



MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE 3RD DIGITAL BROADCASTING MIGRATION FORUM HELD AT MUCINGA N'ZAMBI HOTEL IN LUANDA, ANGOLA

13 OCTOBER 2011

The 3rd Digital Broadcasting Migration Forum was held from 11 to 13 October 2011 at Mucinga N'Zambi Hotel in Luanda, Angola. The Forum was officially opened by the Honourable Dr. José de Carvalho da Rocha, Minister Telecommunications, Technologies and Information of the Republic of Angola.

The Forum was convened following the Special session of Ministers convened in Zambia, November 2010 when they decided that:

- i. SADC Member States should adopt DVB-T2 with MPEG4 compression as the recommended Digital Terrestrial Standard for the region. However, Member States that had already started implementing the DVB-T Standard should proceed with their implementation, but ultimately migrate to DVB-T2 with MPEG4 compression; and
- ii. SADC Member States that may decide to adopt any other standard than DVB-T2 with MPEG4 compression should do so in compliance with GE-06 Agreement.

The Forum was further convened following the decision of the SADC ICT Ministers at their meeting held in Gaborone Botswana in June 2011 when they directed that the SADC Secretariat should convene a forum on Digital Broadcasting Migration to review the Roadmap and come up with a Plan of Action.

The Forum was attended by delegates from 11 SADC Member States including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Forum was also attended by representatives of SABA and the GSM Association.

After three days of rigorous debate and discussion the Forum made the following recommendations:

- Existing SADC objectives and timelines as stated in the roadmap remain relevant notwithstanding the delay in implementation.

- SADC Roadmap for DTT be implemented through an all inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.
- DTT benefits will be communicated to increase governmental buy-in and facilitate civil society participation.
- DTT should be seen as a central Government project of greater public and national interest and not simply an ICT project.
- Various funding mechanisms to fund DTT Migration be explored, including the Universal Service Fund, Public Private Partnerships, and licensing of the digital dividend to other electronic communications services.
- Establish a Technical Steering Committee comprising of Member States and SADC organs including CRASA, SABA and Consumer groups under the guidance of SADC Secretariat.
- Member States to continue optimizing spectrum to achieve maximum benefits in line with the GE06 and the Regional Spectrum Plan.

The Forum also recommended the following institutional arrangements in order to ensure the timely implementation of DTT migration:

- i. National Inter-Ministerial Committee
- ii. National DTT Migration Project Management Offices
- iii. National and Regional Multi-stakeholder Forums to deal mainly with consumer issues including child safety, health and safety, environmental, content development, privacy and security of information.
- iv. Establish a Regional Project Management Office at the SADC Secretariat to monitor and assess the implementation of the DTT Roadmap and Action Plan and to assist Member States on challenges faced with the implementation of Roadmap at National level.

The Forum recommended that the Forum be convened bi-annually and offers to host were received from the following Member States Mozambique, Tanzania and Namibia.

The Forum further recommended that a Special Ministerial Meeting be convened before the end of the year 2011 to be hosted by South Africa.

The Forum expressed gratitude to the Government and People of Angola through the Ministry of Telecommunication, Technologies and Information for hosting the 3rd Digital Broadcasting Migration Forum;

Luanda, Angola 13 October, 2011