



East African
Communications
Organisation

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
25RD EAST AFRICA COMMUNICATIONS
ORGANIZATION (EACO)**

CONGRESS

30TH JUNE 2023

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 25th EACO Congress meeting was held on the 30th June, 2023 at Royal Palace Hotel, in Bujumbura, Burundi. The meetings for the Working Groups and Committees, the Assemblies of Regulators, Telecommunications, Postal and Broadcasting Operators together, the signing of the Cross Border Frequencies Coordination Agreements, the Stakeholders' Dialogue on topical issues in the Communication sector, and EACO Executive Committee preceded the Congress at the same venue from 26th to 29th June 2023.

This report presents the proceedings and decisions of the Congress after considering the reports of the Assemblies, Human Resource Committee, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, and the Finances & Risks Management Committee.

2.0 PARTICIPATION

The Congress was attended by:

- i. DGs of the National Regulatory Authorities from member countries;
- ii. CEOs of various operators;
- iii. Representatives of ITU, UPU, PAPU, AFRALTI, SPIDER;
- iv. Members of EACO and other stakeholders.

3.0 OPENING CEREMONY FOR CONGRESS

3.1. Remark by the Executive Secretary of EACO – Dr. Ally Simba

The Executive Secretary welcomed all delegates in their respective capacities to the 25th EACO Congress.

He thanked Burundi, through Agence de Regulation et de Controle des Telecommunications (ARCT), for hosting the year's Congress as well as the consistent support in all areas of our endeavor to achieve EACO objective.

He also thanked the Government of Rwanda, particularly Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority for Hosting EACO Secretariat, all those who had made contributions to EACO, and in a special way all the CEOs who worked tirelessly to establish the EACO Secretariat in 2012.

Detailed speech is herewith attached.



SPEECH - EACO ES
SPEECH 25th CONGI

3.2 Remarks by the Director General of ARCT, Dr. Samuel Muhizi

The Director General of ARCT welcomed all the delegates the 25th EACO Congress. He indicated that Burundi was proud to host the Congress and commended the delegates for the efforts put in the week long proceedings which preceded the Congress. He also recognized and welcomed in a special way the Special Guests from the region and the invited all delegates to take benefit of the congress' activities.

The full speech is herein attached.



Discours Ouverture
Congrès DG ARCT -

3.3 Remark by Chairman of EACO, Eng. Patrick Baganizi, Director General, RURA

He thanked all EACO members for the accomplishments made so far, and particularly the EACO Secretariat.

He indicated that the theme of the year “*Enabling connection of the unconnected in the East African Region*” has been chosen as it is in line with EACO’s vision of “A digitally empowered East Africa region” and following one of the specific objectives of devising ways and means to achieve fast, reliable, secure, affordable and efficient communication services within the East African Community.

He furthermore invited the Guest of Honor to deliver the opening speech of the Congress.



Remark EACO
Chairman - Day 5 on

3.4. Speech of the Guest of Honour, Hon. Leocadie Ndacayisaba, Minister of Communication, Information Technology & Media, Republic of Burundi

The Minister thanked and congratulated all EACO members for their accomplishments and the different projects, among them the Databank Project launched during the event.

Coming back to the theme of the Congress “*Enabling connection of the unconnected in the East African Region*”, the Minister indicated being convinced that the Experts had been able to pin down all the edges and proposed innovative solutions allowing to solve the problem of

connectivity in the most remote corners of urban centers where the vast majority of population live.

The entire speech is herewith attached.



Speech Burundi ICT
Minister - opening c

4.0. HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE

The High-Level Round Table was held under the theme “Enabling connection of the unconnected in the East African Region”.

4.1 Opening of the High-Level Round Table

After the opening ceremony of the Congress, the High-Level Round Table followed and was moderated by Mr William Baraza, Director of AFRALTI.

The key note address was given by Ms. Christine Sund, Representative of the Director, ITU Regional Office for Africa.

4.2 Thematic Presentations and Discussions

The Round table discussion had thematic questions on:

- i. Strategy in connecting the unconnected;
- ii. Initiatives in connecting the unconnected in some countries;
- iii. Different progress in connecting the unconnected, impacts and experiences;
- iv. Best practices in promoting digital technologies for the good of all;
- v. Network’s coverage;
- vi. Digitalization of ICT services and impact on consumers.

Participated in the High-Level Roundtable the following:

- Mr. Mutua, Director of Development Cooperation, UPU
- Mr. Kezias Mwale, Radiocommunications Coordinator, ATU
- Mr. Matano Ndaró, Director Postal & Telecoms Services, CA
- Mr. John Daffa, Director of Licensing and Compliance, TCRA,
- Mr. Napoleon Adok Gai, Director General, NCA
- Eng. Irene Kagwa Sewankambo, Ag. Executive Director, UCC
- Mr. Bienvenu Irakoze, Executive Seretary, SETIC

5.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of the Agenda of the 25th EACO Congress
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Report of the Chairperson of the 24th EACO Congress
4. Handover of the Chairmanship for EACO
5. Presentations of Reports, for consideration:
 - EACO Audited Financial Statements by Chairperson of FARMC
 - Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee by Chairperson of LCAC
 - Human Resource Committee by Chairperson of HRC
 - Assembly of Regulators by Chairperson of Regulatory Assembly
 - Assembly of Telecom Operators by Chairperson of Telecom Assembly
 - Assembly of Broadcasting Operators by Chairperson of Broadcasting Assembly
 - Assembly of Postal Operators by Chairperson of Postal Assembly
 - Joint Working Committee by Chairman of EACO
6. Appreciations: Chairperson & Vice Chairperson of Committees & Working Groups (All)
7. Consideration of Applications for Membership to EACO
8. Date and Venue of the 26th EACO Congress
9. Adoption of the Summary of the Decisions of the 25th EACO Congress
10. Final Communiqué
11. Closing

6.0 REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF 24th EACO CONGRESS AND HANDOVER

The outgoing Chairman, Eng. Patrick Baganizi, Director General, RURA, specifically thanked and commended the Executive Committee (EXCOM), the EACO Secretariat and Working Groups (WGs) and Committees which through their joint effort and commitment sustained and satisfactorily coordinated the various activities and programmes of EACO in the last two years.

He noted that the organization did not only expand its programmes and network but also made some visible contribution to the ICT sector in the region and beyond in the last two years.

The outgoing Chairman also noted that during the year 2023, the Executive Committee of EACO considered and approved a Five Years Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 which will guide the Action Plans and programmes of the Secretariat and the organization. He thanked all those who have contributed to the elaboration of the strategic plan and invited all EACO members and stakeholders to contribute in its implementation.

He briefly highlighted some of the key activities and programmes in which the organization was engaged in during the last two years, including challenges which impacted on the achievement of the set organizational goals and objectives.

The outgoing Chairman Eng. Patrick Baganizi, handed over the chairmanship to the incoming Chairman Dr. Samuel Muhizi of Burundi.

The full report of the outgoing Chairman of EACO is attached herewith.



Report _25th EACO
Congress Chairman

7.0 KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE NEW CHAIRPERSON

The incoming Chairman expressed his utmost gratitude for the honor to chair the East African Communications Organization (EACO). On behalf of Burundi delegation, he committed to do his best in order to progress the organization.

He congratulated the Republic of Rwanda on steering EACO to greater heights during their tenure and also the achievements during the period, comprising the support in ratification of the EACO Host Agreement.

8.0 ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The Congress constituted the Bureau as follows:

Chairman : Dr Samuel Muhizi, ARCT

1st Rapporteur : Mr. Emmanuel Misago, ARCT

2nd Rapporteur : Mr. Mayor Moses, NCA

Designated Liaisons: Dr. Norah Sitati, EACO Secretariat

9.0 PRESENTATION OF REPORTS, FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. Joint Working Committee

The Report of the Joint Working Committee was presented to Congress comprising a certain number of recommendations.

The detailed report is herewith attached.



REPORT OF THE
28TH EACO JOINT W

9.2 Assembly of Regulators

The report was presented by the Chairman of the Assembly and was adopted.

The detailed report is attached herewith.



REPORT OF THE
28TH EACO REGULA

9.3 Assembly of Telecommunications Operators

The report of the Assembly of Telecom Operators was presented and adopted.

The detailed report is attached herewith.



Report of the 28th
Assembly of Telecon

9.4 Assembly of Broadcasters

The report of the Assembly of Broadcasters was presented and adopted.

The detailed report is attached herewith.



Report of the 28th
EACO Broadcasters /

9.5 Assembly of Postal Operators

The report of the Assembly of Postal Operators and proposals contained therein were adopted.

A detailed report of the Postal Assembly is attached herewith



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AL_ASSEMBLY_HELD

10.0 APPRECIATIONS: CHAIRPERSON & VICE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS (ALL)

All the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Working Groups & Committees received from EACO Certificates of Recognition for their contributions to EACO during the cycles 2019-2020 & 2021-2023.

11.0 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO EACO

There were no applications for membership to EACO.

12.0 DATE AND VENUE FOR THE 29th EACO ASSEMBLIES AND THE 26th EACO CONGRESS

The 29th EACO Assemblies will be hosted by Kenya in 2024 while the 26th EACO Congress will be held in South Sudan in 2025. The exact dates will be communicated in due course by the EACO Secretariat.

13.0 ADOPTION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE EACO CONGRESS.

The rapporteurs presented the report highlighting the major areas which were noted and/or agreed upon by the 25th EACO Congress.

Detailed Joint Communiqué is attached hereunder.



FINAL
COMMUNIQUE OF T

14.0 CLOSING.

The 25th Congress was closed by the Dr. Samuel Muhizi, Director General of ARCT and Chairman of EACO.

He thanked everyone for the contribution on the success of the Congress week: EACO Secretariat, the organizing committee, the different delegations, the partners and stakeholders.

He noted and appreciated EACO's role of enhancing and coordinating development of ICTs in the region and invited each one to support.

We wished safe journey to all.

This 30th Day of June 2023