

**African Telecommunications Union
(ATU)**

**AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION'S STATUS OF WRC-15
PREPARATION**

1. Preparations: preparatory meetings and technical studies

Acknowledging the importance of WRCs and taking into account the many complex agenda items for WRC-15, and based on the experience of WRC-12, the region under the ATU framework commenced preparations for WRC-15 in good time. Specifically, the 1st African Preparatory meeting for WRC-15 (**APM15-1**) was held in Dakar – Senegal from 18 to 20 March 2013 which was only three (03) months after WRC-12. The main outcomes of APM15-1 were establishment of an ATU work plan for WRC-15 preparations; appointment of chapter coordinators; adoption of the African Spectrum Working Group (AfriSWoG) framework; established templates for proposals for subsequent APMs; established future work plan on the GE-06 frequency plan modifications and coordination in view of the second digital dividend.

In accordance with the work plan established at APM15-1; **APM15-2** was held in Khartoum – Sudan from 27 to 30 January 2014; **APM15-3** was held in Abuja – Nigeria from 26 to 29 January 2015; and finally **APM15-4** as the fourth and final was held in Nairobi – Kenya from 20 – 23 July 2015. APM15-4 attracted a record number of 36 African countries as well as number of participants of about 300 in the history of APMs. The region also convened two AfriSWoG meetings which enabled the region to input technical papers to the work of ITU on the technical aspects for use of the second digital dividend. AfriSWoG also undertook studies on the current and future planned use of the C-band; IMT spectrum requirement estimates by the year 2020 in the African region; and introduction of digital sound broadcasting including optimization of the GE84 (the FM plan).

Apart from the APMs, the region has actively participated in the ITU WRC-15 preparatory activities notably the two Conference Preparatory Meeting, the Joint Task Group 4-5-6-7 and Radio communications study groups.

2. Outcome of preparations and highlights thereof

The main outcome of the preparatory process has been the adoption of common positions on about 80% (i.e. 64 out of 82 total issues) of the WRC-15 issues which will be inputted to WRC-15 as African common positions/proposals (the full APM15-4 report in annex refers). Considering the diverse national and sub-regional aspirations, the 80% success rate is a significant achievement. The region will endeavour to reach agreement on the remaining issues before or during the WRC-15

itself taking into account the new information and development surrounding the 18 open issues. The African common positions/proposals main highlights include:

1. A fair balance between spectrum for digital terrestrial television broadcasting (470 – 694MHz) and mobile-broadband (694 – 862MHz);
2. Earmarking portions of the L-band (1 350 – 1 400 and 1 427 – 1 518) for mobile services to spur mobile broadband for social – economic development;
3. Preservation of the core C-band (3 600 – 4 200MHz) for c-band based satellite services considering that these services are life-line services in the tropical countries of Africa and also that in some countries the services now support communication for civil aviation;
4. Technical aspects (channelling plan and out-of-band-emission) of use of the second digital dividend that enables its immediate use;
5. Additional spectrum to Earth exploration-satellite service in the band 7 190-7 250 MHz to enable gathering of high resolution imagery to aid in climate change mitigation strategies;
6. Global aeronautical mobile (route) service allocation in the frequency band 4 200-4 400 MHz exclusively reserved for Wireless Avionics Intra-Communications (WAIC) systems operating in accordance with recognized international aeronautical standards. WAIC systems seek to reduce / eliminate cabling of some systems on planes thereby enhance safety, reduce plane weight, enhance efficiency and reduce fuel consumption;
7. Primary allocation to the Radio Location Service on a worldwide basis, limited to automotive applications, between 77.5 GHz and 78 GHz which will enable development of anti-collision vehicular systems hence enhance road safety;
8. Improvements to ITU Satellite resource use (orbital and frequency) procedures to address the special needs of the developing countries notably the Orbital slots for delivering international public services in developing countries (e.g. the ITSO's Common Heritage);
9. Technical and regulatory measures to ensure protection of VSATs used for the transmission of aeronautical and meteorological information in the frequency range 3.4 – 4.2 GHz from other services operating in the same or adjacent frequency range;
10. Retention of Resolution 80 and support for the continued efforts of the ITU pertaining to the implementation of due diligence pertaining to the use of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbital resources; and
11. Full support to the urgent and crucial issue of Global Flight Tracking (GFT) which will enhance Africa's civil aviation safety rating.

3. Expected Impact

The eleven (11) highlighted issues above all point to quest to continue on the path of a balanced development of the radiocommunications and hence ICTs in Africa. The proposals seeks to provide a platform on which DTT, satellite services, mobile broadband, civil aviation communications, will flourish for continued social-economic development by attracting foreign direct investment, job creation, provision of e-services including e-governments, enhanced social interaction, enhanced economic activity, etc.









4. Next Steps (Way forward)

Equipped with robust African common positions/proposals, the region under the framework and coordination of ATU will actively participate at both the RA-15 and WRC-15. As with WRC-12, the region will endeavour to have daily regional caucus meetings in order to review progress and devise appropriate strategies. The region will also use these caucus meetings to make every effort to reach an African common position on the 18 open issues. In the meantime, the sub-regions are endeavouring to progress on the open issues and may propose African common position(s)/proposal(s) for the consideration of the region (via correspondence or during ATU caucus meetings during WRC-15 itself), as necessary.

Annex



_Report APM15-4
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 Annex 5-1 APM15-4 Inputs and outcomes	 Annex 5-2 APM15-4 Inputs and outcomes	 Annex 5-3 APM15-4 Inputs and outcomes
 Annex 5-4 APM15-4 Inputs and outcomes	 Annex 5-5 APM15-4 Inputs and outcomes	 Annex 5-6 APM15-4 Inputs and outcomes
 Annex 5-7 APM15-4 Inputs and outcomes	 Annex 6 - Proposed text for the Revision	