



Communiqué

ICT AFRICA INVESTMENT SUMMIT

Theme:

**Catalysing Investments for ICT infrastructure development in Africa
– *challenges and opportunities from the NEPAD initiative***

The ICT Africa Investment Summit took place 20 June – 1 July 2004 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa. The Summit was attended by representatives of the various stakeholders in the ICT sector in Africa namely Ministers, policy makers, regulators, operators, investors, users, system integrators and manufacturers from all over Africa.

The Summit was organized to respond to the challenges posed by the NEPAD initiative in the context of securing increased investments in the ICT infrastructure in Africa.

Following deliberations of the various issues presented to the Summit, the following were adopted:

1. The Summit takes note of the progress made on the NEPAD Programme and appeals to the NEPAD Secretariat to increase the level of awareness amongst stakeholders in terms of the objectives of NEPAD and concrete achievements made to date.
2. The Summit notes the support which development partners such as ADB, ATU, ECA, ITU, USAID, World Bank and others are making towards supporting the development of ICT in Africa, and encourages these institutions to coordinate their efforts in order to avoid duplication and to provide African countries with increased support within a more efficient framework.

3. The Summit encourages ongoing drives towards the harmonization of policy and regulatory frameworks at the sub-regional levels with the regional economic communities playing active roles.
4. The Summit encourages each African country to embark on the establishment of a comprehensive ICT policy and strategic framework taking into account the work already done in some countries.
5. The Summit notes the [NetTel@Africa](#) program and encourages all countries to take full advantage of this initiative.
6. The Summit appeals to Heads of State and Government of the AU to strengthen the capacity of sub-regional economic communities in order for them to play a more active role in ICT development and deployment.
7. The Summit notes the growing need for increased investments in ICT infrastructure and content development within the continent. It urges all Governments to give due priority to this area in their development programs, and also urges the private sector to increase investment in the ICT sector through mechanisms such as public-private partnerships.
8. The Summit notes the important role radio and television can play in the development of ICT in Africa and the implementation of NEPAD and AU objectives, and therefore urges governments to encourage increased investment in this sector and to take necessary steps to encourage the development of local content for broadcasting.
9. The Summit notes that the AU structure does not provide adequate relationship between the AU and regional organizations such as ATU and URTNA. It also notes that the Committee of Ministers of Communications which existed under the ATU organ provided an efficient mechanism for African Ministers to work together to map out and implement a common strategy for the development of the ICT sector in Africa.

The Honourable Minister of Transport and Communications of Mozambique is therefore requested, in his capacity as Chairman of the AU Committee of Ministers responsible for ICT, to take this issue on board with his colleague Ministers with a view to ensuring efficient collaboration amongst the regional African institutions and programmes involved in the ICT sector in Africa.

10. The Summit notes the remarkable increase in tele-density on the African continent in the last four years due to sector liberalization, political will and involvement of the private sector and urges the Governments to continue to create the enabling environment required to sustain the momentum and build on the gains made so far in order to improve Universal Access to ICT in the continent.

Appreciation

The Summit sincerely appreciates and congratulates Kemilinks International for organizing the event and the South Africa Communications Forum for co-hosting the event, it also thanks the South African government through the Department of Communications, the African Telecommunications Union, the International Telecommunication Union and the Union of Radio and Television National Organizations in Africa for the support and goodwill given to the organizers and encourage them to continue to support future Summits.

Dated Johannesburg 1 July 2004