



**ITU Regional Seminar on Broadband Wireless Access
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**The Applications of Satellite BWA Technology for
Rural and Remote Areas in Africa**

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1



Challenges facing rural and remote areas in Africa

- ❖ Many operators in Africa face the challenge of rolling out services in rural and remote areas which constitute over 70% of the total population of about 842 million people ;
- ❖ Appropriate basic telecommunications infrastructure such as satellite technology can meet operators' needs to deliver high-quality, low-and medium-capacity connections to remote areas quickly and more cost-effectively than traditional methods;
- ❖ Also the modern internet paradigm calls for wider bandwidth in urban and rural areas so that information exchange can also include complex files (drawings, graphics, audio-visual materials, music for tele-medicine and tele-education rather than the basic text and still photographs which slow dialup connections can handle (e-mail, word processing, photographs);
- ❖ Until such an infrastructure is in place continent-wide, the innovations in ICTs will not really benefit African people and can only contribute to widen the Digital Divide within African countries and between Africa and the rest of the world;
- ❖ **Connecting Africa to Africa and within African countries themselves in a cost-effective way is, therefore, a major challenge!**

2