing Africa's development requires society to develop a better understanding of the new means of interaction offered by the global information infrastructure. Furthermore, African capacities to analyse, assess, and create greater awareness has to be stepped up if the continent is to become an active participant in the global information society. In addition to being an essential means for information dissemination, the mass media plays a critical role in spreading awareness in Africa of the importance and benefits of the information revolution. Newspapers, radio and television provide an easy, accessible and cheap means of carrying information to end users. Communities in Africa do not have to wait for the Internet to receive much of the information it carries. The mass media can access many of the existing sources of information and provide broad channels of communications to the poor and to remote areas.

Role of International Organizations

Putting in place the Information Society requires often cooperation between countries and the international community, in form of expertise in formulation of programmes and projects and also in financing. In this regard, the international community, especially the United Nations agencies and International Financing Institutions, especially the Economic Commission for Africa and the World Bank have a fundamental role in the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan. Another important role of the international community is support the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). Considering that ICT is a vital factor in the achievement of these goals, it is very important to closely monitor the impact of initiatives supported by the UN and other international organizations in the use of ICT to achieve the MDGs and to widely spread lessons learned and best practices.

Special considerations for the Persons with disability

With the advancement of Information and Communication Technology, one can live in the global village irrespective of distances, national and international boundaries as well as disability.

ICT comprehends technologies that can process different kinds of information i.e. voice, video, text, data and facilitates different forms of communications among human beings, including persons with disabilities. Hence, the advent of ICT brings all the populations worldwide together and provides them with quicker access to knowledge and its benefits.

Persons with disabilities are part of the society and constitute a big number of our African population. This category of our population is still considered a burden and liability of the family as well as the community. If we cannot integrate the persons with disability into the mainstream development of the continent our development would be belated. ICT is

one of the most important and vital field intervention through which the persons with disability could be successfully integrated into different avenues of development. As such ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities would immensely benefit the disabled persons and the community in return**.**

VI- The African Knowledge Economy

Vision

Africa is called to further integrate into the global economy which is an increasingly knowledge economy. Building the knowledge economy is consequently a major challenge for Africa on its way to establish the information society.

In this framework, the African vision should call for a collective effort to establish the information and to enable the african community :

- To use information to accelerate development, induce good governance and foster stability;
- To provide wellbeing and increase employment, reduce poverty and empower underprivileged groups,
- To enhance the natural capital and human capacity of the region and minimise internal inequalities; and,
- To further benefit from information by fully becoming part of the global information society.

To achieve this vision and create an information society, the African Community needs to develop and implement regional policies that:

- Make the Information Society by making information, communication, and their underlying technologies central to the development of the region.
- Make the Information Society by making information, communication, and their underlying technologies known, available to and accessible by the public, regardless of gender, age, religion, financial status, location, and race;
- Establish the information and communication sector and fostering growth and employment generation in this area,
- Ensure Governments' awareness and use of ICT at all levels to promote efficiency and transparency and provide cost-effective ICT-based information services to citizens.

What it means to Africa

African countries are at diverse levels of ICT and e-economy development. This diversity is reflected in disparities in the use of telephones, computers, and Internet

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connections as well as network infrastructure. It is recognized that technology is getting cheaper and increasingly driving down prices and improving access and affordability.

However, concerns over differences in ICT availability should not distract the continent from the fact that Africa has made considerable inroads and achieved more success than was expected. For example, the first meeting of the African Development Forum (ADF '99) organized by ECA in October 1999 argued that, "the African infrastructure is not sufficiently e-commerce friendly, mainly because: the physical infrastructure is insufficient; the electronic transaction infrastructure is deficient; the legal and regulatory framework is still inadequate; the African e-commerce environment is not a nurturing one, mainly because; the level of awareness of e-commerce is not high enough; African entrepreneurs need training in using Internet for business; and African Internet support professionals need training to be able to support E-business oriented ventures".

Today, the situation is different. In Africa, awareness of the importance of e-economy is widely spread, leadership has been created, regulatory, legal, economic and policy frameworks have been created in many countries. The result is stunning. The move from fixed telephone lines to mobile has expanded e-commerce outreach. The mobile telecommunication sector has to qualify as one of Africa's success stories. The continent has witnessed over 13 million new mobile subscribers, a figure equivalent to the total number of telephone (fixed and mobile) subscribers in 1995.

Africa's mobile lines and market have been the fastest growing of any region over the last five years. The total number of mobile subscribers at the end of 2003 was just short of 52 million and mobile access stood at 6.2 per 100 inhabitants - twice that of the fixed rate. The African mobile communications sector is also performing well financially. In 2003 it broke the US $10 billion barrier in revenues, with profits estimated at over US $1 billion. This wealth has spread to other stakeholders such as governments, which have collected over US $4 billion in license fees, and equipment manufacturers, who have earned over US $5 billion in contracts in Africa since 2000.

Thanks to ICT infrastructure development, and in common with the rest of the world, e-commerce is evolving rapidly in areas such as e-marketing, e-commodities, e-government, e-development, e-health, e-banking, e-learning, e-library, e-insurance etc. These elements of e-commerce constitute only a fraction of the whole range of possibilities it could offer.

While the positive impact of ICTs and e-commerce is obvious, particularly on poverty alleviation, this has yet to be demonstrated. Social impact studies and reliable indicators should be developed in order to base future policy frameworks on information.

The context of e-commerce therefore is better developed than when ADF99 was held about six years ago and a consensus on the fact that ICT and e-commerce have become major input factors for economic growth and poverty alleviation is widely reached in Africa. Accordingly, there is need to fully include Africa in the Knolwledge Economy by integrating ICTs into development thinking, including the implementation of the MDGs.

This can be done due to the integrative nature of ICTs and their ability to create linkages and synergies between all sectors of the economy.

In addition, looking at the region as one entity points out potentials to cooperate legislatively, economically, and technologically to achieve regional integration. Such a cherished integration is achievable in many forms ranging from collaborative work, tackling the means to open markets and integration, and ending with partnership-based integration. Regional integration is believed to be an essential condition to cut down on the cost of ICT services. Such a target could be achieved by either call/data traffic reshaping or finding better preferential status when procuring hardware and equipment from foreign markets, or by exchanging the expertise available in the region instead of importing them from outside.

The african community will leverage existing resources, reducing the operating cost of networks and applications, and decreasing the time to implement the African infrastucture and infostructure as well as democratizing access to the advantage of ICTs.

VII- Framework for an African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy

Table of the Key Areas of the Framework

Key Accra Commitments	Action Lines
Enabling envrionment	- To establish regional sub/regional coordination mechanisms - To establish legal/regulatory framework for ICT development in Africa
Infrastructure and access	- Development of Telecommunications backbones - Development of exchange points - Expansion of infrastructure, especially to rural areas - Establishing a conducive policy and regulatory environment - Creating Universal Access service
e-Strategies and Policies	- Developing NICI Plans & their linkages with MDGs, PRSPs - Developing / Implementing sectoral strategies: e-education, e-Government, e-health, e-tourism, e-commerce, etc. - Developing / Implementing sub-Regional strategies - Regional and Sub/regional approaches and methodologies to pilot ICT development processes - Establishment of regional and sub regional online ICT Observatories
Information Society Indicators	- Creating an homogenous framework for the countries' e-preparation assessment - Collecting Information Society indicators to measure ICT penetration, deployment and impact to be used as input into the e-Strategies elaboration processes - Collecting indicators on WSIS implementation
Capacity	- Human Resources for the KE

building	- Training Institutions & Networks - Training material - Generalization of Information Technology at the School / University
Research & Development	- Partnerships between Universities / International Organizations / Private sectors, etc. - African Information Networks for Research - Subventions and supports - Outsourcing South / South and North / South - Innovation & Technological Research - Open Sources Software
Internet Governance	- Regional and Sub regional Governance Instances (Hierarchical ascendant approach) - Legal Framework on e-commerce - Digital Transaction & Security - Spam - Internet Exchange Points - AfriNic & other Networks - Managing CCTLDs
	Multi stakeholder partnership
Women and the Information Society	- National machineries for using ICT to empower women - Involvement on e-strategy planning and implementation and in sectoral activities, especially SMMEs
Parliamentarians	Action Plan of the Africa ICT4-D MPs Network
Youth	Action Plan of the ICT4-D Youth Network
Media	Sensitization plans at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels
Harnessing the Digital Diaspora	- Turn the digital gap into a digital opportunity - Build a platform which aims at using ICTs for the development of Africa
African Languages	- Develop and establish regional policy and strategies for promoting African Language in the cyberspace - Promote research and development on African Language in the cyberspace - Establish and sustain a broad program of capacity building on African Language in the cyberspace
Persons with disability	- Develop innovative solutions - Promote and encourage inclusion / involvement of persons with disabilities in the Information Society development - Build special ICT centers equipped with suitable facilities - Develop crash programmes
Resource Mobilization & partnership	- Resource Mobilization Conferences - Preparation of Project Proposals for bilateral and international partners - Projects for the Digital Solidarity Fund - Creating Specialized and dedicated funding institutions

Matrix of Key Areas of the Framework: Qualifying the Action Lines

1 – ENABLING ENVIRONMENT					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Establish legal/regulatory framework for ICT development in Africa	1. Encourage the development of national legal & regulatory instruments	2006 – 2008	NRAs, Govt, & other Stakeholders, including Development Partners	- National/ regional laws - Implementation & Enforcement	- Competitive markets - Economic Growth
	2. Harmonise national/sub-regional frameworks into continental instrument	2006 – 2010	Sub-Regional Associations (TRASA, WATRA, AFRALTI, COMESA, etc.), Member States, AU (NEPAD), ATU, ADB, ECA	Model Guideline	Regional integration & cross-border trade
2. Establish regional coordination body	1. Formation of the coordination body from sub-regional associations	2008 – 2010	Sub-Regional Associations	Committee being operational	- Fair Competition - Even playing field - Increase in investment - Security - Development of e-economy
	2. Establish working guidelines for the body	2008	Sub-Regional Associations, ATU, ECA, ITU	Working Guidelines, Instruments for adjudication	
2 - INFRASTRCUTRUE AND ACCESS					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Develop broadband communications backbone	1. Development of reliable & affordable infrastructure with redundancy	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, NEPAD, ATU, Telecoms, Financial Inst., Postal orgs, Regulators, Broadcasters, Regional orgs	Network rollout – terrestrial & satellite Inter-country links Increased tele-density & access to broadcast services	- Increase in volume of intra & inter communications - Improved uptime of networks - Reduction in cost of communications - Improved regional integration
2. To expand infrastructure to under-serviced areas	1. Establish universal service funds 2. Establish enabling laws & regulatory	2006 – 2010	All of the above except NEPAD & ATU	Increased tele-density & access to broadcast services	- Increase in volume of intra & inter communications - Reduction in cost of communications - Contribute towards poverty reduction

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	environment 3. Incentivise private sector				
3 Ensure reliable cross border power grid	1. Development of reliable, affordable & integrated power grid	2006 – 2015	Member states, Power utility companies, Financial orgs, RECs	Existence of networks	- Improved uptime - Affordable energy source - Increased access
4. Structuring the African Internet	1. Establish alternative for African sub-regional Internet network structures 2. Setup alternatives for exchange points 3. Increase access to African websites 4. Promote African capacities and skills	2006 – 2010	Member states, AU, AFRINIC, ATU, ECA, NEPAD, Internet operators, RECs		- Increase of inter-regional traffic - Economic growth
5. Establish ICT laws, policies & regulations		2006 -2010	Member states, Regulators, AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, RECs	- Compatibility of networks - Increased cooperation	- Increased investment - Improved service to public
6. Improve universal access/service	1. Develop policy on universal access/service 2. Develop implementation strategies for sustainable access/service 3. Encourage community participation 4. Promote the establishment of multi-purpose community centers	2006 – 2010	Member states, Civil society, AU, NEPAD, ECA, Private sector, Regulators	- Increased teledensity - Increased access to broadcast services	- Improved provision of e-services - Improved quality of life

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colspan 6 **3 – E-STRATEGIES & POLICIES**					

Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Development of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans	1. Establish political Leadership 2. Build partnership 3. Establish structures to facilitate NICI process 4. Conduct baseline study 5. Develop policy framework 6. Develop Policy strategies and plans 7. Validate policies with stakeholders 8. Implement policy 9. Raise awareness of stakeholders	2006 - 2010	AU, ECA, NEPAD, RECs, UN Bodies, Member States, ADB, International partners	- Number of countries with e-strategies - Number of countries with legal framework - Number of countries with implementing policy - E-readiness of countries	- Improved enabling environment for policy implementation - Improvement in achievement of MDGs/PRSP goals - Expanded information and knowledge society
2. Development and Implementation of Sectoral e-strategies	1. Establish sectoral teams for ICT implementation strategies 2. Develop sectoral e-strategies (eg. E-health, e-commerce, e-education, e-agriculture etc.)	2006 - 2010	AU, ECA, NEPAD, RECs, UN Bodies, Member States, ADB, International partners	- Number of sectorial teams established - Number of sectorial e-strategies developed	- Strengthening integrated policy implementation process - Improved linkages at sectorial, national and regional levels - Further improvement in achieving MDGs/PRSP goals - Sectoral focus on achievement of MDGs/PRSP goals
3. Development and implementation of sub-regional strategies	1. Establish regional and sub-regional coordination teams 2. Develop regional & subregional e-strategy harmonization framework 3. Develop harmonized regional e-strategies 4. Coordinate the implementation of regional e-strategies	2006 -2010	AU, ECA, NEPAD, RECs, UN Bodies, Member States, ADB, International partners	- No of regional teams established - No. of regional e-strategies developed - Regional Institutional framework in place	- Enhance regional integration - Expanded information society

4. Establishment of regional and sub regional online ICT Observatories	1. Development of Business model and plans 2. Carrying implementation 3. Cloning	2006-2009	AU, ECA – ADB – Member States – UN Bodies – NEPAD -	- Availability of content management tools	- Improve the ICT watch - Share Information on African programs / projects - Allow ICT Governance - Improve the planification process - Facilitate access to ICT indicators and statistics - Share added value content - Improve decision making
4 – INFORMATION SOCIETY INDICATORS					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Collecting Information Society indicators to measure ICT penetration, deployment and impact	1. Development of a Methodological Framework for the Identification and the Collection of suitable Information Society Indicators	2005-2006	Partnership on Measuring the Information (ITU, UN-Regional Commissions, OECD, UNCTAD, UNESCO), RECs, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Research and Statistical Institutions, Regulatory Agencies, Ministries	- Availability of harmonized methodological framework for on Information Society Indicators	- Facilitating the measurement of the development and the impact of Information Society Indicators - Increase in investment in ICT equipment, applications and activities
	2. Adaptation of the proposed methodological framework to meet specific national conditions, requirements and that takes into account the stage of the nation's socio-economic and ICT development	2005 -2006	Idem as above		
	3. Application of the methodological framework by member states to measure their ICT penetration, deployment and impact	2005 -2015	Idem as above	- Number of African countries involved in collecting Information Society Indicators and measuring the impact of the Information Society	
2.Collecting indicators on WSIS	1. Development of a methodological	2005	AU, Partnership on Measuring the	- Availability of a methodological	Assessment of progress towards the development of the

implementation	framework for identifying and the collection of suitable WSIS Implementation Indicators		Information (ITU, UN-Regional Commissions, OECD, UNCTAD, UNESCO), RECs, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Research and Statistical Institutions, Regulatory Agencies, Ministries	framework to measure implementation of WSIS decisions	Information Society by various African countries
	2. Development of the capacity of National Information Gathering Mechanisms and Structures	2005-2006		- Number of African countries involved in monitoring and in the assessment of the implementation the WSIS Plan of Action	
	Adaptation and the application of the proposed methodology to national specific requirement and conditions	2005-2015	NSOs, Research and Statistical Insts, and Regulatory Agencies, Sector Ministries NSOs, Research and Statistical Insts, Regulatory Agencies, Sector Ministries		

5 – CAPACITY BUILDING					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Develop individual capacity - to use ICTs for retrieving, using, storing and disseminating information - at technical education level - at professional education level	1. Needs assessment 2. Use of ICT in basic education, eg NEPAD e-School 3. Business skill development around ICT sector 4. Digital training for various levels	2005-2010	AU, NEPAD, UN Agencies, member States, ADB, ECA, RECTAS, RCMRD, Regional & International Organizations	Number of Schools connected by year, Number of individuals trained to use ICT	- Digital literacy - Participation in the Knowledge Economy
	5. Launch "1 School / 1 PC" Operation	2006-2008	AU, NEPAD, ECA, ITU, UNDP, Consortium of International organizations with Private sector and Telecoms operators	Availability of computers in each school	- Sensitization of youth and teachers - Preparation of next generations - "Avalanche" effect
2. Develop organizational capacity - to deliver the institutions mandate efficiently - To organize and develop the organization - to reengineer	1. Develop/adapt tools for organisational audit 2. Develop strategic plans 3. Implement, monitor and evaluate strategic plans	2005-2015	AU, ECA, UNDP, other UN agencies, Local partners, Civil society, RECs	Adapt UNDP capacity Development indicators	Efficient organizations

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Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
3. Develop institutional capacity: - to formulate and implement policy - to coordinate across agencies	1. Elaborate policy framework 2. Raise awareness		AU, UNDP, ECA, Other UN agencies, Local partners, Civil society, RECs		Sound institutions
4. Capacity building at the local community level	Establish partnerships with local communities	2006-2010	Members States, Development partners, Private Sector	- Universal access - Availability of telecentres and other ICT resources	Participation of local communities in the Knowledge society to rip of the benefits

6 – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1.Creation of ICT R&D Sub Regional Centers of Excellence	1. Identify host countries and host institutions 2. Identify specific fields of application	2005-2010	Members sates, AU, NEPAD, ITU, ATU, ADB, Academic and Research Institutions, Private Sector,	- Number of centers created, - Specific fields covered - Publications and patents produced	- Qualified manpower in ICTs - Capacity of innovation - Production of hardwares and soft wares in Africa to meet our specific needs
2. Creation of ICT incubator centers in each sub region	Identify fields based on demand	2005-2010	Members states, AU, NEPAD, ITU, Private Sector, Research & Development Institutions, UN agencies	- Number of ICT incubators created - Number of SMEs created - Software and hardware as well as services provided by newly created SMEs	- Increase of the number of ICT companies - Reduction of imported ICT products - Reduction of price of access to ICT products
3. Setting up Funds to promote R&D	1. Develop partnership for promotion 2. Raise fund 3. Define mechanism for access to the fund	2005-2007	Members states, AU, NEPAD, ITU, ECA, Private Sector, BAD, Research & Development Institutions, international organizations	- The fund is created - Contributors have agreed to participate in the fund	- Increase in the number of research activities - Increase in the number of incubators and beneficiaries
4. Creation of sub-regional science and technology parks	1. Identify host countries and institutions 2. Define the target companies 3. Raise funds 4. Develop partnership for the establishment of science park	2005-2010	Members states, AU, NEPAD, ITU, ECA, Private Sector, Research & Development Institutions, international organizations, multi national ICT companies	- The science parks are created - Some relevant ICT companies established as tenants - Incentive mechanisms are established	- Some multinational/international companies established in the science park - Increase of knowledge ICT companies - Increase of the number of research results applied for specific need (product development,) - Technology transfer - Reduction of brain drain
5. Development of Partnerships between	1. Creation of research programs 2. Creation of	2005-2009	AU, ECA, Universities, international	- Choice of Programs	- Involve African Skills in research projects

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Universities	Partnerships 3. Discussion of fields of collaboration		organizations	- Applications in using the Funds - Universities choice	- Improved Intellectual added value brought by African Researchers - Technology transfer
6. Creation of the African Research Network on the Information Society (ARN)	Creating local or Sub Regional R&D Networks	2006-2011	Universities, AU, ECA, UN agencies, international partners, member States	- Exchange of experiences - Common projects initiated - Common funding secured	- Stakeholders quality - Human resources quality - Content management - Network animation - Network management Funds
7. Outsourcing South/South and North / South	1. Setting up local structures for promoting the export of African ICT products (Soft) 2. Creating local structures that serve as (Confidence Third Part) counterparts for parners 3. Creating African ICT Market place permitting the use of African resources and skills between countries	2006	AU, UN agencies, European Commission, Operators, international partners	- Marketing models developed - Third part Confidence established	- Creation of an African IT industry - Earning of hard currency - Increase of employment
8. Build capacity of Academia to enable active and meaningful contribution to government policy processes	1. Organize sub-regional workshops for Academia Institutions on PPP 2. Train Academia in policy challenges 3. Assess Academia capacity around sub-regional policy issues and develop policy and strategies of involving Academia in I4D at national, sub-regional and global levels 4. Establish a sub-regional Center on	July 2005 – June 2010 (first phase)	National governments, AU, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and Associations, ITU, ATU	1. Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy 2. Number of Academia trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner 3. Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available 4. Sub-regional	Increased Academia input in implementing the Information Society

| | Nurturing I4D Innovations in Africa | | | Center on Nurturing I4D Innovations in Africa established | |

7 – INTERNET GOVERNANCE					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Develop a regional Policy on Internet	1. Set up a committee to assess the current situation and draft a regional Policy 2. Strengthen AfriNic 3. Encourage member states to establish multi-stakeholders body for Internet Governance at national level	2005-2007	AU, ECA, UNDP, ITU, ATU, Member States, RECs, Private sector, international organizations, civil society	- MOU produced and signed - National bodies established	Improved participation of Africa in Internet Governance
2. Create The African Governance Structure	1. Undertaking feasibility Study (Organizational, Technical, Institutional aspects) 2. Development of a Business Model 3. Preparation of a Business plan 4. Securing funding	2005-2006	Member States, ECA, other UN agencies, Civil Society, Telecom Operators, ICANN	Creation of the Structure Adoption of a Governance model	Improved Governance process
3. Create 5 Sub Regional Internet Governance Structures	Same model as above	2006-2007	Same model as above and RECs		Improved Governance process

8 – WOMEN AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Build a steady network among African Women 2. Create an active partnership for development projects especially to those which take care of cultural	1. Create national and sub regional focal points 2. Organise studies and exchange trips of leisure to allow African populations to know each other	2005 - 2010	AU, ECA, RECs	- Number of visitors of the Web site - Number of focal points created at national and sub regional levels - Survey of people	Effective establishment of databases containing human resources in women Effective presence of women in economic sphere due to the use of ICTs, Effective weight of women in the decision taking sphere

				interested on new jobs in the ICT sector,	
heritage,

3. Facilitate access of women to basic information and information coming from specialized agencies of the African Union, ECA and other UN agencies

4. Value, reinforce and broadcast success stories in ICTs

5. Re-habilitate the African continent's image in general and that of women in particular | better and to understand each other

2. Promote success stories to serve as reference for women all over the continent

3. Promote government, civil society and private sector awareness to participate in supporting access costs to ICTs

4. Encourage youth access to new ICT jobs

5. Encourage Associations and other structures to include in their agenda the basic training in ICT for women | | | - Number of projects inspired from success stories

- Inventory of established partnerships | Adoption of gender approach for a better access of women to ICTs,

The establishment of a real partnership men/women which guarantees consolidation of equality for all |

9 – PARLIAMENTARIANS					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of Impacts**	**Expected impact**
1. Establish a sustainable, functional and effective African Parliamentarians I4D Network and sub-regional entities	1. Launch Africa I4D MP Network
2. Establish host-country agreement
3. Establish administrative framework
4. Promote effective partnerships
5. Establish five sub-regional I4D MPs Network	June 2005 – June 2007	AU, AU Parliament, ECA and other UN agencies, NEPAD, International partners, ABD	- Africa ICT4D MP Network launched
- Administrative facilities established and functional
- Partnerships established with various institutions
- Five sub-regional I4D MP Networks established	An effective and functional African Parliamentarian Network for I4D established which will enable Parliamentarians participation in the Knowledge Economy
2. Build Institutional and human capacity of African Parliamentarians to enable active and meaningful contribution to government I4D policy processes	1. Organize five sub-regional workshops on Information for Development for Parliamentarians

2. Promote the development of sub-regional Parliament ICT Policy and Strategies

4. Undertake | July 2005 – June 2010 | Member States, AU, NEPAD, RECs, MPs Associations, ECA, ITU, ATU, UNDP | - Number of participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy
- Policy document developed and owned by Parliaments in Africa
- Assessment results, interpretation and application of MPs I4D Policy | Increased MP contribution to I4D policy at national level regarding law, sufficient budget, information for all promotion |

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	global research study on involving MPs in building an inclusive Information society in Africa: best practices examples				
10 – CIVIL SOCIETY					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of Impacts**	**Expected Accomplishment**
1. Establish a sustainable, functional and effective Civil Society engagement in the African region	1. Prepare agreement 2. Establish administrative framework 3. Promote the network at local, national, sub-regional regional and international levels 4.Promote effective partnerships	June 2005 – June 2007	ACSIS, AU, NEPAD, ECA, international partners, ADB	- Legal documents adopted - Host country agreement paper signed - Administrative facilities established and functional - Foundation registered - Foundation accredited by international networks and bodies 6. Partnerships established with various institutions	The establishment of an effective and functional African Civil Society I4D Network Foundation
2. Build capacity of African CS to enable active and meaningful contribution to government policy processes	1. Organize sub-regional workshops for civil society entities around policy processes 2. Train CSOs in policy challenges 3. Assess CSO capacity around sub-regional and sub-regional policy issues and develop policy and strategies of involving Cso in I4D at national, sub-régional and global levels 4. Undertake global research study on establishing an inclusive Information society in Africa: best practices examples 5. Initiate awards on I4D activities 6. Establish a	July 2005 – June 2007 (first phase)	AU, ECA and other UN agencies, Member States, NEPAD, RECs ITU, ATU	- Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy - Number of CSOs trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner - Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available - Publication on findings done and used by CSO - Award concluded and activities promoted - Training Center established in five African sub-regions and fully equipped and operational	Increased CS input in government processes

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	CSO training Center on I4D				
Capacity building on implementation of WSIS Action Plan	5 sub-regional workshops on WSIS implementation	2006	AU, ACSIS, ECA, International partners, RECs	Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on WSIS implementation	Implementing WSIS Action Plan

"We are committed to realizing our common vision of the Information Society for ourselves and for future generations. We recognize that <u>young people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers</u>. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and well-being."

Paragraph 11 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles

11 – YOUTH

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected Accomplishment
1. Ensure improved and productive youth participation in Africa's Information Society agenda	1. Establish host-country agreement 2. Establish administrative framework 3. Promote network at local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels 4. Promote effective partnerships	2006 - 2007	AYIN, AU, NEPAD, ECA and other UN agencies, International partners, ACSIS, ATU, CTO, ADB	- Legal documents adopted - Host country agreement paper signed - Administrative facilities established and functional - Foundation accredited by international networks and bodies - Partnerships established with various institutions, with availability of contractual agreements	The establishment of an effective and functional African Youth ICT4D Network Foundation
2. Provide a reference and motivational material on ICTs and Youth Employability in Africa	1. Get support for the report and interlinked processes 2. Carry out baseline studies 3. Review initial findings and get multi-stakeholder input 4. Publish report 5. Initiate annual global and five sub-regional Youth award on I4D activities	2006 - 2007	AU, ECA and other UN agencies, International partners, ADB	- Agreement with ECA on study and report - Completion of baseline study in at least 5 countries from each sub-region - Positive feedback from governments, civil society, academia, private sector, media, development partners and international organizations - Report published - Award concluded and activities promoted	Report on Youth best practices in ICTs and Youth Employment

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Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
3. Build capacity of young Africans to enable active and meaningful contribution to Government processes	1. Identify young professionals in sectors that meet governance needs 2. Place qualified youth as interns within Government agencies 3. Assess youth capacity around Government processes 4. Employ qualified youth within relevant agencies	2006 - 2007	AU, ECA, member States, NEPAD, RECs, Regulatory agencies, ITU, ATU	- Volume and quality of applications received - Percentage of youth serving as interns in government agencies - Proof that youth interns understand government processes	Increased youth input in Government processes

12 – MEDIA

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Establish a sustainable, functional and effective Media Network for Information for Development promotion in Africa	1. Organizing launching I4D Media Network	2006-2010	AU, NEPAD, ECA and other UN agencies, International partners, ADB	- Workshop organized and Network launched	Effective and functional Media I4D Network launched on the Continent, sub-region and national bodies promoted and well involved in e-strategies process
	2. Get legal documents			- Legal documents adopted	
	3. Establish host-country agreement			- Host country agreement paper signed	
	4. Establish administrative framework			- Administrative facilities established and functional	
	5. Register the network			- Network registered	
	6. Promoting the Network at local, national, sub-regional regional and international levels			- Network accredited by international networks and bodies	
	7.Accreditation			- Partnerships established with various institutions	
	8. Promoting effective partnerships			- Five sub-regional network established and operational	

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	9. Establish sub-regional I4D Media Network on the Continent			- Community radio Network and broadcasting association strengthened	
	10. Establish or strengthen, sub-regional and global Community Radio Network and Broadcasting Associations on the Continent				
2. Build capacity of African Media to enable active and meaningful contribution to the implementation of an inclusive Information Society	1. Organize five sub-regional workshops for African Media entities around policy processes	2006-2010	AU, National governments, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and Associations, ITU, ATU	1. Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy	Increased Media professionals and Institutions, input in the building inclusive Information Society in Africa
	2. Train Media professionals in I4D policy challenges and their roles			2. Number of journalists and media professionals trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner	
	3. Initiate research study on policy and strategies of involving Media in building an inclusive Information Society in Africa			3. Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available	
	4. Implement or strengthen, sub-regional Media training Institutions in I4D			4. Training Institutions strengthened of implemented within five Africa region	

	5. Strengthen or establish Media I4D Excellence center or continental database on Continent for providing expertise for media Institutions and professionals in I4D			5. Excellence Center or database established and used by many Media professionals	
	6. Adopt Annual Media I4D festival in Africa			6. Festival annually organized	
3. Share ideas, knowledge	Creation of electronic mailing lists at national and regional levels Create tools for local development and training/ICT online website/colleges	April 2005 to December 2006	As above	Many journalists have had to learn the know how on ICTs through mailing lists and also many have traveled widely to participate in ICT research workshops, conferences, meetings etc. because of being part of mailing lists They also have been aware of what is happening in the ICT arena in the world and have also gained the interest to report on ICTs Creation of web sites specifically for journalists to contribute	Creating awareness, Improve the rate at which journalists access the internet Improved the income of Journalists as many new opportunities are shared on mailing lists of many Journalists have taken upon as a challenge Journalists learn more applications of the internet because of being part of mailing lists Journalists learn to contribute to online publications
4. Advance gender equality in African media in reporting on ICT4D	Create an alternative media for women Promote and strengthen women's alternative media Monitor the portrayal and employment of women in the media to ensure greater gender equality and non-sexist portrayal	April 2005 to December 2007	Donor community Regional bodies Media organizations Civil society and NGOs Media Networks on ICT4D Governments Academia/Universities	Gender issues will receive more coverage Encouraged to write ICT stories with a gender aspect Gender training in ICT reporting will be developed Increase women's community radio and television programming adapted to local	Gender sensitive reporting in the African media since gender is a cross cutting issue Journalists will be gender aware when ever they write there reports When selecting journalists to cover an ICT event gender should be one of the criteria We will help to have women in decision making positions just as

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	even in the use of ICTs Involve women in decision making process			needs and language, in both urban and rural areas in Africa Produce visual printed materials in comprehensible languages that share information on issues that affect women's daily lives Usage of training materials Localisation of training materials Who is benefiting from the access of this training? Women and male journalists become gender sensitive How many networks are being built, urban or rural areas? Feedback on materials produced Impacting on the people, planet, and profit? Recycling capacity of the newspaper that is produced Renewable energy resources	men as they will now be considered to participate and not left behind Alternative media for women journalists will help to generate interest in women journalists to take up the challenge in reporting on ICTs African women's voices will be in the media and local content will be developed for Africa

13 – PRIVATE SECTOR

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. To establish a sustainable, functional and effective Private Sector Network for Information for Development promotion in Africa	1. Establish I4D Private Sector Network 2. Get legal documents 3. Establish host-country agreement 4. Establish administrative framework 5. Register Foundation	June 2005 – June 2007	ECA, AU, NEPAD, eAfrica Commission, ECA, GKP, AYIN, SDC, ePolNet, ATU, ITU, CTO, UNDP, UNESCO, DSF, OIF, HBF, OSIWA, OSISA, AfBD, ArDB, WGIG	1. Workshop organized and Network launched 2. Legal documents adopted and made available 3. Host country agreement paper signed, and made available 4. Administrative facilities established	Effective and functional Private sector Network launched

	6. Promoting foundation at local, national, sub-regional regional and international levels 7. Accreditation 8. Promoting effective partnerships 9. Establish sub-regional Private Sector Network on the Continent			and functional, with availability of related documents 5. Network registered, with registration documents available 6. Visibility of the Network achieved, with evidence of media features 7. The network accredited by international networks and bodies 8. Partnerships established with various institutions, with availability of contractual agreements 9. Five sub-regional network established and operational	
2. To build capacity of Private sector to enable active and meaningful contribution to government policy processes	1. Organize sub-regional workshops for Private sector Institutions on PPP 2. Train Private sector managers in policy challenges 3. Assess Private sector capacity around sub-regional policy issues and develop policy and strategies of involving Private sector in I4D at national, sub-regional and global levels 4. Initiate research study on Africa PPP Policy and R&D promotion in the Information Society 5. Initiate research study on financing African Information Society and promoting new entrepreneurship	July 2005 – June 2010 (first phase)	AU, National governments, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and Associations, ITU, ATU	1. Number of workshops and participants able to understand, own and explain issues on policy 2. Number of journalists and media professionals trained and able to apply acquired skill at national level in an effective manner 3. Assessment results, interpretation and application for policy issues and policy document available 4. PPP – R& D Policy developed 6. Report produced and used by Government and Private sector Institutions	Increased Private sector input in implementing the Information Society

14 – HARNESSING THE DIGITAL DIASPORA

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. To turn the digital gap into a digital opportunity in Africa, mainly by means of capacity building through	Provide computers (new and second hand for equipment of remote and poor areas mainly in the rural districts	From 2006 to 2015	Governments, local authorities, private sector, civil society organizations (mainly african organizations),	- Creation of training centers - Equipping schools, universities, and research centers in	Initiation in computer utilization and Internet as well as other relevant new communication technologies of thousands of rural and

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education and training			donors, AU, ECA	rural, poor disenfranchised areas of cities	other poor populations, mainly young boys, girls and women
2. To build a platform which aims at using ICTs for the development of Africa by strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations and making them visible and forward looking	Create and manage a database to provide African countries with the expertise available in the Diaspora on ICTs and various sectors of development (agriculture, education, health, etc.)	From 2004 to 2008	ACSIS, AU, ECA and other UN agencies such as UNDP, IOM and partners	- Number of members of the Diaspora who have performed concrete support in program and project design - Implementation and evaluation of concrete activities - Availability of investment and financing of ICT for development	- Capacity building and financing development activities, for the achievement of the MDGs, NEPAD and civil society objectives, all over the continent.
3. To turn the Information Society into an instrument for poverty reduction, conflict and war resolution, struggle against pandemics like HIV/AIDS, and promotion and protection of human rights through consistent policies for sustainable development	Lobbying and advocacy for permanent mobilisation of logistical and financial means to achieve the objectives of the Millennium Declaration, NEPAD and the Declaration of the international civil society at the first phase of WSIS in Geneva (2003).	From 2004 to 2015	AU, ECA and other UN agencies, The Digital Solidarity Foundation, donor agencies, international organizations, governments etc,	- Better involvement of the African Diaspora in the prevention and pacific resolution of conflicts and wars - Reduction of the number of conflicts, of the poor and people infected by the HIV - Increase good governance in Africa; three workshops	- Promotion of peace and development in Africa - Economic growth, more democracy - Increase in knowledge sharing arrangements

15 – African Language in the Cyberspace

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Develop and establish regional policy and strategies for promoting African Language in the cyberspace	- Undertake baseline study within the Continent through consultancies with Institutions working in the area - Initiate sub-regional debates or workshops - Organise a validation workshop	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, ECA, National and international partmers	Policy document developed	- Streamlining of African language in the cyberspace in e-strategy at national and sub-regional levels - Creation of mechanism of digitalization of main languages at national and sub-regional levels
2. Promote research and development on African Language in the cyberspace	- Supporting research and development in language technologies and encourage fora for information sharing on the means of adapting solutions including hard- and software solutions, search engines,	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, ECA, National and international partners	Increased research & development outputs on African language in the cyberspace	- Most of African languages are localized and content increased in the cyberspace

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	automated dictionaries, translation tools, etc.; - Creating and supporting networks of universities, national academies, research and development institutions working in the area of language development to federate action and share know-how and practices; - Federating existing language observatory projects - Establishing networks of language developers; - Supporting the call to establish sustainable funding mechanisms of projects to complete encoding of scripts - Promoting research aimed at policy makers to illustrate the interconnection between language diversity and economic development; - Fostering research and development in human and computer languages technologies for example in the area of key board development - Support IDN project for African Language				
3 Ensure and sustained broad program of capacity building on African Language in the cyberspace	Development per nation, sub-region of reliable language tools for all education levels - Create programme in computational linguistics at all levels of education. - Create master and PhD computational	2006 – 2015	Member states, AU, ECA, National and international partmers	– Computational linguistics programme integrated in the curriculum of all education levels in	Increase of the presence of African language content in the cyberspace

	linguistic within sub-regional Universities of linguistics Center - Fostering capacity-building for communities with endangered and lesser-spoken languages to participate in international standard-setting mechanisms with specific provision for representatives from developing countries			many African Countries - PhD and master computational linguistic degrees created within five majors Universities in Africa	

16 – PERSONS WITH DISABILITY					
Objectives	**Strategic Actions**	**Time frame**	**Partners**	**Indicators of achievement**	**Expected impact**
1. Develop innovative and creative solutions for Vulnerable, handicapped, and disabilities persons in term of software and hardware	1. Prepare and make Framework available	2006-2010	Member states, NEPAD, ATU , ECA, ITU, Telecom operators, Private sector	Partnerships established with various institutions	- Improved techniques for disabilities - Comprehensive & Better ICT industries
2.Promote and encourage inclusion / involvment of persons with disabilities in the ICT development cycle, and provide them the opportunity to contribute effectively	1. Prepare and make contractual agreements available 2.Get support for the plan	2006-2008	Member states, AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, Telecom operators, RECs	Legal documents approved and presented	- Increase the human resources - Decrease reliability of the disable on the community
3.Build special ICT centers equipped with suitable facilities, where persons with disabilities can have smooth and easy access to knowledge, resources and useful information from around the world	1.Assess the exact need of these centers 2. Employ qualified instructors in these centers	2006-2012	Member states AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, Telecom operators, Private sector	Availability of Facilities and services	Enhance & enlarge the capacity building spectrum

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
4.Develop crash programmes should be undertaken to develop and ensure the standard and equality for ICT education	Organizing workshops to setup the most appropriate methodology	2006-2010	Member states, AU, NEPAD, ATU, ECA, Telecom operators, Regional orgs, RECs	Executive facilities established and functional	Improved quality of education
5.Involve and encourage the private and commercial sectors to provide training on ICT from very basic levels to advanced levels on computer hardware, software and multimedia issues	1.Promoting effective partnership 2.Initiate research study for the benefit of the project	2006-2010	Member states, Private sector	Ensure Quality and sustainability of the program	More positive contribution from private and commercial sectors

17-RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Time frame	Partners	Indicators of achievement	Expected impact
1. Estimating an overall financial out lay necessary to build the African Information Society	Prepare project proposals at national and regional levels (such projects should be properly costed and coordinated within a realistic framework)	2005 – 2007 (Phase 1)	Member states, AU, ECA, NEPAD, Donors, Investors, DAC/OECD, Private sector, Financial institutions, Arab League Working Group on ICT projects and programs, African Digital Initiative and Financing Agency		(a) Increased investment in ICTs (b) Harmonization of policies between parties for ICT4D (c) Significantly increase the African ICT project basket (d) Making use of best practices in ICT financing (e) Bridging the digital divide
2. Mobilize requisite financial resources to build the African information society and to take advantage of financing opportunities set forth by the WSIS including the DSF	1- Set up the institutional mechanism for/and organize donors and partnership conferences	2005 – 2006 (Phase 1)			
	2- Establish and strengthen institions with the objectives of collaborating with various stakeholders – project development, investments and partnerships in ICT4D in Africa	2005 – 2006			
3. Build sectoral partnerships and attract investments in ICT4D at National and regional levels	1- Encourage debt-swapping mechanisms in ICT	From 2005			
	2- Make use of BOT investment initiatives in ICT	2006 – 2007			

	3- Encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships in revenue-sharing projects	2006 – 2007			
	4- Recognize the potential role of SMMEs in ICT4D, and assist them in the acquisition of resources from financial institutions	From 2006			
4. Financing African Researchers' mobility	Reserving parts of funds to researchers	From 2006	AU, UN agencies, ADB	Facilities consideration	Exposure of African Researchers

VIII.   PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

List of Regional and Sub-Regional Projects & Modalities of implementation

Each project is expected to have a designated Lead Agency as well as implementing partners. The Lead Agency will prepare an information note on the project, using the ARAPKE template attached in annex 1. Each Lead agency will coordinate preparation of project proposals and needs assessment if applicable. The Lead Agencies will use their own resources or mobilize resources for preparation of project proposals and carrying out needs assessment.

The African Union supported by the Group of Experts will define selection criteria and undertake priority classification of the projects before the Tunis Summit.

On 16 November 2005, from 09H00 to 12H00 there will be a workshop on the Action Plan to discuss with African stakeholders and partners' resource mobilization and implementation issues.

So far the following project descriptions have been submitted by stakeholders:

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African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECT 1

Target country/ies ECA's member States

Lead Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Potential Partners: European Union Commission, Finland, Japan, GTZ, UN Agencies

Project Title: Capacity Building for Policy-Makers

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☐ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ☐ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☑ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☐ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☑ **Capacity Building**
- ☐ **Research & Development**
- ☐ **Internet Governance**
- ☐ **Women and the Information Society**
- ☑ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc**
- ☐ **African Languages**
- ☐ **Persons with disability**
- ☐ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**
- ☐ **Resource Mobilization & partnership**
- ☐ **Other**

Explain: The project seeks to build the capacity of African policy makers and other stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society, academia, parliamentarians, media, women and youth on the development and implementation of national and regional information and communication technologies policies and regulatory frameworks and e-strategies, through promoting more informed, broad-based and effective participation of representatives from Africa in regional and international ICT agenda-setting and decision-making; strengthening the integration of ICTs in development programmes at both the local and the international levels; and ICT for development among government officials, private sector representatives and civil society actors.

Brief description:
This project builds on ECA's experience in assisting member States to develop National Information and Communication Infrastructure Policies and Plans and its capacity

building activities at its Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA). It seeks to expand the capacity building activities it undertook to African Parliamentarians and African Ambassadors stationed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to encompass other policy makers and stakeholders. The capacity building exercise would enable African policy makers and other stakeholders to be aware of the ICT policy issues at all levels: national, subregional, regional and international levels.

Background:
Systematic approach to policy making remains one of the major steps towards harnessing ICT for development. Over half of the African countries have strived to develop their NICI plans, strategies and policies that articulate long-term policy, infrastructure, content and application as an integral part to overall national development; within the framework of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI). However, awareness and capacity building remains one of the major challenges to ICT policy formulation and implementation in the region. The development of national and sectoral strategies, implementation of programmes and projects in key areas development requires highly skilled and committed policy makers. ECA is mandated to assist African countries in their economic and social development. One of ECA's greatest strengths is its convening power. Every year ECA convenes dozens of fora (generally a 2-3 days) of policy planners, decisions makers and implementers from the public and private sectors as well as from civil society organisations. ECA established the Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA) in 1999 to conduct sensitization and awareness training on ICTs and their impact on development.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: This project is consistent with national strategies of the Commonwealth, which seeks to exploit ICTs for maximum social and economic development, to improve service delivery and to bridge the digital divide.

Proposed Project activities: ECA requests the support of the commonwealth in funding the various activities under the framework of the project. These include organisation of training workshops, seminars and consultations; building networks among various policy makers; preparation of policy papers; developing web-portals and other related e-resource facilities; setting up and managing online forums; and building database of African policy makers and experts in ICT for development activities.

Sub/Regional benefits:
The lack of ICT awareness among African policy makers is one of the daunting challenges of Africa's participation in global knowledge economy. At the higher level, the region needs well-aware and visionary policy makers on ICT and development. This can be achieved by building the capacities of African policy makers and other stakeholders who are involved in the process.

Anticipated Outcomes:
- Enhanced capacity of national governments to develop and implement effective and sustainable national e-strategies built on the principles of national ownership and

requirements, including through South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing on effective integration of ICT into development policies and strategies.

- A matrix of linked networks of Knowledge hubs for development actors in Africa, creating a knowledge platform for positive spillover and multiplier effects on policy-making, analytical and applied skills in various sectors of the economy and society.

- Systematic and meaningful participation of representatives of Africa in global, regional and subregional ICT and Knowledge decision making fora and bodies.

- Integration and application of ICT and Knowledge into the transition process, especially as regards public sector reform to support trade and enterprises.

Risk Assessment: Lack of adequate political support – low risk; Lack of funding for implementation – high risk.

Budget:
500,000.00 Euros over two years
2005/2006: 200,000.00 Euros   **2006/2007: 300,000.00 Euros**

Schedule and Milestones: Project approved by partners in Tunis Summit; Start project implementation - June 2006. Project execution – to end July 2008.

Priority: This project is considered high priority for ECA and its partners, as it seeks to contribute to the sustaining the Information Society in Africa by creating ICTs for development champions among African policy-makers.

Long-term Sustainability: The capacity building exercise would enable African policy makers and other stakeholders to be aware of the ICT policy issues at all levels: national, subregional, regional and international levels. The training will also create ICT for development champions and network of African policy makers who can forge partnerships with other stakeholders to ensure sustainability.

Submitted by: Information Technology Centre for Africa

Date: 20 June 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECT 2

Target country/ies ECA's member States

Lead Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Potential Partners: African Union Commission, NEPAD, African Development Bank, International Trade Centre, European Union, Finland, the Canadian e-Policy Resource Network (e-Pol-NET).

Project Title: Developing and implementing national and sectoral e-strategies and plans (NICI and SICI strategies and plans)

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☑ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ☐ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☑ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☐ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☑ **Capacity Building**
- ☐ **Research & Development**
- ☐ **Internet Governance**
- ☐ **Women and the Information Society**
- ☑ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc**
- ☐ **African Languages**
- ☐ **Persons with disability**
- ☐ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**
- ☐ **Resource Mobilization & partnership**
- ☐ **Other**

Explain: The purpose of the project is to provide analytic input through studies, workshops and publications, that reviews the state of play of ICTs in some African countries and support the development of national and sectoral e-strategies and plans. In doing so, it seeks to build the policy capacity of the countries.

Brief description:

The main objective of the project is to support African countries to develop their own national and sectoral e-strategies and plans, based on their national development goals as stated in the WSIS Action Plan. These plans would assist to integrate the globalization process using ICTs. These would also help solve countries' most pressing problems, including those in health, education, economic development and fight against poverty.

Background:
Access to information and knowledge is a requisite for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and also for the improvement of the life of millions of individuals around the world. Also improved communications between populations contribute to the resolution of conflicts and bring peace in the world.

It was in this context of reengineering the use ICTs that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) launched the African Information Society Imitative (AISI) which was adopted in 1996 by Africa Governments. AISI, which is a regional framework, aims at accelerating the continent's entry into the knowledge society. It is implemented at several levels including the development of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans in each country.

Since the adoption of AISI, ECA with support from partners, including the European Union has been assisting African countries to develop their national e-strategies, including the supporting legal environment, the implementing institutions and the accompanying human resources. In short, NICI is:

♦ an instrument to implement the AISI vision of developing the information society at national level
♦ an African response to facilitate the digital inclusion of Africa and integration of the continent into the globalization process
♦ an exercise aiming at developing national ICT policies and strategies which serve as guidelines for the development of the national information and communication infrastructure

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: This project is consistent with national startegies of the Commonwealth, which seeks to exploit ICTs for maximum social and economic development, to improve service delivery and to bridge the digital divide.

Proposed Project activities: Because there are still many African countries which have not completed their NICI development process, while other countries are reviewing the results and contemplating to start the next cycle of the process, ECA is seeking the support of the Commonwealth to fund such activities. The project will support the development and implementation of NICI Plans & their linkages with MDGs, PRSPs in The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In addition, sectoral strategies in the areas of e-Government (in the Gambia and Ghana) and e-health (in Uganda) will be developed and implemented.

Sub/Regional benefits: The NICI process has enabled over 30 African countries to put in place an ICT policy. It also strengthened African policy makers' capability in making more informed decisions on ICT issues, including during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). It was in this context that the resolution on e-strategies adopted by the African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS, held in Accra from 2-4 February 2005 recognized ECA's role in the ICT policy development process by stating "Note with satisfaction the support provided to African countries by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and its partners". In this regard, it should be noted that effective partnerships have enhanced ECA's work program on ICT for development in African countries.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Improved enabling environment for policy implementation

- Improvement in achievement of MDGs/PRSP goals

- Expanded information and knowledge society

- Strengthening integrated policy implementation process

- Improved linkages at sectorial, national and regional levels

- Further improvement in achieving MDGs/PRSP goals

- Sectoral focus on achievement of MDGs/PRSP goals

Risk Assessment: Lack of adequate political support - low risk; Lack of resources for implementation at local level - high risk; Lack of adequate funding for implementation - high risk.

Budget:

The cost of developing the NICI and SICI plans is estimated at 100,000 Euros per country. Hence the total cost would be 800,000 Euros over two years period. (5 NICI plans and 3 SICI plans).

2005/2006: 400,000 Euro   2006/2007: 400,000 Euro

Schedule and Milestones: Project approved by Commonwealth - Oct 2005; Start project implementation - Jan 2006.

Priority: This project is considered high priority for ECA and its partners, as it seeks to contribute to the sustaining the Information Society in Africa.

Long-term Sustainability: The NICI process ensures sustainability and forges Public Private Partnerships through effective and active participation of all stakeholders including the governments, private sector and civil society.

Submitted by: ECA (Development Information Services Division and Trade and Regional Integration Division)

Date: 20 June 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECT 3

Target country/ies… les cinq grandes régions de l'Afrique   (5 langues transfrontalières)

Leading Agency/REC's/Stakeholders
Rectorat de l'niversité de Bamako
Académie africaine des langues
(UNECA Union Africaine)

Potential Partners:
* Institute of kiswahili research, university of Dar es Salam
* University of Captown …
* Institut Royal de la culture Amazigue
* University de Yaounde
* Université de Kinshasa

Project Title: DIDActiciel et Dictionnaire multilingue et multimédia (DIDADI)

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
1   African Languages
* 5 langues africaines
Brief description:
Partant d'un nœud unique, le logiciel se développe en une arborescence
comportant deux branches principales : les volets didacticiel et dictionnaire.
1- Didacticiel.
     Un didacticiel multiple, multilingue, à passerelles avec entrée par les langues,
     et l'entrée par thèmes. Des séquences sonores, images fixes, images
     cliquables, images mobiles, de nombreux exercices interactifs
2- dictionnaire
     Un dictionnaire multilingue à passerelles, consultable par le tableau des
lettres
     alphabétiques, par les listes des vedettes ou entrées, par thème mais
également
     par le procédé aléatoire de la « recherche ». .
Une passerelle permet d'accéder à l'article dictionnairique
      de l'équivalent de la vedette en question dans l'une ou
       l'autre des différentes langues ou à la page du didacticiel

correspondant au thème traité dans chacune des langues.
Mandingue, swahili, peul, lingala, arabe ou hausa / anglais, français (mediums des didacticiels) espagnol, portugais(offrent les équivalents au naveau du dictionnaire électronique)

Background:
RESULTATS ATTENDUS
 Un logiciel consistant en un didacticiel et un dictionnaire électronique multilingues et multimédia

Didacticiels en langues africaines avec médium en Anglais et en français *
Dictionnaire électronique multilingue.
Utilisation possible dans les écoles et universités., dans les services officiels comme dans le secteur privé
ILLUSTRATION
Une présentation multimédia (Le projet, la maquette illustrée du dictionnaire, le didacticiel à passerelles IBK) pourrait se faire éventuellement à Tunis par exemple.

Alignment with Sub / Regional Strategies:
Stratégie du projet Dico+ : dictionnaires monolingues (non électroniques) en langues africaines sur la base d'un corpus français commun avec financement AIF (plurilingue dont je suis un des rédacteurs)
La différence est que le produit est électronique, que les locuteurs non natifs de l'une ou l'autre langue peuvent bénéficier du travail accompli grâce aux médiums internationaux

Proposed Project activities:
 *Documentation
*Enquêtes * Recherche terminologique
*Etablissement de nomenclatures, choix des vedettes * Alignement de corpus (corpora)
 * Redaction d'articles dictionnairiques
 * Redaction de modules et leçons de textes
 * Elaboration de batteries d'exercices
 * Création d'illustrations (scanner et faire des photos,des séquences de films (video)
* Faire de priss de sons, paroles, dialogues * Faire de la programmation informatiques *Coordonner les différentes équipes

Sub/Regional benefits:

- Assurer la présence des langues africaines dans le cyberespace, avec des outils représentatifs et pertinents
- Permettre l'enseignement / apprentissage des langues africaines transfrontalières.
- Créer un instrument de communication pour le développement.
- La mise à disposition du plus grand nombre d'utilisateurs d'un instrument permettant une meilleure connaissance des langues et cultures impliquées.
- La disponibilité d'un outil de développement et de rapprochement des langues, cultures et peuples d'Afrique.
-

Anticipated Outcomes:

Il sera possible aux Africains natifs ou non d'une langue africaines d'apprendre celle-ci et d'en pénétrer la culture …* Il leur sera possible de communiquer de travailler ensemble. **Cela constitue un élément de réponse à la question de langue de travail africaine.** Cela facilitera la recherche sur l'identité voire l'unité culturelle de l'Afrique.

Risk Assessment:
Le produit une fois achevé pourra faire l'objet d'évaluations interne et externe**Budget:**

Total		$ 200 000
Equipe reg.	$ 30 000 * 5	$ 150 000
Coordination / Communication		$ 50 000

Postes de dépenses
- Documentation
- Matériels informatique et audiovisuel
- Activités

Schedule and Milestones:
Pland'exécussion calendrier ététapes
- Durée totale du projet : 3 ans
- An 1 Formation des équipes * documentation, collecte de données, rédaction
- An 2 : Programmation et mise au point du logiciel
- An 3 Mise au point du logiciel, * Mise à l'essai * Evaluation

Priority:
*Formation des équipes,
*Eqiuipement

Long-term Sustainability:
Institutions internationales, nationales, privées intéressées, concernées

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECT 4

Target country/ies: African Countries

Lead Agency: African Digital Initiatives and Financing Agency (ADIFA)

Potential Partners: African Union Commission, NEPAD, ECA, Donors, African Governments and other Stakeholders.

Project Title: Organizational Capacity Building for ADIFA.

    Legal Environment/Enabling Environment
☐ **Infrastructure and access**
    E-Strategies and Policies
☐ **Information Society Indicators**
☑ **Capacity Building**
☐ **Research & Development**
☐ **Internet Governance**
☐ **Women and the Information Society**
    Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media, Local authorities, etc
☐ **African Languages**
☐ **Persons with disability**
☐ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**
☑ **Resource Mobilization & partnership**
☐ **Other**

Explain: The purpose of the project is to make ADIFA fully operational by establishing its Head office in Banjul, The Gambia, with the required logistics, make provisions for the Executive Director, Two Program Officers, and support staff; identify focal points in all African countries.

(ADIFA is a not for profit Regional Organisation established with a Regional board of Directors. It constitutes a Regional network to collaborate in project development and outreaching and link beneficiaries to financing to build the information society in Africa).

Brief description:

The main objective of ADIFA, is to identify donors/development partners in ICT4D and forge a link between parties to implement ICT projects and programmes in Africa, with a view to stimulate north-south and south-south cooperation in financing digital programs in Africa, consistent the Action Plan for the WSIS.

The Agency will closely monitor ICT initiative in Africa with a view to assisting countries in their efforts to access resources to implement projects and programmes emanating from initiatives particularly e-Strategies under the African Information Society Initiative and the NEPAD ICT agenda for action. ADIFA will work closely with African Countries in there efforts to identifying sound and attractive projects. The Agency will forge strategic partnership with donors and play a catalytic role in facilitating donor and partnership interventions in projects and programmes and in this process, recognize the interest of African Governments based on the principles of NEPAD and the African Union on one hand, and Donor program orientation on the other. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, Public Private Partnerships and other forms of investments in the ICT sector in Africa will be encouraged towards the move to a knowledge based economy in Africa.

Background:

Realising the importance of Information and Communication Technology as catalyst to change and improvement of the lifes of African people, to play a more meaningful role in globalisation by achieving the goals of the millennium declaration through access to information and knowledge, which can, to a large extend, transform the minds of African people towards development and to negate the scourge of conflict, hunger, disease and poverty. The role of ICT in this context can be found in the African Information Society Initiatives which is the guiding framework for the entry of Africa in the Global Knowledge economy.

Also consistent with the thinking of a group of ICT experts at the last African Development forum held in Addis Ababa, that:

- Countries should be encouraged to undertake e-readiness surveys and putting in place National Information and Communication Infrastructure Policies, Plans and Strategies as the fundamental pre-requisite for projects financing.

- Outreaching financing for implementation of e-Government projects and other projects that will facilitate good governance under the Africa Good Governance agenda, will be given priority, along with projects for wealth creation.

Already, about 30 African countries have a National Information Policy, plans and strategies. ADIFA, therefore intends to start its activities of assisting in project identification and development as a means to implement African Action Plan for the Knowledge economy. Acknowledge the fact that the greater the number of projects, the need for access to increased resources for implementation, the narrower the digital divide in Africa and ultimately, improvement in the lifes of African people.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: This project is consistent with overall concern in the need to build capacity of action oriented organisations in Africa to help bridge the digital divide and respond to the WSIS in building an inclusive information society in Africa with increased financial resources.

Proposed Project activities:

ADIFA under its mandate will:

- Encourage donors and other financing entities to be responsive to the outcome of international conventions, consensus and recommendations for support to projects and programmes that directly or indirectly impact positively on lives of African people in the area of Information and Communication Technology development, with the provision of increased financial resources.
- Establish close link with Africa Regional and Sub-regional organizations, Bilateral and multilateral bodies with interest in financing ICT development in Africa.
- Monitor ICT initiative in Africa and assist countries in their effort to outreaching financial resources to implement projects and programs emanating from initiatives particularly e-Strategies.
- Assist African Countries in identifying projects and programs that have potential quality to meet the criteria of specific donors.
- Assist Governments, Civil Society, the private sector, women, youth and physically disadvantaged people in establishing relationship and partnership with financing mechanisms for information society development .
- Promote Public Private Partnerships, Multi-Stakeholder partnerships and other forms of investments in the ICT sub-sector in Africa.
- Promoting African information society by harnessing the potential of ICT in African countries as a catalyst to meet Global development targets eg. the MDGs, particularly in halving poverty by 2015.
- Encourage the Upholding of the principle of co-existence and equitable access to ICT resources by all African countries, in respect for the universal declaration of human rights.
- Assist African countries to take advantage of the WSIS declarations and Action plans.

- Collaborate with the AU Commission, ECA and other stakeholders to organize Donors and Partnership conferences to mobilize resources to implement Information society projects in Africa.

Sub/Regional benefits: Financial institutions more responsive to the implementation of e-strategies in accordance the WSIS action plan and the Accra commitments of 2005. African countries will realize increased number of ICT projects both in the public and private sector. Greater participation in information society activities by stakeholders and

economic benefits will be visible in the short term; all culminating to bridging Africa's Digital Divide.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Fully operational ADIFA to guarantee the following:

- Structured ICT projects to implement NICI policies and underlying e-strategies and other initiatives

- Partnership design, approached to meet national set-targets

- Models applicable under similar situations to defray transaction costs

- Funding that explicitly build capacity for sustainability and in achieving development goals of the Millennium Declaration and National PRSPs.

- Consider e-Government projects in the priority list, to take advantage of financial resources in the Global market.

- Development partners ensured of high implementation rate in programs related to ICT development in Africa.

- ICT Projects database for stocktaking and 'shop' for ICT projects in Africa will be accessible through ADIFA.

- Increase investment in ICT in Africa.

Risk Assessment: Lack of adequate political support - low risk; Lack of resources for implementation - high risk; Lack of adequate funding – high risk.

Budget:

The Capital and operational budget is estimated at $550,000 over a period of three years. 2005/2006 US$250,000, 2006/2007 US$150,000, 2007/2008 US$150,000

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Schedule and Milestones: Project approved by Development Partner - November 2005; Start project implementation – December 2005.

Priority: This project is considered high priority for Africa, as it seeks to contribute to bridging Africa's Digital Divide for human development and contributes to initiatives to overcome economic stagnation.

Long-term Sustainability: Implementation of muti-faceted ICT project in various sectors of the economy will avail African countries the readiness to participate and benefit from Globalisation. ADIFA will assist countries to forges effective partnerships with active participation of all stakeholders including the governments, private sector and civil society for a sustainable information society in Africa .

Submitted by: The African Digital Initiatives and Financing Agency (ADIFA)

Date: 5th July 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)
PROJECT 5

Target country/ies: Cameroon and CEMAC countries

Leading Agency/REC's/Stakeholders: *Advisory Network for African Information Society (ANAIS.AC) Prized « Best initiative for Development », Africa Télecom People Award 2004*

Potential Partners:
ECA, CIPA (Collectivite Ingenieuse de la Peninsule Acdienne) of New Brunswick in Canada, the Fondation du Devenir in Geneva, International Corps Volunteers (ICV) in Geneva, Don Bosco Institute (Cameroon), Ministry of Post and Telecommunication of Cameroon, National Employment Funds, African Computer Institute (Cameroon), ITU, Afriland First Bank for loan management.

Project Title : *Pro Poor ICT Capacity Building Proxi-Centres for Out-of-School*

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☐ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
    - ✓ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☐ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☐ **Information Society Indicators**
    - ✓ **Capacity Building**
- ☐ **Research & Development**
- ☐ **Internet Governance**
    - ✓ **Women and the Information Society**
    - ✓ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media, Local authorities, etc**
- ☐ **African Languages**
- ☐ **Persons with disability**
- ☐ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**
    - ✓ **Resource Mobilization & partnership**
- ☐ **Other**

Brief description:
This bottom up and needs expressed project aims to deploy a
network of 50 ICT proxi-centres in poor neighbourhoods of Cameroon major cities.
The project is piloted by an Organisation with a tracked record of grass root
mobilization; sensitizing at policy making level; lobbying at international level, and
unique expertise in the region in tele-centres management training. These
achievements have been acknowledged in 2004 by the Africa Telecom People. The

project here presented has two components:

1. Setting up and deploy a total of 50 ICT capacity building proxi-centres for Out of School Youth and Women in poor neighbourhoods in order to achieve:
   a. Social inclusion
   b. Universal access
   c. Economic rehabilitation
   d. Poverty reduction.
2. Setting up a small loan funds for start up Youth and Women social entrepreneurs.

The full deployment of the project will cover a 3 years span and , ultimately; become a Centre for Excellency in training of tele-centres and ICT social entrepreneurs managers.

Background:
Between 1990 and 2000, Cameroon faced a severe economic crisis which led to a decrease of salary in the public service, the devaluation of CFA franc (French Africa currency) and the slowing down of economic activities. This situation has increased poverty and unemployment mostly within the targeted population. A very conservative figure puts this around 30%, despite a lively informal sector. The data demonstrated:
- unemployment affected mostly young from 15 to 29 years old;
- women are affected more than men concerning skills and job market;
- unemployment is high because of inadequacy between education and job market and this is emphasize in out of school youth and women.

ANAIS.AC, prized **the best initiative for development in Africa in year 2004**, is looking for leading and visionary organizations, with deeply rooted social responsibility and engagement, willing to give hope to groups filled with potential but handicapped by lack of opportunities.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies:
The target groups all together constitute well over 70% of the country and region population. The Cameroonian government has pledged to create an inclusive Information Society through universal access. Therefore all the schools are going to be connected in a near future, completed by the launching of 5000 community centres in 5000 selected**.** Our target groups seems to be the missing link in this strategy. By filling that void, our project will complement the government and international development agencies efforts.

Proposed Project activities:
The project is the result of extensive grass roots consultation. It's built around the needs expressed and considered as the main hindrances to wealth, security and expression of rights by the communities. The multistakeholders managerial approach adopted by the project will enhance leadership at grass roots level; and thus; contribute to good governance and social accountability.

A quarterly working plan, an operating budget and a business plan will help the network be operated as social business enterprises.

Sub/Regional benefits:

This project is consistent with the sub/regional and national Strategy Document for poverty alleviation, which typically seek to exploit ICT for maximun social and economic development, to bridge the digital gap and create a truly and inclusive information society. It echoes the main political objectives assigned to information society: establish nationwide networks; provide universal access; roll out ICT SMIs

Anticipated Outcomes:
The proxi-centres network will achieve these results:
Train out of school youth and women in these practical, functional and non formal courses: - Management of multipurpose telecentres
- Websmastering for small and social businesses web design;
- Video animation for local contents ;
- Computer repair and services
- Provide the trainees with
    - Internet access;
    - Self training centre;
    - Self employment centre;
    - Low cost call centre.

Overall, this project emphasizes: autonomy and grass root oriented development, incubation of social ICT entrepreneurs, and creation of critical mass of ICT literate.

Risk Assessment:
Conducive political and economical environment; need for a national policy. High risk: lack of funding for implementation of the project; low/medium risk: lack of appropriate human resources; the target group is not able to afford the training.

Budget:
The total budget is US$ 350,000 for the two components over 4 years period: US$ 250,000 for the equipment and management of the 50 proxi-centres; US$ 100.000 for the start up Loan funds. The break down is as follow: 2005/2006: US$ 150,000 2006/2007: US$ 100,000 2007/2008: US$ 50,000 2008/2009: US$ 50,000

Schedule and Milestones:
Project approved by ARAPKE; Project pilot in Yaounde completed, end 2006; Project rolled out to other provinces in Cameroon, end 2008; Project rolled out to other CEMAC countries in the region, end 2009.

Priority:
This project is considered high priority both by Anais.AC and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications which endorsed the project. The sponsorship provided by ARAPKE will help for the deployment of the national network.

Long-term Sustainability:
The project has secured two critical conditions important for sustainability: a bottom up needs expressed project and a political back up by the Ministry of P&T. As for revenues generation; the users are ready to pay usage fees, negotiations are well advanced with the government institutions to make service and repair their computers by the trainees.

Submitted by: Robertine TANKEU KEUTCHANKEU
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Regional Coordinator Anais.AC
 Email: rtankeu@yahoo.fr

Date: 5th July 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECT 6

Target country/ies ECA's member' States

Lead Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Potential Partners: Institut Supérieur de l'Information et de la Communication (Maroc), Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Techniques de l'Information et de la Communicaion (ESSTIC), IICD, URTNA, Association of African Universities, African Union Commission.

Project Title: Empowering Media in the Information Society

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ❑ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ❑ **Infrastructure and access**
- ❑ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ❑ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☑ **Capacity Building**
- ❑ **Research & Development**
- ☑ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc**
- ❑ **African Languages**
- ❑ **Persons with disability**
- ❑ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**

Explain: The purpose of the project is to equip media training Institution with new programs and tool to cover all new skills required for media practitioners, researchers and other professionals, by the Information Society.

Brief description:

The main objective of the project is to strengthen a Regional Media Training Center, CESTI to establish an high-level Media PHD training School, with various courses related to Information System, Information Society and harnessing Information as an economic resource and the role of Media.

Background:

A key issue is how African societies can better understand whether, how and under what conditions ICTs can best be used in the fight against poverty and in the development process in general. Can ICTs be used to drive economic growth? Do they help to empower poor people by opening up educational and other opportunities? How can they be used to improve the quality and delivery of public services? What are the potentially harmful side effects of the new technologies and how are they best avoided?

In addition to being an essential means for information dissemination, the media plays a critical role in spreading awareness of the importance and benefits of the information revolution. Newspapers, radio and television provide easy, accessible and affordable means of carrying information to end-users. The mass media can access many of the existing sources of information and provide broad communication channels to the poor and to remote areas.

In many cases journalism training institutions are not well equipped to teach journalism for the information age with all the needed ICT competencies. Many trainers need ICT skills as much as do journalists. Some institutions do not have the necessary equipment. Curricula are often outdated. This is true in the developed world as much as in Africa.

There is an evidence of the importance of their role in promoting the information society in Africa and to strengthen the capacity of media institutions, researchers and professionals on the continent.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: CESTI was a sub-regional training Institution with good experiences in training Media professionals. The following project will extend its capacity and ensure the regional scope.

Proposed Main Project activities: The main components of the project will cover the feasibility study to institutional and human resource capacities building**.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Improved Infrastructure and increase in the range of 100 to 200%, the number of journalists and communication specialists trained per year

- Various courses related to communication for development, Information Society and the role of media

Risk Assessment: Difficulties to mobilize partners for the formulation and implementation of the project; Lack of resource for funding the project; Lack of political support within the hosting Country.

Budget:

Based on the above activities, two level of budget can be :

Feasibility Study: **50.0000 Euros**

Implementation: 1 Billion **Euros**

Total: **1 Billion fifty thousand Euros**

Schedule and Milestones: Start project implementation - April 2006.

Priority: This project is considered high priority for ECA and its partners, as it seeks better solutions for emergent issues in the Information Society in Africa context.

Long-term Sustainability: School of training well equipped with qualified trainers is subject of sustainability.

Submitted by: ECA (Development Information Services Division and Trade and Regional Integration Division) in collaboration with CESTI and ECOWAS.

Date: 01 August 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECT 7

Target country/ies Academia//High training Institutions and research centres in ECA's member' States

Lead Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Potential Partners: Association of African Universities, African Union Commission, NEPAD, Ford Foundation, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), African Development Bank, World Bank, the Canadian e-Policy Resource Network (e-Pol-NET).

Project Title: Nurturing Research and development in the Information Society

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☑ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ☑ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☑ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☑ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☑ **Capacity Building**
- ☑ **Research & Development**
- ☑ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc**
- ☑ **African Languages**
- ☑ **Persons with disability**
- ☑ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**

Brief description:

The main objective of the project is to support African research and higher education institutions to provide a leadership role to ensure that they become innovative contributors in building Africa Information Society through research activities on African emergent issues.

Background:

A nation's ability to fully develop an Information Society depends on the capacity of its people to be educated, to assimilate, and to process complex information. In this context, higher education institutions play a critical role, whilst repositioning themselves for the challenges of globalization and the information age.

Worldwide, academic communities have been part of a driving force in creating the Information Society, including spearheading intellectual leadership through a series of knowledge-building activities. They constitute a tremendous reservoir of expertise that could provide vital assistance working with governments, private sector and civil society in an increasingly globalized and complex world.

It is for this reason that four Academia Research Network (ARN) has been launched by ECA with Ford Foundation support, to bring the diverse and varied research activities in the field of ICTs and society to the attention of African researchers, signalling the need for academics to effectively engage in collaborative research activities on the continent and assert their intellectual role. These networks include:

ARN 1: African Languages and Content Development in the Cyberspace

Issues for research activities are:

- Determining the economic, political and technological aspects of language development in the Information Society;
- Building individual and institutional capacities for addressing language needs in the academic community;
- Providing an information and knowledge infrastructure for local language exchange and dissemination.

ARN 2: Measuring the Impact of the African Information Society

Issues for research activities are:

- Identification of indicators for measuring and benchmarking the information society;
- Assessing information society indicators;
- Determining the appropriate methodologies in the African context; and
- Determining the role of national statistics offices in the process

ARN 3: Measuring the Impact of the African Information Society

Issues for research activities are:

- Identification of indicators for measuring and benchmarking the information society;
- Assessing information society indicators;
- Determining the appropriate methodologies in the African context; and
- Determining the role of national statistics offices in the process.

ARN 4: Measuring the Impact of the African Information Society

Issues for research activities are:

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- Participation and involvement in global Internet issues in line with national priorities and needs;
- Developing the appropriate national legal and regulatory framework within countries such as electronic protection (encryption) to ensure the development of e-commerce;
- Supporting initiatives that building capacity in policy implementation based on socio-cultural and socio-economic conditions
- Advise countries on the establishment of cyberlaws and IP policies in line with their national e-strategies;
- Seek solutions on creating the appropriate IP infrastructure;
- Assist with the building of the requisite human resources necessary for managing IP regimes/systems;
- Develop human capacity in the area of cyber-laws.

Face-to-face meetings were organized to determine research themes and discuss how to operationalize each thematic network and coordinate agreed research activities; Each team came up with short-, medium- and long-term action plans. The results of short-term activities of the groups will be presented at the Tunis phase of the WSIS.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: This research and development initiatives in the Information Society is based on inter-universities collaboration on the continent and promote sub- and regional engagement. It focus on how African research and higher education institutions at national, sub-regional and global levels could provide a leadership role to ensure that they become innovative contributors.

Proposed Project activities: Since the research activities are only at the short-term stage, more remains to do to finalise and sustain these initiatives. Therefore the project will support the second and log term network research activities, including:

- The building of individual and institutional capacities for addressing language needs in the academic community, the provision of an information and knowledge infrastructure for local language exchange and dissemination;
- Research of definition of Impacts indicators and composite index with linkages with MDGs, PRSP;
- Cyberlaw, IPR, privacy, e-commerce legal framework & ICT Industrialisation policy and strategies in Africa.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Improved legislation and regulatory environment conducive to ICT deployment and development for an inclusive Information Society in Africa

- Development/Improvement of Africa language and local content in the cyberspace

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- Definition of Information Society scale indicators for better decision-making to ensure monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation and socio-economic impacts

- Promotion of content development and affordable hardware industries in Africa to ensure Information for all

Risk Assessment: Lack of adequate policy environment for engagement of Academics; Lack of resources for research activities; difficulties of collaboration between Universities because of availability of Research members

Budget:

Based on the first face-to-face meeting the second and long terms research activities cost for the three networks are estimated at::

Medium term activities: **600.000 Euros**

Long-term activities: **600.000 Euros**

Total: **1,200.000 Euros**

Schedule and Milestones: Start project implementation - February 2006.

Priority: This project is considered high priority for ECA and its partners, as it seeks better solutions for emergent issues in the Information Society in Africa context.

Long-term Sustainability: Findings of the research activities will help decision-makers for sustainable decisions and ensure the implementation of an inclusive Information Society on the Continent.

Submitted by: ECA (Development Information Services Division and Trade and Regional Integration Division)

Date: 01 August 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECT 8

Target country/ies East African Community and other part of Africa

Lead Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Potential Partners: Africa Youth Network in the Information Society (AYIN), African Union Commission, NEPAD, Ford Foundation, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), African Development Bank, World Bank, the Canadian e-Policy Resource Network (e-Pol-NET).

Project Title: Nurturing Research and Innovation in the Information Society

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☑ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ☑ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☑ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☑ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☑ **Capacity Building**
- ☑ **Research & Development**
- ☑ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc**
- ☑ **African Languages**
- ☑ **Persons with disability**
- ☑ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**

Brief description:

The main objective of the project is to support innovations, new entrepreneurships focusing on Youth and Women and multi-stakeholder Partnership where Academia, Industries, Outsourcing initiatives, Public sector can work together to promote the Continent socio-economic development.

Background:

Economies realities have always conditioned and being conditioned by, a wide range of social, economical, technical and cultural forces at both national and global levels. This historical period characterized by globalization and the emergence of an Information Society is certainly no exception. There are fundamental changes occurring in the structure and the nature in the global economy with its increase focus on knowledge and (Information as key factors of production and emphasis on global production and distribution of intangible goods and services.

These changes have led, and are leading to a fundamentally different global economy, which is being characterized variously as a knowledge economy, information economy, weightless economy, or a digital economy.

It is becoming increasing important that if Africa is to advance its Information Society, then emphasis should be placed on the economic viability of ICTs within countries. One concrete way of doing this is building capabilities and networks between public institutions such as governments and universities with the private sector in the area of technology parks and business incubation for the ICT sector. Incubation will nurture young firms, helping them to survive and grow during the startup period when they are most vulnerable.

Furthermore, through technology parks, countries can provide value-added services to increase their competitiveness by stimulating a culture of innovation among its associated businesses and knowledge-based institutions, promoting the transfer of knowledge and technology, and by actively fostering the creation of new and sustainable innovation-based companies through incubation and spin-off processes.

Some Africa Countries are experiencing the development either of incubators or for techno park and the success and socio-economic of this exercise are limited to the concerned country and vary from one initiative to another. Consequently, a multi-skills and multi-commodities super-regional centre, aims increasing the wealth of its community by promoting the culture of innovation and the competitiveness of its associated businesses and knowledge-based institutions is a must.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: This is Sub-regional technopole Initiatives which need to be supported by adequate legislative and regulatory policy harmonisation.

Proposed Project activities: Activities related to the establishment of the technopole will cover the following area:

- Feasibility Study : A comprehensible feasibility study based on success stories and failure need to be undertaken with ECOWAS and identify the thecnopole products, country , space and political support needed;

- Infrastructure deployment and implementation

- Partnership promotion for Technology High School implementation, for outsourcing, for data , Industry hosting.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Functional techno park, able to stimulate and manage the flow of knowledge and technology amongst universities, R&D institutions, companies and markets; it facilitates the creation and growth of innovation-based companies through incubation and spin-off processes; and provides other value-added services together with high quality space and facilities

- Specifics resultes/impacts include:

- employment creation;
- stimulation of economic activity through company creation;
- profit;
- technology transfer and marketing;
- revitalization of disadvantaged or rejuvenated zones;
- diversification of the industrial profile;
- promotion of some types of activities;
- promotion of some population groups.

Risk Assessment: Lack of adequate policy environment; Lack of financial resources; difficulties of collaboration at the level of the Regional Economic Commission.

Budget:

Based on the above the following provisional budget will be required::

Medium term activities: **50,000.000 Euros**

Long-term activities: 4 Billions **Euros**

Total: 4 Billions and 50 Millions **Euros**

Schedule and Milestones: Start project implementation – August 2006.

Priority: This project is considered high priority for ECA and its partners, as it seeks better solutions for emergent issues in the Information Society in Africa context.

Long-term Sustainability: The multi-stakeholder framework provided by the technopole can ensure its sustainability. This Center can really help to foster the Africa Inclusive Information Society implementation.

Submitted by: ECA (Development Information Services Division and ECOWA-EAC)

Date: 01 August 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

SUB-REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY TRAINING CENTERS

PROJECT 9

Target : ECA's member States and their National Civil Society entities

Leading Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), All African Regional Economic Commissions, The Africa Civil Society for the Information Society (ACSIS)

Potential Partners: La Francophonie, The African Development Bank (ADB), The ITU, The AU, UNESCO, UNDP

Project Title: African Civil Society Sub-regional training Centres

Programme/Project Focus Areas:

   Legal Environment/Enabling Environment

   E-Strategies and Policies

   Capacity Building

   Research & Development

   Women and the Information Society

   Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc

   African Languages

   Harnessing the Digital Diaspora

   Resource Mobilization & partnership

Brief description:

The Africa Civil Society sub-regional training centres for Information and Communication Technology for African Development (ICT4D) will have a training vocation for all African Civil Society entities in the five sub-regions of Africa. The Centres will provide the needed platform for

educating the Civil Society in all areas of and issues of the Africa Information Society Initiative – AISI. The Africa Civil Society sub-regional training centres for Information and Communication Technology for African Development (ICT4D) will address the training and capacity-building needs and will build on the agreed tenets of the Africa Regional Preparatory meetings for the WSIS, as well as the Africa Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy for a viable African Information Society.

The project may benefit from the existing structure like the ITCA in Addis Ababa (East Africa), the CSIR (Southern Africa), FOSSREC (West Africa) and the El Gazala Technopole (North Africa).

Background:

African Civil Society entities that have been more or less actively engaged either in the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as other development initiatives have grappling with the issue of capacity-building. There is a lack of knowledge in processes, planning, execution, evaluation and reporting. The basic technical know-how is also lacking in many areas.

Internally, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) do not master the basis of human rights, work ethics, and organisational management. These are clearly evidenced by the quality of input that African CSOs have been making in the spheres of global development debates.

This knowledge deficiency has been decried by CSOs at all meetings and consultations that have so far addressed an active multi-stakeholder participation in African development.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: The Africa Civil Society sub-regional training centres for Information and Communication Technology for African Development (ICT4D) project is consistent with the multi-stakeholder principle of the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). It falls in line with the desires expressed by African NGOs and civil society entities that have actively participated in the two processes mentioned above, as well as other regional, sub-regional and national fora in ICT4D. In all of these, training, developing competences, capacity-building, training, research and development have always been raised as priority issues.

Proposed Project activities:

- Train CSOs on ICT policies and strategies that advance the social, economic and political development of Africa and African communities;
- Seek and support African CS input/participation into a range of national, regional, continental and international ICT policies and programmes;
- Draft text, conduct research and collate information on African CSOs for use by all development stakeholders;
- Provide information for CSOs in an accessible format (including research/analyses) on ICT policies, strategies, initiatives and best practice;

- Promote and disseminate information on the use of a range of ICT for the promotion of human development to all CSOs;
- Translate any needed information into sub-regional languages;
- Host, as appropriate, conferences, seminars and other activities related to ICT;
- Develop human capacities and promote action-oriented dialogue in partnership with grassroots organisations, national, regional, continental and international institutions
- Facilitate networking to enable the sharing of information, expertise and best practices at sub-regional levels.

Sub/Regional benefits:

The Africa Civil Society sub-regional training centres for Information and Communication Technology for African Development (ICT4D) provide the needed infrastructural interface for Civil Society training, competences, capacity-building, training, research and development. These centres will become the junction for most multi-stakeholder activities in ICT4D for African sub-regions.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- A functional interface for a coordinated and effective Civil Society training and capacity building for an effective engagement in the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI)
- A viable civil society training mechanism that can answer to regional CSO knowledge deficiency
- A bridge to the language divide in the Information Society for African communities.
- A knowledge centre to all partners for Civil Society activities in ICT4D
- A dependable civil society knowledge and actions documentation centre.
- A knowledge mechanism for Civil Society input into policy process in ICT4D

Risk Assessment: Reticence on the part of the CSOs to train – low risk; Lack of funding for implementation – high risk.

Budget for Five Centers:

2,500,000.00 Euros over five years

2005/2006: 500,000.00 Euros 2006/2010: 2,000,000.00 Euros

Schedule and Milestones: Project implementation starts immediately after its approval by partners. Project approval is expected by November 2005.

Priority: This is of utmost important to the whole of the civil society entities in the African region and the African Diaspora as training and capacity lays the foundation of a knowledgeable Civil Society and a veritable multi-stakeholder participation in the deployment of ICT for Africa's development.

Long-term Sustainability: It is believed that with a careful management, the Centers will be fully self-sustainable by the fifth year.

Submitted by: Nnenna Nwakanma, on behalf of the Africa Civil Society Network on Information and Communication Technology for African Development (ICT4AD)

Date: July 29, 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

CIVIL SOCIETY FOUNDATION SECRETARIAT PROJECT 10

Target ECA's member States and their National Civil Society entities

Leading Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), The Africa Civil Society for the Information Society (ACSIS)

Potential Partners: La Francophonie, The ITU, The AU, The Commonwealth

Project Title: African Civil Society on ICT4D Secretariat

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☐ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ☐ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☑ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☐ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☑ **Capacity Building**
- ☐ **Research & Development**
- ☐ **Internet Governance**
- ☑ **Women and the Information Society**
- ☑ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc**
- ☐ **African Languages**
- ☐ **Persons with disability**
- ☐ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**
- ☑ **Resource Mobilization & partnership**
- ☐ **Other**

Brief description:
The Africa Civil Society for ICT4D Network Secretariat aims to provide a lean and efficient administrative platform for a coordinated and effective engagement of the African Civil Society entities in the deployment of Information and Communication Technology for the sustainable and balanced development of the African continent.

This project will give needed legal standing and base to the Africa Civil Society on the Information Society – ACSIS. It draws from the need for a balanced engagement in the Multi-stakeholder process of ICT4D and builds on agreed tenets of the Africa Regional Preparatory meetings for the WSIS, as well as the Africa Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy for a viable African Information Society.

The project will benefit from the existing structure which has worked for two years in a virtual way. It will boost the efforts going on at national levels and act a clearing house for Civil Society activities in the continent.

Background:
The representatives and delegates of the African civil society organisations, participating in the WSIS process since the beginning, have felt the need to better organize themselves, in a light, smooth running and efficient coordinating mechanism. This became a prerequisite at this critical phase of the process, for an effective and dedicated action. After months of online discussion, the African Civil Society entities engaged and active during the First Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in Geneva, Switzerland, in December 2003 constituted their network – the Africa Civil Society for the Information - ACSIS, a Non Governmental Organisation with a non-profit aim; the action domain being the use of Information and Communication Technology for African Development

ACSIS acts as an umbrella structure through which African Civil Society can influence policy and ensure that strategies and programmes enable the promotion of development: poverty alleviation, use of appropriate ICT for balanced development, participation of communities/civil society in policy and strategy development and the implementation of development initiatives. ACSIS:

PROMOTES the views and interests of African CS to ensure that new and traditional ICT can be utilised for promotion of sustainable development and the formation of an Information Society based on social justice and human development;

ADVOCATES & LOBBIES for the development of comprehensive and inclusive ICT strategies to address the digital divide;

INFORMS CS generally on national, regional, continental and international deliberations regarding ICT for development policies, strategies and initiatives for the promotion of balanced development;

ADVISES national, regional, continental and international institutions on the needs and interests of African CS;

BUILDS CAPACITY: develops capacities and promote action-oriented dialogue on our key aims;

NETWORKS and *PARTNERS* with grassroots organisations, national, regional, continental and international institutions to develop and add value to existing policies and initiatives aimed at promoting ICT.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: The ACSIS secretariat is consistent with the multi-stakeholder principle of the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI) and the

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World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). It falls in line with the desires expressed by African NGOs and civil society entities that have actively participated in the two processed mentioned and above, as well as other regional, sub-regional and nations for a in ICT4D.

Proposed Project activities:
- Advise on ICT policies and strategies that advance the social, economic and political development of Africa and African communities;
- Co-ordinate and support African CS input/participation into a range of national, regional, continental and international ICT policies and programmes;
- Ensure African CS representation (as appropriate) on a range of ICT related commissions or bodies
- Draft text, conduct research and collate information including drafting an African CS position document;
- Provide information in an accessible format (including research/analyses) on ICT policies, strategies, initiatives and best practice;
- Promote and disseminate information on the use of a range of ICT for the promotion of human development, to a range of stakeholders;
- Participate, as appropriate, in conferences, seminars and other activities related to ICT in order to advocate on behalf of and inform African CS and other partner stakeholders;
- Develop human capacities and promote action-oriented dialogue in partnership with grassroots organisations, national, regional, continental and international institutions
- Establish contact and partnerships with a range of stakeholders to enable the African CS to have input into policy formulation and implementation;
- Facilitate networking to enable the sharing of information, expertise and best practices.

Sub/Regional benefits:
The ACSIS Secretariat will achieve the needed canalization of Civil Society engagement for effective impact on national, sub-regional and regional levels. The civil society entities in all the six regions of the continent (including the Diaspora) will have a central point for exchange, sharing and action-oriented partnership. The ACSIS Secretariat will address the problem of an adequate interface between the governments and the private sector on one hand and the civil society on the other.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- A functional interface for a coordinated and effective Civil Society engagement in the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI)
- A viable civil society mechanism that can be traced from regional to the grassroots.
- A knowledge clearing house for Civil Society activities in ICT4D
- A trusted civil society knowledge and actions documentation centre.
- An easy and accessible advisory contact for Civil Society input into policy process in ICT4D

Risk Assessment: Lack of adequate political support in low-democracy countries – low risk; Lack of funding for implementation – high risk.

Budget:
1,200,000.00 Euros over five years
<u>**2005/2006**</u>**: 400,000.00 Euros**   <u>**2006/2010**</u>**: 800,000.00 Euros**

Schedule and Milestones: Project implementation starts immediately after its approval by partners.

Priority: This is of utmost important to the whole of the civil society entities in the African region and the African Diaspora as it lays the foundation of a veritable multi-stakeholder participation in the deployment of ICT for Africa's development.

Long-term Sustainability: The ACSIS Secretariat will enhance, enrich, educate end equip African Civil Society organisations in ICT4D. Not only will it lead CSOs into organisational sustainability, it will ultimately provide the missing (and needed) balancing interface for an inclusive African Information Society.

Submitted by: Nnenna Nwakanma, on behalf of the Africa Civil Society Network on Information and Communication Technology for African Development (ICT4AD)

Date: July 26, 2005

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

CIVIL SOCIETY FOUNDATION SECRETARIAT PROJECT 11

Target ECA's member States and their National Civil Society entities

Leading Agency/REC's/Stakeholders United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), The Africa African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN)

Potential Partners: AU, UN, YEN, Commonwealth

Project Title: Harnessing Information to empower Youth Leadership and Employment

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☐ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ☐ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☑ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☐ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☑ **Capacity Building**
- ☐ **Research & Development**
- ☐ **Internet Governance**
- ☑ **Women and the Information Society**
- ☑ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media etc**
- ☐ **African Languages**
- ☐ **Persons with disability**
- ☐ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**
- ☑ **Resource Mobilization & partnership**
- ☐ **Other**

Brief description:

The Vision of the African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN), is: "A networked generation of young Africans empowering themselves through ICTs and contributing to the continent's active participation in the Information Society"; its objectives include:

1. To ensure youth input into Africa's Information Society interventions
2. To maximize youth potential/energy in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, within the context of regional initiatives such as NEPAD and National strategies

3. To engage relevant stakeholders in the implementation of all aspects of the WSIS Plan of Action

This project will give needed legal standing and base to the African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN). It draws from the need for a balanced engagement in the Multi-stakeholder process of ICT4D and builds on agreed tenets of the Africa Regional Preparatory meetings for the WSIS, as well as the Africa Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy for a viable African Information Society.

The project will benefit from the existing structure, and extend to all Africa Countries to national Youth Network.

Background:
On the 15th of March 2004, several African Youths from various countries living in Africa and the Diaspora came together on the African Youth Information Society Initiative discussion list. The Discussion List was an initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in the framework of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI).

The discussion aimed to create a platform for African youths to share experiences and knowledge in order to help develop innovative approaches to their needs and to establish a dialogue with public and other stakeholders in devising and implementing the WSIS action plan at country and regional levels. The points of discussion are: Policies/Strategies, Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship and The way forward. At the end of the online discussion it was agreed by the participants that African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN) be formed to build a generation of young Africans empowered with ICT's to actively participate in the Information Society and invariably contribute to the development of the continent.

Thus on the 4th of February, 2005 the African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN) was inaugurated during the African Regional Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society that took place in Ghana.

Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies: The AYIN, which is regional Network, is consistent with regional strategy/integration and like ACSIS with the multi-stakeholder principle of the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Proposed Project activities:

Established the AYIN Secretariat

- Advise on ICT policies and strategies that consider Youth today and tomorrow causes;

- Co-ordinate and support African Youth Association input/participation into a range of national, regional, continental and international ICT policies and programmes;
- Ensure African Youth representation (as appropriate) on a range of ICT related commissions or bodies
- Draft text, conduct research and collate information including drafting an African Youth position document;
- Provide information in an accessible format (including research/analyses) on ICT policies, strategies, initiatives and best practice;
- Promote and disseminate information on the use of a range of ICT to empower Youth employment;
- Participate, as appropriate, in conferences, seminars and other activities related to ICT in order to advocate on behalf of and inform African Youth and other partner stakeholders;

<u>Implement Five Sub-regional Center on Harnessing ICT to empower Youth Leadership</u>

- Establish five Training Center on Youth leadership empowerment by harnessing ICT, in West, East, Central, South and North of Africa.

Sub/Regional benefits:
The AYIN Secretariat will achieve the needed canalization of Youth engagement for effective impact on national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- A functional framework for involving Youth in decision-making process related to building an inclusive Information Society in Africa established;
- Comprehensible network functional at national, sub-regional and global levels to foster Youth engagement in the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI) and WSIS implementation and beyond
- A viable Youth mechanism that can be traced from regional to the grassroots.
- A knowledge clearing house for Youth activities in ICT4D
- A trusted Youth knowledge and actions documentation centre
- Five Sub-regional Center well equipped established and functional

Risk Assessment: Lack of adequate political support in low-democracy countries – low risk; Lack of funding for implementation – high risk.

Budget:

Secretariat : 300,000.00 Euros
Training Center : 7,500.000 Euros

Schedule and Milestones: Project implementation starts in February 2006

Long-term Sustainability: The AYIN Secretariat will enhance, enrich, educate end equip Youth Associations in ICT4D. Not only will it lead Youth into organisational sustainability, it will ultimately provide the missing (and needed) balancing interface for sustainable involvement of Youth in the process.

Submitted by: AYIN Coordination

Date: August, 2005

Annex 1

African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

PROJECTS

Target country/ies…………………………………………………………………

Leading Agency/REC's/Stakeholders…………………………………………

Potential Partners:
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Project Title:………………………………………………………………….

Programme/Project Focus Areas:
- ☐ **Legal Environment/Enabling Environment**
- ☐ **Infrastructure and access**
- ☐ **E-Strategies and Policies**
- ☐ **Information Society Indicators**
- ☐ **Capacity Building**
- ☐ **Research & Development**
- ☐ **Internet Governance**
- ☐ **Women and the Information Society**
- ☐ **Multi-stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Youth, Media, Local authorities, etc**
- ☐ **African Languages**
- ☐ **Persons with disability**
- ☐ **Harnessing the Digital Diaspora**
- ☐ **Resource Mobilization & partnership**
- ☐ **Other**

Brief description:
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Background:

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Alignment with Sub/Regional Strategies:

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Proposed Project activities:

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Sub/Regional benefits:

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Anticipated Outcomes:

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Risk Assessment:

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Budget:

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Schedule and Milestones:

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Priority:

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Long-term Sustainability:

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Submitted by:………………………………………………………………………………….

Date:…………………………………………………………………………………………….