



The role and Priorities of the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as building blocks for regional integration through ICT Networks

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*Cape Town, South Africa - www.euroafrica-ict.org
4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research*





Panellist list

- **Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division, African Union Commission**
- **Edmund Katiti, Acting Head of the NEPAD e-Africa Programme, South Africa**
- **Robert Achieng, Senior Communication Engineer, the East African Community (EAC), Kenya**





Report - Slide #1

Edmund Katiti spoke about the harmonisation and coordination of regional and continental ICT Programmes underlining how, due to the existence of several regional and continental ICT Programmes, it is necessary to harmonise them in order not to duplicate efforts between institutions. Relationships between most of the stakeholders are already governed by fundamental documents and agreements. Among them, the Harmonisation and Coordination Initiative is led by the Information Society Division of the AUC, the NEPAD e-Africa Programme of the NPCA and the ICT Directorate of the UNECA, whose inaugural meeting was held in Addis Ababa in September 2011. On this occasion a plan has been established for the next months in order to involve stakeholders to collaborate and cooperate for the harmonisation of ICT programmes.

Robert Achieng focused on the relationship between Regional Integration and Trade: there are different motivations for the formation of RECs in Africa but all of them converge on Trade. ICT and ICT Research can contribute enhancing trade performance. For this reason, African governments should improve governance, develop and implement policies focusing on the research and enhance funding on education and research. On the other side, other Countries in the world should develop partnerships for research and technology transfer, as well as enhance the access to the market of African products and services, to sustain research and productivity.





Report - Summary

It is vital for all stakeholder institutions to work closely together to implement an efficient mechanism for coordination and harmonization of regional and continental programs. There is strong consensus and political will for this regional integration, in order not to duplicate efforts, but there is divergence on the pace and depth of integration.

