
ITU-EC HIPSSA Project

Support for Harmonization of the ICT Policies
in Sub-Sahara Africa

Jean-François Le Bihan

HIPSSA Project Coordinator

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



Committed to connecting the world

Agenda

- Background
- HIPSSA project's objectives
- Partner organisations
- Project implementation at two levels
 - regional and
 - national
- Project's activities and expected results
- HIPSSA launching meeting



Background

- An effectively functioning **ICT sector** is a key driver for development, growth and employment
- ITU and the European Commission join their efforts in a **global project** which aims at providing “*Support for the establishment of harmonized policies for the ICT market in the ACP states*”
- This global project entails **three regional sub-projects** addressing specific needs:

Sub-projects	Acronym	Duration
Project management (Mr. Sandro Bazzanella)		4 years
1. Support for harmonization of the ICT Policies in Sub-Sahara Africa (Mr. Jean-François Le Bihan)	HIPSSA	3 years
2. Enhancing competitiveness in the Caribbean through the harmonization of ICT Policies, Legislation and Regulatory Procedures (Ms. Kerstin Ludwig)	HIPCAR	3 years
3. Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island States (TBA)	ICB4PIS	2 years

- **Sub-Sahara Africa’s context** is specific:

- A previous project was implemented by the ITU and the EC in West Africa (CEDEAO/UEMOA)
- ICT regulatory harmonization was identified in many occasions as a key issue for development (WSIS, WTDC-06, NEPAD, MDG, etc.)
- Many initiatives in favour of harmonization have been or are currently implemented on the continent (SADC, COMESA, CEMAC, etc.)



HIPSSA project's objectives

- This is a scaled-up project of a previous **pilot project led by ITU and EC in the ECOWAS/WAEMU space** with similar objectives
- HIPSSA responds to regulatory challenges met by beneficiary countries in their attempts to **create a conducive environment for massive investments in ICT infrastructures and applications**
- HIPSSA is also an answer to the **needs expressed by beneficiary countries** in terms of capacity building in the fields of ICT and telecommunication regulation and « e-readiness »

- **The global objective is to provide support to creating harmonized policies for ICT for each beneficiary country in Sub-Sahara Africa**

- **Detailed objectives** are as following :
 - Developing and promoting ICT market policies and guidelines for individual ACP Countries
 - Supporting the regional organizations and the sub-regional economic groupings to develop and promote the use of harmonized ICT market policies and regulations in the area concerned
 - Building human as well as institutional capacity in the field of ICT through a range of targeted training, education and knowledge sharing measures



Committed to connecting the world

Partner organisations

- **HIPSSA project aims primarily at decision and law makers within ICT and telecommunication ministries and regulatory authorities but also at operators, civil society and all their representatives at national, sub-regional et regional levels**
- 43 beneficiary countries in Sub-Sahara Africa, their national ministries in charge of ICT and telecommunication and their national regulatory agencies for telecommunication
- Regional economic communities (ECOWAS, WAEMU, ECCAS, *CEMAC*, COMESA, IGAD, ECA, SADC, etc.)
- Regional associations of telecommunication regulators (WATRA, ARTAC, ARICEA, CRASA, ATRN, EARTPO ,etc.)
- African Union (AU) and the NEPAD's e-Africa Commission
- African Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB)
- African Telecommunication Union (ATU)
- Organisations with related activities : Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), African Union of Broadcasting (AUB), African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR)
- Operators and service providers associations (SATA, CETAO, AfrISPA)
- UN agencies (UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO)
- European Commission



Project implementation at regional level

- A first phase focusing on initial discussion and implementation at regional level will include the following steps
- A **launching meeting** in order to validate topics addressed by the project and their respective priorities, define specific sub-regional needs and agree on the project's global approach and its operational structure
- An **assessment** of existing regional harmonised frameworks, stakeholders constrains and opportunities and obstacles to regional models convergence
- Preparation of a **strategic and operational plan** towards the implementation of a **global vision** for ICT development on the continent
- **Production, validation and adoption** of
 - **policies** and
 - **harmonized legislative and regulatory frameworks**at **sub-regional and regional levels** in favour of a global ICT and telecommunication market in Sub-Saharan Africa
- A first row of actions in favour of institutional and human capacity building at regional level with a focus on training **regional trainers**



Project implementation at national level

- A second phase of discussion and implementation at national level will include the following steps
- **Appropriation** of harmonized regional framework by stakeholders in each beneficiary country in order to identify specific priorities and constraints for its national implementation
- **Transposition of regional guidelines** into the national legislative and regulatory frameworks of beneficiary countries in coherence with the national strategies of each of them
- A second row of actions in favor of institutional and human capacity building at national level with a focus on **training national experts on updated regulatory tools**
- A transversal component of information and knowledge sharing,, statistical data collection and interoperability of regulatory tools will be developed all along the project



Project's activities and expected results

- Competition policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks
- Licences and authorisations
- universal Service and Access
- Interconnection
- International roaming
- Financial and technical audits
- Dispute settlements
- Cyber-security
- Market statistics
- Knowledge sharing
- Model ICT policy and legislation
- Database of ICT market statistics
- Guidelines and national strategies for ICT development
- Costing models for ICT products and services including interconnection and other whole sales
- Spectrum, numbering and resources management guidelines
- Model license agreements
- Model national universal service policies, regulations, funding and procedures
- Dispute settlement guidelines
- Guidelines on technical and financial auditing
- Interactive training material for decision and law makers and regulators
- ...



Common points between HIPSSA and other projects

▪ Expected results

- Regional reference frameworks for national policies and regulations
- Institutional and human capacity building
- Support for national implementation guidelines adopted by regional economic communities

▪ Participative approach

- Calls for contribution and consultation procedures
- Validation meetings, appropriation workshops and training sessions

▪ Institutional setup

- A dedicated project team and a pool of ITU resources with specific expertise
- A network of regional and national focal points

▪ HIPSSA project added value

- Contribute to increased coordination between sub-regional harmonization initiatives and promote convergence towards a common reference framework for the ICT market in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Identify discrepancies among sub-regional harmonised framework
 - Strengthen collaboration among regional economic communities
- Elaborate a common vision towards the upcoming political and regulatory framework for ICT sector in Africa in 3 or 4 years time



Launching of HIPSSA project

- The **launching meeting** took place from 11 to 12 December 2008 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and gathered
 - experts from
 - regional economic communities and
 - ministries of their member states assuming their chairmanship,
 - representatives of sub-regional regulators associations,
 - representatives of regional operators associations,
 - representatives of Pan-African partner organisations,
 - representatives of the African Union's Commission and the European Commission
 - HIPSSA project team and experts from the ITU

- **Invitation letters** have been sent during the first week of November
- **Information letters** will be sent to all beneficiary countries in January

- The launching meeting's **objectives** are :
 - To re-confirm their priorities with beneficiaries define in which order they should be addressed
 - To agree on implementation steps and planning
 - To assess similar projects and establish collaboration mechanisms
 - To define the appropriate procedures of project management



Thank you for your attention

Sandro Bazzanella
ITU-EC Project Manager
BDT/PRI ITU-EC Project

sandro.bazzanella@itu.int

Phone: +41 22 730 6765
Fax: +41 22 730 5484

Jean-François Le Bihan
HIPSSA Project Coordinator
BDT/PRI ITU-EC Project

jean-francois.lebihan@itu.int

Phone: +251 11 551 4977
Fax: +251 11 551 7299

International Telecommunication Union Union Internationale des Télécommunications

Headquarters
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Regional Office for Africa
P.O. Box 60 005
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia



Committed to connecting the world