

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS- STATUS OF CONFORMITY AND INTEROPERABILITY AND RELATED INITIATIVES IN SADC. AWARENESS AND CAPACITY ON C&I IN SADC, CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE, ASSISTANCE REQUIRED AND TRAINING CAPABILITIES

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Status of C&I in SADC

- SADC is attractive to investors and should not be shortchanged and need to reap maximum benefits;
- SADC prefers to talk to suppliers with one voice;
- Testing lab needed within SADC but the cost of funding the lab high - it is expensive to have a lab in individual countries;
- Better economic value should be ensured

Status of C&I in SADC

- **CRASA Perspectives on Conformance and Interoperability**
 - No labs in SADC except in ICASA
 - All equipment are just coming into the region without certification
 - Switches would be passing through certification labs from their countries of origin/manufacture but not the user equipment
 - Substandard equipment is being passed into SADC without a means of verification of their compliance with standards leading to interoperability problems; a lot of counterfeiting exists in the region with regard of ICT equipment
 - The cost of certification needs to be known once the regional labs are set up
 - A regional lab is preferred not one belonging to a particular authority in a SADC member state

Initiatives by SADC on C&I

- The member states through the SADC secretariat have initiated the process of implementation of C&I infrastructure through initiatives including:
 - *Request to the ITU on June 11, 2013*
 - *Digital Terrestrial Transmission migration programme*
 - *SADC ICT Development Plans*
 - *SADC Ministerial Decision*
 - *CRASA Initiatives on C&I*

Findings

- ***Capacity for C&I on in SADC***
 - No training on migration among SADC member states
 - No C&I test facilities in SADC member states
 - no training for/or trained trainers (TOT) on C&I within SADC
 - No C&I training for consumers of ICTs

Findings

- SADC very urgently need complete C&I capacity building
- Further, from the discussions with SADC Telecommunications/ICT officials it emerged that:
 - There appeared to be inadequate dissemination of information regarding the ITU test centre in Tanzania; this is needed to have the stakeholders in the SADC region fully updated of the status and scope;
 - SADC views C&I within the overall context of digital migration, implementation of the digital dividend programme and standards sensitization in the region
 - a validation workshop for the C&I assessment results and training courses should draw participants from ministries in charge of ICT, RECs (SADC), regulators (CRA&A membership), operators (SATA membership); and consumer organizations - those that deal with consumer issues in the national regulatory authorities and other consumer organisation representatives.

THANK YOU!