Towards Implementation of NGN Conformance and
Interoperability
Infrastructure in Africa

ABSTRACT

In order to achieve the wider objective of bridging the digital divide and achieving digital inclusion, including through next generation networks (NGN), all barriers to objectives need to be broken down. Nonconformity to standards which leads to lack of interoperability between ICT systems poses an increasingly serious challenge for NGN deployment and to the delivery of enhanced services. Emerging markets such as those in Africa face the challenge and are in urgent need of effectively confronting it. This paper draws from some of the outcomes of ITU Regional Development Forums (RDF) in Africa such as those held in Accra, Ghana (May, 2008), Lusaka, Zambia (May, 2009) and the ITU/BDT Workshop on NGN conformance and interoperability (Nairobi, 2010). The challenge posed and actions that need to be taken; and the role that conformance and interoperability will play in ensuring that all ICT stakeholders are winners are emphasized. It is hoped that this paper will contribute towards strengthening the resolve to move forward and realize the implementation of NGN conformance and interoperability solutions that address the situation in African.

Key words and phrases:
Conformance and interoperability test beds, multi-stakeholder approach, supporting infrastructure
Africa