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| itu-logo | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 18 December 2017 |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 65**SG2/JZ | **To:**- Administrations of Member States of the Union;- ITU-T Sector Members;- ITU-T Associates;- ITU Academia from the Africa Region |
| **Tel:** | +41 22 730 5855 |
| **Fax:** | +41 22 730 5853 |
| **E-mail:** | tsbsg2@itu.int | **Copy to:**- African Telecommunication Union (ATU);- African ICT Consumers Network (AICN); - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);- East African Communication Organisation (EACO);- The League of Arab States;- The ITU Regional Office for Africa Region;- The ITU Area offices for Africa;- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Group 2;- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Group 2 Regional Group for East Africa;- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |
| **Subject:** | **Creation of ITU-T Study Group 2 Regional Group for Africa (SG2RG-AFR)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to inform you that ITU-T Study Group 2, *Operational aspects of service provision and telecommunications management*, at its 1 December 2017 closing plenary meeting decided to create ITU-T Study Group 2 Regional Group for Africa (SG2RG-AFR) as defined in WTSA-16 Resolution 54.

Participating in SG2 meetings, which are mainly held in Geneva, pose constraints to some African stakeholders with limited resources. The creation of a regional group of SG2 in Africa will be instrumental in discussing, tuning and fostering African contributions to SG2 to bring the African point of view to the attention of SG2 membership.

Study Group 2, at its 1 December 2017 closing plenary meeting asked Mr Anthony Ikemefuna from Nigeria and Ms Susan Nakanwagi from Uganda to convene the first meeting for the SG2 Regional Group for Africa. The meeting further noted that SG2RG-EA (SG2 Regional Group for East Africa) will be ceased after the establishment of the leadership and management team for the new SG2 Regional Group for Africa.

The main objective of the Regional Group will be to encourage National Regulatory Authorities and Operators from countries in Africa to work together for better implementation of ITU-T Recommendations relevant to SG2, and to facilitate better participation and involvement of these entities, as well as experts from the Africa region in general, in the activities of SG2, and to contribute effectively to its work.

The terms of reference and working methods for the ITU-T Study Group 2 Regional Group for Africa (SG2RG-AFR) approved by Study Group 2 are set out in **Annex 1.**

Yours faithfully,

*(signed)*

Chaesub Lee
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau

**Annex:** 1

**ANNEX 1**

**Terms of Reference for ITU-T Study Group 2 Regional Group for Africa (SG2RG-AFR)**

1. To encourage active participation of the Africa Region Member States, Sector Members, National Regulatory Authorities and Operators in the work of ITU-T SG2, its workshops and other relevant events.
2. To urge and stimulate the African countries to get involved, and to contribute, to the work of ITU-T SG2, and in particular on New/Revised Recommendations developed by ITU-T SG2; this may include submitting consolidated contributions from the region.
3. To identify and encourage studies on topics relevant to ITU-T SG2, according to the priorities set by the region. This could include, but not limited to: Fixed and Mobile numbers, identifiers and Codes; Global Shared Codes; M2M, Internet of Things; misuse of national and international numbering resources, Calling Party Number Delivery, Alternative Calling Procedures; impact of the Internet and convergence of services and/or infrastructures, such as OTT, on regional telecommunication networks and services; Digital Financial Services and Telecom Finance; etc.
4. To disseminate and share in the Africa region relevant information among the region provided by ITU-T SG2, its workshops and from other related standardization and technical bodies, on Operational Aspects of Service Provision and Telecommunications Management.
5. To facilitate the dissemination of information to African experts on important and emerging topics of SG2 available within SG2 or its workshops and tutorials, to be acquainted with these issues and to support their involvement in SG2 through mailing lists and/or physical participation, and to support their capabilities to prepare contributions to SG2.
6. To offer help to African potential experts interested in joining and taking part in the e-mail list informal discussions, to increase participation of African experts in the work related to the Questions.
7. To identify specific training needs for operators and National Regulatory Authorities in Africa relevant to the work of ITU-T SG2; and to coordinate the organization of technical in-depth tutorials in the region on such topics jointly with ITU-T SG2.
8. To act as a liaison between the telecommunication operators, regulators of Africa, regional standardization bodies and ITU-T SG2, to ensure that ITU-T SG2 takes advantage of the relevant information on regulations applicable to telecommunication networks and services in Africa, including specific challenges that could be taken into consideration while developing Recommendations.
9. To assist African administrations, National Regulatory Authorities and Operators in the implementation of the ITU-T SG2 Recommendations in the region.
10. To cooperate with the relevant respective regional organizations, standardization bodies and ITU regional offices.
11. To foster the discussion and study of scenarios on the allocation, usage and management of Telecom NNAI resources in the region; as well as to study the challenges experienced in regard to the need of these resources, their assignment, their use and/or misuse, faced by operators and regulators in Africa; and to recommend strategies for the optimal usage of these resources necessary for the effective provision of communications services in the continent.
12. To report on its work to the plenary meeting of its parent SG2.

# Working Methods

The ITU-T SG2 Regional Group for Africa will mainly work electronically and by correspondence through designated focal points and will consider having face-to-face meetings when possible.

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