



Economic Commission for Africa

# E-Strategies

National, Sectoral and Regional  
ICT Policies, Plans and Strategies

Sub-committee on Information and  
Communication Technology: ICT and Governance

**Third Meeting of the Committee  
on Development Information (CODI)**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
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ICT Policies, Plans and Strategies

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Communication Technology: ICT and Governance

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# Table of Contents

1. E-strategy Framework in Africa .....	1
2. National E-strategies .....	2
2.1. Developments since CODI II .....	3
2.1.1 Countries ready for implementation .....	3
2.1.2 Countries in the process of policy formulation .....	4
3. Regional Activities .....	6
3.1 The sub-regional level .....	6
3.2 The continental level .....	7
4. Recent Global Developments .....	8
5. The Sectoral Dimension .....	10
5.1 Governance .....	10
5.2 Education .....	13
5.3 Health .....	13
5.4 E-commerce .....	14
5.5 Local content and African languages .....	14
6. Lessons Learned .....	15
6.1 NICI process analysis .....	15
6.2 Lessons learned at the regional level .....	16
6.3 Global perspective .....	16
7. The Way Forward .....	17
Annex I: National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Strategies .....	18



## African Information Society Initiative - AISI

AISI is a common vision for Africa's quest to bridge the digital divide.

It was adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social planning and development (Addis Ababa, 1996) and subsequently endorsed by various high-level Ministerial and OAU Heads of Summit meetings including the 1997 G-8 Summit. Its vision was revised during the African Development Forum 1999

Several implementation activities have taken place in the following areas:

- Policy awareness;
- Democratising access to the Information Society;
- Infrastructure development and Internet connectivity;
- National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans;
- Development information
- Sectoral applications; and
- Training and capacity building

By the year 2010, AISI intends to realize a sustainable information society in Africa.  
<http://www.uneca.org/aisi>

## 1. E-strategy Framework in Africa

In the global networked economy, information and knowledge have become strategic resources, upon which governments, private sector corporations and the public at large make their decisions. The availability of accurate up-to-date information, created and disseminated through information and communication technologies (ICTs), has decisive impact on peoples' lives and on the socio-economic development of a country as a whole. The countries that have created an enabling ICT environment are experiencing revolutionary effects, especially in the governance, education, health and business sectors. Consequently, citizens are now more empowered, can change the equilibrium of power and start making informed choices and creating opportunities that impact positively on their future. Yet, there are countries in Africa where people are not able to make informed decisions on their daily lives because they lack access to ICTs, information and knowledge.

As a response to these realities, the Conference of African Ministers meeting at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in May 1995, adopted the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI)<sup>1</sup>. Driven by critical development imperatives, AISI focuses on priority strategies, programmes and projects, which can help in building African information societies. A key component

of the AISI is the development of national e-strategies, or the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans.

Introducing policies and strategies aims principally to assist countries to deploy, harness and exploit ICTs for socio-economic development at the local, national and sub-regional levels; and to enable citizens' access to affordable telephones, broadcasting, computers and Internet services. For this to happen, countries need to adopt concrete measures that include developing sound regulatory frameworks and building human resource capacity. Although in recent years several countries have made efforts in ICT infrastructure development, the continent still lags behind other regions of the world.

At the continental level, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) framework has identified ICT-related projects and initiatives to speed up sub-regional regional connectivity and inter-connectivity plans. NEPAD aims to strengthen the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) whose role should be to coordinate national efforts and harmonize national regulatory frameworks across the sub-regions. AISI is the framework for co-ordinating the support that United Nations agencies provide to NEPAD.

AISI also serves as a mechanism for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>2</sup> in Africa. Seven among the eight MDGs are contained in the AISI framework document. The correspondence between the MDGs and the AISI challenges and opportunities is shown in the table below:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.undp.org/mdg/>

**Table 1**  
**Millennium Development Goals in relation to AISI**

	Millennium Development Goals	AISI Challenges and Opportunities
1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Food security-related objectives
2	Achieve universal primary education	Education and research
3	Promote gender equality and empower women	Gender and development
4	Reduce child mortality	Health
5	Improve maternal health	Health
6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases	Health
7	Ensure environmental sustainability	Man-made crises and natural disasters

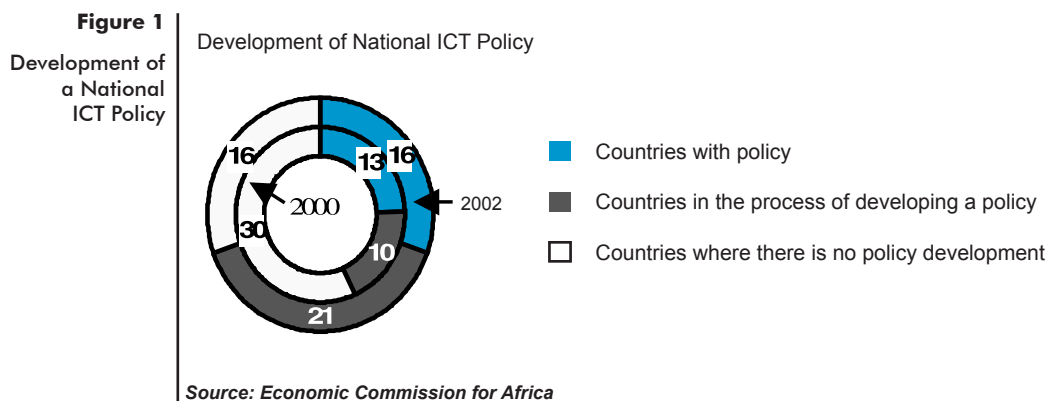
Source: *Economic Commission for Africa*

In addition to the areas listed above, AISI recommends that ICTs be mainstreamed in other sectors that are judged potentially important for Africa’s development, and these include: job creation, content, languages, trade and commerce. The issue of governance was added to the list during subsequent assessment exercises of the AISI in the first African Development Forum (ADF I) and in the World Summit for Information Society (WSIS) preparatory meeting in Bamako 2002.

This report assesses the state of national and regional ICT policies, plans and strategies. It focuses on the role of ECA and summarizes major regional and global initiatives being undertaken in or relevant to Africa. It also highlights new applications and initiatives in key sectors, and concludes with lessons learned and the way forward.

## 2. National E-strategies

ECA has been assisting member States in their endeavours to initiate, formulate and implement national e-strategies to achieve development goals. The success is evident in that the number of countries with ICT policies increased from 13 in 2000 to 16 in 2002, while countries in the process of developing a policy jumped from 10 in 2000 to 21 in 2002. Thus, as shown in figure 1, the number of countries without a plan was reduced from 30 to 16 in 2002.



This progress has largely been due to increased awareness among policy makers and key stakeholders of the importance of ICT policies and plans. As a result, various international and regional agendas are placing more emphasis on and including ICTs in their deliberations. NEPAD for example, identifies ICT policies and regulations as a priority area.

## 2.1 New developments since the third meeting of the Committee on Development Information CODI III

This section focuses on the countries that are currently developing national ICT policies and NICI plans within the framework of AISI and with the assistance of ECA. AISI has been instrumental in facilitating NICI processes in various ways; first, some countries have completed the framework plans and documents, and have moved to the next step of formulating strategies and embarking on implementation. Second, some countries have regained momentum in advancing the plan and are expected to join the above group in the near future.

### 2.1.1 Countries ready for implementation

Several countries have already stepped up to the next phase of the implementation plan as shown in the comprehensive list of countries with NICI plans in Annex I. This group of countries includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania. Below is a summary of the progress made in Burundi, Mozambique and Rwanda since the Second Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI II) in 2001.

#### Burundi

In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ECA has been assisting the country to formulate the NICI policy. The policy was completed and adopted as the national ICT framework by the Council of Ministers in October 2002. The process has moved to the next phase, which includes broad national consultations, translation of the policy into an implementation plan, and discussions on identifying and developing sectoral projects.

#### SchoolNet Africa

SchoolNet Africa's mission is to support national SchoolNets in leveraging and mobilizing resources. Over thirty countries are currently embarking on SchoolNet initiatives. Countries with SchoolNet websites include: Angola, Benin, Egypt, Gambia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Start-ups exist in Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Sudan. Ongoing support is being given to SchoolNet Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, Namibia and Ghana.

SchoolNet Africa's flagship projects include: Researching ICTs for Education in Africa, Supporting National SchoolNets, Thinkquest Africa, Building SchoolNet Champions, African Teachers, Network and From Gun to Computers.

#### Ethiopia

The Draft National ICT Policy Document was adopted by the Council of Ministers and the first implementation plan for the period 2003-2008 was prepared. The Government is in the process of setting up a national ICT coordination office to manage the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan. It recently embarked on projects, such as the use of ICTs for the country's decentralization and capacity-building programmes. Activities such as installing video conferencing facilities and launching an educational satellite programme have been considered.

#### Mozambique<sup>3</sup>

The Government adopted the national ICT policy in December 2000 and the implementation strategy was launched in September 2002. The Commission on Information and Communication Technologies was

established to coordinate development and implementation of the plan. The ICT policy identifies six priority areas: education; human resources development; health; universal access; infrastructure; and governance. To address the challenges faced in each of these areas, the implementation strategy contains 37 priority projects, some of which are already being implemented. A National Transmission Network (marine cable), telecentres and SchoolNet are examples of ongoing projects.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.infopol.gov.mz/>

## Rwanda

In January 2003, the first Rwanda ICT plan (2001-2005) was launched by the Cabinet during a one-day workshop chaired by the President. The launch was followed by the preparation of sectoral implementation plans and an implementation strategy workshop that was held in April 2002. Since then, ECA and UNDP have been supporting capacity building programmes. Financing of activities will be made possible through a donor-funded ICT for development fund for Rwanda in 2003. Although the progress of translating their ICT plans into action has been remarkable, more support is required to further speed up and successfully complete the implementation.

## Tanzania

Through its ICT Policy Task Force and a national e-think tank, the Government of Tanzania produced an ICT policy document that was presented and debated by key stakeholders in May 2002. Subsequently, the Cabinet approved the first National ICT policy in March 2003. Implementation of the policy has started and the regulatory and institutional instruments have been put in place to promote ICT for development. The core elements of the policy document are summarized as follows:

**Vision:** Tanzania will become a hub of ICT Infrastructure and ICT solutions that enhance sustainable socio-economic development and accelerated poverty reduction nationally and globally;

**Mission statement:** To enhance nation-wide economic growth and social progress by encouraging beneficial ICT activities in all sectors through providing a conducive framework for investments in capacity building and in promoting multi-layered co-operation and knowledge sharing locally as well as globally;

**Goals and objectives:** To focus on 10 areas, which include strategic ICT leadership, ICT infrastructure, ICT industry, human capital, legal and regulatory framework, productive sectors, service sectors, public service, local content and universal access.

### 2.1.2 Countries in process of policy formulation

In collaboration with various partners, such as the European Union (EU), ECA is assisting member States at various stages of policy formulation. This group of countries includes the Central African Republic, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda have also regained momentum and are proceeding with preparation for policy plans.

#### Central African Republic

In January 2002, a decree by the Government kick-started the NICI plan process. Consultation workshops were organized for members of the Government, academia, private sector, telecom operator and regulators. Subsequently, a baseline study was undertaken in June and July 2002. The current government is planning to hold a national workshop to validate and elaborate the draft NICI plan and achieve consensus.

#### Ethiopia

Ethiopia's draft national ICT policy considers the development of national information infrastructure (NII) as one of the strategic components to improve socio-economic performance and enhance transparency and efficiency in governance. This is even more urgent given the ongoing Agricultural Development Led Industrial Strategy and ongoing decentralisation in the country. The policy is articulated as follows:

**Vision:** To develop and exploit ICT as an accelerator for attaining national development and global competitiveness;

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/scanict.htm>

**Focus areas:** Local content development; infrastructure development; human resource development; introducing ICT applications for public services and business.

The Government is in the process of identifying related projects and formulating the implementation plan. A National ICT Council chaired by the Minister of Capacity Building and the Ethiopian ICTs Authority has been proposed for coordinating and monitoring implementation.

## Ghana

The NICI process was officially re-launched by the Government in August 2002. In addition to setting up a NICI Committee, the Government will soon adopt a framework and policy plan. The framework document, “An Integrated ICT-led Socio-Economic Development Policy and Plan Development Framework for Ghana”, was prepared based on the Ghana SCAN ICT project<sup>4</sup> whose aim is to provide ICT baselines and benchmarks that will measure the impact of ICT on society. The plan includes the Village Information and Communication Infrastructure Plan (VICI).

The framework document recognizes ICT as the key enabler of socio-economic development and it focuses on the pressing social and economic challenges of the country, namely an increasing youthful population; creation of job opportunities; improving the performance of the agricultural sector; expanding the industrial base; reducing the debt burden; capacity building of the population; and infrastructure development. Elements of the document are summarized as follows:

**Vision:** to improve the quality of life of the people of Ghana by significantly enriching their social, economic and cultural well-being through the rapid development and modernization of the economy and society using ICTs as the main engine for accelerated and sustainable economic and social development; and

**Mission statement:** transforming the country into a middle-income, information-rich, knowledge-based and technology-driven economy and society.

The document further looks at the policy requirements to materialize the vision. It also identifies critical success factors in the policy formulation processes, including high-level leadership and commitment, support of the people, and nation-wide consultative processes.

## Malawi

The first phase of the development of a national ICT policy and strategies was completed in 2002, resulting in Malawi’s ICT Policy Framework document, which was submitted to high-level Government officials in June 2002. The second phase of the process started in January 2003 when national consultations took place. The third phase, which concentrated on the ICT policy document, started in April 2003, with submission to the Cabinet in July 2003. In addition to the NICI process, Malawi is also starting a Village Information and Communication Initiative (VICI) plan, which will involve among other activities, installing a touch screen kiosk to provide the rural population with updates on the up-coming elections.

## Mali

The Government set up a new NICI Committee in May 2002 and re-launched the process immediately after. Several consultative workshops with stakeholders were held and a nation-wide baseline study was undertaken. However, the process was delayed due to the change of Government. The newly appointed Head of the “*Mission de l’Informatique et des Nouvelles Technologies de l’Information*” has been charged with expediting the process. Accordingly, the agency has requested ECA and UNDP to support the formulation of the NICI framework and the implementation plan. ECA will also be in charge of formulating a sectoral e-governance policy and coordinating donor support in the process.

## Niger

ECA organized a mission in Niger in June 2002 to facilitate the establishment of an inter-ministerial NICI development team and to prepare a timetable for the implementation process. The Prime Minister presided over the workshop for launching the NICI process in August 2002. A baseline study covering all provinces, ministries,

government agencies, NGOs and the private sector has been undertaken and completed. The first validation workshop will be organized in September 2003.

## **Nigeria**

The Nigerian Information and Communication Technology Agency (NICTA) formulated a Nigerian National Policy for Information Technology after consultations with stakeholders in 2000. Based on the request received from the Ministry of Science and Technology of Nigeria, consultations are under way to re-vitalize ECA support to the NICI process as well as the Plan in August 2003. NICTA has been undertaking a series of including sensitization and training of high-level decision makers including Permanent Secretaries and Director Generals of Government Departments. A National Strategic NICI Planning Committee of 23 members was set up and inaugurated on 7 August 2003 with membership from all stakeholders. The Committee has agreed to complete the framework document and the NICI plan within a period of 6 months.

## **Uganda**

The Uganda ICT Policy Framework document, completed in September 2002, has been submitted to the cabinet for consideration. This document was developed through a national consultative process. The second phase, which is just beginning, will focus on developing an action plan for implementing the provisions of the ICT policy framework. In addition, plans are under way to develop a comprehensive e-government and governance strategy with a corresponding action plan. ECA and UNDP are preparing a project proposal to support the strategy.

# **3. Regional Activities**

## **3.1 The sub-regional level**

As countries deregulate and liberalize their telecommunication markets, sub-regional information policies and plans are beginning to emerge with measures to harmonize national regulatory frameworks. Creating regional strategies would enable Africa to build economies of scale for developing infrastructure and content; it would also increase Africa's ability to negotiate globally. In the area of telecommunications, important efforts have been made to harmonize national policies and strategies.

### **West Africa**

In West Africa, a draft charter of the West Africa Telecommunications Regulators' Association (WATRA)<sup>5</sup> was prepared in September and endorsed by member States regulators in November 2002. WATRA will serve as a consultative and collaborative body for all regulators in West African countries in harmonizing principles, policies and structures for the regulation of telecommunications delivery.

### **Central Africa**

In an effort to bring stakeholders together and further ICT policy-making, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) organized a workshop on ICTs for Regional Integration in September 2002 in Yaounde, Cameroon. The following issues were discussed:

- The role of ICTs for African economic and social development in general and the CEMAC States in particular;
- Liberalization and harmonization of regulatory policies;
- Human resources development; and
- The relation of CEMAC to NEPAD.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.watra.org/>

Eastern and Southern Africa

Member States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) created an Association of Regulation of Information and Communications of Eastern and Southern Africa (ARICEA) in a meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2003. The member countries will jointly launch capacity building, service delivery, improvement, coordination and harmonization of their projects in the ICT sector. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and ECA have agreed to support the capacity-building activities of ARICEA where ECA will serve as the secretariat and establish an online discussion forum.

### 3.2 The continental level

In addition to the sub-regional harmonization of policies and regulations, ECA has promoted knowledge sharing among member States and supported the following regional initiatives:

#### New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)<sup>6</sup>

ICTs were one of the major components of the Compact for African Recovery, which was developed upon the request of the African Ministers of Finance and presented during the ECA Conference of Ministers (Algiers, May 2001). The Compact codified a growing consensus within Africa of need to accelerate the continent's development, including in ICTs. As the work on the Compact was carried out at the same time as the Millennium Partnership for African Recovery Programme (MAP) and the OMEGA Plan, ECA was requested by the initiators of MAP and OMEGA to contribute substantively in a unified document known as the New African Initiative and subsequently, NEPAD. ECA has provided several technical papers and organized meetings in support of the NEPAD process at regional and global forums. Consequently, AISI is now considered the starting point for the regional dimension of the ICT and infrastructure component of the NEPAD<sup>7</sup>.

#### The African Stakeholders Network of the UN ICT Task Force<sup>8</sup>

The African Stakeholders Network (ASN) was set up after a meeting in Addis Ababa, in January 2002, organized by ECA with support from the UN ICT Task Force secretariat. The consultative meeting brought together over 60 representatives from governments, development agencies, donors, private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations. ASN intends to link African activities and initiatives with the focus areas of the UN ICT Task Force. The first ASN meeting took place during the Third Meeting of the Committee of Development Information (CODI-III) on 10 May 2003. The main mandates of the ASN are to:

- Develop a network relevant to Africa's needs and in line with the mandate of the Task Force and its Working Groups;
- Share information on major African activities and initiatives through mailing lists, web sites and country profiles;
- Sensitize and mobilize major actors to ensure African ownership and support from partners;
- Share information, encourage membership when relevant and organize special events;
- Assist in linking the network with African and international initiatives; and
- Attract funds and investments to the ICT sector in Africa.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nepad.org/>

<sup>7</sup> The decision was made during the Conference on the participation of the private sector in the financing of NEPAD, Dakar, Senegal in April 2002.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/regional/africa/main.asp>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.geneva2003.org/bamako2002>

## WSIS African Regional Conference in Bamako 2002<sup>9</sup>

In preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the African Regional Conference was convened in Bamako, Mali, 26-30 May 2002. The Conference was organized by ECA with support from key development partners. The main event focused on the benefits that Africa can draw from participating in the global Information Society. It also looked at the contributions of Africa to the Information Society and the cultural heritages and values it should preserve through this dynamic process. The conference adopted the Bamako Declaration, which is the basis of Africa's contribution to the WSIS process.

ECA was elected rapporteur of the Bamako 2002 Bureau and was requested to serve as the Secretariat for Africa's participation in WSIS activities. A website was launched for Bamako 2002<sup>10</sup> and a discussion list set up for Bureau members. ECA is assisting member States to organize national consultation processes and consolidate African views on the Information Society for various global forums at the national, regional and global levels.

### Connectivity Africa (CA)

Through the Canadian Connectivity Africa – CA programme, ECA is working with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to support community, national and sub-regional initiatives that can promote greater access to ICTs by all in society. Among other things, the CA aims to showcase the deployment and development of ICTs in Africa as well as promote innovations in the sector. In addition, CA will support the Partnership for ICTs in Africa (PICTA) mechanism, housed in ECA to stimulate more and sustained partnerships in promoting ICT for Development on the continent.

## 4. Recent Global Developments

There is mounting global consensus on ways to improve opportunities that lead to significant actions to support ICT policies and applications in African countries. Below are examples of such initiatives:

### Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) follow-up<sup>11</sup>

The G8's Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force), created by the G8 Heads of State at their Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in July 2000, brought together forty-three teams from government, the private sector, non-profit organizations, and international organizations. These teams represented developed and developing countries, in a co-operative effort to identify ways in which the digital revolution can benefit the world's poorest and most marginalized groups. The G8 DOT Force ceased to exist with the presentation of its reports at the Kananaskis Summit. Implementation of the DOT Force agenda will continue under the framework of the DOT Force Informal Network (DFIN).

One of the results that came out of the Kananaskis Summit is the strengthened cooperation between the Government of Canada and ECA, which culminated in projects such as Connectivity Africa (CA) and the African component of the International e-Development Resource Network (IeDRN), now renamed as ePol-Net.

<sup>10</sup> [www.uneca.org/aisi/bamako2002](http://www.uneca.org/aisi/bamako2002)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.dotforce.org>

## ePol-Net

In its report, *Digital Opportunities for All: Meeting the Challenge*, the DOT Force observed the need to assist developing countries and emerging economies in formulating national e-strategies as part of their goals towards developing information societies. As a result, the DOT Force Plan of Action endorsed by the G8 Leaders at the Genoa Summit in 2001 made a specific commitment to set up ePol-Net. Formally known as IeDRN, ePol-Net is designed to marshal global efforts in support of national e-strategies for development. ECA, with support from Industry Canada, has set up an African regional ePol-Net node to channel demand from African institutions and individuals, such as policy experts, programme managers and legislative drafters seeking e-strategy expertise. The node was officially launched during CODI-III on 13 May 2003.

## United Nations ICT Task Force<sup>12</sup>

The ICT Task Force of the United Nations was established by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to find new, creative and quick-acting means to spread the benefits of the digital revolution and avert the prospect of a two-tiered global Information Society. The Task Force represents in its composition the public and private sectors, civil society, the scientific community, and leaders of developing and transition economies as well as technologically advanced countries. Operating under the aegis of the United Nations, it is well positioned to build strategic partnerships and to meld diverse efforts.

## The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)<sup>13</sup>

WSIS is an initiative that came out of the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly as a means to assist the United Nations in its efforts to fulfill the goals of the Millennium Development Goals. It is expected that WSIS will provide the global platform where key players, such as governments, UN agencies, private sector and civil society, will develop a common vision and understanding of the Information Society and adopt a declaration and a plan of action. It will be held from 10 to 12 December 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland, with a follow-up in November 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia.

## The Global Knowledge Partnership<sup>14</sup> (GKP)

GKP is a “network of networks” with a diverse membership base comprising public, private and non-profit organizations from developed and developing countries. It aims to promote broad access to – and effective use of – knowledge and information as tools of equitable sustainable development. GKP members also share information, experiences and resources to realize the potential of ICTs to improve lives, reduce poverty and empower people.

In April 2002, the GKP Annual Meeting held an African Day at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Members of the network and other invited experts discussed ICT-for-development initiatives in Africa; the GKP Strategy for 2005; global and regional networks and partnership mechanisms in Africa. During the CODI III meeting GKP African Day and GKP Market Place took place on 13 and 15 May 2003 respectively.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

## Other actors

In addition to the above, efforts have been made by ICT networks, various traditional agencies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to shape and reflect African views and opinions on ICTs in international decision-making processes and arenas. Active participation by African countries is essential to ensure their effective representation at all international forums that regulate ICTs.

## 5. The Sectoral Dimension

This section describes the developments on NICIs and regional and international frameworks. It also presents general trends and new ICT applications and initiatives in key sectors, with emphasis on ICTs and governance.

### 5.1 Governance

Recent diffusion of the Internet and interactive tools has expanded the range of applications that can assist the work of governments. As a result, many African countries have embarked on harnessing ICTs for improving internal administration, with the aim of increasing interaction with stakeholders and thus improve political representation, institutional effectiveness and economic management.

One example is the use of ICTs for efficient and effective communications in elections. For instance, for the presidential elections in Senegal, electoral lists were made available on the Internet. The growth in the number of rural radios and in the use of mobile phones helped to bring about transparency in the electoral process and in announcing the results. In terms of facilitating government-to-government and government-to-citizen transactions, the Moroccan programme on social security information systems, regulatory information services and customs information systems is considered a best practice on the continent.

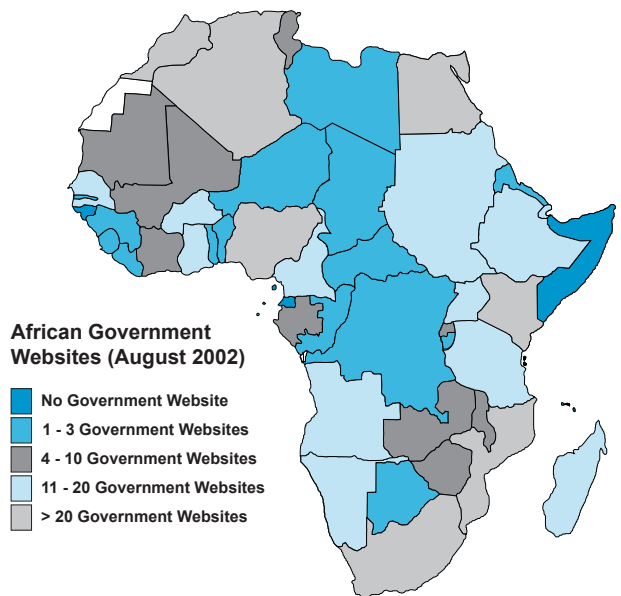
ECA has embarked on initiatives that have stimulated discussions and actions towards e-governance in Africa as follows:

#### Survey on African government websites

In order to determine the extent to which ICTs are used by African governments, ECA conducted a survey, which shows that e-government is indeed taking root in the region (see figure 2 below). By June 2002, there were about 706 websites representing African public institutions<sup>15</sup>. Analysis of the sites shows that Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Mozambique, Mauritius and South Africa have the highest number of websites. South Africa leads the group with 138 sites. Also, countries with the highest government sites have a large number of Internet users. Clearly, a critical mass of Internet users is needed to increase the effectiveness of e-government in Africa

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/nici/africagovinternet.htm>

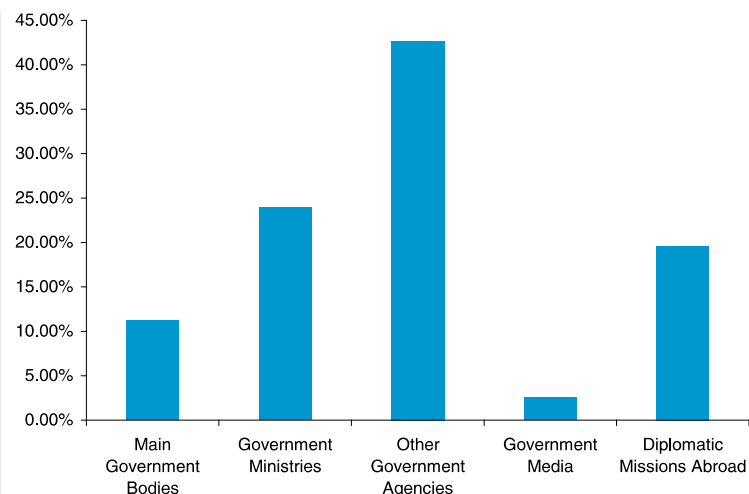
**Figure 2**  
Survey of  
African  
Government  
Websites



Source: Economic Commission for Africa

The bulk of the sites are hosted by diplomatic missions representing their countries abroad (20%.) Official websites that belong to the Presidency, Prime Minister, Parliament and the Judiciary comprise about 11%, while 42% belong to various government agencies and authorities.

**Figure 3**  
African  
Government  
Websites by  
Government  
Entities



Source: Economic Commission Africa, 2002

Fourteen countries were yet to establish official websites. Most sites tend to focus on providing information on the rules and regulations, including functions and activities of government.

On the other hand, the survey showed that although the number of websites has increased, there is fragmentation of information and lack of coordination between different arms of government. It is important to harmonize disparate efforts by the various institutions to emerge with uniform e-governance initiatives that cut across boundaries of ministries, agencies, institutions and sectors.

## Online discussion on e-governance

ECA organized an online discussion forum on e-governance to provide insights into trends in e-governance on the continent and develop realistic approaches for programming. The forum, held in July and August 2002, was also meant to generate insights into the production of an e-governance briefing paper for decision- and policy-makers, and feed into the forthcoming fourth edition of the African Development Forum (ADF IV), scheduled for 2004.

Discussions revealed that e-governance is at an early stage in most countries, hampered mostly by low levels of e-readiness and limited political will. However, there were some experiences from selected countries that needed to be shared. It was stressed that e-governance is a continuous learning and interactive process, requiring resources and more research<sup>16</sup>.

## Online discussion on the participation of Civil Society in ICT

In addition, another online discussion on the participation of civil society in ICT policy followed during the months of September and October, culminating in a Civil Society and ICT policy workshop in November 2002. The discussions highlighted the importance of an inclusive Information Society as well as the role played by civil society organizations (CSOs), due to their proximity to communities. The final statement of the workshop emphasized the importance of freedom of expression, the right to communicate and access to information as the basic principles in the creation of legal and legislative frameworks. This statement provided the basis for a strong African civil society input in the PrepCom proceedings for WSIS<sup>17</sup>.

## A study on ICTs and decentralization in Ethiopia (Wereda Study)

In support of the ongoing decentralization processes, an ICT needs-assessment study at the district level (Wereda) was launched in Ethiopia in June 2002. The study looked at the links between ICTs and decentralization and identified the information needs of different sectors with regard to infrastructure and communication flow between citizens and the Government. The results of the study will inform a pilot local e-government project to be replicated nationwide. This study is financed by ECA.

## AISI e-government model in the Gambia

ECA has been requested by the Government of The Gambia to assist in its efforts to initiate and implement an e-government component of the current NICI plan. A model developed through this initiative will be examined and used for further refinement of methodologies. A baseline study covering the whole country is being undertaken to assess the situation in the country in relation to e-government-related activities, available infrastructure and technical support. Based on the outcomes of the study, sensitization programmes will be initiated, which should lead to an e-government policy and strategy. Additionally, a pilot phase will be implemented with the objective of linking the Office of the President with the financial institutions in the country.

### The Information Technology Centre for Africa

The Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA) is an African Information Society Initiative (AISI) resource center that will showcase the role of Information and Communication Technologies in development, promote networking and carry out research and capacity building on emerging issues of the information society, targeting the African policy makers and practitioners.

Since its inception, ITCA has been active in developing and showcasing exhibition materials during major events and at its permanent exhibition at the UNCC. The center has deployed a mobile exhibition unit to conduct demonstration and awareness raising activities in various venues in and outside Ethiopia.

Multimedia touch screen kiosks have been developed for awareness-raising on issues like HIV/AIDS for illiterate people. For more, go to <http://www.uneca.org/itca>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.bellanet.org/lyris/helper/index.cfm?fuseaction=Visit&listname=aisi-1>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/cspr.htm>

## Intellectual property rights (IPR)

Most of the African countries are expected to comply with the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) by 1 January 2006. It is important to note that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), ECA and other institutions specialized in this area should offer technical support to help countries understand the consequences of the global Internet governance regime and its implications in terms of intellectual property rights.

Although the implementation of these obligations present the opportunity for African countries to harness intellectual property for their social and economic development, awareness on the required legal environment should enforce the laws effectively to deal with piracy, counterfeiting and other forms of intellectual property infringements is needed. In addition, and most importantly, this international regime should give value to the intellectual and cultural work coming from Africa. As the issue of intellectual property has significant impact on information use and protection, African countries need to adopt the necessary legislative framework that supports the intellectual needs of the poor.

## 5.2 Education

Education and capacity building have been identified by ECA's member States as a prerequisite in creating an Information Society. In response to the requests for assistance, ADF I discussed the matter extensively and led to the formation of the African Learning Network (ALN)<sup>18</sup>. Under the framework of the VarsityNet of ALN, a workshop on "Effective Use of ICTs to Create a New Environment for Learning and Teaching" was organized and supported by ECA, the Ford, Carnegie, MacArthur and Rockefeller Foundations respectively, in July 2002. Further, in support of higher education institutes, a retreat, entitled "Intellectual Leadership and AISI: What Role for the African Academic Community", was organized in Ethiopia in June 2003. Before this retreat, ECA hosted an online discussion whose outcomes will serve as a blueprint for further dialogue among the wider academic community on Information Society issues.

These activities will be followed by a pilot initiative to assist universities, private and public sectors in the development of open source software-based applications for e-government and African languages.

In an attempt to address the needs of policy-makers on the challenges and use of ICTs for Africa's development, the Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)<sup>19</sup> of the ECA, in cooperation with USAID/Leland Initiative, produced a training manual and delivered training courses for policy-makers.

The session organized for Ethiopian Parliamentarians in March 2003 stimulated interests in different parts of the continent and requests for similar assistance were received from Uganda and several sub-regional organizations. Together with the World Bank's InfoDev programme and CISCO Systems, ITCA also carried out a training course in Internet networking technology in 2001-2002 for two groups of African women from 41 African countries.

## 5.3 Health

Mainstreaming ICTs in the health sector has become a major priority for Africa and constitutes a key component of the work of the UN ICT Task Force. As a member, the World Health Organization (WHO) has highlighted the importance of ICTs by proposing that immediate steps should be taken to include ICTs as part of its health-for-all strategy for the 21st century. In line with this proposal, a pilot telemedicine initiative, supported by ITU

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/adf99/adf99education&youth.htm>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/itca>

and ECA, will be set up in Ethiopia, linking eight hospitals in Addis Ababa and regional towns. Similarly, in Mali, a health network established by the Keneya Blown project aims to provide an online network for all hospitals and health districts. Further, ITU and UNESCO are supporting the blind and visually impaired community through the Adaptive Technology Centre for the Blind (ATCB) in Ethiopia, to provide them with equal opportunities for access. The project will train them to use computers equipped with adaptive devices and applications. The project is a model for replication in other African countries for this target group.

## 5.4 E-Commerce

Current trends show that the volume of e-commerce transactions is predicted to surpass USD \$ 1.4 trillion by the end of 2003, thus changing the nature of global business and markets. For this reason, African economies must adapt to these changing global patterns as failure to do so will lead inexorably to what South African President, Thabo Mbeki, has described as “the digitization of past inequalities”. In response to the realities facing Africa in the area of e-commerce, a business forum on ICTs was organized during the WSIS Bamako meeting in May 2002. The deliberations helped to build consensus on the way forward among various stakeholders.

ECA extended assistance to Sudan, which was seeking support with regard to accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The assistance included introducing ICTs to concerned government agencies and the creation of the Sudan Business and Trade Network (SubuNet). In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between WIPO and ECA to assist member States in establishing enabling policy environments that favour e-commerce. UNCTAD, in co-operation with the Government of Tunisia, convened a regional High Level Conference for Africa on “Electronic Commerce Strategies for Development” in Tunis from 19 to 21 June 2003, as part of the WSIS preparations.

## 5.5 Local content and African languages

The capability to use, create and disseminate information in local languages is a prerequisite to the successful implementation of national ICT policies and strategies. Consequently, promoting African content and languages remains a challenge for the continent and represents a form of democratizing access to the Information Society.

In an effort to promote the use of African languages, ECA is collaborating with UNESCO and the Ethiopian Government, in a project that will standardize “Ethiopic” script on computers<sup>20</sup>. Additionally, ITCA has been leading the development of online resources that serve as the repository of African institutions and experts in the Diaspora<sup>21</sup>. The best practices and lessons learned in these and other initiatives will be shared widely with member States and partners with the aim of promoting and preserving African content and languages in national policies and strategies.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/docs/ethiopic.doc>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/itca/ariportal/db.htm>

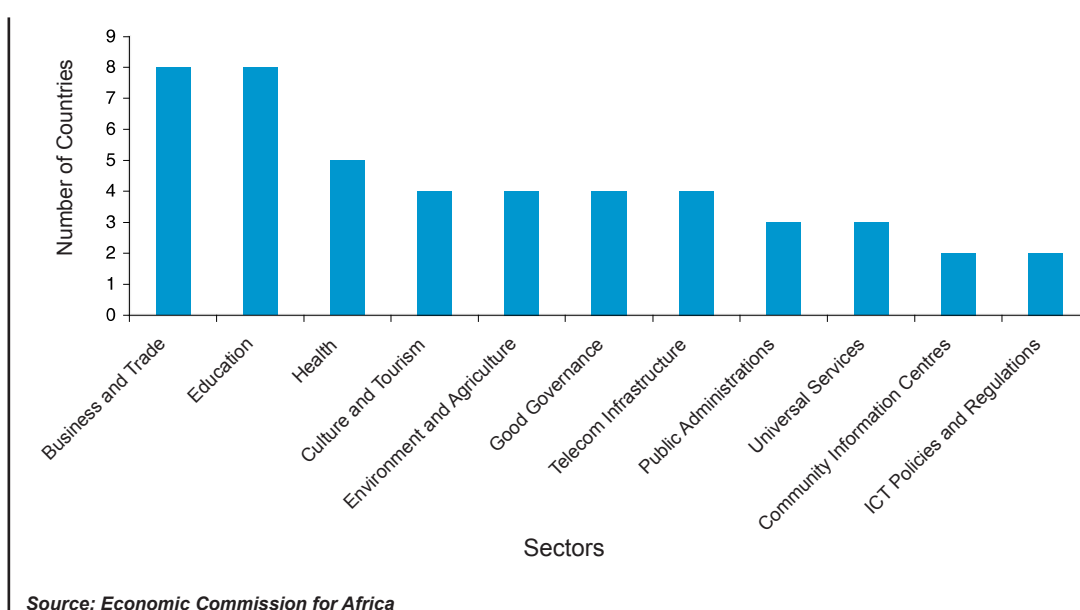
## 6. Lessons Learned

### 6.1 NICI process analysis

Based on the available data on the NICI plans completed by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Mozambique and Rwanda, sample analyses were made, with the following results and observations:

- The average duration of the plan formulation process is 17 months. The fastest among the 8 countries completed the NICI plan in 7 months, while one country took 36 months.
- Most of the countries articulated their visions and objectives in the NICI plan for overcoming geographical features; promoting good governance; improving public administration; developing human resources; generating job opportunities; advancing economic development; and sustaining the democratization process.
- Half of the studied NICI countries selected 4-5 focus sectors, while the other half expanded to target 8-9 sectors.
- All countries identified business, private sector development and education as their priorities in implementing NICI policies (see figure 3 and figure 4).

**Figure 4**  
NICI Focus sectors



In addition to the quantitative analysis, feedback from the participants of the NICI consultation workshops was collected to determine the success and the impact of the NICI formulation process on society. Four countries reported active participation and involvement of various sectors in the NICI consultation sessions. Rwanda was the only country that incorporated the views expressed by CSOs and the private sector in the plan. This raises questions not only about the need for such consultations but also about the validation, monitoring and evaluation of the formulation process and plan itself by a wide range of sectors and actors.

The results also implicitly suggests that the gender dimensions of consultation processes and plan implementation should be carefully monitored, to encourage the participation of women's groups in all phases. As to the impact the plans have had, the case of Mauritania demonstrated that the plan formulation process and the plan itself resulted in major telecommunications policy changes and facilitated liberalization of the telecommunication sector.

Lessons over the past few years are summarized below:

- There is a need for increased awareness at various levels;
- It is important to garner support from high-level leadership in order to move the ICT agenda forward;
- NICI processes should be more participatory;
- The experiences and best practices from others need to be shared
- Initiative is needed in moving from ideas and concepts to concrete action plans;
- More attention should be given to sectoral policies and strategies;
- Human and institutional capacity needs to be strengthened
- Prioritization is important when seeking external assistance;
- Regional cooperation and integration needs to be emphasized; and
- There is a need for more adequate and innovative financing mechanisms.

Some of the lessons learned are synthesized in the NICI briefing paper<sup>22</sup>.

## 6.2 Lessons learned at the regional level

As stipulated in AISI and NEPAD, efficient cooperation among member States and harmonization of activities entail support at the regional level. Such cooperation is intended to prevent duplication of efforts. This was re-emphasized by ADF I; ADF III on regional integration; and in workshops organized by Regional Economic Commissions such as CEMAC, ECOWAS and COMESA. The following observations have been made:

- ICTs could have substantial impact on regional cooperation and integration if the right policies, programmes and mechanisms are put in place. Therefore regional cooperation and integration efforts should mainstream Information Society issues in their programmes;
- ICTs could improve intra-institutional communication among regional cooperation institutions, and promote trade, financial cooperation and efficiency in key sectors such as agriculture and education; and
- Regional cooperation could foster economies of scale that increase Africa's collective bargaining positions, improve compatible standards and attract investment;

In addition, ICTs should be mainstreamed in the Regional Information and Communication Infrastructure (RICI) plans that are mainly targeting regulation; infrastructure development; capacity building; partnership; and participation in global governance.

Further, there is also a need to take into account the crosscutting issues of content development and gender in all areas and levels of ICT development.

## 6.3 Global Perspective

It is critical for Africa to take into account the economic and human dimensions of entering the Information age. Given the impressive size of Africa digital agenda, internal and external partnerships are essential for strengthening synergies and creating strategic alliances.

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/docs/AISIBriefingPaperNo1.PDF>

Toward this end, various activities and consultation mechanisms are being put in place. At the regional level, the Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies for Africa (PICTA)<sup>23</sup>, and more recently NEPAD, offer frameworks within which better coordination can be achieved to ensure a locally led and owned African digital agenda. At the global level, several initiatives are trying to convey Africa views and positions, thus guaranteeing efficient collaboration with the international agenda through systematic dialogue. In this regard, the UN ICT Task Force, with its regional hubs, should be used as the platform for concerted action, based on commitment from all partners. However, more efforts are needed to improve the complementarity of programmes and missions and to avoid redundant action plans. This is particularly important given the scarcity of human and financial capacity and resources.

## 7. The Way Forward

Following successful formulation of NICI Plans, member States have been requesting further assistance from ECA in sector-specific areas. The services required include development of an implementation strategy; examination of the work programmes; resource mobilization; development of sectoral strategies; and monitoring of implementation plans. Special attention is being paid to e-governance, democratizing access, private sector involvement and content development, to meet AISI objectives. ECA has proposed the addition of a new dimension, village information and communications infrastructure (VICI) plans, as a means to broaden policy-making and implementation. ECA will also place more emphasis on expediting the participation of the countries currently without a national ICT policy.

Given the number of countries involved in the NICI process, it is clear that the continent is gradually beginning to optimise the full benefits of ICTs. However, depending on the availability of adequate infrastructure, a great deal still needs to be done once national strategies have been formulated.

In accordance to the goals of the AISI, national e-strategies will increasingly be aligned to MDGs so that ICTs can assist in reducing poverty, improve healthcare delivery, provide education opportunities for all, particularly the girl-child, create job opportunities and ensure food security.

Though governments need to take the lead in developing national strategies, other key stakeholders should be encouraged to play their part in the formulation and the implementation process. In particular, the absence of gender considerations in formulating NICIs is in need of attention. Despite the steady growth of projects and programs developed in Africa to address the specific needs and concerns of women, such as skills training, telecenters, access to information and e-commerce initiatives, these efforts are unlikely to enhance gender equality in meaningful terms without an engendered NICI. For gender issues to be addressed effectively in the NICI policy process, women should be consulted and involved in the whole process from formulation, implementation through to evaluation.

ECA will continue to expand its activities to raise awareness among key stakeholders, enhance capacity in member States, facilitate partnerships at the national, regional and international levels and strive to realize AISI goals and objectives. In addition, mainstreaming gender in all of AISI activities as well as examining and monitoring NICI plans from a gender perspective are high on the priority of the ECA. As one of its activities, ECA is collaborating with Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde - Synergie Genre et Développement (ENDA-SYNFEV) based in Senegal on a series of awareness raising kit tools to disseminate material using solid and convincing arguments to sensitize communities and decision makers on the need to take into account the gender dimension in ICT policies and plans.

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/>

## Annex

### National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Strategies

Country	Existence of National Strategy	Implementation
<i>Algeria</i>	Has a National Policy and a National Strategy	Several sectoral implementation strategies are being developed
<i>Angola</i>	A plan known as "Strategy for The Development of Information technology 2000-2010" has been elaborated.	The Government of Angola created a National Commission for Information Technology by Decree no. 6/2002 of 4 April 2002.
<i>Benin</i>	The Communication and Information Infrastructure Development Plan of Benin: 2000-2004 was approved in 2000. In August 2002, the Ministry of Communications and Promotion of New Technologies published the National Information Policy and Strategy document " <i>Bénin 2025: une société de l'information solidaire, épanouie et ouverte</i> ". The document envisions an open and interdependent information society in Benin by the year 2025.	A new ministry – Ministry of Communications and Promotion of New Technologies was established to coordinate the ICT activities in the country.
<i>Burkina Faso</i>	The Information and Communication Infrastructure Development Plan of Burkina Faso: 2000-2004 approved in October 2000.	Implementation has started. Several sectoral implementation strategies are being developed. Inter-ministerial committees were created for follow-up.
<i>Burundi</i>	The Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for the Development of Information and Communication technologies in Burundi in 2002.	The document is being circulated for wide dissemination and consultations before implementation.
<i>Cape Verde</i>	The NICI plan development process finalized in October 2000. A National Information and Communication Technologies Infrastructure Development Plan was the product of the process.	An implementation strategy is being developed.
<i>Cameroon</i>	The draft NICI plan was finalized in October 2001.	The Government has announced the creation of a High Authority in charge of ICT issues in Cameroon.
<i>Central African Republic</i>	The process of the elaboration of the National Strategy started in January 2002. A baseline study was undertaken in June/July 2002. The new Government wants to continue the process by holding a national workshop to validate and elaborate the draft NICI plan.	Due to political instability, the process is stalled but will resume as soon as possible.
<i>Republic of Congo</i>	The Government has planned to initiate the NICI development process.	A request has been sent to major partners.
<i>Comoros</i>	The Government has planned to initiate the NICI development process.	A request has been sent to major partners.
<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>	The NICI Plan was approved by the Council of Ministers in July 2000.	A Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies was created to implement the NICI Plan. Priority projects were identified for implementation; however, due to political instability, the process is stalled.
<i>Djibouti</i>	The Djibouti National ICT Strategy and its accompanying Action Plan were adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Government of Djibouti in April 2003.	Over 30 projects have been detailed in the action plan for implementation.
<i>Egypt</i>	Egypt launched its National Information Highway Programme to support and energize its socio-economic development as early as 1994.	Implementation of many projects for the development of ICT industries and the advent of universal access. Establishment of the Ministry for Telecommunications and Information in 1999. In its efforts to translate into a reality the goal of creating an Egyptian Information Society, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has proposed the National Plan for Communications and Information Technology.

Country	Existence of National Strategy	Implementation
<i>Ethiopia</i>	The Draft National ICT Policy document has been adopted by the Council of Ministers.	The first cycle of the implementation plan covering the period 2003-mid 2008 is ready. A national ICT Coordinating Office is being established to manage the implementation process, monitoring and evaluation. The Government has recently embarked on a number of information technology projects focusing on improving public administration, revitalizing education and enhancing the infrastructure.
<i>Gabon</i>	A Development Plan based on the Network for sustainable development was finalized in 2000. Consultations were held in 2002 with all stakeholders to update the plan.	Infrastructure development is the main focus of the plan.
<i>Gambia</i>	A draft National Policy on Information and Communication was prepared in 1999. A committee has been set up in 2003 to continue the policy development process.	The Telecom sector is growing considerably. An e-government strategy is being developed.
<i>Ghana</i>	The NICI development process revived in 2002 and is still underway. The policy document was submitted to the Government in July 2003.	The NICI Plan should be completed by December 2003. The Government wants to put a mid- and long-term strategy for ICT development in place.
<i>Guinea</i>	A NICI plan – « <i>Plan de développement de l'infrastructure nationale d'information et de communication de la République de Guinée 2001–2004</i> » – was finalized in 2001 and officially published in March 2002.	A national commission comprising five members from the Finance, Planning and Communication ministries is coordinating the NICI activity.
<i>Kenya</i>	The process of a comprehensive national strategy based on a broad national consultation started in 2001. The new Government has started re-engineering the NICI development process. Major partners are supposed to get involved to start the process in September 2003.	A Local Experts Team was created to draft the document on National Strategy. A NICI secretariat is set up at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.
<i>Lesotho</i>	A National Information and Communication Policy was prepared in 2002.	Development of a NICI plan planned for 2003.
<i>Malawi</i>	The process of developing a national strategy started in 2002.	The policy document was submitted to the Government in July 2003.
<i>Mali</i>	The process of developing a national strategy started in 2002.	The NICI development process which was stalled because of change in Government, is going to be revived in August 2003.
<i>Mauritania</i>	National Information and Communication Infrastructure Development Plan: 1999–2002. The plan is being updated.	The Government has created “ <i>le Secrétariat d'État aux technologies de l'information et de la communication</i> ” to review the NICI plan and to promote ICTs.
<i>Mauritius</i>	The National IT strategic plan (NITSP) of 1998. The plan is being updated.	Following the National IT strategic plan in 1998, Mauritius launched a number of projects in policy formulation, ICT awareness, human resources development, Government computerization and standard setting. Its Parliament passed an Electronic Transaction Act in July 2000 to provide appropriate legal environment for electronic transactions covering electronic contracts, establishment of Certification Authorities and standards to combat forgery and fraud in electronic business.
<i>Morocco</i>	A national IT policy 1999-2003 elaborated and approved for implementation in 1999 by the Government	Several implementation strategies, programmes and projects were put in place.
<i>Mozambique</i>	A national strategy was developed and adopted in July 2002	The Commission on Information and Communication Technologies was put in place to coordinate development and implementation of the plan.

Country	Existence of National Strategy	Implementation
<i>Namibia</i>	The Information and Communication Technology Policy for the Republic of Namibia was adopted in June 2003.	The NICI plan will be finalized by December 2003.
<i>Niger</i>	The official launching of the NICI policy development process in Niger took place in August 2002	The baseline study has been completed and the sectoral studies are being undertaken. The first validation workshop will be held in September 2003.
<i>Nigeria</i>	The Nigerian Information and Communication Technology Agency (NICTA) formulated a Nigerian National Policy for Information Technology (IT) after consultations with stakeholders in 2000.	NICTA has been undertaking a series of activities in the framework sensitization and training of high-level decision makers including Permanent Secretaries and Director Generals of Government Departments. A National Strategic NICI Planning Committee of 23 members was set up and inaugurated on 7 August 2003 with membership from all stakeholders. The Committee, which is chaired by Prof. A. AKINOLA of the University of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, has agreed to complete the framework document and the NICI plan in 6 months.
<i>Rwanda</i>	The NICI plan was adopted in 2002 by the Cabinet and the Parliament.	The Cabinet officially launched the NICI Plan, NICI 2005, in January 2002. The proposed implementation structure has been created. It consists of the National Information Technology Commission (NITC), the NITC Working Group and the Rwandan Information Technology Authority (RITA). Implementation of the NICI plan has started.
<i>Senegal</i>	The National ICT Plan was adopted in 2000.	The Government has put in place, under the Office of the President, the regulatory and administrative tools necessary for the promotion of competition.
<i>Seychelles</i>	A National Strategy on ICT has been put in place	The implementation started in many sectors, linked to trade and capacity building.
<i>South Africa</i>	The South Africa IT Strategy Project (SAITIS) was developed by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Communication, in consultation with the private sector and other stakeholders.	The implementation has started and covers all sectors. A Presidential Advisory Committee was put in place to oversee implementation and ensure coordination
<i>Sudan</i>	Preparations were underway in 1999 to elaborate the National Information and Communication plans for Sudan. Since then a National ICT Strategy has been formulated.	The National Information Centre was put in place in 2002 to implement and promote ICT in the Government departments.
<i>Swaziland</i>	The first national workshop on ICT policy that was organized by UNDP, UNESCO, ECA and the Swaziland National Association of Journalists (SNAJ) took place in November 2000.	The National Policy will be oriented towards the media, telecommunications and ICT industries.
<i>Tanzania</i>	Cabinet approved the first Tanzanian National ICT Policy in March 2003.	Development of the implementation strategy is expected to take place in 2003.
<i>Tunisia</i>	There is a National Policy and a strategy of implementation as of 1997.	The implementation has started and the regulatory and institutional tools have been put in place to promote ICT for development.
<i>Uganda</i>	A draft national policy – Strategy for Developing a National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy for Uganda - was completed in September 2002.	The NICI plan is being developed. Meanwhile there is competition and development in the ICT sector.
<i>Zambia</i>	Consultations to develop a national policy started in 2001.	The new Government has started re-engineering the NICI development process. It is expected that the plan will be completed by December 2003.

**Note: This table was compiled by ECA, from available data. Please contact DISD for case updates and new developments not recorded above.**