

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF WG1: POLICY AND REGULATORY HARMONIZATION FRAMEWORKS, HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND JULY 2019 AT TCRA OFFICES IN MWANZA, TANZANIA

1. Introduction:

The meeting of Working Group WG1 was held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Offices in Mwanza Tanzania

2. Agenda:

1. Opening of meeting
2. Introduction of participants
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Appointment of Rapporteurs
5. Remarks from the Chairperson
6. Review of the progress on the implementation of WG 1 Terms of Reference
7. Review of WG1 Report to Congress
8. Closing of meeting

3. Introduction of participants

The meeting was attended by participants from Uganda, Kenya, Zanzibar, Tanzania and Burundi.

The list of participants is indicated in Annex 1 to this report.

4. Appointment of Rapporteur

Rita ZarambaSekaddefrom Uganda Communications Commission was appointed as the rapporteur for the meeting.

5. Communication from the Chair

The Chair (the Vice Chair of the WG1) welcomed members to the meeting and indicated that the substantive Chair of WG1 Mr.Christopher Kemei from Communications Authority of Kenyawas absent and the Vice Chair would therefore take on the role of chairing the meeting.

The Chair informed members that WG1 had last held a meeting in September 2018 and therefore the purpose of this meeting was to review the implementation of the Work plan of WG1.

6. Review of Terms of Reference of Working Group1

Members were informed that for the Working Group Cycle 2018-2019, Working Group 1 had met in January 2018, June 2018 and September 2018.

Members noted with concern that many of the activities in the Working Groups Work Plan had not been executed in the Period July 2018 to June 2019.

Members reviewed the status of implementation of the Work Plan for WG01 and amended it as follows:

Reviewed Work Plan for WG1

No.	TERM OF REFERENCE	ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLE	TIME FRAME	COORDINATOR
1	Review policies and regulatory frameworks within the regional on digital Broadcasting, postal issues and subscriber registration	a) Refinement of data collection Matrices by the WG1 Members	Refined Clear Matrix for review of digital broadcasting, Postal Issues and Subscriber Registration in member states	September 2018	Completed
		b) Circulation of the refined matrices to member countries for input.	Dispatched Matrices to relevant WG1 Members across the Member states	Done	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs.
		c) Each country to submit policy and regulatory status on digital broadcasting, Postal Issues and Subscriber Registration in memberstates using circulated matrices by EACO secretariat	Country Status	August 2019	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs.
		d) Compilation of completed or populated country status matrices.	Consolidated Regional Matrices		

		e) WG1 to analyse the above status in member states including identification of good practice and gaps	Draft Analysis Report submitted to member states for review & input	September 2019	
			Incorporation of input and generation of Draft Final Report	Within two months of completion of draft.	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs and WG1 Chairperson.
			Validation and adoption of final report by member states	January 2020	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs and WG1 Chairperson.
2	Develop and recommend harmonized regional Policy and Regulatory Framework for digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration	a) Benchmark with the global best practices on I. digital Broadcasting, II. Postal; and III. Subscriber registration by the WG1 members.	Depository of global best practice on digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration	January - March 2020	All WG1 Members should share their country experiences
		b) Developing and sharing of the Benchmarking Report with WG1 Members.	Benchmarking Report	April 2020	All WG1 Members
		c) Development of the draft	Draft harmonized digital	June 2020	UCC (Uganda) and

	chapter on digital broadcasting policy taking into account the above analysis	broadcasting policy chapter.		NCA (South Sudan)
	d) Development of the draft chapter on Postal policy taking into account the above analysis	Draft harmonized postal policy chapter.	June 2020	CA (Kenya) and TCRA (Tanzania)
	e) Development of the draft chapter on Subscriber Registration policy taking into account the above analysis	Draft harmonised subscriber registration policy chapter.	June 2020	ARCT (Burundi) and RURA (Rwanda)
	f) Amalgamation of the chapters from each country's benchmark into a harmonized regional Policy and Regulatory Framework for digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration	Draft one (1) harmonized regional Policy and Regulatory Framework for digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration	September 2020	Secretariat -EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs
	g) Validation of the harmonized regional Policy and Regulatory Framework for digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration	Final harmonized regional Policy and Regulatory Framework for digital Broadcasting, Postal and Subscriber registration for presentation to Regulatory Assembly.	November 2020	Secretariat - EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs

3	Identify and recommend any other relevant policy and /or regulatory framework	a) Developing and Refinement of data collection template by secretariat	Refined Data collection template on relevant Policy and or regulatory framework	September 2019	Secretariat - EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs
		b) Circulation of the refined template to member countries for input.	Dispatched template to relevant WG 1 Members across the Member states	October 2019	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs
		c) EACO members to submit proposals on new areas that requires policy and regulatory framework development	EACO members Proposals on policy and regulatory framework development.	If needed	All WG1 Members
		d) Compilation of completed or populated country status templates.	Consolidated Regional Matrices on Areas that require policy or regulatory framework development	If needed	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs and WG1 Chairperson.
		e) Analysis of the consolidated regional templates on areas that requires policy and regulatory framework development	Draft Analysis Report submitted to member states for review & input	If needed	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs and WG1 Chairperson.
			Incorporation of input and generation of Draft	If needed	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory

			Final Report		Affairs and WG1 Chairperson.
			Validation and adoption of final report by member states (Meeting)	If needed	EACO Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs and WG1 Chairperson.
4.	Analyse and Develop harmonized positions relating to ICT policy and Regulatory frameworks under consideration in the various regional and international fora	Identify ICT policies and Regulatory frameworks	Policies and regulatory frameworks identified	As and when needed	All Member States
		Harmonize positions	harmonized Positions	As when needed	
		Disseminate proposals	Proposals disseminated	As and when needed	

7. Challenges of implementation of the Terms of Reference for WG1 in the period July 2018 – June 2019

1. Absence and Inconsistent participation of WG members. Designated members of the WG never attend all meetings to ensure continuity and execution of the work of the WG.
2. Lack of participation at online meetings considering that the WG has one physical meeting annually and other meetings are online.
3. Lack of leadership for the WG and absence of key members of the WG at meetings for example the Chair of the WG. The WG1 Chair has not attended any meeting for the 2 years of 3rd Cycle of EACO Working Groups.

4. Country status reports have not been provided on time as indicated in the matrix for implementation of the Work plan that was last reviewed in September 2018.
5. There is need for better coordination Working group activities by the Secretariat and the chairmanship to ensure that deliverables of the WG are executed in a timely manner.
6. Absence of participation of operators in the Communications Sector in WG meetings which would not only advance the agenda of WGs but also ensure a harmonized approach to development of policy in the Communications sector.

8.Recommendations to address the challenges of the Working Group

1. Each country must officially designate a permanent member of the WG to ensure continuity of participation. Each country must ensure consistence in the participation of the designated member of the WG.
2. Working Group members should be held personally accountable by their countries for delivering on the mandate of the Working Group as assigned to them by the WG on behalf of their country.
3. Secretariat should maximize the utilization of online meeting applications (eg zoom, blue jeans etc) to ensure that Working Group information is available for all meetings and online meetings are scheduled on time with sufficient information.
4. EXCOM should consider changingthe Chair of WG1to ensure effective leadership and coordination in the WG since absence of a Chair has affected the execution of the mandate and Terms of Reference of the WG.
5. The Members of the WG must ensure that they submit in a timely manner the submission of country status reports to enable the Secretariat coordinate the same before the WG meetings.
6. EACO Secretariat should coordinate and follow up with WG resolutions and requests for information to ensure that WG tasks are executed in a timely manner.
7. EACO should encourage Operators in the Communications sector to actively and consistently participate in WG meetings.

9.Any Other Business

The Working Group received the Lead Economist in the Africa Chief Economist's Office from the World Bank Mr. Mark Dutz.

Mr. Dutz shared with the WG World Bank's projects in the Information Communications Technology sector with specific reference to the harmonization of laws and regulatory policies in the East African region.

Mr. Dutz agreed to share with the WG the information that World Bank has collected (concept note and model) so that members can provide comments and input into the study to be launched.

He informed members that the input from EACO and Operators would be vital in enriching the proposed study by World Bank since this information shall focus on both the cost and demand sides of the communications terrain.

Members of the WG advised that World bank should consider development of a questionnaire specific to the information required including a clearly defined outcome of the analysis of the data collected thereafter.

Members also advised that the preliminary investigation should assess the studies that have already been done and the recommendations thereof before the World Bank study can proceed.

This proposed World Bank study should also consider the areas where harmonization can or cannot be achieved based on the preliminary information collected from EACO and regional operators.

10.Closing of the meeting

There being no other business for the WG 01, the meeting ended at 04.30pm

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Rapporteur

Rita ZarambaSekadde

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WG1 Vice-Chair

Leonidas Ndayahundwa

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Liaison Manager Regulatory Affairs

Alexis Sinarinzi

ANNEX 1

	Name	Institution	Country
1.	Ndayahundwa Leonidas	Agency for Regulation and Control of Telecommunications (ARCT)	Burundi
2.	Rita ZarambaSekadde	Uganda Communications Commission (UCC)	Uganda
3.	Stella Kipsaita	Communications Authority of Kenya (CA)	Kenya
4.	Karimi Ruria	Safaricom	Kenya
5.	Lorna Nyandat	American Tower Corporation (ATC)	Kenya
6.	Omar Said	Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission	Zanzibar
7.	Godliving Kessy	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)	Tanzania
8.	BaluhyeKadaya	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TRCA)	Tanzania
9.	Alexis Sinarinzi	East African Communications Organization (EACO)	EACO – Kigali, Rwanda

10.	Mark Dutz	World Bank	Washington DC, United States of America
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