

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Forum on Telecommunication Regulation in Africa and in the Arab States took place in Rabat, Morocco, from 17 to 19 September 2001, at the invitation of the National Telecommunication Regulatory Agency (ANRT) of Morocco. The Forum was attended by more than 180 delegates from 44 countries and from international organizations.

The Forum, which was held under the high patronage of His Majesty King MOHAMED VI, was honoured by a royal message from His Majesty, read by the Counsellor of His Majesty, in the presence of the Prime Minister and a number of ministers.

Morocco was elected as Chairman of the Forum, Saudi Arabia and Zambia as Vice-Chairmen, and Cameroon as Rapporteur.

The Forum heard and discussed some thirty presentations from regulators, ministries, operators and consultants, addressing more specifically the topics of interconnection and spectrum management.

In the light of the debates held during its three days of meetings, the Forum:

1. on the basis of the report by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the creation of an African regulators' association, approves the creation of the "**African Telecommunication Regulators' Network**" for the African countries, and adopts the principles governing the functioning of the Network, which are set out in annex hereto;
2. instructs the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (ANRT) of Morocco to assure the permanent secretariat of the Network;
3. instructs the Chairman of the Forum to disseminate to the members of the Network any information of common interest, initiate and coordinate training activities and exchanges of expertise in the field of telecommunication regulation, gather requests and needs, and identify relevant resources;
4. expresses its gratitude to ITU for the support BDT has provided in the field of telecommunication regulation, and requests it to continue providing such assistance to the Network;
5. accepts the kind invitation extended by Burkina Faso to host the next meeting, at a date to be determined.

The Forum expresses its sincere thanks to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco, to the organizers and sponsors of the Forum.

The Forum adopts a Motion of Thanks instructing its Chairman to transmit an official telegram of gratitude to His Majesty King MOHAMED VI.

Done at Rabat, Wednesday 19 September 2001