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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations |
| African Telecommunication Union Administrations’ support for the Approval of Recommendations ITU-T D.52, D.53, D.97, D.261 and D.271 at WTSA-16 |
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| **Abstract:** | This contribution is based on the final report of the meeting of Study Group 3 of ITU-T, in which five draft Recommendations were considered mature and Determined by the meeting. This important contribution aims to ask WTSA-16 to approve these five draft Recommendations. |

Introduction

This contribution is based on the final report of the meeting of Study Group 3 of ITU-T, in which five draft Recommendations were considered mature and determined by the meeting.

This important contribution aims to ask WTSA-16 to approve these five draft Recommendations.

To recall, the Study Group 3 of ITU-T is the Study Group in charge on principles and methods of accounting, pricing, economies and related issues. To this end, it works to make the prices of telecommunications services as affordable as possible to enable access for all, taking into account the profitability of operators. In addition, the Recommendations developed by the Study Group targets for affordability, cost-oriented, a decrease or elimination of negative economic impacts on the populations for provision of services.

Context

The fourth meeting of ITU-T Study Group 3 in the study period 2013 to 2016 was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 22 February to 1 March 2016.

The last meeting in the 2012-2016 study period included over 138 delegates from 50 Member States. The Study Group has a record number of 141 contributions against 56 in 2015; a substantial increase of more than 40%.

The meeting of ITU-T Study Group 3 had numerous lengthy debates on topics as varied as broadband internet connectivity, universal service, international roaming, the OTT (Over the Top) and mobile financial services. Africa has produced many contributions and recommendations on these topics, which are of interest to African people but which are also challenging to operators in the region.

Discussion

The discussions in this fourth meeting of SG3 have yielded many results. Thus, nearly fourteen (14) temporary documents have been developed to address all issues, and five (5) draft Recommendations were considered mature and determined by the meeting. These are:

1) Draft new Recommendation ITU-T D.52, "Establishing and connecting Regional IXPs to reduce costs of International internet connectivity";

2) Draft new Recommendation ITU-T D.53, "International aspects of universal service";

3) Draft revised Recommendation ITU-T D.271, "Charging and accounting principles for NGN";

4) Draft new Recommendation ITU-T D.97, "Methodological principles for determining international mobile roaming rates";

5) Draft new Recommendation ITU-T D.261, "Principles for market definition and identification of operators with significant market power – SMP".

Many African countries have undertaken reforms for the development and accessibility of broadband and lower cost of roaming calls. All these reforms will be able to improve the living conditions, increase inclusion, improve the regional and international trade, and contribute to the improvement of governance and accountability.

The objective of those African countries is for the provision of infrastructure and affordable telecommunications services for all of its population. This goal should be achieved with a favourable international regulation and Recommendations, which would facilitate implementation of this objective.

 AFCP/42A11/1

Proposal

Given the importance of these issues for the African countries as well as for the developing countries in general; and for the benefits that can be derived for their people, African Member States are proposing to the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16) to approves these five draft Recommendations.