



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
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African Economic Outlook 2009 Experts Meeting

INNOVATION IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN AFRICA

PROGRAMME

Organised by
the **African Development Bank**
the **OECD Development Centre**
and the **UN Economic Commission for Africa**

15 December 2008

OECD Headquarters, Room CC13
2, rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

Welcome coffee	08.30 - 09.00
Opening remarks	09.00 - 09.15
Session I: Technologies for Telecommunications in Africa	09.15 - 11.00
	11.00 - 11.30
Coffee break	11.30 - 13.00
Session II: ICT Applications for Development	13.00 - 14.30
Lunch	14.30 - 16.00
Session III: Public Policies for Consumer Welfare	16.00 - 16.30
Coffee break	16.30 - 18.00
Session IV: Financing	

Innovation in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is a vital component of an economy's dynamism and competitiveness. While Africa lags behind in terms of fixed-line telephony, new technologies and business models are circumventing market inefficiencies and institutional bottlenecks. The number of applications is rising exponentially, with e-banking setting the pace and other services such as e-health, e-education, and e-government following closely. In addition, telecommunications technologies remove major obstacles to market efficiency, for example by boosting the flow of economic information available to economic agents such as buyers and sellers in food markets.

It is therefore only natural that the *African Economic Outlook*, after focusing on energy, transport and water, should have 'Innovation in ICT' as the thematic focus of its 2009 edition, which will be launched during the next annual meetings of the African Development Bank, in Dakar in May 2009.

This experts meeting is an important step in the production of the *Outlook* 2009 report: it invites leading experts, policy makers and private-sector representatives from African and OECD countries to take stock of the progress achieved by the economies of the continent in deploying ICT for development, assess the extent and sustainability of the sector's contribution to Africa's development, review best practices in public policies, regulation and financing, and provide recommendations for meeting future challenges.

Opening remarks 09.00 - 09.15

Mr Javier Santiso, Director and Chief Development Economist, OECD Development Centre

Mr Ibrahima N'Diaye, Director, ICT4D Programme, African Development Bank

Session 1
09.15 - 11.00

TECHNOLOGIES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN AFRICA

How is technology adapted to the particular contexts of African economies? Which innovative solutions are specific to the continent? Participants will identify which technologies are better suited for fixed-line services to expand penetration of voice and internet, and how mobile technologies are being transformed to answer the increasingly challenging demand on services by African consumers.

Moderator **Mr Jose Gijon**, Head and Chief Economist, Africa and Middle East Desk, OECD Development Centre

Panelists **Mr El Hadji Babacar Ba**, Regulatory Affairs Manager, TIGO Senegal

Mr Abdelkrim Benamar, Vice-President: Business Strategy & Market Planning, Europe, Africa & Asia Region, Alcatel-Lucent

Ms Isabelle Flory, Director: Institutional Relations & Strategic Initiatives, Intel France

Mr Jean-François Fremeaux, Director: Product and Market Development, Eutelsat

Mr Robindhra Mangtani, Director: Interworking and Roaming, GSMA

Mr Patrick Puges, Technical Director: Emerging Markets, Orange France Télécom Group

Questions

How are technological solutions specific to African markets?

Can wireless technologies compete with fixed-line for broadband services?

Are wireless communications affordable for broadband?

What are recent trends in supporting infrastructure (off-grid power supply, pipelines and railways)?

Session 2

11.30 - 13.00

ICT APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

What makes ICT applications specific to Africa is the extent to which they allow to overcome market inefficiencies. The uses of ICT technologies for development are extremely numerous and varied. The purpose of this session is not so much to identify applications but to shed light on their functioning and performance.

Moderator **Mr David Souter**, Managing Director, ICT Development Associates & Visiting Professor in Communications Management, Strathclyde University

Panelists **Ms Claire Alexandre**, Director: Financial Services Regulation, Vodafone

Mr Daniel Annerose, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Manobi

Mr Peter Drury, Director: Health Care Practice, Emerging Markets, Internet Business Solutions Group, Cisco

Ms Caroline Figuères, Managing Director, International Institute for Communication and Development

Mr Frank McCosker, Managing Director: Global Strategic Accounts, Microsoft

Mr Jorge Lopes, General Manager, Operational Centre for the Information Society, Office of the Prime Minister, Cape Verde

Questions

How do e-applications improve performance in sectors such as education, agriculture, health, banking, government?

Is capacity building (awareness, ICT skills) currently the main issue in expanding e-applications?

What are the current trends in putting in place cyber laws and information security frameworks?

Where do e-banking applications stand in terms of inter-operator and international services?

What are the current trends in the regulation of e-banking services?

Session 3
14.30 - 16.00

PUBLIC POLICIES FOR CONSUMER WELFARE

While the telecommunications industry has a long history in terms of regulatory oversight, recent changes in technology and market structures have altered the nature of regulation and related policies. Regulators are no longer primarily concerned with public monopolies and competition policy is increasingly permeating the functioning of markets. How are African governments adapting to this new context? How do they manage to protect consumer welfare?

Moderator **Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah**, Director, ICT, Science and Technology Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa

Panelists **Mr Amah Vinyo Capo**, Director: Regulatory Affairs and Economic Studies, Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, Togo

Mr Laurent Gille, Director, TELECOM ParisTech

Mr Mamadou Kolade, Director: Regulatory Affairs, Zain

Mr Patrick Masambu, Executive Director, Uganda Communications Commission

Mr Jean-Marie Noagbodji, Founder and Chairman, C.A.F.E Informatique & Télécommunication

Mr Issa Simpore, Director: Broadcasting Centres, Ministry of Communications, Burkina Faso

Questions Regulation versus competition: What works best for Africa?

What are the recent trends in roaming strategies?

Have best practices in infrastructure sharing been identified?

What could be future trends in taxation on telecommunications equipment (e.g. air time)?

Session 4

16.30 - 18.00

FINANCING

Wireless technologies were introduced at a time when African fixed-line networks were the most under developed in the world, both in terms of network expansion and quality. Under these circumstances, and while wireless technologies are advancing at an exponential rate on the African continent, fixed-line networks are stagnating, particularly penalized by their low initial consumer base. Should the fixed-line incumbent be backed up or not? Is broadband the solution? Can high capacity internet services be delivered solely through wireless communications? This session will deal with financing bottlenecks and with the ways to circumvent these constraints, both for voice and data services.

Moderator **Mr Ibrahim N'Diaye**, Director, ICT4D Programme, African Development Bank

Panelists **Mr Lishan Adam**, Visiting Associate Professor, LINK Centre, Wits University & Researcher, Research ICT Africa Network

Mr Yann Burtin, Senior Operations Officer, Information and Communication Technologies Department, The World Bank Group

Mr Jean Célestin Endoke, Executive Assistant to the General Director, Central Administration General Directorate, Republic of Congo

Mr Anders Engvall, ICT Consultant, Scanbi-Invest

Mr Martin Price, Vice-President: Commercial Operations, SEACOM

Mr John Sihra, Chairman, WIOCC - Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy)

Questions Where do fixed-line intra-country and cross-border connections supporting broadband services stand?

Which technologies are better adapted to intra-country broadband services?

Where do satellite and optic fibre backbones stand in terms of affordability?

What are recent trends in backbone infrastructure sharing? Is open access foreseen?

Closing remarks

Mr Léonce Ndikumana, Director, Research Department, African Development Bank