



PLENARY MEETING

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Note by the Secretary-General

**CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

Further to the information given in Document 3, I have the pleasure of transmitting to the Conference, in annex, the candidacy of:

Mr Jean Philémon KISSANGOU (Republic of the Congo)

for the post of Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union.

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General

Annex: 1

Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and
the Digital Economy

Cabinet

No. 0328/MPTEN-CAB/22

Republic of the Congo

Brazzaville, 14 March 2022

From
the Minister

to

the Secretary-General
of the International Telecommunication Union
Geneva - SWITZERLAND

Subject: Candidacy from the Republic of the Congo for the post of Director of the
Telecommunication Development Bureau

Dear Sir,

Pursuant to your circular letter CL-21/41 of 27 September 2021, I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Congo, to transmit to you the candidacy of Mr **Jean Philémon Kissangou** for the post of Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, elections for which are to be held during the next plenipotentiary conference from 26 September to 14 October 2022 in Bucharest (Romania).

Mr Kissangou holds three master's degrees, in information and telecommunications, in telecommunication regulation and policy, and in data sciences. He also has 20 years of experience, first as technical director of an Internet services provider and subsequently as a manager with the local regulator in the digital communications sector, responsible for universal access. Since 2009, Mr Kissangou has concentrated on research and published numerous scientific papers. He is the author of two books in the field of telecommunications.

Beyond this, Mr Kissangou's candidacy is motivated by a vision and a global strategy for telecommunication development, which he wishes to implement with all his managerial skill and professional rigour.

With this candidacy, the Republic of the Congo reaffirms its wish to contribute to the dynamic ongoing work of the International Telecommunication Union in seeking to bring the benefits of telecommunications to the greatest possible number of the world's citizens.

You will find in the attachment hereto the curriculum vitae of Mr Kissangou.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Léon Juste Ibombo
Minister

[Official stamp]

My vision statement

By 2030, one fifth of unconnected people in the world will have access to broadband networks and services, to access information, participate in the economy and thrive.

To achieve this vision, my strategy for the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) has five pillars:

- 1 Universal access to broadband
- 2 Innovation, partnership and investment
- 3 Governance, transparency and leadership
- 4 Consumer protection
- 5 Sustainability in the telecommunication industry

1 Universal access to broadband

Anyone anywhere has access to broadband.

Telecommunications in the twenty-first century are based on broadband networks and services, which alone can stimulate the economy, develop enterprise, create jobs, boost innovation and improve quality.

As director of BDT, my action in this domain will focus on supporting and guiding States and communities to help them develop and implement realistic and appropriate broadband policies and regulations.

In this way, the development of an effective broadband ecosystem will, among other things, make it possible to boost broadband adoption, currently just 15.8 per cent for fixed and 77.3 per cent for mobile (ITU, 2021).



My vision as director of BDT is to connect the one-fifth of the 3.7 million people worldwide who still don't have access to broadband.

In the fairly recent past, the COVID-19 pandemic led to production shutdowns around the world, revealing the necessity of broadband for the continuity of economic and social life.

As such, broadband will remain an important catalyst and a tool for resilience in development, both in normal times and in any future crises.

Ultimately, our engagement in the years to come is to make broadband available to everyone worldwide as the critical lever for the development of the modern society.

2 Innovation, partnership and investments in the telecoms sector

BDT to support innovation and strengthen investment through intelligible partnerships

The credo of BDT will include a multi-faceted commitment to support innovation and research in the digital technologies sector.

To that end, **the Bureau will take measures to monitor and support technological innovation.** Innovation is at the core of growth, job creation and opportunity growth. Thanks to innovation, new systems and new applications have been created in all areas of human activity (education, health, agriculture, industry, administration, energy, government, IoT). These new contributions will allow us to envision and then to build a world that will be better than the one in which we presently live!

We will ensure that BDT, accompanied by partners, creates a framework favourable to the development of national and community policies so that ICTs support or even induce innovation.

For that, a reinforced intelligence unit dedicated to innovation will be created within BDT. For North America, Europe and Asia, given the maturity of the environment (strong growth, great experience, large markets), **the Bureau will work to support partnerships between structures, such as the private sector and research.**

Global flows of foreign direct investment were gravely affected by the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, falling by one-third to one trillion United States dollars, well below the low point reached after the global financial crisis one decade earlier. The effect was particularly damaging for investments in new infrastructure projects in the developing world.

In the IT sector, a total of 1.085 billion in foreign investment were expected in 2018 (UNCTAD, 2017), and the contribution of mobile technologies and services in 2023 was expected to reach 4.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) worldwide, or some 4.8 trillion US dollars, up from 4.6 per cent in 2018 (GSMAi, 2021).

In these circumstances, **we will strengthen these trend forecasts by helping countries and communities to develop policies and regulations that promote domestic and foreign investment.** Depending on whether a government is stable, just being set up, or in transition, the strategy applied to promote investment in the telecom/ICT sector appropriately will differ.

We will discuss with the private sector to put in place a permanent framework for exchange and action to foster innovative and efficient investments, in coordination with the ITU Bureaux in charge of standardization and radiocommunication.

3 Management, quality assurance, governance

A BDT that promotes management, quality assurance and governance.

An important pillar of my programme is performance in the management of BDT. **We will establish KPIs with intelligently chosen metrics to track the performance of BDT officials, whether at the ITU headquarters in Geneva or in its 15 regional and subregional offices.** Following discussions with the stakeholders, each office will receive a roadmap. The objective for the office, and for the activity, will be that all officials contribute more to the accomplishment of our objectives.

In the first year of my mandate **we will gradually launch action aimed at defining and implementing within our offices a quality assurance system based on international standards, to verify and validate that the office meets quality requirements in a wide sense.** The ultimate goal is for the office to facilitate execution of the procedures and bring about continuous improvements in performance, responsibility and governance.

We will maintain and strengthen cooperation initiated by the Bureau with traditional project partners (countries, aid agencies, study and research centres, operators, and so on), and bring about the necessary reorientation in the way that projects have been deployed already. First of all, we will initiate monitoring and evaluation of projects already implemented so as to draw the lessons from past experiences and thus ensure that future projects are implemented in the best possible manner, facilitating genuine digital inclusion without discrimination. In order to do so, **we will work on good project selection, management in line with modern standards, and an insistence on good governance.**

4 Consumer protection

A BDT that considers consumer protection as a major matter and acts accordingly.

Faced with the increasing complexity of telecommunication services—broadband networks, smartphones, OTT and social networks—and the imperfect nature of the information, consumers run the risk of falling victim to all sorts of abuses, notably those emanating from telecommunication/ICT operators. In some cases, consumers are at a disadvantage because laws and regulations to protect them are weak or simply non-existent. The consequences of such abuses are poor quality of service, violation of liberties, and the negative impact that has on their social well-being.

Our strategy and action on the matter will be to focus on the empowerment of consumers around the world, by remaining uncompromising and vigilant where the performance of regulators is concerned and by ensuring that they perform oversight on operator activities.

Thus we will ensure that consumers are empowered and genuinely involved in telecommunication questions. To do this, **we will act by using awareness-raising and capacity building, and by involving governments, regulators, operators, consumers' associations and the media.**

5 Sustainability in the telecommunication sector industry

A BDT that contributes to ensuring our planet remains hospitable for humans

BDT will guide ITU in the achievement of Agenda 2030 and contribute to the ecological transition in the ICT sector. BDT will contribute to the unique role ITU plays in accelerating the achievement of the United Nations sustainable development goals (Agenda 2030).

We will contribute so that this aspiration materializes with the implementation of new projects that promote technological innovation (goal 9); and we will ensure that the potential of broadband technologies contributes more to the well-being of populations (goal 3).

Furthermore, by ensuring that regulatory bodies work on questions such as tariffs and universal access, ITU will contribute much more effectively to reducing inequality around the world (goal 10).

Incidentally, in terms of the ecological transition in the telecom/ICT sector, it has been observed that the amount of energy consumed by digital technologies is growing at 8 per cent annually, while the use of rare metals such as tantalum and cobalt is growing at 12 per cent. This increase accounts for some 24 per cent of the sector's carbon footprint (GISW, 2010).

By contributing to the search for innovative solutions (deep transformation of energy systems, use of green energies, reduction of energy use by ICT equipment, etc.), ITU will play a bigger role in telecom industry decarbonization, and thereby contribute to strengthening a society that is sustainable (goal 16).

BDT's ultimate role will be to contribute to achieving energy efficiency through innovation in the energy systems in the digital technology sector, leading to a transformation of the technology landscape for energy. This will require the prior establishment of appropriate policies strengthened by regulatory measures that promote the development of clean, safe energy systems.



KISSANGOU

Jean Philémon

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jean Philémon Kissangou has a proven track record with 19 years' experience as a telecommunication and digital technology manager, working in private and public-sector organizations as well as in the non-profit sector. He began his professional career in 2006 in the private sector, as technical director in one of the largest Internet service providers in his country, and indeed in the central Africa subregion. During those first years of the new millennium, Africa was just going through the Internet boom, with the development of broadband technology projects. Mr Kissangou was able to contribute to the introduction of the Internet to households and SMEs for the first time in his country, and to make users aware of the benefits of Internet-based networks and services. During this time, he also raised the awareness of the population to the advent of an inclusive information society.

Between 2006 and 2009 (when the major submarine cable projects were being launched in Africa), Mr Kissangou, in addition to his private-sector work, acted as a consultant in the Telecommunication Ministry, where he was heavily involved in the reflections and negotiations on projects for connecting the country to submarine cables (SAT3, ACE and WACS). In 2011, he participated in negotiations with the World Bank on the Central African Backbone (CAB),

an integrative backbone project bringing together the six countries of central Africa in order to bring some 28 million inhabitants online with the submarine cable systems.

Between 2010 and 2017, Mr Kissangou headed the universal service management service of his country's regulator, the Regulatory Agency for Posts and Electronic Communications (ARPCE). He was one of the key participants when his country established its national strategy and policy on universal access and universal service in telecommunications/ICTs. During the same period, he managed, with support from a specialized consultancy, a cost and tariff-calculation project for fixed and mobile telecommunication operators. To this day, his work remains a standard reference for updating tariffs on the telecommunication/ICT market of the Republic of the Congo and of the subregion.

Since finishing his studies in telecommunications in Senegal in 2003, Mr Kissangou has been very active in the global Internet and telecommunication community, and he played a notably significant role in the preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). He has also made a wide variety of contributions within international organizations including DiploFoundation, ISOC, ICANN, and ITU.

- **DiploFoundation:** in 2005 Mr Kissangou was the support person for PrepCom3 , the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee, in the secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Geneva (Switzerland). Mr Kissangou is an expert alumnus in Internet governance from DiploFoundation.
- **ICANN:** from 2008 to 2011 Mr Kissangou represented the central African region on the management board of AFRINIC, the regional Internet registry for Africa.
- **ISOC:** since 2007 Mr Kissangou has been the president of his country's chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC), where he was instrumental in the initiative regarding Internet governance meetings in central Africa. He was also responsible for another initiative: knowledge dissemination projects on the Internet and its governance for pupils and students.
- **ITU:** in 2012 he worked at BDT, in the Geneva headquarters of ITU, on studies that are available in the Bureau regarding two important subjects: (1) universal service and (2) roaming. Upon conclusion of the work, he produced a summary report, which was discussed and registered. He also participated in many meetings and workshops of ITU, and contributed to numerous projects including ONE Africa and the HIPSSA project on the harmonization of ICT policies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Entrepreneurial work in digital technologies

In 2019 Mr Kissangou created TASA, a financial inclusion company that has given numerous graduates of schools and universities their first professional experience.

Public service in the domain of university education

In addition to his intense involvement in telecommunication and digital technology institutions, Mr Kissangou is involved in higher education for young Africans. In 1998, 25 years ago, he was at the origin of a new non-profit organization called African Centre for School and University Assistance and Promotion (*Centre Africain de Complémentarité Scolaire Universitaire et de Promotion, CACSUP*). This institution is represented in eight African countries (Republic of the Congo, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Benin, Gabonese Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Madagascar) and has trained over 13 000 young Africans in management, industry, IT and digital technologies.

Mr Jean Philémon Kissangou was previously nominated for the post of Director of BDT at the 2018 elections. That nomination was withdrawn in favour of the numerous other candidates.

Work, leadership and governance have always been the pillars that characterize Mr Kissangou. Furthermore, his moral integrity is without reproach, in his country, in the subregion, and internationally, where he has been working for more than 20 years.

Mr Kissangou has continued his studies to remain current in the digital domain (blockchain, machine learning, big data, artificial intelligence). He is working on a doctorate, having previously obtained two master's degrees, most recently from the University of the Witwatersrand (Republic of South Africa). He has published two books on telecommunications, one in 2015 and one in 2017. He has also published research papers, most recently one on fintech companies and the banks, and another on fixed broadband service offerings in the OECD countries.

Jean Philémon KISSANGOU

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E-mail kissangou@gmail.com, Philemon.kissangou@arpce.cg



Name: KISSANGOU Jean Philemon
Country: Republic of the Congo
Matrimonial status: Married, with three children

TRAINING

- 2021** **PhD candidate**
University of Bangui, Faculty of Economic
Science and Management
Bangui, Central African Republic
- 2016** **Master's degree in ICT policy and regulation**
University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003** **Master's degree in telecom**
Higher Multinational School for
Telecommunications (ESMT)
Dakar, Republic of Senegal
- 2009** **Diploma (undergraduate) in
telecommunication regulation**
University of the West Indies at St.
Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
- 1993** **Electrical engineer**
Higher Polytechnic School, Brazzaville,
Republic of the Congo
- 2003** **Certificate in project management**
Innovit, Dakar, Republic of Senegal
- 2005** **Certificate in Internet government**
DiploFoundation, Geneva, Switzerland

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 19 years of experience in digital technologies,
telecom/ICT policies and regulation
- Since 2019**
Africa director
TASA SA (a start-up)
- 2010-2018**
Head of service, universal service management
Regulatory Agency for Posts and Electronic
Communications (ARPCE), Brazzaville, Republic
of the Congo, senior policy and regulation expert
- 2004-2007**
Consultant—new technologies direction
Ministry of Telecommunications, Brazzaville,
Republic of the Congo
- 2005-2015**
Teacher of new information and communication
technologies (NICTs)
- 2006-2009**
Technical director
DRTVnet (Internet service provider)
- ## EXPERT AND CONSULTANCY ACTIVITIES
- 2005**
Internet Governance Office, United Nations
Office at Geneva, Switzerland
Support to WSIS PrepCom3
- 2012**
Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT),
ITU, Geneva, Switzerland
Analysis and synthesis of in-house studies
universal access/service and roaming

CIVIL ACTIVITIES

- President of the Congolese chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) **since 2007**
- African Coordinator of African Centre for School and University Assistance and Promotion (*Centre Africain de Complémentarité Scolaire Universitaire et de Promotion, CACSUP*), with a presence in eight African countries, **for 25 years (since 1998)**, which has educated more than 13 young people in higher education
- Member of the I2N (National Digital Identity) initiative under the aegis of the international college of the French Association for Cooperative Internet Naming (AFNIC), **since 2012**

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- 1 Accès et services universels en télécoms/TIC dans les pays en développement : Planification, financement et contrôle. [Universal access and services in telecommunications/ICTs in developing countries: planning, financing and monitoring]. Edilivre 2015, Paris, France (139 pages).
- 2 Protection des consommateurs dans le secteur des télécommunications : enjeux, arnaques, et défis [Consumer protection in the telecommunication sector: issues, scams and challenges]. Edilivre 2016, Paris, France (99 pages).
- 3 Un village en émoi (a novel), published by CACSUP

Master's thesis:

Development of broadband ecosystem in Congo-Brazzaville

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa

Papers:

- 1 Internet Governance (2005), DiploFoundation
- 2 Fintechs and banks - a systematic literature review
International conference on "FinTech & financial institutions", Libreville, September 2022
(accepted for presentation)
- 3 Empirical Patterns of Fixed-Broadband Technology Service Offerings and Implications: Insights from OECD Countries (forthcoming) (Research Policy).

Honours

Afrinic board member award (2008-2011)

LANGUAGES

- French (official language)
 - English (language of study)
 - Portuguese (basic)
 - Lingala
 - Kikongo
-