REPORT OF THE 24th EACO ASSEMBLY OF BROADCASTING OPERATORS HELD AT SILVER SPRINGS, BUGOLOBI, KAMPALA – UGANDA, FROM 26th – 27th JULY 2017.

1.0. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The 24th Assembly of Broadcasting Operators of EACO was held at Silver Springs Bugolobi, Kampala Uganda from 26th to 27th July 2017. The Chairman, Mr. Meddy Kaggwa (Uganda) who welcomed members present to the 24th Assembly of Broadcasters of EACO, opened the meeting.

The meeting was attended by members from the EACO Secretariat, Broadcasting Operators and National Regulatory bodies of the EACO members, namely Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Apologies were registered from Tanzania and Burundi.

2.0. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

In accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the EACO, the Assembly of Broadcasting Operators elected the following members to the Bureau:
- a) Meddy Kaggwa   *Chairman*
- b) Muheki Wasago Aloysius   *1st Rapporteur*
- c) Peter Mubiligi   *2nd Rapporteur*

3.0. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Assembly's agenda was presented and adopted as follows.
1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme
4. Report of the Outgoing Chairman
5. Consideration of Matrix on Status of Implementation of Decisions of the Last Meeting.
6. Consideration of the report of the Working Groups.
   a. **WG06** – Broadcasting Service Development and Regulation Working Group
   b. **WG11** – Spectrum Management Working Group
7. Consideration and Adoption of the Report for the Congress
8. AOB
9. Closing of the Meeting

The list of participants is provided as ***Annex 01***

4.0.   REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

The outgoing chairperson's report was presented by Mr. Innocent Nkurunziza from Rwanda (**Annex 02**). The Assembly considered the report and highlighted the following:

Noted 01; *Broadcasting development*	Most EACO member states concluded the Analogue to Digital migration process and implementation of the decisions of the WRC15.
Noted 02; *EACO Frequency Coordination Initiatives*	The EACO Frequency Coordination meeting to conduct cross border frequency coordination for mobile services and Broadcasting services in the EAC region, was held. Outcomes are provided in the full WG11 report.
Noted 3; *WRC-19 Preparations*	EACO has commenced its preparatory work for the World Radio Conference scheduled to take place in 2019. Progress report is provided in the full WG11 report.
Noted 4: *Membership*	The EACO Secretariat is continuously currying out membership campaigns. However, majority of broadcasters and operators are yet to participate in EACO.
Challenges;	The following concerns were noted; - Affordability and Availability of STBs and integrated digital TV receivers. - Insufficient local content - Poor Quality of Service and Quality of Experience. - Escalating piracy and copyright issues.
Agreed 01	a. Regulators should encourage all Private and Public broadcasters to form associations in member countries, which will advocate and represent them in EACO. b. The EACO Secretariat send invitations to individual broadcast operators. c. The Secretariat should arrange regular meetings to improve on impact of EACO.

5.0.   CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUPS

5.1.   WG6 REPORT

The WG 6 has held two meetings i.e. one in Arusha from 31st October to 2nd November 2016 and the other in Nairobi from 5th to 7th April 2017. (**Annex 03**)

Noted 01; *Guidelines for TV White Space Deployment In VHF/UHF Bands.*	The proposed guidelines for TV white space deployment in VHF/UHF bands within EACO was discussed and adopted
Noted 02;	A report on the issues on accessibility of premium

Accessibility of premium Broadcast content	broadcast content within EACO, was discussed and adopted by the working group.
Noted 3; *Questionnaire on KPIs for Broadcasting Services*	The WG reviewed and adopted the questionnaire on the Harmonized Performance Indicators for Broadcasting Services. The questionnaire was circulated by the secretariat.
Noted 4: *Regulatory framework for "MUST CARRY"*	The meeting considered and adopted a Regulatory framework for "MUST CARRY" channels and the licensing of subscription services on all platforms.
Noted 05; *Guidelines on operations of Non-Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting.*	The guidelines for operations of Non-Terrestrial digital broadcasting within EACO was discussed and adopted.
Noted 3; *Emerging Multimedia Services*	The working group discussed and adopted a report on Emerging Multimedia Services
Agreed 01	The Assembly of the broadcasting Operators noted and adopted the reports and recommendations from the WG11.

5.2. WG11 REPORT

The report of the Working Group 11; Spectrum Management, was presented by Henry Mugabi from Uganda (**Annex 04**).

During the second cycle (2016-2017), the WG11 has held two meetings; one in Arusha, Tanzania in November 2016 and the other in Kampala, Uganda in March 2017. The Assembly considered the WG11 report and highlighted the following:

Noted 01	The WG 11 developed a harmonized spectrum policy guideline, to be considered as reference by EAC member states.
Noted 02	The 23rd EACO Regulatory Assembly held in Kigali/Rwanda in June 2016 approved the guidelines on TV White Space deployment within EACO region. For the second cycle, the WG 11 agreed to update the document by including the guidelines on development of TV White Space database.
Noted 03	The WG 11 developed the mechanism for cross border coordination for specific services. Due to the existence of forced roaming in some places around boarder areas, the WG 11 also developed a separate framework for frequency cross border coordination for mobile services.
Noted 04	The WG 11 has developed the EACO informative report on licensing of the digital dividend spectrum for broadband services.
Noted 05	WG 11 developed the strategies for implementation of the outcomes of the

	WRC-15. The WG 11 has also established the structure of preparation of WRC 19, with Burundi as the coordinator of all WRC-19 preparatory activities within the EAC.
Noted 06	The WG11 reviewed the proposals on: • A Mutual licence and Type Approval Framework on Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs), • Mutual licence and Type Approval Framework on Wireless In-flight Communications Systems.
Noted 07	A training/workshop on Satellite regulatory is to be organized in Kigali-Rwanda in February 2018, with facilitation of experts from ITU,.
Agreed 01	The Assembly of the broadcasting Operators noted and adopted the reports and recommendations from the WG11.

6.0. RECOMMENDATIONS.

It was recommended that;

a) The following reports are considered and adopted;.
- A report on the issues on accessibility of premium broadcast content within EACO.
- The questionnaire on the Harmonized Performance Indicators for Broadcasting Services.
- A Regulatory framework for "MUST CARRY" channels and the licensing of subscription services on all platforms
- The guidelines for operations of Non-Terrestrial digital broadcasting within EACO.
- The report on Emerging Multimedia Services
- The harmonized spectrum policy guideline, to be considered as reference by EAC member states.
- The EACO informative report on licensing of the digital dividend spectrum for broadband services.

b) The Assembly of Broadcasters requests the EACO Secretariat to consider, and congress to adopt the recommendations on methods to be used to urge Broadcasters to participate in EACO meetings.

c) The assembly of Broadcasters allow WG 6 to continue and conclude the pending activities.

7.0. AOB

There was no other business for discussion**.**

8.0. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked members for their participation in the Assembly meeting and encouraged them to actively participate in the work of the Assembly during the year. The meeting ended at 1200 hrs.

ANNEXES

Annex 01:   List of Participants.

LIST OF
PARTICPANTS FOR B

Annex 02:   Report of the Chairman of the Assembly of Broadcasting Operator

CHAIRMANS
REPORT BROADCAST

Annex 03:   Reports of the 9th and 10th WG6 Meetings.

REPORT OF THE 9TH
MEETING OF WORKII

REPORT OF THE
10TH MEETING OF EA

Annex 04:   Report of the WG11 Meetings.

WG11 presentations
to the 24th Assemblie