

AU-NEPAD ICT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

Part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)

Presentation to the

4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research

Cape Town, South Africa
November 14-15, 2011

Dr. Edmund Katiti
Acting Head of the NEPAD e-Africa Programme



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEP

NEPAD@10
Working for the people of Africa

Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)

Why PIDA: Absence of adequate infrastructure is resulting in:

- **increased** production and transaction **costs**,
- **reduced competitiveness** of businesses,
- **negative impact on foreign direct investment** flows to the continent, and affecting the **rate of economic & social development** on the continent.

Purpose: to develop a vision and strategic framework for the development of regional and continental infrastructure:

- Energy
- Transport
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Trans-boundary Water Resources

Coordination: PIDA initiative is led by:

- African Union Commission (AUC)
- NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)

Goal: to **promote socio-economic development and poverty reduction** in Africa through improved access to **integrated regional and continental infrastructure networks and services**.

Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa

PIDA Studies: will assist in developing a **vision on Africa's infrastructure** over the short, medium, and long term, up to the year **2030**.

Studies will recommend the required **institutional arrangements, legal frameworks, and the financing mechanisms** for the implementation and monitoring of the programs.

PIDA Phase II Study **identify regional and continental infrastructure project** (hard & soft)

- One of the key critical needs identified by the PIDA study, was the transposition of agreed enabling regional and continental policies , regulations, guidelines and directives, into national laws.

THE AU-NEPAD ICT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OBJECTIVE

To ensure that **all African countries are connected to one another** by a broadband fibre-optic cable network that is, in turn, linked to the rest of the world by submarine cables.

In Abuja (2003) the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) decided to prioritise the establishment of such a broadband network



Development of AU-NEPAD Network

Initially the development of the ICT infrastructure programme was in 2 parts;

1. AU-NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network covering 23 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa
2. AU-NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network for West, Central and North Africa.



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEP

NEPAD@10
Working for the people of Africa

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENABLING POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The development of a transparent policy and regulatory environment was needed:
 - To **remove regulatory barriers** to the establishment of the **cross-border network**.
 - To **encourage private sector investment** in the network.
 - To achieve **developmental objectives**.
 - Address **Stakeholder concerns**.
- Development of an enabling policy and regulatory framework started with a group of ICT **experts** who deliberated and **proposed 5 policy principles** that should guide the development of the network

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENABLING POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The policy principles were:

1. The application of **open, non-discriminatory and affordable access** to these networks.
2. **Equitable joint ownership** of the backbone infrastructure across the continent
3. Acceptance that cross-border terrestrial and submarine segments can be developed, owned, and maintained by **Special Purpose Vehicles** (SPVs): Legal entities
4. Basic Broadband Infrastructure viewed as “**public good**”
5. Application of the principle of public private partnerships (**PPP**) to these networks.

These principles were to **apply to the submarine as well as the terrestrial** segments of the network, and it was proposed that **a protocol be signed** by African countries to underpin their collaboration in developing the network.

Policy & Regulatory Framework for Development of the AU-NEPAD Network

Framework signed into Protocol **in Kigali**, on 29 August 2006, under AU auspices.

By November 30, 2006, 12 countries had signed the protocol. Most of these countries have since ratified it.

Botswana	Lesotho	South Africa	Mauritius
Rwanda	Malawi	Zambia	Madagascar
Uganda	Tanzania	Zimbabwe	DRC

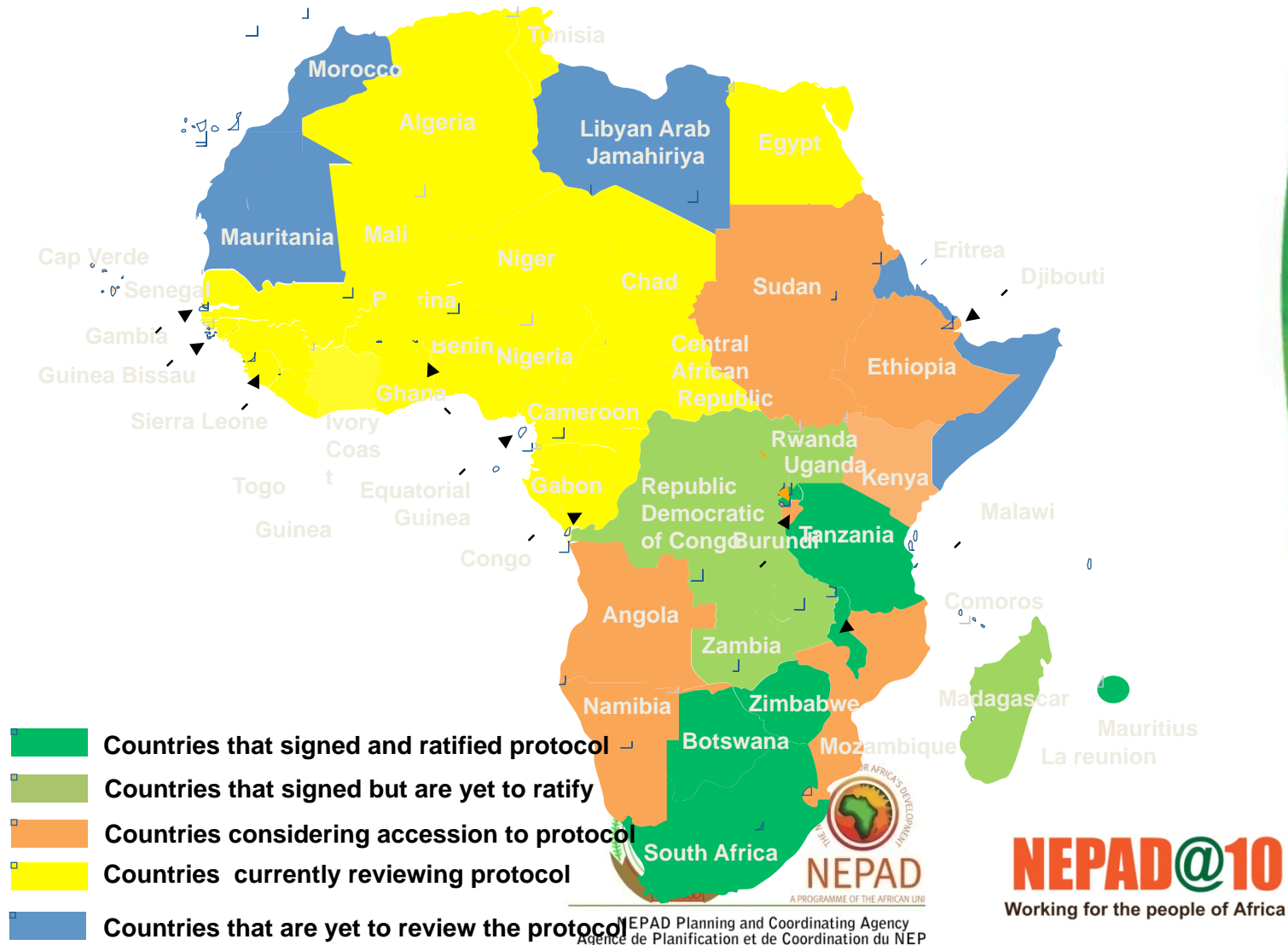
The Protocol took effect in February 2008, after it had been ratified by more than half of the countries which sign it.

Countries that did not sign the protocol **may now accede** to it since **it is now in force**.

Key provisions of the Protocol

- The principle of **Open Access** should be applied on terms that are **transparent and affordable**.
- The principle of **non-discrimination** should be applied in relation to Authorised Service Providers getting access to the AU-NEPAD Network.
- Urges Governments to **facilitate the licensing of the SPV(s)** that will own, operate and maintain the network.
- Urges Governments to **amend, where necessary, their existing legal, policy and regulatory frameworks** to be consistent with the Protocol, thereby **enabling the SPV(s) to provide open access connectivity to all ASPs**.
- Urges Governments to consider **license fees** for the SPVs that will **cover only the administration costs** incurred by regulators
- The **charges** for wholesale bandwidth should be **independent of distance**

Extension of enabling environment



Extension of the Policy and Regulatory Framework

- In order to get as many countries as possible to accede to the **enabling Protocol**, the NEPAD e-Africa Programme in 2010 embarked on a **campaign to present and explain the protocol** to stakeholders in all regions of the continent.
- The campaign involves a **review of the protocol** with stakeholders in all regions free to propose **amendments to the protocol**.
- Regional stakeholder workshops took place as follows:
 - ECOWAS region – March 2010, Abuja, Nigeria
 - ECCAS region – April 2010, N'Djamena, Chad
 - North Africa region – September 2010, Cairo, Egypt
- **In-country workshops** are now being organised to obtain country positions regarding review of protocol.
- Regional Inter-Governmental Working Committee (**IGWC**) meetings will be held to obtain **regional consensus positions on the review of the protocol before the protocol is amended**.

Contacts:

Dr. Edmund Katiti

Tel: +27.12.841.4661

Fax: +27.12.841.4094

Email: edmundk@nepad.org

Thank You



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEP

NEPAD@10
Working for the people of Africa

