

ITU/BDT projects of interest in Africa Mrs. Chali Tumelo (ITU-BDT-Field Office)

As the world is about to experience the biggest change in telecommunication since the deployment of Central Office switches, bigger than the change from analogue to digital transport/transmission, inclusion of mobility as we communicate, this poses even a bigger challenge for Africa in terms of Network development and Management. This change involves the evolution of networks from discrete networks (fixed and mobile networks) to integrated networks being referred to as NGN (Next Generation Networks). Such are networks that would cater for broader range of services in addition to voice at the same time mobility being one of the main components to pay attention to.

In view of convergence in its widest sense (Telecom/IT/Broadcast), fixed and mobile networks and the internet, ITU, Regional office for Africa is focusing on issues of development of regional and national infrastructure vital in laying the foundation for more cost-effective access and delivery of broad range of services in which networks, if access to them is open, integration of national and global economy would depend. The national and regional infrastructures will form part of the Global Information Infrastructure (GII) an infrastructure where NGN will play a central role.

The ITU Field Offices in Africa are putting forward projects in harmonizing policy and regulation in view of convergence, capacity building in development and management of networks using MIS (Management Information Systems), in feasibility studies for networks of regional concerns and the Preliminary assistance to NEPAD.