



The e-SADC Strategy Framework

The e-SADC Strategy Framework is the outcome of a series of activities to leverage on the potential of ICTs for improving the economies of the SADC sub-region. The Framework was prepared under the auspices of the SADC Infrastructure and Services Directorate. The e-SADC Strategy Framework is part of the e-SADC Initiative and undertaken in the context of the SADC-UNECA Multi-year programme of collaboration between the two institutions.

The preparation of the e-SADC Strategy Framework involved a wide range of stakeholders. The purpose of the e-SADC strategy framework is to serve as a guideline for the implementation of the Information Society in the sub-region. It consists of three forward-looking, long-term and action oriented themes in planning towards realizing the SADC vision, with seven strategic objectives fully consistent with the SADC priorities. The three themes are: Theme 1: Enabling the delivery of quality ICT services; Theme 2: E-applications and innovation; and Theme 3: Governance of the e-SADC Strategy. The seven strategic objectives that have been identified to support the three overarching themes include Conducive legal, policy and regulatory environment for the development of an ICT culture; Develop the ICT infrastructure and security; Invest in human resource development; Development of e-applications including e-government; Increase the usage of ICT in business; Develop an ICT industry; and Development of institutional mechanism.

In order to achieve these strategic objectives, the eSADC strategy framework identified 45 action lines outlined under each of the three overarching themes and the respective strategic objective. The document is presented in to two parts. Part I contains an introduction which gives the background and rational for the strategic framework including the development processes of this framework. This part also provides a contextual overview from three perspectives – global, regional and sub-regional specifically on SADC sub-region. As a situational analysis for the framework, the first part also provides an analysis of the opportunities and challenges that the strategic framework is going to be implemented. Part II covers the e-SADC strategy framework which is structured under the three overarching themes outlining the actions identified to achieve the seven strategic objectives. This part ends with a conclusion that emphasizes the need for SADC Governments to show the same vision and commitment to fully exploit the opportunities offered by ICTs. As reference to measure achievements and progress made by SADC Governments in implementing the eSADC strategy action lines, the current status of ICT Development in the SADC region is provided as Annex I to this document.

The e-SADC strategy framework, which aims at harnessing ICT for enhancing socio-economic development and regional integration, was approved by SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICT at its Annual Meeting held from 10 to 13 May 2010 in Luanda, Angola.

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