THE UGANDA STANDARDIZATION PROCESS : LEVEL OF UTILIZATION OF ITU STANDARDS

BY BUGABA
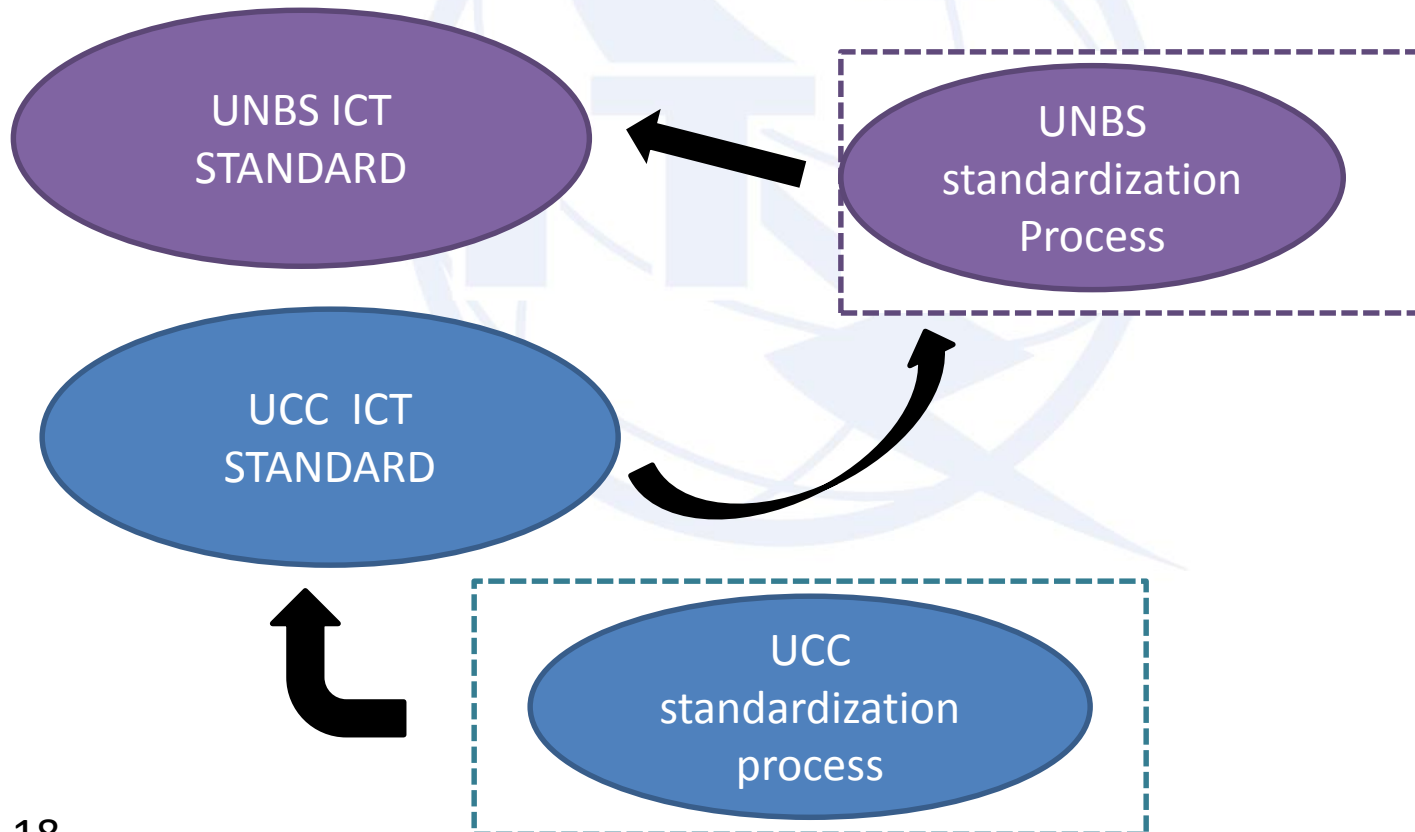## UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

AGENDA

1. Background to Standardization in Uganda
2. MoU Arrangement working
3. The Uganda standardization Process
4. The UCC standardization process
5. Typical ICT Standardization Incentives
6. Areas in Uganda where Standards have been initiated so far
7. Comparison of use of standards
8. What can be improved
9. The preferred future

Background to Standardization in Uganda

- Responsible agency in Uganda is Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)

- However the UC Act of 2013 sets Uganda Communication Commission (UCC) for ICT standards (Legal confusion)

- Most area so standardization (health, products, food, clothes etc.) are clear with UNBS but ICT is not so clear

- The MoU between UNBS and UCC allows UCC to set ICT standards but they are published by UNBS.
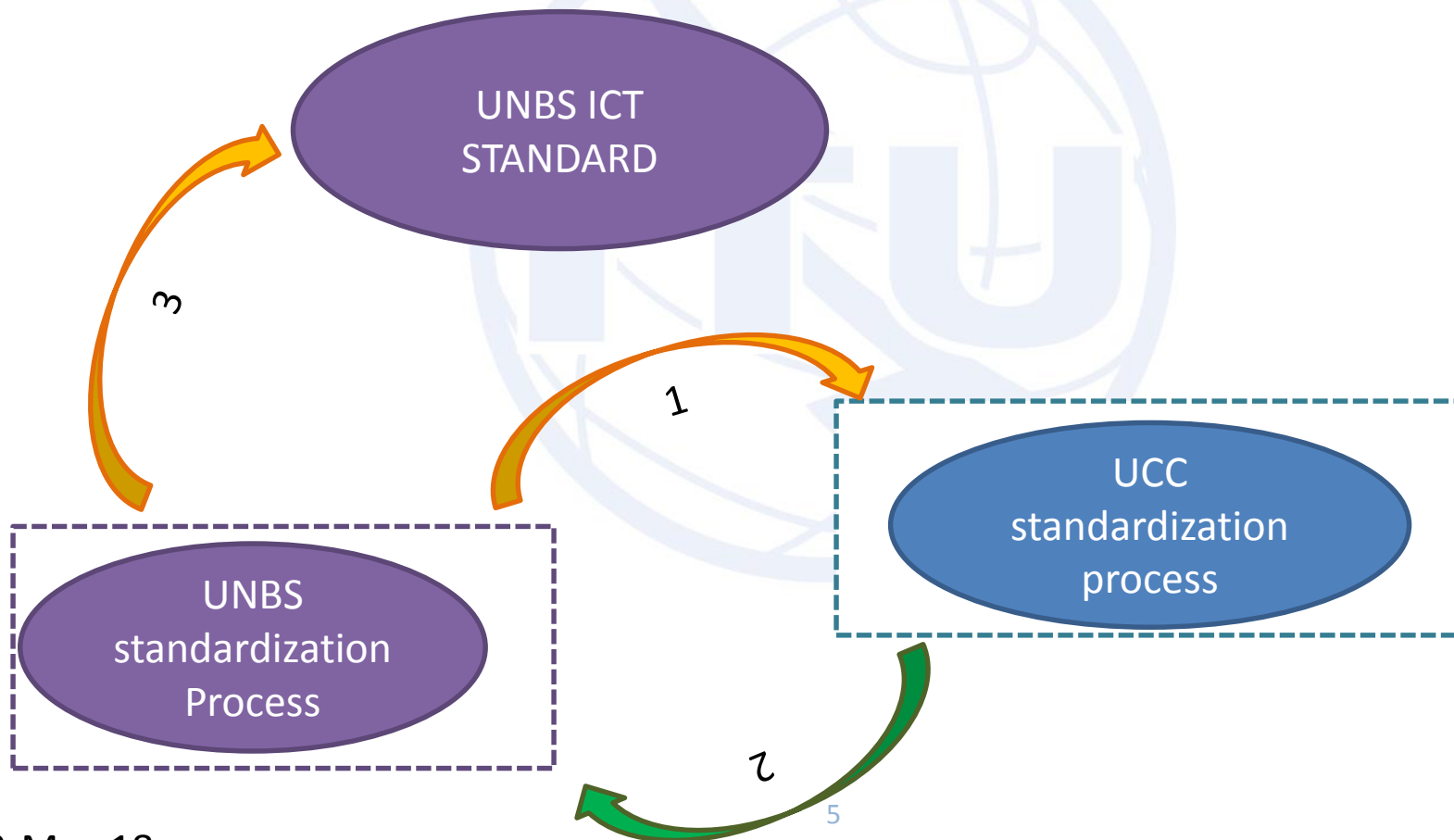
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MoU Arrangement working

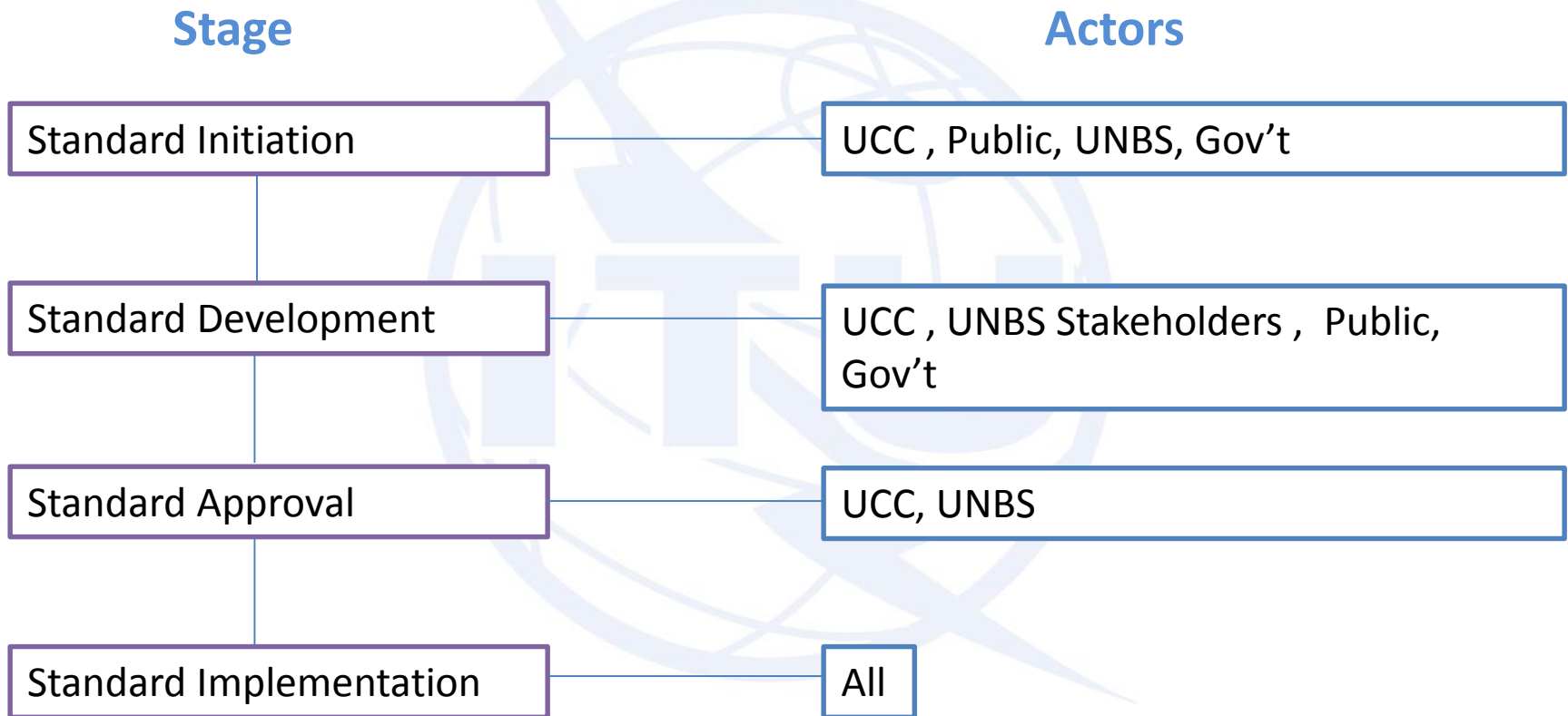- UCC initiated standard

MoU Arrangement working

- UNBS initiated standard

Issues with MoU

- It is working amorously

- It is slow

- It respects the existing laws

- It confuses other stakeholders

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The Uganda standardization process

Stage

Actors

Standard Initiation	UCC , Public, UNBS, Gov't

Standard Development	UCC , UNBS Stakeholders , Public, Gov't

Standard Approval	UCC, UNBS

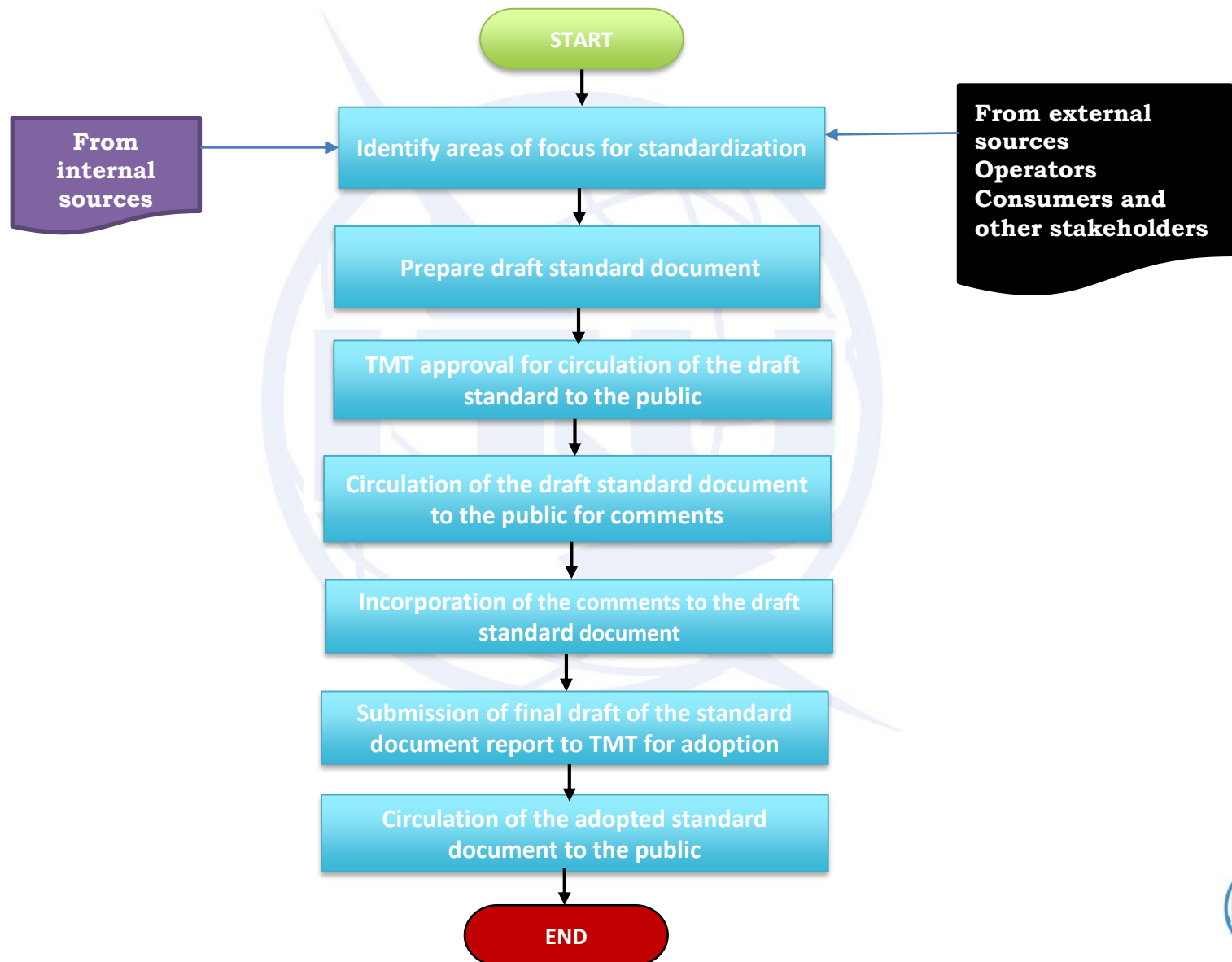| Standard Implementation	All

Issues with the Ugandan Process

- Too many actors are required for credibility
- The too many actors make it a slow process
- On many occasions only UCC UBOS and Gov't are involved
- Standardization is not "interesting" to many stakeholders
- Other stakeholders are missing at the Approval process

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The UCC standardization process

- Step 1: Standard's Initiation
- Step 2: Standard's Development
- Step 3: Standard's Approval
- Step 4: Standard's Implementation

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The Ugandan standardization Process flow

START

Identify areas of focus for standardization

From internal sources

From external sources Operators Consumers and other stakeholders

Prepare draft standard document

TMT approval for circulation of the draft standard to the public

Circulation of the draft standard document to the public for comments

Incorporation of the comments to the draft standard document

Submission of final draft of the standard document report to TMT for adoption

Circulation of the adopted standard document to the public

END

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Typical ICT Standardization Incentives

- Grey area in Uganda not clearly covered by recognised SDOs(ITU, IEEE and ISO)

- Areas of special interest to local situations

- Areas of public interest

- Areas that have public problems and need urgent solution

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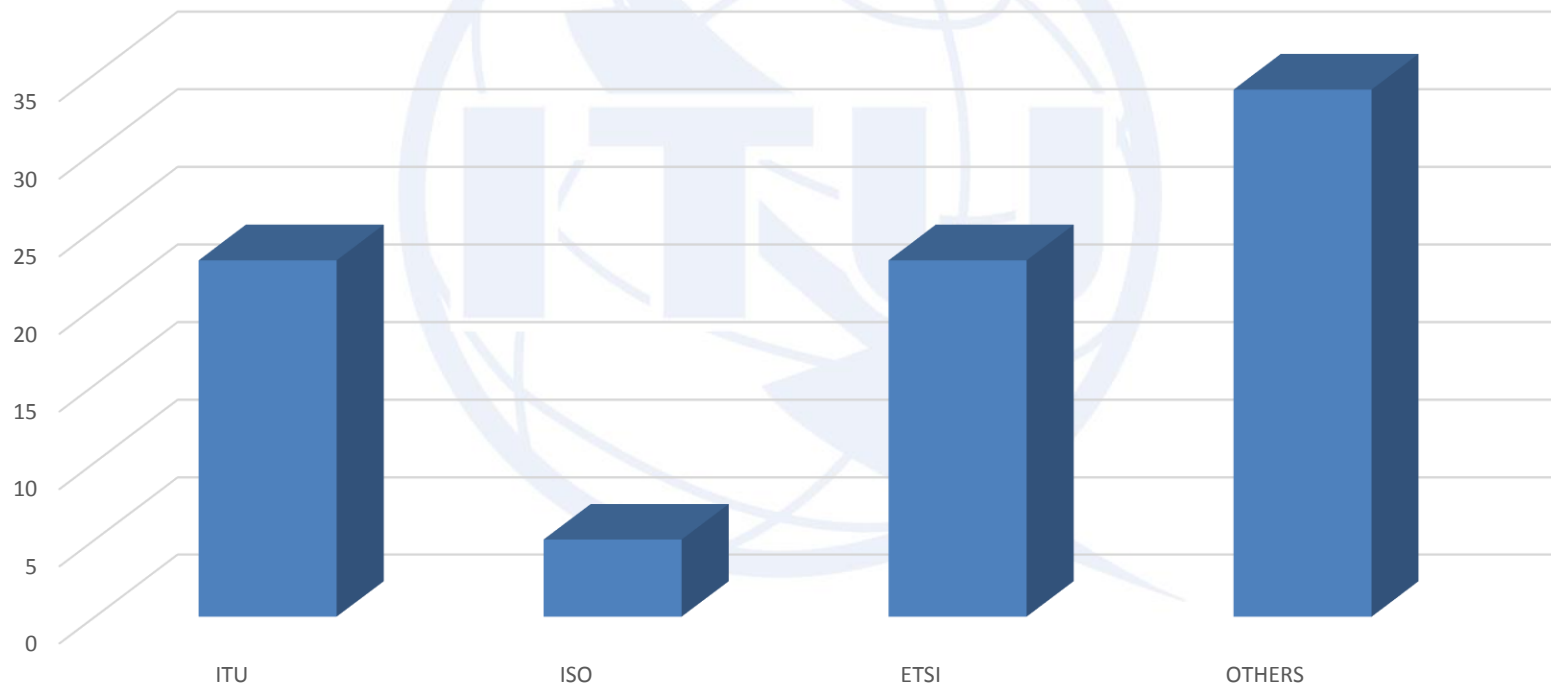# Areas in Uganda where Standards have been initiated so far

- Quality of Telecommunication (Voice & Data) service
- Quality of Postal service
- Radio equipment use
- Digital Broadcasting
- Mobile Money
- Electromagnetic field Measurements
- Environmental Impact Assessment

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Areas in Uganda where Standards have been initiated so far……

- Uganda has worked on 15 standardization activities in the telecommunication area

- All these have used standards from ITU, ETSI, ISO etc.

- ITU standards have been used in most cases

- There is a significant use of standards from other SDOs like IEC, EN, BS

Comparison of use of standards

No. Used standards in the period 2005-2018

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Issues of use of Standard

- Cost of access (internet, hard copies etc)
- Ease of access (membership, first registration)
- Clarity of content
- Relevancy to what is being done
- Availability of assistance

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Recommendations for increased use of ITU standards

- ~~Cost of access~~ ITU has been addressing that
- Ease of access
- Further Group ITU Standards according to Target group
- Indicate Target group of each standard
- Clarity (WTSA Resolution to write a guide for use)
- Relevancy
- Availability of assistance

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Observations on ITU standards

- They remain the base standards
- ITU standards are understandably too many
- They are sometimes too difficult to utilize (Navigate, Utilize, adapt,)
- No readily available help
- Mostly sort out the FUTURE before it happens while most developing countries sort out the NOW as it happens

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END THOUGHTS

For developing countries:

- ITU standards are the primary standards

- Other standards sometimes prove much easier to use than ITU standards

- Most countries want to develop own standards hence ITU should strategize

- ITU to establish links to national standardization bodies

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Thank you for your attention

SIMON BUGABA
STRIPLEB@UCC.CO.UG