



East African Community



BACKGROUND INFORMATION



East Africa Regional Stakeholders Consultative Workshops on Cyber Laws And Information Security 25th – 28th April 2006, Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala

Workshop Rationale

E-Government is emerging as a critical component of economic development and public sector reform in Africa. The East African Community recognizes the need for implementing a Regional e-Government Programme. The Programme aims at efficient use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in public administration combined with organisational change and development of new skills. The Programme further aims at enhancing and extending public services delivery, democratic processes that would support regional integration for economic development of the region.

Creation of enabling legal and regulatory environment has been identified in the proposed Regional e-Government Framework as a critical enabling factor for effective implementation of e-Government strategies at national and regional levels. The Framework further emphasises that operational efficiency of any e-Government strategy will need a strong back-up support of necessary legislation on data security, network security, cyber crime, information systems and electronic transactions.

The complexities of realizing the vision of the Regional e-Government Programme necessitates the creation of a responsive legal and regulatory framework for effectively meeting the challenges posed by management of technology, resources (both human and financial) with the view to providing a secure information infrastructure.

Recommendations of the 2nd EAC Stakeholders Meeting

The Second Regional e-Government Stakeholders meeting held in Nairobi in June 2005 identified the areas of Cyber Laws and e-Justice as key cross cutting issues that need to be in place for a successful implementation of e-Government applications in East Africa.

The meeting further observed that Information Security was a critical cross cutting issue that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency as it would form part of the legal framework for the enforcement of the cyber laws. The Nairobi Stakeholders meeting, therefore, recommended

a regional follow up workshop on Cyber Laws and e-Justice be held in Kampala in the first quarter of 2006.

As a follow up to the above, the e-Government Interim Working Group (IWG) meeting held on 21st –22nd February 2006 in Arusha, recommended that the proposed Stakeholders Consultative meeting on *Cyber Laws and e-Justice* be held on 25th –26th April 2006 at Grand Imperial Hotel in Kampala. The IWG further recommended that a Technical Workshop on **Information Security** for experts be held back to back with the Cyber Laws workshop on 27th –28th April 2006.

Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the proposed workshops are as follows:

1. Cyber Laws and e-Justice Workshop 25th –26th April 2006

- i) To create awareness, sensitization and advocacy on the significance of Cyber Laws and e-Justice for economic development and the impact of their continuing absence in the East-African region; and
- ii) To promote development of an appropriate legal and policy framework for e-Government promotion in the region.

2. Information Security Workshop 27th –28th April 2006

- i) To distil the output of the Cyber Laws workshop into actionable items in terms of technical aspects on information security for e-Government;
- ii) Constitute a technical team to propose a roadmap towards a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) policy and implementation framework for EA;
- iii) Develop an action plan and budget for the team's operations; and
- iv) Provide expert input to raise the profile of on-going regional initiatives on PKI

Workshops Structure

The Workshops are structured around plenary sessions. Key issues pertaining to Cyber Laws, e-Justice and Information Security will be discussed in plenary sessions involving presentations of status reports and key issues by resource persons, followed by debates and discussions.

Cyber Laws and e-Justice Workshop 25th –26th April 2006

Day 1: Cyber Laws and Legal Frameworks

Sessions on Day 1 will examine the key legal and regulatory issues that need to be addressed with the view to providing an enabling environment for successful implementation of e-Government and e-Commerce initiatives in the region.

The sessions will take stock of the ongoing Cyber Laws initiatives at the national and regional levels in Africa. Presentations on the Canadian experience and internationally accepted best practices will also be explored.

The output of Day 1 session will be used to get the views from stakeholders on issues and priorities that need to be incorporated in the Draft Framework for Cyber Laws.

The sessions are also expected to identify how development partners, such as Canada, could contribute towards facilitating implementation and improvement of Legal and Regulatory Framework in the area of Cyber Laws.

Day 2: Information Security & e-Justice

Sessions on Day 2 will address key issues and essential elements needed to be considered when developing a National and Regional Information Security Framework. The sessions will focus on areas relating to general issues pertaining to e-Security and evolution of crime in a networked Africa, among others.

Issues identified on Day 2 will form part of the proposed Legal and Regulatory Framework for e-Government for Cyber Laws and e-Justice and the envisaged framework for Public Key Infrastructure.

Information Security Workshop 27th –28th April 2006

Day 3: Sessions on Day 3 will first examine the status of Information Security in the East African region. The workshop will then address in detail key issues and essential elements, which need to be considered when developing a National and Regional Information Security Framework. The sessions will further discuss the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Policy Framework and Business Challenges and legal issues relating to PKI.

Day 4: Sessions on Day 4 deliberate on the Regional Strategy on e-Security and propose the Information Security Framework for the region. The Workshop will also propose the way forward towards developing a Regional PKI Framework.

Participant Profile

The Forum is targeted for policy makers and senior managers in the public service, private sector, civil society, international agencies and international bilateral donor agencies responsible and interested in development and enforcement of Cyber Laws and e-related regulatory framework.

Workshop Organizers

The East African Community (EAC), The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (Ce-PRC), are jointly organizing the Kampala Cyber Laws /e-Justice and Information Security Workshops.

East African Community (EAC) Secretariat

The East African Community is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, with its Headquarters located in Arusha, Tanzania. The East African Heads of State signed the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community in Arusha on 30th November 1999.

The three East African countries cover an area of 1.8 million square kilometres and have a population of 82 million people who share a common history, language, culture and infrastructure. These advantages provide the Partner States with a unique framework for regional co-operation and integration

UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Established in 1958, ECA is one of five regional commissions under the administrative direction of United Nations (UN) headquarters. As the regional arm of the UN in Africa, it is mandated to support the economic and social development of its 53 member States, foster regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. It reports to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Commission is organized around six substantive programme divisions: Development Policy and Management; Economic and Social Policy; Gender and Development; Information for Development; Sustainable Development; and Trade and Regional Integration. Five subregional offices contribute a subregional perspective to the work programme and support outreach. Drawing on this structure, ECA deploys several modalities and services to support its member States: policy analysis and advocacy; enhancing partnerships; technical assistance; communication and knowledge sharing; and supporting subregional activities.

CePRC

The Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (CePRC) is an initiative of the Canada Fund for Africa announced by the Government of Canada at the Kananaskis G8 Summit in June 2002. The Canada School of Public Service oversees the activities of CePRC.

CePRC's main function is to draw e-policy services and information products from Canadian Government and non-government policy experts into a virtual resource centre.

CePRC is also a resource node for the Global ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-NET), providing a uniquely Canadian perspective on the development of national e-Strategies. The Centre offers access to expertise, information and mentoring in the various e-Government fields including connectivity program policies in health and education; e-Government policies; ICT for development policy issues; Internet governance policy; e-Commerce policies, telecommunications policy and regulation; spectrum management policy; and society metrics and analysis.

Administrative Information:

Venue: Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala, Uganda
Plot 6 Nile Avenue, PO Box 7195, Kampala
Tel: +256 41 250681/5
Fax: +256 41 250606
Email: imperialhotels@utlonline.co.ug

Contacts:

East African Community (EAC)

Secretary General
East African Community Secretariat
Arusha International Conference Centre (IACC)
Building
Kilimanjaro Wing, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 1096, Arusha,
Tanzania

E-Mail : eac@eachq.org
Tel : +255 27 2504253/4/6/7/8
Fax :+ 255 27 2504255/2504481
Contact Person : Enock . Yonazi
(eyonazi@eachq.org)

Director
Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre
Canada School of Public Service
373 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6Z2

Tel: (613) 944-4803
Fax. (613) 995-0286
email: wendy.ace@csps-efpc.gc.ca

Contact Person: Wendy Ace

Economic Commission For Africa (ECA)

Director
Development Information Services Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
(UNECA)
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: 251 1 511167 Ext 33620
Fax: 251 1 510512

Email:uneca@uneca.org
Contact Person: Dr. Aida Opoku-Mensah
(aopoku-mensah@uneca.org)