

# **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)**

## **Support to NEPAD**

**Period of Report: August 2004 to April 2005**

ITU's support to NEPAD continued to focus on the implementation of Resolution 124 (PP) adopted by its governing bodies in 2002, as well as its Strategic Development Plan for 2003-2006 which dovetails with the NEPAD objectives as well as with the UN Millennium Declaration and the Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developing Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies**

Following the completion of the study on NEPAD Preliminary Assistance, ITU convened a meeting of core partners active in information and communication technologies (ICT) in Africa on 31 January 2005, which included ECA, the AU, AfDB and Regional Economic Commissions among others. The partners agreed to adopt the report as a reference document for collaboration and action framework for ICT development in the region.

Moreover, ITU and ECA organized a regional workshop on ICT indicators in Botswana in October 2004 where African countries came together to identify the core telecom/ICT indicators to collect; identify data collection, storage and dissemination methodologies and analytical techniques; and identify barriers to data collection and dissemination and to find immediate solutions. Agreement on common indicators is necessary for measuring performance in implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and other developmental targets which the countries and the NEPAD in particular are implementing. ITU also participated in the ILO sponsored meeting on Poverty Reduction in Burkina Faso in October 2004 where agreement was reached to launch a joint study with the African Telecommunication Union and the ILO. The study focusing on the impact of ICTs on employment and poverty alleviation in Africa (opportunities and challenges) took off in the first quarter of 2005.

### **Financial support for NEPAD programmes and projects**

ITU continued to support African countries in a number of ICT related activities within the framework of its annual operational plans. A total of US\$ 2,899,553 was used for such activities for 2004.

### **Institutional support to the NEPAD Secretariat**

ITU is currently supporting the e-Africa Commission by providing experts to compile a list of all known terrestrial telecommunications infrastructure development initiatives and projects, to ensure that ICT infrastructure is planned to meet Africa's needs as well as

optimized to deliver efficient network solutions. ITU will later support the Commission in organizing a structured multi-stakeholder dialogue which will involve all relevant parties to discuss the rationalization of information and communications infrastructure in the West, Central, and North African sub-regions.

### **Advocacy work in support of African development**

ITU, through its Bureau for Telecommunication Development (BDT), is a well know player in advocating for African development within its mandate of promoting telecommunication/ICT development to support overall social and economic development, with particular focus on developing countries of which 33 are resident in the continent. ITU has particularly been most active in:

- Advocacy (through seminars, workshops and symposia);
- Human Resources Development (seminars, workshops, support to Centres of Excellence based in Nairobi & Dakar);
- Direct project support at national and regional levels.