**Media Extract-**

The **ITU Regional Workshop on ICT statistics for Africa** was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies and the National Statistical Office (NSO) of Malawi with the support of the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) in the city of Lilongwe, Malawi, from 20 to 21 March 2018.



The workshop which was officiated by **Mrs. Erica Maganga** the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies of Malawi on behalf of the Minister of ICT, Hon. Nicholas Dausi***** attracted **69 participants** representing **24 countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) academia, private sector and the ITU. The event was also attended by **Mrs. Mercy Kanyuka**, Commissioner for Statistics and Mr. **Godfrey Itaye**, Director General of MACRA.

One of the immediate outcomes from the workshop is that countries in the region are much more aware of the IDI indicators, computation and timelines for data submission. This is expected to result in more accurate, complete, and timely submission of ICT data to ITU and a better measurement of ICT's contribution, gaps and requirements for the region. Another immediate outcome is the increased awareness and enrollment to the expert group activities (EGH EGTI). The expectation is that there will be more participation from the Africa, both on the online forum and during face-to-face meetings in respect to the new indicators and the IDI. Finally member states were encouraged to establish legal and institutional frameworks for national coordination on ICT data and set-up mechanisms and partnerships to conduct regular ICT survey with a focus on advanced technologies, services and applications. This will address the many demand side data gaps and challenges. On ITU's part there is need for additional capacity building and engagement with stakeholders on new indicators for the IDI with a specific focus on the measurement of ICT skills and the compilation and verification of broadband data (coverage and speed).