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INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY DEPARTEMENT

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“Dot .AFRICA gTLD PROJECT : BRANDING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT ON THE CYBERSPACE AND PROVIDING AFRICAN COMMUNITY WITH A CONTINENTAL MARK ON THE INTERNET”



Addis-Ababa, 06 November, 2010 - The Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia was the venue of a two days Experts' meeting on **.Africa gTLD** project.

This project aims at branding the African continent on the cyberspace and providing African community with a continental mark on the Internet.

The African Union Commission (AUC), through its Infrastructure and Energy Department, conducted the meeting. It was attended by Thirteen (13) experts from various countries and organizations who discussed all relevant issues regarding **.Africa gTLD** project.

This meeting is a follow up of the Declaration of the AU Heads of States Summit held in February 2010 in Addis Ababa and the Recommendation of the African Union Communication and Information Technologies Ministerial Conference (CITMC) held in Johannesburg and Abuja in November 2009 and August 2010 respectively, to carry out the required steps to secure scarce resources such as **.Africa gTLD**.

The outcomes **present** different scenarios and actions taking into consideration the tight timeline remaining for Africa before the forthcoming round of applications in Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). These scenarios covered the issues of the potential institutional structure, Technical and Financial modules. The following points have been recommended as immediate actions to be taken:

- 1- Announcing the intention in the public forum of ICANN and in all Technical, Business and Policy forums;
- 2- Signing the Guide Book Letter;
- 3- Writing a message to the Government **Advisory Committee** (GAC);
- 4- Formalizing project Task Force;
- 5- Preparing and submitting the required documents to ICANN.

In that view, the meeting recommended all **participating** Experts to be members of the Task Force and also to speed up the process.

In order to facilitate the exchange, a temporary mailing address of the Task force has been created: audotafrica@googlegroups.com.

The list of the Task force is as follows:

NO	Name	Title	Country/ Organization	Remark
01	Pierre Dandjinou	EX. Director SCG Consulting Benin	Benin	Chairperson
02	Dr. Nii Quaynor	Chairman of Board, National IT Agency (NITA), Ghana	Ghana	Vice Chairperson
03	DIABY Moustapha Mamy	Senior Telecommunications Development Policy Officer	AUC	Reporter
04	Esam Abulkhirat	Senior Policy Officer, ICT	AUC	Reporter
05	Mr. Tijani Ben Jemaa	Executive Director	Tunisia	Member

		FMAI, Tunisia		
06	Mr. Envir Fraser	Consultant	South Africa	Member
07	Mr. Yan Kwok	Consultant	Mauritius	Member
08	Mr. Badiel Ali Drissa	ITU Senior Adviser	ITU	Member
09	Mr. Baudouin Schombé	Consultant	DRC/CAFEC/ ACADEMIE DES TIC	Member
10	Dr. Souleymane Oumtanaga	Enseignant Chercheur	Côte d'Ivoire	Member
11	Mr. Christian Roland	Consultant	Côte d'Ivoire	Member
12	Mr. Abibu R. Ntahigiye	Manager, Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC)	Tanzania	Member
13	Ms. Diakité Berthé Hawa	Chef Service, Gestion .ML, AGETIC Mali	Mali	Member
14	Mr. Moctar Yedaly	Head of Telecommunications and ICT	AUC	Member
15	Dr. Zouli Bonkougou	Consultant Telecom and ICT	AUC	
16	Mr. Dawit Bekele		ISOC, Ethiopia	
17	Mr. Christian Minoungou	Policy Officer Posts	AUC	
18	Mr. Makane Faye	OIC, e-Applications section ICT and Science & Technology Division (ISTD)	UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	