

# Africa Profile 2010<sup>1</sup>

## Mobile

- The African mobile market has shown the highest annual growth rate over the last five years: in terms of mobile cellular subscriptions, the region is expected to average 27% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2005 and 2010, compared with about 25% in Asia and the Pacific and the Arab States, 17% in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), 12% in the Americas and 6% in Europe.
- By end 2010, ITU estimates that Africa will have on average 41 mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. Despite high growth rates, the region continues to lie far behind other regions, including the developing regions of Asia and the Pacific and the Arab States, where penetration rates are estimated to reach 68 and 79 per cent respectively.
- End-2009 mobile penetration rates varied within the Africa region, from below 10% in the Central African Republic and Ethiopia and Eritrea, to over 90% in South Africa, Gabon, Botswana and the Seychelles.

## Internet

- At the end of 2010, Africa is expected to be home to almost 80 million Internet users (out of a total of some 2 billion Internet users worldwide) and the region will have reached an Internet penetration of just under 10%, compared with 30% globally.
- Africa remains the region with the lowest Internet user penetration rate. By the end of 2009, over half of all countries in Africa had an Internet penetration of below 5%.
- At the same time, Africa's 2005-2010 average annual Internet penetration growth rate (CAGR) is the highest in the world (at 34%, compared with 26% and 18% in the Arab States and Asia and the Pacific, respectively).

## Fixed and mobile broadband

- By the end of 2010, ITU estimates that fixed broadband penetration in Africa will have reached only 0.2%, compared to 2.3% in the Arab States, 5.7% in Asia and the Pacific, 8.7% in the CIS, 15.5% in the Americas and 23.9% in Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> All 2010 data are ITU estimates.

- While by mid 2010, over 140 countries around the world were offering 3G services commercially, many African countries were still to launch commercial mobile broadband services. Indeed, by mid-2010, 3G networks had been launched in only about half of all African countries.
- By end 2010, mobile broadband penetration levels are expected to have reached 3.6% in Africa, compared with 9.6% in the Arab States, 7.1% in Asia and the Pacific, 24.2% in the Americas, 25.9% in CIS, and 46.2% in Europe.