Economic Commission for Africa

Annual WSIS Regional Review Meeting for Africa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

23-24 November 2016

Draft Report

I. Introduction

In accordance to the outcomes of the UN General Assembly overall review on the implementation of WSIS (UNGA Resolution A/70/125) regional commissions are invited to continue their work in implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level. The African Regional WSIS Follow-up and Annual Review Meeting was held from 23 to 24 November 2016, at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This regional WSIS implementation process workshop provided also a platform for information sharing and collection of regional inputs on the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes and in particular WSIS Action Lines fostering the achievement of SDGs. The meeting was organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The main objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- Assess the progress that African countries are making in achieving each Action lines of the WSIS outcomes in support of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Identify regional challenges and opportunities, while strengthening alignment between implementation of the WSIS and SDGs as well the African Union's 2063
- Provide structured opportunities to network, learn and participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on WSIS implementation.
- Share experiences and lessons from existing mechanisms to coordinate the work of different development actors in Africa;

The outcomes of this meeting will constitute input to the WSIS Forum (12-16 June 2017, Geneva, Switzerland) and its open consultation process, WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Prizes, thereby bringing to forefront emerging trends, opportunities and challenges from the regional layer in a multistakeholder format.

II. Participation

Representatives of the following countries attended the meeting: Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Guinee Bissau, Sierra Leone, Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Lesotho, South Africa, Mauritius and Madagascar. Representatives from the following UN organizations and agencies also attended the meeting: International Telecommunications Union (ITU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Smart Africa was also represented at the meeting.

The list of participants is reproduced in Appendix 1 .

III. Opening of the meeting

The opening ceremony was chaired and opened by Mr. Kasirim Nwuke chief of New Technology and Innovation Section of Economic Commission for Africa. Mr. Nwuke began this session welcoming the participants and highlighting the important role of ICTs in the economic development and integration of the continent, as well as the need for Africa to get organized to derive maximum benefits from the ICTs. He mentioned that this regional review is organized in the implementation of the oved Resolution 70/125: "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)" adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015. He also highlighted the importance of the 4 additional action line (Technology and Innovation, ICT measurement, Financing, Peace and security) proposed by African stakeholders during the WSIS+10 Review in 2015 proposed by African stakeholders during the WSIS+10 Review in 2015. In conclusion he emphasized that the main aim of the WSIS Regional Review is to see how effectively WSIS Action lines are implemented at the regional level and what are the main challenges and opportunities in the region as well to create strengthen alignment between implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs as well the African Union Agenda 2063 to ensure that ICTs play an enabling role in achieving the SDGs.

Ms. Gitanjali Sah, WSIS Coordinator, ITU and Ms. Rubel Sasha, Advisor in Communication and Information, UNESCO made a statement as WSIS facilitators at the opening ceremony.

The representative of ITU provided an overall overview of the WSIS since 2003. She also highlighted the several activities undertaken by ITU within the WSIS process. She provided also an overview of the WSIS Outcome Document adopted by the General Assembly and the activities under the UNGIS (United Nations Group of Information Society). She emphasized that ITU in its capacity as lead facilitating agency for implementation of Geneva Plan of Action, is working in close collaboration with all the five UN Regional Commissions in order to build awareness on the enabling role of ICTs in sustainable development and placing ICTs in central point of the national sustainable development agendas and policies at the regional level.

She recalled the need for UN agencies , governments, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to work together in order to ensure that ICT component becomes ubiquitous in the national sustainable development plans. While launching the WSIS Stocktaking Africa regional report, she stressed on the need to share best practices from the region and invited all participants to participate in the WSIS Prize contest 2017 (www.wsis.org/prize). In conclusion she invited the participants to contribute to the WSIS Forum 2017 open consultation process, requesting for partnership visibility offers, workshops (www.wsis.org/forum).

The representative of UNESCO provided an overview of the role of UNGIS, equally underlining that in 2014, the highly successful WSIS+10 High-Level Event, and later, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 in Busan, Republic of Korea, endorsed two Outcome Documents – namely, the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015. These two Outcome Documents provide fresh vision and renewed priorities for the eleven WSIS Action Lines. They clearly underline the powerful role of ICTs for sustainable development. The WSIS+10 Review Outcome Document recognizes that human rights have been central to the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society, and underlines the link

between ICTs and human rights. She underlined in this regard that ICTs have the potential to strengthen the exercise of human rights, and enable access to information and freedom of expression.

IV. Key Issues Discussed and Recommendations

All presentations as well as other material form the conference will be made available at the web site of the UNECA

A) Presentation ECA report on the Annual Review of the Implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Outcomes in Africa'

The ECA report on the Annual Review of the Implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes in Africa' was presented by Mr Mactar Seck, Economic Affairs Officer at New Technologies and Innovation Section (NTIS). This report provided an overall review of WSIS Action lines in Africa in 2015. He started by emphasizing the fact that ICTs are considered as a strategic tool for socio-economic development. He recalled that the WSIS resolution 70/125: "*Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)*", the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) extended the mandate of the WSIS process to 2025 and called on UN Regional to continue their work in implementing the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and extend their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews. In his presentation he demonstrated how ICT can facilitate the implementation of the SDGs as well the AU Agenda 2030 by providing all possible linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs 2013 and the AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations. To that end, the WSIS-SDGs Matrix (www.wsis.org/sdg) builds on one developed by UN Action Line Facilitator and coordinated by ITU shows the linkage between each Action Line and the 17 SDGs and the aspirations, goals and priority areas of Agenda 2063 and provides rationale for each. As part of his analysis, he noted that several African countries have come to recognize the importance of ICT as a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development. This recognition is well captured in the new ICT strategy developed by Senegal, Gabon, Mali, etc. He provided key ICT trends in Africa in 2015-2016 demonstrated by several ICT fact ad figures and the progress made by African countries in the implementation of several WSIS action in 2015. He also highlighted several challenges faced by African countries. Among them; the lack of access to affordable and reliable ICT technologies and services, specific challenges facing children, youth, and persons with disabilities, older persons, women and communities in remote and rural environments as well the lack of content development.

Following the presentation, delegates commended the UNCECA for the quality of the report. Participants also made contributions and raised key issues and questions which include the following:

- There is a need to measure the percentage of achievement Africa has made in connection with the implementation of WSIS line of actions including the cause of the shortcomings in the implementation of the major WSIS action lines

- Member states have to report regularly on the progress of implementation of WSIS to guide policy on WSIS action lines. This also can an inputs in the Annual ECA report on WSIS.

- The report should include relevant innovative activities undertaken by some countries such as Morocco, Senegal, etc.

- Despite progress made during 2015, the lack of access to affordable and reliable technologies continues to remain the key challenge to ICT deployment among a number of African countries

- To improve connectivity and reduce the infrastructural gap in Africa such as in Central and Western Africa regions, there is a need to establish terrestrial fiber connectivity complementing the major steps done on the submarine level to cover the last mile of the optical network.

- The success in the implementation of several WSIS action lines can, in a large part, be attributed to the significant investment of the private sector. However, ICT infrastructure investments in Africa needs to be improve in order to provide to the population and, particularly, for university research, centres of excellence and learning centres ICT services and access at the same level as regions in the world.

- Focus has shifted on promotion of sectors & ICT applications in governance, education, health, agriculture, finance, trade, etc. The participant focused on the establishment of a conducive environment for fostering innovation and providing people with the appropriate skills to harness the full potential of ICTs.

B) Presentation on WSIs and Sustainable development by ITU:

Following this presentation the representative of ITU, Ms. Gitanjali Sah, WSIS Coordinator, ITU provided a briefing on the WSIS Implementation process, its background and present actions. She highlighted that WSIS is a unique UN Process that includes multi-stakeholders, and provides a global framework for Information and Knowledge Societies. WSIS Process includes eleven (11) WSIS Action Lines covering all aspects of Information and knowledge societies. While recalling the resolution of UN General Assembly overall review on the implementation of WSIS (UNGA Resolution A/70/125) that provides guidance on the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes till 2025, Ms. Sah emphasized on the need for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Her presentation outlined the WSIS Implementation Process Timeline since its starting point in 1998, when a Resolution on proposing to hold a World Summit on the Information Society was made at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. The presentation re-emphasized the Para 12 of the UN Resolution A/70/125 to commit to harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies

to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and call all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and academic communities to integrate information and communications technologies (ICTs) into their approaches to implementing the Goals and request UN entities facilitating the WSIS action Lines to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, she outlined the WSIS Stocktaking with its database that reached new records with 8000 plus entries and a growing community of 200.000 stakeholders. In conclusion she invited all participants to participate in the WSIS Forum 2017 and called for WSIS Stocktaking Report 2017 and urged people to submit their ICT projects and activities.

C) Roundtable on International cooperation:

This session consisted of interactive multistakeholder discussions and various dialogues encouraging international cooperation on the WSIS Implementation process. Relevant international organizations (ITU, UNECA and UNESCO) participate at this roundtable and speak about their relevant scope of the work, activities in the implementation of WSIs action lines. This session offered the opportunity to confront experiences and to discuss various aspects of international cooperation that could support African countries in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. It was noted that International cooperation among all stakeholders is vital in implementation of WSIS action lines and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where action line 11 is on International and regional cooperation. International cooperation is very important for WSIS implementation because of limited resources, in order to share knowledge and experience providing the perfect international cooperation where for instance 32 UN agencies are involved in this process. In addition, annual work plan of regions are drawn up to coordinate meeting of regional commissions. This session provide opportunities to identify different areas of cooperation.

D) Country Reports:

Representatives of following countries have made presentations on the progress made it has made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS and shared lessons learn, challenges and opportunities: Morocco, South Africa, Senegal, Uganda, Ivory Coast, DRC, Kenya and Mali

South Africa: The delegate from South Africa, Ms. Zanele Makam, Director ICT International Affairs and Trade provide a presentation focussed on key achievement in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. She emphasized that, the Department of Telecommunications developed the Information Society and Development plan (ISAD Plan), which was approved by the Cabinet in 2007. Currently (2015-2016), the Department of Telecommunications & Postal Services has completed the process of developing a National E-strategy. The E-strategy will underpin the development of an inclusive information society and knowledge economy. The Aim of the e-strategy as articulated in the NDP is premised on growth and innovation in the sector, both public and private with more emphasis on investment in broadband infrastructure as well as local content development. The government's aim is that by 2030, South Africa will be among the leading knowledge economies that contribute to productivity and maintain global competitiveness. In this way the country's social and economic growth will improve. The Department participation is to advance the ICT agenda, aligned to the AU Agenda 2063, to focus on development of continent and South Africa through ICT's.

Cote D'Ivoire: Mr. Ahmed Sako,Senior Ministrial Advisor Ministry of Digital Economy and the Post, prensented an ovier view of progress made by his country in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes during 2015. He indicated that , the development and promotion of the digital economy is the subject of constant attention by the Government. As of 2011, this ambition to set up the foundations in order to build an inclusive Digital Economy, bearing values and knowledge, all has been demonstrated through: the implementation of a legal and regulatory framework (energizing and giving confidence) in line with development stakes of our country and the strengthening of cybersecurity, an abundant supply of broadband networks, widespread access to ICT (including cost reduction. These endeavors have made it possible to initiate an in-depth transformation of the Ivorian ICT ecosystem, which has made real progress in recent years, including the following results over the period 2012 to 2015: 8 million internet subscriptions at the end of 2015 (while this number did not exceed 200 thousand at the end of 2011), the success of Mobile Money which continues to grow exponentially with today 8 million users and a daily volume of Transactions of approximatly 23 million euros ($ 28 million) per day, the telephony and Internet sector alone now contributes 7% of the country's GDP**.**

Senegal: Mr. Babou Sarr, Conseiller Technique de Département, Ministère des Postes et des Télécommunications provided a presentation which focused on specific achievements made by Senegal in the implementation of WSIS outcomes during 2015. He indicated that, the telecommunications sector and the Technologies of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are considered in the PSE as a sector with strong growth potential, transverse to the other sectors of the economy. In 2015 ICT contributed to e 8% of the GDP. The latest statistics published by end of June 2016 by the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Posts show that mobile telephony has reached a penetration rate of 116,71% and Internet continues its progression and rises to 60.28%. This year 2016 the Government of Senegal adopted a national strategy for the development of the digital economy called "Digital Senegal 2025. Senegal through its recently approved new strategy Senegal Numerique 2025 (Digital Senegal 2025) intends for digital to generate 10% of its gross domestic product. "Digital Senegal 2025" is articulated around the vision" Senegal 2025, the digital for all and for all uses with a dynamic private sector and innovative in a powerful ecosystem". He added that some projects had been launched in the country including the digital tech park, which received a financing exceeding FCFA 40 billion. The strategy would give rise to 30,000 new jobs by 2025, at an average rate of about 3,000 jobs per year

Morocco: Mr. Lasfar Noureddine, Chef de Division des Technologies de l'Information et de la Confiance Numérique au Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, del'Investissement et de l'Economie Numérique provide a presenttaion which focused on specific achievement within the national strategy " Maroc Numerique ». His presentation His presentation also contained a review of the government structure and related business processes associated with the implementation of ICT policies and strategies . He indicated that lot of progress have been made in the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes. As result Morocco has improved its rank (global technology index) in the region reaching 12th position in 2016. Morocco's strengths include ICTs accessibility, the use of ICT by the government social impact of ICT individual use and political and regulatory environment. In term of achievements in 2015, the country has 41.44 million mobile subscribers with a penetration rate of 122.43% and 14.88 million subscribers Internet 3G/4G with a penetration rate of 43.98%. In term of access, access computer and to other

forms of technology have dramatically increased at all socio-economic (107 000 students and of 150000 teachers equipped with laptop connected to Internet, 7412 (80%) of the public institutions primary school and secondary school connected to the Internet with access to educational multimedia content. Among others, ICT industry has been developed with 50 multinationals in the field of IT Offshoring employing more than 70,000 people, 3 Techno parks, 5 integrated areas offshore, etc.). 69 e-government services are already available. Financial support was provided to 196 ICT innovative projects.

Uganda: The delegate from Uganda, **Mr. Michael Ocero, Principal Information Technology Officer, Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance** informed participants that the Ministry of ICT in consultation with other stakeholders developed a series of cyber laws which were enacted by parliament in 2011, namely, the Computer Misuse Act (2011), Electronic Transactions Act (2011), and Electronic Signatures Act (2011). To this effect, the National Information Security Strategy was developed in 2011. The National CERT for Uganda is in place in charge of information security incident management and response at the national level which will also be the main coordination point for sectoral CERTs such as the communications CERT that is operational under the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC).He also advised participants that updating of ICT security skills of government and private sector personnel has commenced coordinated by the two agencies. In terms of infrastructure; Government setup 1536 km of fibre which is additional to private owned 3,700km fibre infrastructure. In regards to Access to information and knowledge he stated Government had setup a project to fund setup of data links achieving connections to 78 ICT training centers, 931 School ICT laboratories, 174 Health ICT facilities, 4,100 Public payphones , 110 District web portals , 76 Internet points of presence (PoPs) and 106 Internet cafes. In regards to e-business government of Uganda has setup an Incubation centre to facilitate Business Process Outsourcing employing 350 youths this is in addition to the 5000 private incubation centres that Government supports. Employment in the sector grew by about 30% over the last one year. As regards Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content The direct impact realised out of projects implemented includes; 100% voice coverage at the sub county level, teaching of Computer Studies as a subject in at least 50% of government secondary schools and basic ICT equipment in all district government hospitals.

Kenya: The delegate from Kenya, Mr. **Cyrus Kamau, Manager ICT National commission for Science & Technology** presented the Kenya's WSIS report based on country economic survey 2016 indicators conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). The Economic survey 2016 report provides an overview of the ICT sector performance and development trends in mobile Services, Internet/Data Service, Registered Domains, Broadcasting, analogue to digital TV migration, Online Newspaper readers, ICT penetration rate and employment in the sector. He provided some key indicators and achievements during 2015. Among them, the contribution of ICT to GDP dropped from 1.2 % in 2014 to 0.9 % in 2015. This could be due to low value addition on ICT inputs which are mostly imports. The number of licensed Internet Service Providers (ISPs) increased by 24.9 per cent from 177 in 2014 to 221 in 2015. Available bandwidth capacity increased by 83.0 per cent from 847,523 megabits per second (mbps) in 2014 to 1,550,768 mbps in 2015The total number of domains grew by 33.8 per cent to 51,543 in 2015. The number of ".co.ke" domains increased by 35.5 per cent to account for 92.7 per cent of the total registered domains in 2015. In Mobile money sector, the number of agents increased by 16.4 per cent from 123,703 in 2014 to 143,946 in 2015. Similarly, the number of mobile money transfer service subscribers grew by 2.8 per cent to 26.8 million over the same period. Total amount of money transacted through mobile money

platforms expanded by 18.7 per cent to KSh 2,816 billion (~28.16 Billion USD) during the review period.

Mali: The delegate from Mali, **Ms. Assa Simbara eps Mariko, Conseillère Technique en charge des TIC au Ministère de l'Economie Numérique et de la Communication** provided a summary of the progress made by the Government of Mali in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. He highlighted that mobile networks presently cover more than 40% of the territory and 40% of the population uses a mobile phone. The market for mobile financial services is witnessing a significant growth in Mali. With a penetration rate estimated at more than 16% mobile money services continue to play an important role especially for promoting *financial inclusion* in the country. Mali occupies the second rank in the UEMOA zone in terms of transaction value, with 20% out of 3,760 billion CFA francs. The development of content continues within a partnership approach between the government and the private sector. She also noted that, the business climate reform continues today with the dematerialization of administrative procedures and the establishment of a national single window to reduce transaction costs in creating enterprises. In terms of capacity building, the Malian civil society continues its major training campaigns, raising the awareness of young people, women and non-governmental organizations. The use internet at school has still grown (23 Houses of Commons connected in partnership with UNESCO and 21 in the budget of the state). In the districts, all schools and urban municipalities have connected to Internet. Finally she informed that the Government has approved on 15 February 2016, a new national strategy for the development of the digital economy and its Plan of Action 2016-2020. This strategy aims to strengthen the use of ICT in the service of development and its Action plan 2020 defines the priorities and actions to Fort potential for impacts to be progressively enriched and also sets ambitious objectives and realistic to achieve to the Horizon 2020.

Participants acknowledged all these countries presentation and raised the following:
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E) Presentation of International partners

Three presentations were made by UNNESCO, ITU Regional Office in Africa and SMART Africa.

The representing of ITU Regional Office in Africa, Mr. Emmanuel KAMDEM made a presentation entitled "Achieving SDGs in Africa through an effective implementation of the WSIS Plan of action: identify key challenges of ICT development in Africa and elaborate strategic interventions". He highlighted the weak steps in the implementation of the WSIS Plan of action in African and suggests an improvement approach. He also indicated that SDGs will be effectively achieved in Africa if and only if, beyond 2016, key stakeholders, including Governments and international organizations, do not continue to do business as usual. He emphasized that the current processes should be reviewed and adapted, including process of implementation, M&E of the WSIS Plan of action at national level in the perspective of achieving secure and affordable broadband access for everyone not later than 2025 and safe use of ICTs for everyone not later than 2030 in Africa. Among priority interventions, improvement of national expertise in results-based planning for policy/strategy elaboration and project formulation should be achieved as soon as possible.

The representative of UNESCO, Ms Rubel Sasha, Advisor in Communication and Information, provide an overview of the work of UNESCO in the framework of WSIS follow up. UNESCO

provided an overview of the role of ICTS in the post-2015 development process, underlining that the SDGs have identified ICTs as key enablers of development. However, direct references to the catalytic power of ICTs for development are cited as specific targets only in 4 of the 17 goals (in targets related to education, gender empowerment, universal affordable access to ICTs/internet in LDCs and as a means of implementation). UNESCO underlined that this is not enough to realize the full multiplier effect of ICTs for driving Development, and reiterated the transversal role ICTs play in achieving all SDGs. UNESCO further underlined the key role of ICTs in promoting sustainable development, and that all WSIS Action Line Facilitators, under coordination by ITU, have developed a WSIS SDG Matrix demonstrating the direct links between the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs. In closing, UNESCO outlined their role as a facilitator, implementer, and coordinator of the WSIS process, with a particular focus on the action lines for which they are facilitator providing concrete examples of both policy and programmatic actions at the field level in support of WSIS follow up, as well as their involvement in addressing issues of internet governance and work in support of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. In conclusion, UNESCO reemphasized its commitment, as a laboratory of ideas, in addressing emerging issues in ICTS, including the question of radicalization on the internet and the internet study as it pertains to "Connecting the Dots: Options for Future Action (March 2015)." Evoking that the internet study examines current and emerging inter-related trends, challenges and opportunities around access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy, and ethical dimensions of the information society, UNESCO emphasized the importance of multistakeholder platforms to explore the findings of the study and to further develop responses and options to continue to orient UNESCO's future actions in support of Member States.

The representative of Smart Africa Secretariat, Mr. Didier Didier Nkurikiyimfura, provided an overview of Smart Africa. He informed the audience that the Transform Africa Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda on 28th-31st October 2013 culminated in the adoption of the Smart Africa Manifesto document by 7 African Heads of States in which they committed to provide leadership in accelerating socio-economic development through ICT. On 30th-31st January 2014, The SMART Africa Manifesto was endorsed by all of State and Government of the African Union at the 22nd Ordinary Session Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa. This development places the Manifesto at the heart of the ICT agenda in Africa the 7 original signatories at the Summit to all the 54 African countries. Currently, 15 countries have officially joined the Alliance at the Heads of State level (namely Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan and Uganda), and an additional 19 countries are in the process of joining too. He also mentioned that the vision statement of Smart Africa is "*to transform Africa into a single digital market*" aiming at attracting up to 300 Billion USD of investments over a period of 10 years in different areas such as fiber optic networks, mobile broadband networks, satellite, data centers, cyber security, smart cities, internet of things, big data, etc. On a related note, he mentioned that flagship projects are being led by Heads of State, with the aim of developing blueprint of implementable projects across the continent and harmonizing the policy, regulations and standards where adequate. Also He mentioned a few quick wins which are being implemented such as the One Africa Network, Assembly of electronic devices, broadband connectivity along key infrastructure and Smart Africa Scholarship Fund. He finished by informing participants that the next Transform Africa will take place from 10-12 May 2017 at Kigali, Rwanda and invited all participants to join this meeting during which 10-15 Heads of State are expected, Ministers, over 300 Mayors and more than 4,000 participants from across Africa and beyond.

After the presentation several issues were raised by the participants:

- High cost of in the land locked country,
- issues of the infrastructure as well the regional connectivity
- the role of Smart Africa compared to others regional institutions such as NEPAD, AUC and others
- Cost structure of countries should be revealed if the country has high market power

F) ICT Measurement in the context of the SDGs and the AU's Agenda 2063

This session focussed on selected ICT indicators that are relevant to specific SDGs and targets and discussed the views of countries regarding the importance of monitoring the information society, in particular in the context of the SDGs. In this regard , a proposed core list of ICT indicators (ICT infrastructure, ICT access and use by households and individuals, ICT access and use by enterprises, the ICT sector, international trade in ICT goods, e-government and ICT in education. Indicators on e-waste, ICT employment disaggregated by gender, and international trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services) that can help monitor the proposed SDGs and targets developed by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development have been presented. The large majority indicators have been endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, which also recognized the important role of ICTs for post 2015 development framework. A number of indicators are proposed for the tracking of several targets, reflecting the cross-cutting nature of ICTs.

A practical example of the use of ICT statistics at the national level was given by the delegate of South Africa. She made a presentation on. She provided information on South Africa's ICT Indicators and Statistics 2015. She also emphasized the importance of data or indicators in measuring the progress made in WSIS outcomes as well as to inform the policy. Like many African countries, South Africa had challenges in getting indicators Reason why the Departments of Communication have to sign MOU with statistics department in terms of getting information for ICTs which was helpful in the transition from an explicit ICT indicator in the millennium development goals, to treating ICT's as an enabler to achieve multiple SDG's was outlined.
ICT vision 2030, what has been done 2015 in terms of statistics.

After the presentation several issues and contribution were raised by the participants. Among them:

- While ICT is large contributor to national GDP of many of the countries, Countries should conceive instruments destined to provide statistics about the WSIS implementation process for sustainable development.

- The difficulties of *ICT* impact *measurement*, major data gaps and the lack of clear statistical standards in most of the countries

- Comparable and reliable ICT statistics are required for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating ICT policies

- African countries are facing on several challenges in achieving comparable measures across countries such as lack of data and data collection infrastructure

G) Main conclusions and recommendations

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ECA has presented the outcomes that were captured by form the three days meeting and discussion. The draft outcome of the meeting has been distributed for the participants and supposed to be improved by the inputs from all participants. Once the draft report of the meeting is finalized by ECA, it will be shared with participants of this Regional Review Meeting for gathering their inputs and finalizing this document. The outcomes of this meeting will feed into the global WSIS Forum 2017 Open consultation process bringing the regional perspectives into the global event.

In this connection some of the following recommendation and suggestions have been forwarded:

To Member State:
- to report regularly on the progress of implementation of WSIS and to submit to an annual report to ECA as inputs to the Regional WSIS Review Report prepared by ECA
- to put WSIS outcomes implementation as a priority for the government
- to Promote Policies and Regulations that allow services to expand and reach unbanked populations
- to strengthen information and communication technology connectivity at regional level
- Enhance PPP to promote equal access to all services and benefits of the Information and Knowledge Society

to ECA and partners

- To Support Member Countries in harnessing WSIS Tunis Commitments towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063
- To Ensure high level dialogue and policy guidance by pursuing the facilitation and coordination of the regional review of progress in implementation of the targets set out in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society
- To Promote capacity building programmes for various stakeholder groups to facilitate access and also to raise awareness on emerging issues in ICT
- To Conduct a series of surveys on the WSIS targets on annual basis to inform the Annual Regional WSIS Review report on the implementation of WSIS Outcomes **in terms of action lines**
- To Setting up harmonized and coordinated regional data bases on WSIS targets
- To establish a committee to discuss ICT data measurement every two years.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants commended ECA for having organized the "Annual African Regional Review of WSIS". They called upon ECA to convey the recommendations of the Review to the relevant organs of the United Nations and to the WSIs Forum 2017. An evaluation form was distributed by ECA for all the participants and the feedback has already been collected which could be analyzed as part of the workshop report.

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