

THE 1ST EACO ADVISORY COUNCIL AND 30TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLIES REPORT

JUNE 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 1st EACO Advisory Council and 30th Annual Assemblies were held from 9th – 13th June 2025 at Radisson Blu Hotel in Juba, South Sudan. The event was hosted by the National Communication Authority under the theme: **“Shaping the Future of East African Region through Digital Transformation”**.

The meetings for the Working Groups and Committees commenced on 9th June 2025 and 30th Annual Assemblies on 10th June 2025, which preceded the official opening done on 11th June 2025. After the official opening session, followed the Unveiling of EACO Communication Sector Regional Statistics for 2024; launch of East Africa Framework on Communication Mechanism among the National CERTs/CIRTs; Signing of the Agreement on East Africa framework for communication mechanism among the national CERTs/CIRT and the Ministerial Round table, to reinforce the theme of the Advisory Council’s week which create a forum where Ministers of ICTs in the EA region discussed and shared their experiences. Two Workshops were also held on Cybersecurity incidents & Communication and Emerging Technologies.

The 1st Advisory Council was held on Day 5 of the week, 13th June 2025.

2.0 PARTICIPATION

The 1st Advisory Council and 30th Assemblies were attended by 71 International Delegates from the Member States, Regional and International Partners such as EAC, JMAT, ITU, ISOC, AFRALTI, Huawei, World Bank and SPIDER. The Host mobilized over 250 participants in various fields such as the Academia, Media, Policy Makers, Legislators, Regulators, Operators /services providers in the ICT sector, and consumers of ICT services in the Republic of South Sudan.

3.0 OPENING OF THE 1st ADVISORY COUNCIL AND 30TH ASSEMBLIES WEEK

3.1 Opening on Day 1 - 9th June 2025

On Monday, 9th June 2025, the event was opened with official briefings by the Executive Director, Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba with these remarks “It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the first working day of the 1st EACO Advisory Council and 30th Annual Assemblies here in Juba. While the official opening ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, today marks the beginning of an exciting and impactful week of dialogue, collaboration, and technical deliberation. Ladies and Gentlemen, our theme for this year is: “Shaping the Future of the East African Region through Digital Transformation.” This is not just a vision—it is a mandate that calls upon all of us to

drive the kind of innovation, harmonization, and policy foresight that will empower our citizens and economies in the digital age.” He was followed by the Director General of NCA, South Sudan, Mr. Gieth Kon Mathiang, who welcomed the audience to Juba with these remarks “This is an opportunity; it reflects our growth and belief in regional solidarity. The contributions to be made will bolster the impact and legitimacy of our collective efforts. It is essential to remember that the policies, recommendations, and technical standards adopted will have an impact on the lives of every citizen.” The opening briefing were closed by the Chairman of EACO and Director General of ARCT Burundi, Dr. Samuel Muhizi, with these remarks “This reflects the collective aspiration of our region to harness the power of information and communication technologies for sustainable socio-economic development and effective Annual Assemblies of the East African Communications Organisation. The journey of the EACO has been one of harmonization and collaboration, where robust, reliable, secure, and affordable communication services are a reality for every citizen. The 1st Advisory Council and the 30th Annual Assemblies of EACO will discuss cross-cutting issues, including flagship governance systems as well as building stronger collaboration among regulators, operators, innovators, and policymakers”.

3.2 Official opening on Day 3 - 11th June 2025

On Wednesday, 11th June 2025, there was Official Opening of the Advisory Council & 30th Annual Assemblies week, with speeches. These were followed by the Unveiling of EACO Communication Sector Regional Statistics for 2024; Launch of East Africa Framework on Communication Mechanism among the National CERTs / CIRTs; The Ministerial Round table: to reinforce the theme of the Advisory Council’s week and create a forum where Ministers of ICTs in the EA region discussed and shared their experiences. Two Workshops were also held on Cybersecurity incidents & Communication and Emerging Technologies.

3.2.1 Remark by the Executive Director of EACO – Dr. Ally Simba

The Executive Director welcomed all delegates in their respective capacities to the 1st Advisory Council and 30th Assemblies.

He thanked South Sudan, through National Communications Authority (NCA), for hosting the events. He was grateful to the Guest of Honour, Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister for Information, Communication Technology and Postal Services of South Sudan, for taking his time off from busy schedules to be with us that very morning. According to the Executive Director, this was more than enough testimony of South Sudan’s commitment to the objective of EACO, in general and, in particular to the quest for “Shaping the Future of the East African Region through Digital Transformation.”

Detailed speech is herewith attached.



EACO ED SPEECH _
DAY 3_2025.docx

3.2.2 Remarks by the Director General of NCA, Mr. Gieth Kon Mathiang

The Director General of NCA welcomed all the delegates to the 1st Advisory Council and 30th Annual Assemblies. He indicated that South Sudan was proud to host the events and promised that all the requirements would be met to make their stay in South Sudan comfortable. For him, hosting the milestone event was not only a turning point in South Sudan’s regional integration within the East African ICT and communications ecosystem—it was also a testament to their readiness to engage and their commitment to shaping the future of digital transformation in the region.

The full speech is herein attached.



DG NCA Speech
during opening 1st Ac

3.2.3 Remarks by the Chairman of EACO, Dr Samuel Muhizi, Director General of Agence de Regulation et de Controle des Telecommunications (ARCT-Burundi)

The Chairman of EACO mentioned that the theme for the week of 1st Advisory Council and 30th Assemblies was “Shaping the future of the East African Region through Digital Transformation”; and was in line with EACO’s vision of “A digitally empowered East Africa region”.

Also, indicated: “As we leverage technology to create new opportunities, drive efficiency and innovation in the East African Region, we need to drive the uptake of emerging technologies such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Edge Computing and 5G.”

The full remark is herewith attached;



Remark EACO
Chairman - Day 3 - At

3.2.4 Remarks by Mr. Robert Achieng, Representative of SG -EAC

The representative of the Secretary General of East African Community confirmed that since its establishment a couple of decades ago, EACO had performed exceptionally well in its role as a vital player in the EAC integration process. He indicated that at the EAC Secretariat, they applauded EACO for its accomplishments.

The entire speech herewith attached;



EAC Remarks - 2025
EACO Congress Juba

3.2.5 Remarks by Ms. Mavis Maunganidze, Representative of SG-ITU

The representative of the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) indicated that the 30th Annual Assembly and the inaugural Advisory Council meeting, marked a significant milestone in the journey of regional cooperation and digital transformation in East Africa. She emphasized that EACO had a very good relation with ITU and this demonstrated in hosting some ITU major events.

The entire speech herewith attached;



ITU Speech -
Revised.docx

3.2.6 Remarks by Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of ICT and National Guidance, Uganda

The Minister commended EACO for the great contribution it is doing in the communication sector and committed that Uganda will provide support where it will be required.

Noting that a big population of East Africa is young, he invited ICT stakeholders to promote innovation in the sector in order to increase opportunities for the youth. Also, he advised Africa in general, and East Africa in particular, to make children not by chance, but by choice.

3.2.7 Speech of the Guest of Honour, Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth, the Minister of Information, Communication Technology and Postal Services, Republic of South Sudan

The Minister stated that South Sudan's active participation in EACO reflected their dedication to harmonizing ICT policies and regulations across the region. He indicated that by aligning their frameworks, they aim to facilitate seamless communication, foster innovation, and ensure that their citizens reap the benefits of a connected East Africa.

The Minister thanked and congratulated all EACO members for their accomplishments and the different projects.

The entire speech is herewith attached.



Minister's Speech -
EACO.docx

4.0 UNVEILING OF EACO COMMUNICATION SECTOR REGIONAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 2024

To improve the regional report on communication statistics, a Working Group (WG1) on EACO Communication Sector Indicators Harmonization was established and commenced its operations during the financial year (2023/2024) as part of the implementation of the new strategic plan. This had existed before as the databank project and its purpose was to improve data collection, analysis and reporting for the communication sector in the East Africa region. This Regional Annual sector statistics report is being published in June every year, containing data from January to December of the previous year.

The unveiling for this year was done by Hon. David Yauyau Jongkuch, the Deputy Minister of Information, Communication Technology and Postal Services. He also handed over copies of the report to the CEOs of NRAs and other high-level dignitaries that attended the event.

The published report is herewith attached.



EACO_REPORT_2[1].
pdf

5.0 LAUNCH OF EAST AFRICA FRAMEWORK ON COMMUNICATION MECHANISM AMONG THE NATIONAL CERTS / CIRTS & SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON EAST AFRICA FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNICATION MECHANISM AMONG THE NATIONAL CERTS/CIRTS

The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of national information security experts responsible for protecting against, detecting, and responding to cybersecurity incidents within a country. For effective mechanisms to reliably address cyber threats and incidents, a framework on communication mechanism among the national CERTs/CIRTS.

The framework provides requirements for communication and information sharing among the national CERTs in the Region:

- Notification Protocols
- Secure Communication Channels
- Information sharing
- Appointment of a Communication Focal Point (CFP) responsible for timely communication and sharing.
- Recommendation on platform to be used: consider using encrypted communication platforms i.e. PGP-encrypted emails.
- Provide post incident report template (Annex the framework)
- Include statements on accountability and enforcement mechanism

The framework has been launched; attached is the presentation made by Mr. Vukeni Innocent Joseph, Assistant Team Leader of the CERTs/CIRTS the Communication Focal Points.



EACO Framework
Presentation Final.ppt

The presentation concluded on necessity of trust, readiness and collaboration among the national CERTs/CIRTS.

After the launch, an agreement on East Africa framework for communication mechanism among the national CERTs/CIRTS has been signed by the Head of National Regulatory Authorities and CEOs of National Institutions in charge of CERTs/CIRTS.

6.0. HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE

The High-Level Round Table was held under the theme “Shaping the Future of East African Region through Digital Transformation”.

6.1 Opening of the High-Level Round Table

The high-level roundtable was opened by a keynote address delivered by Mr. William Baraza, Director of AFRALTI.

The presentation is herewith attached,



Baraza-East Africa
Region - Digital Trans

The session was moderated by Mr. Molefe Mathibe, CEO of JMAT Advisory Services.

6.2 Participation in the high-level roundtable

Participated in the High-Level Roundtable the following:

- **Uganda:** Hon. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of ICT and National Guidance
- **South Sudan:** Hon. David Yauyau, Deputy Minister of ICT and Permanent Services
- **Rwanda:** Charles GAHUNGU, Head of ICT Department, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA)
- **Kenya:** **CHRP Patricia Kerretts – Kemei**, Deputy Director, Administration, Communications Authority of Kenya
- **Tanzania:** Tusajigwe Isaga Mwalukasa, Director of ICT, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)
- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** Mr. Bruno YUMA UTCHUDI, Director, International Relations, Autorite des Regulations de la Poste et des Telecommunications (ARPTC)
- **Somalia:** Mr. Mustafa Y. SHEIK, Director General, National Communications Authority (NCA)

6.3 Guiding question

Participants on the panel had to answer each the same question related to their respective countries, as following:

“The East African region has experience tremendous growth in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in the recent times. Several countries have had many initiatives backed by a conducive policy and regulatory environment. What has been your country’s digital transformation journey? What are the challenges faced and how are you addressing them?”

The panelists shared their different initiatives, achievements and perspectives in digital transformation. The countries are at different stages in terms of policies and regulatory environment but all are progressing.

7.0 WORKSHOPS

Two workshops were organized alongside the 1st Advisory Council & 30th Annual Assemblies: the first on Cybersecurity Incidents Response & Communications; the second on Emerging Technologies.

7.1 Workshop on Cybersecurity Incidents Response & Communications

7.1.1 Background

As cyber threats grow in complexity and frequency, the ability to respond swiftly and communicate effectively during incidents has become essential. Cybersecurity incident response involves the detection, containment, and recovery from cyberattacks, while communication ensures coordination, transparency, and trust among stakeholders.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness, and to share knowledge and experiences on cybersecurity incident response and effective communication. It aims to enhance participants' understanding of best practices, improve coordination among stakeholders, and strengthen overall preparedness in managing cyber threats.

7.1.2 Structure of the workshop

The workshop was moderated by Mr. Stephen Unguec Kang, from National Communication Authority (NCA), South Sudan, Vice-Chairperson of EACO WG3 on Consumer Issues, Quality of Service and Cyber Security.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Bengt Mölleryd, Senior Analyst, Swedish Programme for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER).

The entire keynote is herewith attached.



Bengt presentation
EACO Juba 11 JUNE_2

Three presentations have been made.

The presentation was on the topic: "*Enhancing Regional Cybersecurity in Africa through CERT and CSIRT Collaboration: A Perspective for East African Community Resilience*", and was made Dr. Martin Koyabe, from Global Forum on Cyber Expertise.

The presentation is herein attached ;



GFCE-EACO-Presentation-Final-11-Jun-202

The topic of the 2nd presentation was: "*Extending Encryption*" et was presented by Mr. Ghislain Nkeramugaba, IXP Development Expert, Internet Society (ISOC).

The full presentation is herewith attached;



ISOC Presentation -
All-in-One-Primer-Pr

The third presentation was made by Eng. Vukeni Innocent Joseph, Assistant Director, Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT), South Sudan, on the topic: "*Coordinating National Response and Communication During Cybersecurity Incidents*". The presentation is herewith attached ;



Vukeni -
Coordinating Nationa

7.1.3 Conclusion & recommendations from the workshop

The workshop equipped participants with practical skills for managing cyber incidents and establishing clear communication protocols. It helped to strengthen institutional readiness, improve collaboration and ensure compliance with cybersecurity frameworks and legal obligations.

In conclusion,

- Cybersecurity requires increasing attention as cyberattacks continue to grow in scale and profitability;
- Capacity-building in cybersecurity should be a continuous effort;
- A structured approach to incident reporting is crucial for effective cybersecurity;
- Digital transformation increases societal vulnerability, making the workshop a highly important event.

Below were the recommendations:

EAC Member States should:

- Continue strengthening regional cyber resilience;
- Improve trust across digital public services;
- Enhance better-prepared response ecosystem;
- Reinforce the importance of collaboration;
- Encourage commitment from members States and stakeholders (especially political will);
- Mitigate threats posed by emerging technologies;
- Use emerging tech like AI to enhance cyber resilience;
- Invest in human resource and technical capacity.

7.2 Workshop on Emerging Technologies

7.2.1 Background

As we leverage technology to create new opportunities, drive efficiency and innovation in the East African Region, we need to drive the uptake of emerging technologies such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Edge Computing and 5G. The uptake of these technologies presents a number of challenges and opportunities which include skills gap, change management to ensure digital transformation, regulatory compliance and infrastructure upgrades among other. The EACO Advisory Council and Assemblies provided an opportunity

for Policy, Regulatory and Industry experts from the region and beyond to delve deep into these issues during the discussions and propose a way forward for the region. The communication sector was engaged in discussions on this relevant topic during the workshop on emerging technologies.

7.2.2 Structure of the workshop

The workshop on emerging technologies was moderated by the Chair of EACO Working Group 5 on Broadcasting Development, Spectrum Management & Media Services Regulations, Eng. Dud Acol De Dut, who is also the Director of Spectrum Management at the National Communication Authority, South Sudan. It involved presenters from the mobile and satellite industry.

The workshop started with a presentation from Meta titled “*Enabling the Next Generation of Technology in Africa*” by Ms. Mercy Ndegwa, Director of Public Policy for East and Horn of Africa, Meta.

The presentation is herein attached.



**Meta EACO 2025
30th Assemblies Pres**

The second presenter was Mr. Linden Petzer-Senior Advisor, Global Satellite Operators Association-GSOA. His presentation was titled “*Developments in satellite communication technology*”.

The presentation is herein attached.



**GSOA Developments
in Satcoms.pdf**

The third and last presentation titled “*Progress on development of 6G/IMT 2030*” was made by Mr. Daniel Obam, Special Advisor on Africa Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Huawei Technologies.

The presentation is herein attached.



**Huawei Presentation
to EACO Council 2025**

7.2.3 Key highlights from the three presentations

On enabling the Next Generation of Technology in Africa, Ms. Mercy Ndegwa, the Meta's Director of Public Policy for East and Horn of Africa, presented on emerging technologies, focusing on Meta's investments in infrastructure and AI initiatives. She highlighted the 2Africa submarine cable project, which will enhance internet connectivity across Africa, and the open-source Llama AI model. Mercy emphasized Meta's commitment to open-sourcing AI to foster innovation, economic development, and local problem-solving, while also discussing the benefits for governments in adopting open-source AI for public service delivery.

Mercy discussed Meta's efforts in Africa to improve online safety through stakeholder engagements, policy updates, and AI tools. She highlighted initiatives like youth safety programs, collaborations with regulatory agencies, and the expansion of monetization tools across several African countries. Mercy also addressed questions on reporting mechanisms for suspicious activities and the company's stance on regulation, emphasizing the need for appropriate regulatory frameworks tailored to OTT services.

On Satellite Communications, trends and Innovations, Mr. Linden Petzer presented an overview of satellite communications, highlighting developments in technology and applications, particularly in Africa. He discussed the integration of satellite and terrestrial networks, emphasizing the growing importance of non-terrestrial networks in 5G and beyond. Linden also addressed trends in satellite policy and regulation, advocating for enabling policies and cross-sector innovation. The session concluded with a Q&A, where participants raised questions about spectrum allocation, space debris, and the attractiveness of the satellite sector for young professionals. Mr. Linden highlighted that the governments should have activities/activities where government institutions like the space agencies reach out to young people to interest them into satellite issues.

Regarding 6G Technology and African Development, Mr. Daniel Obam presented on the development of 6G technology, highlighting its potential to enable new applications like autonomous vehicles, VR/AR, and remote surgery. He explained that 6G, expected to be deployed by 2030, will provide ultra-reliable low-latency communication and massive connectivity. He emphasized the need for Africa to identify relevant use cases for 6G and collaborate with academic institutions to develop the technology. He also addressed concerns about the digital divide, suggesting that policy interventions are needed to ensure that people in Africa can benefit from new technologies without being left behind.

7.2.4 Recommendations from the workshop

- EACO Member States to participate more actively in ITU Working Party 5D meetings to ensure African representation in early stages of 6G development and standardization
- Government Agencies should develop policies to address smartphone accessibility and digital literacy to close the usage gap in mobile networks
- EACO Member States to Identify relevant local use cases for 6G technology that address unique African challenges and needs
- Government Regulators to review spectrum allocation strategies to ensure sufficient bandwidth availability for future 6G deployment
- Meta to share list of countries where monetization tools are currently available with EACO organizers for distribution to participants
- Meta to continue expanding monetization tools access to more African countries beyond current 7 countries
- Meta to expand AI training programs to more African countries beyond current pilot countries
- EACO Secretariat to coordinate partnerships between academic institutions and technology companies to develop local digital content and solutions
- Academic Institutions should increase collaboration with industry to conduct research and development focused on African-specific use cases for emerging technologies
- National Regulatory Authorities to allocate budget to support staff participation in physical working group meetings, trainings, and international regulatory forums
- EACO Member States to address cross-border frequency coordination issues between neighboring countries
- Broadcasters and Mobile Network Operators to work together to resolve spectrum sharing challenges in the 500-600 bands
- EACO Partner States to harmonize the EACO cross-border frequency coordination framework with the ITU framework for Africa
- EACO Member States to strengthen cooperation between broadcasting, regulatory, telecommunication, and postal assemblies

8.0 ASSEMBLIES & JOIN WORKING COMMITTEES REPORTS

8.1 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
REGULATORY ASSEM

8.2 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 30th
Assembly of Telecom

8.3 Assembly of Broadcasters

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

The detailed report is attached herewith.



Report of the 30th
EACO Broadcasters As

8.4 Assembly of Postal Operators

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

The detailed report of the Postal Assembly is attached herewith



REPORT OF THE
30TH POSTAL ASSEM

8.5 Joint Working Committee

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

The detailed report is herewith attached.



REPORT OF THE
30TH EACO JOINT WC

9.0 ADVISORY COUNCIL

9.1 Opening

After remarks by Dr Ally Simba, Executive Director of EACO; Mr. Gieth Kon Mathiang, Director General of NCA; Dr Samuel Muhizi, Chairman of EACO; the Advisory Council was opened by Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister of ICT and Postal Services of South Sudan.

The Minister commended again the role of EACO in promoting the communication sector. He indicated that the presence of different EACO members, partners and stakeholders demonstrated the commitment and belief to its activities and contributions.

9.2 Report of the Chairman of EACO

The Chairman of EACO Dr Samuel Muhizi presented the report for the period 2023-2025. Among other activities were the revision of EACO Constitution, the recruitment of a new Executive Director.

The entire report is herewith attached;



Report_Chairman
1st EACO Advisory Cc

Therefore, the Chairman of EACO presented the new Executive Director Ms. Caroline Koech and give her opportunity to deliver some remarks.

After his report, he handed over the Chairmanship to Mr. Gieth Kon Mathiang, Director General of NCA, who became the Chairman of EACO for the period 2025-2027.

9.3 Appreciation and Recognition

Appreciation and recognition have been done to the following:

- i) Outgoing Chairman of EACO
- ii) Chairperson of Regulatory Assembly (DG CA Kenya)
- iii) Chairperson of Telecom Assembly (Airtel Kenya)

- iv) Chairperson of Broadcasting Assembly (KBS Kenya)
- v) Chairperson of Postal Assembly (Post Corporation Kenya)
- vi) Outgoing Executive Director, EACO
- vii) DG NCA South Sudan (Host of the Event)

9.4 Final Communiqué

After the deliberations, a final communiqué was read and is herein attached.



**Final Communiqué of
the 1st Advisory Council**

10.0 CLOSING.

The Advisory Council was closed by Hon. Michael Makuei, Ministry of Information, Communications and Postal Services, Republic of South Sudan.

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

He reiterated the commitment of South Sudan's Government to support initiatives and indicated the availability to attend the EACO Assemblies scheduled to be held in Kigali, Rwanda next year.

Lastly, he thanked everyone for the contribution on the success of all activities held during the week; and wished all a safe journey.

Done this 13th Day of June 2025 at Radisson Blu Hotel-Juba, South Sudan