

EAST AFRICAN IGF

BURUNDI PRESENTATION ON THE
ONGOING REFORMS/PROJECTS

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ARCT/BURUNDI

July 2012

The Plan of the presentation

- ICT Policy, Legislation and Regulation
- The structural reforms and Projects
- The ICT Market
- Internet in BURUNDI
- Infrastructure developments in BURUNDI
- What is the requirements
- Opportunities for Burundi and its neighbouring countries
- What have been done and ongoing reforms; a summary

ICT Policy, Legislation and Regulation

Historic Development.

The national ICT policy development in Burundi was initiated in 1997

With:

- ✓the promulgation on the law on the provision of telecommunications,
- ✓the creation of the regulator, ARCT,
- ✓the corporatization of ONATEL and
- ✓the granting of new cellular licenses.

The structural reforms:

In 2006 the Burundian Gov has adopted a structural reform strategy based on 3 axis:

- ✓ To improve the business climate and governance;
- ✓ To open the economy of the country to regional and international trade;
- ✓ To privatize some of the public companies that operate in productive sectors.

The ICT Market

- ✓ Low density of fixed telephony lines (30.000lines)
- ✓ Very low density of Internet (<1%)
- ✓ Market growth ICT has mainly been done by mobile telephony since 2006.
 - ❖ 6.25% in 2006
 - ❖ 22,5% in 2012
- ✓ Communications tarif are still too high
- ✓ Lack of power is a challenge
- ✓ Bandwith cost
- ✓ People dont not know the importance of ICT
- ✓ The importance of ICT is not well known by decision makers
- ✓ Internet services are available in cities, and mainly in Bujumbura
- ✓ The low per capita income
- ✓ Burundi has not yet back bone networks based on optical fiber

Internet in Burundi

Market characteristics.

- ✓ Very low Internet penetration
- ✓ Low PC density, still costly
- ✓ Low fixed telephony
- ✓ Besides infrastructure problems ,
- ✓ Very high cost for international bandwidth/calls and access for Internet. services

Infrastructure Developments

- ✓ In Burundi there is 5 mobile operators and 8 ISPs. The Regulator, ARCT, has been made efforts to bring all ICT operators together to talk about network sharing. The lack regulatory provisions in the matter is the key challenges; even the ICT law that will be promulgated does not consider infrastructure sharing as mandatory for all operators.
- ✓ However, operators in Burundi agree on the fact that network sharing and consolidation would be useful for their business and for Burundian economy.
- ✓ 5 telecom companies have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June 2006 with the objective of coming together to build National optical cable Network (BBS) connecting the main populated centres in Burundi on one side and to international on the other side.
- ✓ BBS connect Burundi to international sea cables through redundant systems to 2 connection points with Rwanda and 2 other with Tanzania. In Burundi, the redundancy is done in some area by microwave links (SDH).

What is planned for infrastructure sharing?

- ✓ Organisation of meetings for telecom operators, all ICT actors, GOV, civil society and consumer representatives, etc., to make the opinion be aware of the importance of infrastructure sharing among telecom operators
- ✓ A proper legislation on sharing the existing networks of the various operators including the BBS, we expect that once done, it might result in lower prices for access to telephony and the Internet.
- ✓ We are planning to hire through an international tender a specialised company that would put in place some infrastructure net that would be used by all operators.

Opportunities for Burundi and its neighbouring countries:

- ✓ A nationwide access to Internet and basic telephony will enable the supply of new ICT-services.
- ✓ It will attract various companies to become active as a regional service provider
- ✓ An interconnection with other EAC-countries would enhance Internet access throughout the region. Through this interconnection, regional traffic can stay within the region which on its turn can result in lower Internet prices for the region as a whole.

Opportunities for Burundi and its neighbouring countries, 1

- ✓The national plan for ICT was revised in 2006 taking into account the rapid technological evolutions and socio-economic developments in Burundi. To make it operational, the plan was aligned with the Poverty Reduction Strategy
- ✓Concerted activities on ICT policy began in 2004 with the support from the UNDP and the Economic Commission for Africa. This led to the formulation of a National ICT Strategic Plan 2004-2010, Now extended to 2025 according to vision of Burundi at that period.

Opportunities for Burundi and its neighbouring countries,2

- ✓ Burundi's domestic regulatory framework consists of the investment code, the commercial code, the taxation system, labour code, and the mining code.
- ✓ Structural reforms have been implemented in each and every sector listed to assist the country's economic recovery and further development.
- ✓ It has reviewed its code of investments to attempt to attract both national and foreign investments. The procedures for the approval of priority enterprises have been simplified.

What have been done and ongoing reforms to boost the ICT sector in BURUNDI

- The ICT ministry for in collaboration with the Regulator have organized meeting to make the Gov, top managers of public and private sector sensitive to the importance of ICT in all domains
- New ICT law is going to be promulgated
- New legal and regulation decrees to be used once the new law is in force, are there.
- Law for e-Gov is ready to be promulgated
- The studies for the implementation for e-Gov is finished
- Legal and technical requirements for the implementation of the Universal services already started
- Building works for BBS are on. It is expected be operational from December 2012
- Internet exchange point will be established when BBS is operational.



THANK YOU