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# Sustainability – Opportunities and Challenges for the Regulatory Association in the New Era

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# BACKGROUND



Apart from Madagascar and Seychelles

- Established in year 1997 under the Article 10.7 (b) of the SADC Protocol on TCM
- A consultative body to deal with the harmonisation of ICT regulatory framework in SADC
- Merged with SAPRA in June 2011 ( Ministerial directive) and current focus in harmonisation of postal and ICTs regulatory frameworks (maximisation of value and benefits of a converged policy and regulatory environment)

# BACKGROUND



- Enhance regulation and promote regulatory framework harmonisation in SADC
  - Promote investment in the sector
  - Promote regional integration (Merge the small national ICT and Postal markets to relatively larger ones and enable firms to exploit the achieved economies of scale)
  - Promote universal network development and universal access to postal and ICT services;
- Promote the adoption of best practices, exchange of ideas and information and expertise
- Act as a common voice for SADC Postal and ICT regulators on international arena (credibility, visibility and better negotiating outcomes at the international fora)

# BACKGROUND



- Guidelines Development
  - ICT Consumer Protection
  - Frequency Band Plan
  - Harmonisation of Frequencies for SRDs
  - Harmonisation of Frequencies for PPDR
  - Channeling Plans
  - Mutual Recognition of Type Approval
  - Human Resource Development
  - Gender Equality and Empowerment of Disadvantaged People
  - Interconnection & Tariffs
  - Universal Service/Access
  - Toolkit on Utilisation of USAF

# BACKGROUND



- Guidelines Development
  - Licensing
  - Fair competition and wholesale Pricing
  - Wireless Technologies
  - Wholesale Pricing
  - Numbering And Standards
  - Digital Broadcasting Migration Roadmap
  - Communication Strategy on Digital Broadcasting Migration
- Launched the Network for Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange in the field of ICT Policy and Regulation

# Current CRASA Focus (Projects)



- SADC Home and Away roaming
- Harmonisation of Type Approval
- Digital Broadcasting Migration
- Harmonisation of cross border communication
- Open Access to submarine cables and costing analysis
- Development of frameworks for harmonisation postal regulation
- Review of Guidelines
- Monitoring of national adoption of model guidelines into national frameworks
- Capacity Building

# TRENDS IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND GRANTS



- Establishment of TRASA was funded through the RTRP
- RTRP funded by the United States Agency for International **Aid** (USAID) (TRASA, continued to depend on the RTRP and successor USAID programmes as the main sources of financial and professional support during its early years through:
  - USAID and ITU paid salary for the TRASA Programme Manager from 1999 to 2001.
  - funding for office equipment
  - TRASA was housed in SATCC-TU offices in Maputo, Mozambique, during the formation process from April 1998 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 1999
- First permanent core staff recruited in year 2004 (grants were minimal from million US\$ to less than 100,000 per year (donor fatigue))



## SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES – CURRENT SCENARIO



- Great dependency on membership fees
  - Operational costs
  - Project implementation
- Commenced with revenue generation (success not foreseen in near future)
- In adequate Human and Skills capacity: One core staff and one supporting staff
  - To recruit one expert
  - To allow members to second third expert
- Dependency on Host : Financial and management accounting; internal audit services

# CHALLENGES TO GAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND GRANTS



- Minimal recognition of regional regulatory associations by development partners despite subsidiarity model between RECs and Regulatory association
- Proliferation of regional regulatory associations with overlaps in membership (due to overlap in REC membership) – duplication in requests for assistance on similar projects
- Minimal financial assistance from RECs to implementing agencies
- Donor fatigue

# Conclusion



- Need for regional initiated projects and coordination among RECs and Regional Regulatory Associations in soliciting of funding
- Need for increased political will in harmonisation of policies and regulations
  - Need to seek funding from internal resources (seek private sector participation)



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