

## CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

**1. In line with the UN Resolution 57/7**, the ITU Development Programme for 2003-2006 as adopted by its governing bodies in 2002 is in line with the NEPAD objectives as well as the UN Millennium Declaration and the Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. The governing bodies also adopted specific Resolutions for ITU to support the NEPAD whose implementation focused on:

- bringing together African member states to discuss various issues pertinent to realization of the NEPAD vision and ultimately the MDGs
- bringing together core development partners active in the ICTs in the Africa region to agree on a common approach to harmonize their intervention to the continent . The potential for ITU's contribution has been high within the ICT and telecommunications but is limited by resources. Closer coordination and joint activities with other UN agencies should produce better results for the NEPAD.

**2. The most significant contribution has been a Study on the NEPAD Preliminary Assistance whose objective was to:**

- Assessment the actual situation
- Identify technical and regulatory obstacles that hinder rapid development of infrastructure and services/applications;
- Identify alternative technical scenarios of building the infrastructure and measures to enable sustainable telecommunications and ICTs development;
- Evaluate the level of investment required to meet the short and medium term objectives of the NEPAD and identification alternative funding scenarios

This study has been finalized and presented to twelve core partners including UNECA, AfDB, ATU, COMESA, RASCOM, URTNA among others in January year 2005. More important, to facilitate further action, the participating institutions to this meeting agreed to:

- (i) Adopt the report entitled "Partnership framework for ICT infrastructure development in Africa" as a reference document for collaboration and action framework for ICT development in the African region ;
- (ii) Establish an Interagency Coordinating Committee (IACC) to coordinate and follow up ICT infrastructure development projects in Africa with membership as follows: AU (Chairman), ATU (Secretary), ITU, ECA, e-Africa Commission, RECs, URTNA, ADB, PAFU and RASCOM. Other institutions are to be invited as appropriate;

The Report was considered by a Ministerial Symposium held in Abuja, Nigeria 3-4 July 2005. The Ministerial Symposium comprising the African Ministers in charge of Telecommunications and ICTs adopted the Report **as a reference document for action aimed at accelerating development of ICTs in Africa. This report is the most inclusive report on ICT infrastructure in Africa since the 80s. It calls for implementation actions.**

3. In addition to the above, the ITU supported the NEPAD e-Africa commission with a study which took stock of all existing and planned ICT Infrastructure in the Central, North and West African region. The report was discussed by all stakeholders in July 2005 with the objective of outlining strategies to accelerate development of broadband infrastructure.

4. The ITU also provided funding to hire an expert on e-learning to support the NEPAD e-School project for a period of one year. This support was provided through the e-Africa Commission.

5. Further ITU contributions to implementation of MDGs and the NEPAD vision have been in:

- Advocacy (through seminars, workshops and symposia);
- Human Resource Development (seminars, workshops, support to Centres of

Excellency based in Nairobi & Dakar);

- Direct project support at national and regional levels