

EAST AFRICAN IGF

BURUNDI, THE ON GOING REFORMS

THE STRUCTURAL REFORMS:

The government adopted in 2006 a structural reform strategy based on three pillars:

- ✓ Improving the business climate and governance;
 - ✓ Opening the economy to international trade;
 - ✓ Privatizing public assets in the productive sectors.
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THE ICT MARKET

- ✓ Low density of fixed telephony and Internet
 - ✓ Market growth has mainly been realised by mobile telephony.
 - ✓ Prices are still too high related to purchasing power.
 - ✓ Major challenge is the low per capita income
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INTERNET IN BURUNDI

Market characteristics.

- ✓ Low Internet penetration
 - ✓ Low PC density and low fixed telephony density
has hampered ICT market development
 - ✓ Besides infrastructure problems , too high prices
for international bandwidth
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INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN BURUNDI

Nowadays:

- ✓ The multiple operators in telecom imply that there is a potential for consolidation. There have been efforts to bring operators together to facilitate network sharing. The lack of resources and inadequate regulatory provisions are key challenges.
- ✓ The operators in Burundi realize that network sharing and consolidation would be useful for their business.

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- ✓ Five telecom companies have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of coming together to build a shared national fibre optic backbone (BBs) connecting the main populated centres in Burundi, in a PPP public private partennaship model, on the initiative by the World BANK a model which will be extended to other countries,
 - ✓ The network proposes a redundant fibre optic ring with four international exits: two exits towards Rwanda and two exits to Tanzania . The fibre ring is complemented by microwave links..with the Wimax technology

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- ✓ A proper legislation on sharing the existing networks of the various operators including the roll-out of the BBs as it is realistic to expect that it might result in lower prices for access to telephony and the Internet. A project is proposed to the parliament , the PPP law.
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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.

ICT POLICY, LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

Historic Development.

The national ICT legislation development in Burundi was initiated in 1997

With:

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

✓ The national plan for ICT was revised in 2006 taking the rapid technological evolutions and socio-economic developments in Burundi into consideration. The plan was aligned with the Poverty Reduction Strategy to make it operational.

✓ 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

✓The Government has stated that it is committed to strengthening the implementation of such structural reforms. It has reviewed its code of investments to attract both national and foreign direct investments. The procedures for the approval of priority enterprises have been simplified.

REVIEW OF POLICY PROCESS AND STATUS OF ICT-POLICY.

The government's objective with regards to ICT is:

- ✓to reduce the country's isolation by improving access to the various systems of communication, especially for populations living in remote areas.

The strategy aims:

- ✓to develop a communication infrastructure
- ✓in order to improve the flow of information between urban and rural areas
- ✓to stimulate production and regional trade, contribute to the emergence of new employment and income opportunities.
- ✓In line with this policy of working to reduce the country's
- ✓isolation, the government has defined the following sub-
- ✓strategies:

- ❖ The formulation of a national strategy for the development of information and communication technologies
- ❖ The development of a basic infrastructure covering the entire country
- ❖ The liberalization of the telecommunications sector and an upgrading of the capacities of the regulatory agency
- ❖ These objectives have all been laid down in six so-called 'Strategic ICT objectives

For the realization of all these strategic objectives, the Government has established Commission Nationale de la Societe de l'Information (CNSI) which includes representatives from all ministries, the private sector, NGO's, media, etc. with an executive secretariat the SETIC , Secretariat Executif des TICs

Governmental ICT- Strategy

Strategic Objective 1: Capacity building

Strategic Objective 2: Improvement of legal and regulatory environment

Strategic Objective 3:
development

Infrastructure

Strategic Objective 4:
Governance

Promoting Good

Strategic Objective 5:

Promoting and

encouragement of private Investments

Strategic Objective 6:
and

Promoting local content

ICT applications

Some Specific objectives :

- ✓ More fixed telephony lines and mobile telephone subscribers ;
- ✓ A telephony access in the rural areas within a maximum distance of 5 km.
- ✓ The improvement of service supply by introducing more competition and extending the range of services offered which should lead to lower tariffs.
- ✓ The construction of a high capacity network and an National backbone;

- ✓ Promoting the telecommunications sector as an essential sector for a competitive economy ;
- ✓ Re-opening of the telecommunications school in Burundi ;
- ✓ Promoting the ICT usage within the government;
- ✓ The integration of ICT within the socio-economic development ;

- ✓ Improvement of the regulatory authority including a revision of the legislation and regulation,
- ✓ National registration of domain names,
- ✓ The creation of a Universal Service Fund_

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The lack of funding and competing priorities is cited as the major causes for the implementation of the objectives.
- ✓ The World Bank, within framework of the Regional Communications Infrastructure Program (RCIP) has agreed in March 2007 to provide the government with a grant of US \$20.1 million to carry out the infrastructure development project. The project aims to alleviate the challenge with lack of funding to implement the ICT policy and action plan.

- ✓ The implementation of the ICT policy and action plans is very low ; While some of the ICT applications in banking, health and education sector were enthusiastically begun, they lack resources ,
- ✓ However the intended roll-out of the national data transmission backbone (BBS) is expected to reduce Internet costs and facilitate the implementation of the various ICT projects. It also could have a positive impact on the use of ICT by the SME's and private sector.
- ✓ It has to be mentioned that in combination with an exoneration of the import-duties on ICT products the Burundian Government already reduced the sales tax on ICT products and services from a level of 20 % to a present level of 7%. These fiscal measures were
- ✓ all taken to promote and encourage private ICT investments.

CONCLUSION:

- ✓ The political instability of the last years and the social and economic crisis presents a major challenge to the implementation of the ICT policy,
- ✓ The current legislation does not cover all the aspects of a proper ICT-legislation ; reason why a big chantier has been set up to review the ICT sector legislation;

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- ✘ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS LAW
- ✘ INFORMATION SOCIETY LAW
- ✘ CRIMINAL CODE

CRIMINAL CODE

- ✘ ONLY SOME CRIMES are criminalised

CYBER SECURITY PROVISIONS

- ✘ OFFENSES AGAINST THE CONFIDENTIALITY, THE INTEGRITY AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE COMPUTING SYSTEMS
- ✘ Affecting the confidentiality of the computer systems
- ✘ Illegal access
- ✘ Illegal preservation
- ✘ Affecting the integrity and the availability of the computer systems

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- ✘ General Obstacle in the functioning of a computer system
 - ✘ Specific Obstacle in the functioning of a computer system

CYBERSECURITY PROVISIONS

- ✘ OFFENSES AGAINST THE CONFIDENTIALITY, THE INTEGRITY AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DATA
- ✘ Affecting the confidentiality of the data
- ✘ Affecting the integrity and the availability of the data
- ✘ ABUSE OF DEVICES

CYBERSECURITY

- × COMPUTING CRIMES
 - × Forgery / IT forgery(imitation)
 - × IT Fraud

THANK YOU

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