ICT harmonization in Africa - How to monitor and evaluate it?
September 2 - 6, 2019 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. INTRODUCTION

The Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) project is an initiative set up following the 2017 AU-EU summit in Abidjan with a view to assisting Africa to respond to the challenges of the digital revolution, including availability of broadband connectivity at an affordable price, which is an essential element of facilitating the digital transformation of Africa, and ensuring that it is able to play a full part in the global digital economy

This initiative is financed by the EU and is jointly implemented by the Information Society Division (AUC-DIE-ISD) of the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission (AUC) and by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Three main aims are set for the project:

(i) Effective and harmonized usage of the spectrum Continent-wide,
(ii) Harmonization of ICT/telecommunications policies, legislative frameworks and regulatory practices in such a manner as to allow their evaluation,
(iii) Active participation of African stakeholders in the debate concerning worldwide governance of the Internet.

This workshop is a platform for representatives from Member States, Regional Economic Communities (REC's), Regional Associations of Regulators (RARs) and the AUC to collectively develop a Monitoring and Evaluation framework targeting a certain number of regulatory priorities, which are significance to continental harmonization with a two-year plan of action for this.

2. AGENDA

The agenda comprised of the following:

a) Context
b) Assessment
c) Methodology
d) Priority areas
e) Round up and proposed roadmap

The detailed agenda is included in the annex.

3.   DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

3.1. September 2, 2019, Day 1 – Context

The first day of the workshop was dedicated to setting the context.   This comprised of remarks by the AUC and the European Commission on the various initiatives they are working on towards realizing a digital transformation in Africa.

These were followed by presentations by Research ICT Africa providing the statistical data on the context of the digital Economy in Africa.

The following were the key highlights made:

> ➢   In many countries, the critical foundations for digital economy are lacking.
> ➢   While supply side data was available which informs supply-side indicators/indices such as the ADI, NRI and MCI; there is a need to address the demand side indicators which are more focused on the citizens and provide a more accurate insight.
> ➢   Internet penetration in Africa is still very low (28%)[1] . This is not enough to enable the continent to fully benefit from the digital economy.

3.2. September 3, 2019, Day 2 - Assessment

The workshop received a presentation on the findings of an assessment of the harmonization initiatives related to harmonization of policies, legislation and regulation at the levels of the RECs, RARs and AUC. The report presented was based on publicly available information. However, this was observed the need to include some data that was not complete and/or needed to be updated.

During the discussions that ensued, the following observations were made:

1)   General comments
   • Transparency: data on policy, legislation and regulation is not always easily accessible on web sites and therefore access to this data is limited.
   • RECS and the RARs will provide data within 2 weeks to update the working document.
   • There is no mechanism to compel Member states that do not comply with regional or continental rules/codes and where such mechanism does exist, they are not enforced.

2)   On the REC Initiatives assessment:
   •   There were some studies assessing the compliance of the national transposition or implementation of the regional rules. However, it was observed that the mechanism of monitoring & evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the harmonization of the markets was lacking. SADC, for example, indicated that they are implementing such mechanisms.

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[1] The 2017 Research ICT Africa After Access Survey

- Delegates noted that there is existing coordination between the regional infrastructures deployment efforts through the AU Infrastructure program (PIDA) but this is not in the scope of this workshop.

3) On the RARs initiatives
- There are RARS that do provide regulatory guidelines to their members on various issues. These, in some cases, are developed through working groups comprising of the membership.
- There is cooperation between RARs based on geographical proximity (e.g.: CRASA/EACO, WATRA/ARTAC)
- Cooperation could, however, be extended to continental cooperation on a list of limited priorities and the model of working groups. Success achieved between some RARs could be used as a model to progress towards continental cooperation.
- Private sector input is important.

4) On AU initiatives
- It was agreed that whichever the approach used (*the Cairo Harmonization Reference framework **or** digital transformation strategy **or** continental legislation as Malabo convention*), the role of AU is very important in determining common targeted priorities. However, there is a need for more concrete and effective cooperation and a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation.

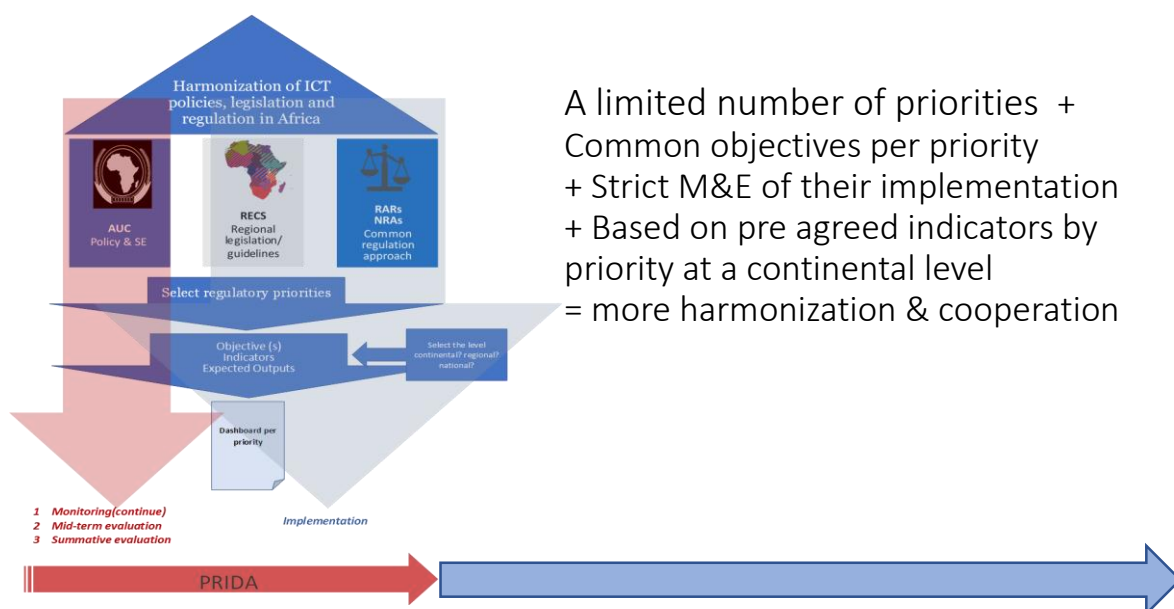### 3.3. September 4, 2019, Part I of day 3 – methodology

The workshop then discussed the methodology to be used in respect to monitoring and evaluation. This was preceded by a presentation on the different approaches used for monitoring and evaluation around the world.

The following considerations were made:
- A Software tool does not automatically guarantee a good result as you need to feed the application/software with quality data. PRIDA is working on the development of a digital platform, which will include different modules to be developed in collaboration with all stakeholders. A first prototype is intended to be discussed with PRIDA National Focal Points before the end of the year.

- There are differences in approach to harmonization and implementation due to the cultural and legal differences between regions / countries. The project seeks to focus on monitoring and evaluation of the results/outcomes (in other words on what transforms our societies) and not on harmonization itself and its implementation methods .

- The sustainability of the M&E framework after the end of the PRIDA project is of key concern and shall be taken into account in the final methodology.

- The process of screening and limiting the priorities is part of the methodology. In view of this, the approach adopted the following steps:

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reach an agreement on methodology,
select priorities and
define specific indicators per priority area;

- On the need for clarification of the roles between Ministries and the National regulatory authorities, it is worth recalling the difference between regional legislations handled by RECs and those in regulatory practices handled by RARs which also reflect the allocation of competencies between Ministries and NRA at national level. This is why the implementation of the required regional legislation on selected priorities is under the responsibility of the RECs – accountable to the national ministries in charge of ICT; while the RARs, (a gathering the NRA) are in charge of implementing the priorities that will be related to regulatory practices.

- There are member states that belong to multiple RECs. This, however, does not inhibit them in sharing directly their data with the AU Commission. Additionally, the role of RECs and RARs will be defined depending on the priority under consideration.

- On the involvement of the private sector in the PRIDA initiatives, it was agreed that the private sector participation shall be encouraged especially at the continental and global level because that collaboration may assist in exchange of data and knowledge sharing.

Following the above discussion, the delegates agreed on the following methodology and roles allocation

A limited number of priorities +
Common objectives per priority
+ Strict M&E of their implementation
+ Based on pre agreed indicators by
priority at a continental level
= more harmonization & cooperation

3.4. September 4, 2019, Part II of day 3 and September 5, 2019, Day 4 – identification of priority areas

The workshop then focused on identification of the priority areas that shall be considered in developing the PRIDA Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This was kickoff with an introductory

presentation that proposed 15 areas that could be considered. Participants were then invited to propose additional areas of consideration, which brought the list of areas to 54. These were then subjected to a selection of the most popular 10 topics listed below:

I.   Cybercrime and cyber security
II.   Conditions of entry into the market (authorisation/licensing regime)
III.   Protection of personal data and location of data
IV.   Quality of service and consumer satisfaction
V.   Universal access
VI.   Building digital economies and fostering innovation
VII.   Affordability/accessibility of services due to lack of competition
VIII. Regulation of new technologies
IX.   e-government
X.   Free roaming on the continent

These were then subjected to the 6 dimensions criteria, which was reduced to 5 dimensions following agreement that the consideration of the subject in another initiative on the continent was not of key relevance to the monitoring and evaluation of the same. The workshop proceeded to review the 10 areas to identify whether indicators could be identified for these and, therefore, whether they are measurable.

This process resulted in modifications in scope and renaming of some of the areas as follows:

Conditions of entry into the market (authorisation/licensing regime)	Conditions of entry into the communications market
Building digital economies and fostering innovation	Fostering innovation towards digital economies
Affordability/accessibility of services due to lack of competition	Competition in broadband markets

Although Cybersecurity is an AU Flagship project, is to note that it is out of the current PRIDA project Scope. However, the matter is being addressed by the AU Commission and European Union in other programs and initiatives.

The remaining nine (9) areas identified shall then be subjected to technical analysis under the guidance of the AUC secretariat to establish the strength and feasibility of the possible SMART indicators and the conformity of the priority areas identified to the now 5 dimension criteria. This shall be used to identify the 4 priorities that can be handled under the PRIDA project in light of the period for the project and the resources available. The AUC shall, however, consider and explore how the other areas on the list of the 9 areas identified during the workshop can be addressed through other opportunities and initiatives.

3.5. September 6, 2019, Day 5 – Roadmap

The African Union Commission presented the draft roadmap as included below

MILESTONES	OBJECTIVE	PRIORITY ACTIONS
Workshop	Agreement on methodology of M&E and a list of priorities	Done
Creation of online working groups (1 group per priority)	Identify expertise and resources and sustainable working model	Members States to select the topic on which they'll work
		Members States to appoint an expert in close collaboration with the PRIDA national focal point , AUC and RECs /RARS
		Working groups to appoint a Regional/Continental champion per priority
Preparation of a working document per priority	Set an in-depth methodology and detailed implementation plan per priority	Identification of performance indicators and data requirements
		Planning for data collection and management
Discussion & Endorsement of the above documents		Data processing: data cleaning, compatibility test, analysis, interpretation...
Test	Operationalization	Running the proposals to a limited number of countries
Full implementation		Running the proposals in all the countries
Presentation of the full implementation		Present for discussion and validation of the outcomes of the first continental run of the M&E
		Draw the lessons of the 1st run
Learning & Adaptation		Adaption based on the lessons of full implementation
Final models		Set the final model of M&E

Appendix

Agenda	Day 1 - Context
07h30 - 08h30	**Registration**
08h30 – 10h00	**Opening Ceremony** (FR and EN) - **Welcome Note**: Ms. Souhila Amazouz, Senior Policy Officer, AUC - **Keynote Address**: Mr. Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division, AUC Mr. Thomas Huyghebaert, Team Leader, EU Delegation to the AUC - **Practical Information** - **Group Picture**
30 min	Coffee Break
	Session 1: Context **Moderator:** Souhila Amazouz, Senior Policy Officer, AUC
10h30 – 11h00	**Context of harmonization in Africa** Mr. Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division, AUC
11h00 – 12h30	**The Digital Economy in Africa** Presentation by: Dr. Enrico Calandro, Research ICT Africa (RIA) - Part 1.: Connectivity Part.2.: Digital transformation
12h30-13h00	**What Digital Strategy for Africa?** - Mr. Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division, AUC - Mr. Stepfan Fox, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to the AUC - Ms. Lana Zutelija, Adviser Digital Policies, EU Delegation to the AUC
90min	Lunch Break
14h30 – 15h15	**Digital Economy in Africa (con't)** - Part. 3.: Measurement
15h15 – 16h00	**Session 2: Workshop context** **Moderator:** Mr. Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division, AUC Presentation by Ms. Katia Duhamel, PRIDA Expert - Approach and expected outcomes of the workshop
30 min	Coffee Break – (*Rapporteur Drafting*)
Agenda	Day 2 – Assessment
Session Chair: M. Eric Armel Ndoumba, Conseiller aux Télécommunications auprès du Ministre Rapporteur: Ms. Hilda Mutseyekwa, Director Economics Tariffs and Competition, NRA PRIDA Expert, Ms. Katia Duhamel	
09h00 – 11h00	**Session 3: Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**

	- Past experience and common continental trends *(Presentation and Discussion)*
30 min	Coffee Break
11h30 – 13h00	**Session 3: (Con't) Regional Association of Regulators** - Past experience and common continental trends *(Presentation and Discussion)*
90min	Lunch Break
14h30 – 16h00	**Session 3: (Con't) African Union Commission (AUC)** - Past experience and common trends *(Presentation and Discussion)*
60 min	Coffee Break *(Rapporteur Drafting)*

17h00 – 18h00	**Draft Conclusions by Rapporteur**
	   - Discussions
	   - Adoption

Agenda	Day 3 – Methodology
Session Chair: Eng Vincent Otieno Adul – ICT Expert, National Communication Secretariat Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammed Chubado Babajika: Director Policy Competition and Economic Analysis, NCC PRIDA Expert, Ms. Katia Duhamel	
09h00 – 11h00	**Session 4: Lessons learned** - Derived from assessment
30 min	Coffee Break *(Rapporteur Drafting)*

11h30 – 13h00	**Session 5: Methodology - Policy Legislation**
	   - Presentation of Options
	   - Selection

90 min	Lunch Break.

14h30 – 16h00	**Session 5: Methodology – Regulation**
	   - Presentation of Options
	   - Selection

60 min	Coffee Break *(Rapporteur Drafting)*

17h00 – 18h00	**Draft Conclusions by Rapporteur**
	   - Discussions
	   - Adoption

Agenda	Day 4 – Priority Areas
Session Chair: Mr. Kwame Baah – Acheamfuor - Deputy Director National Communication Authority Rapporteur: Ms. Irene Kaggwa Sewankambo – Director Engineering and Communications Infrastructure PRIDA Expert, Ms. Katia Duhamel	
09h00 – 11h00	**Session 6: Priority Areas** - Presentations - Discussion
30 min	Coffee Break
11h30 – 13h00	**Session 6: (Con't) Priority Areas**
90 min	Lunch Break
14h30 – 16h00	**Session 6: (Con't) Priority Areas**
60 min	Coffee Break (*Rapporteur Drafting*)
17h00 – 18h00	**Draft Conclusions by Rapporteur** - Discussions - Adoption
Agenda	**Day 5 – Roadmap and Implementation Plan**
Moderator: Ms. Souhila Amazouz Senior Policy Officer, AUC	
09h00 – 11h00	**Session 7: Roadmap and implementation Plan** - 2 years' roadmap and implementation plan - Discussions in parallel sessions for Legislation/Regulations
30 min	Coffee Break
11h30 – 13h00	**Session 7: (Con't) Roadmap and implementation Plan**
90 min	Lunch Break
14h30 – 15h30	**Final Report of the meeting** - Discussions - Adoption
15h30 – 16h00	**Final Remarks & Closing of the Meeting** - Mr. Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division, AUC - Representative of the EU Delegation to the AUC