



AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

**THE 1ST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE 2026 (PP-26);
WINDHOEK - NAMIBIA**

18TH – 19TH JULY 2024

FINAL REPORT

**FINAL REPORT OF THE 1ST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR ITU
PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2026 (PP-26); WINDHOEK - NAMIBIA, JULY
18-19 2024**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 1st Preparatory Meeting for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26) was organized in hybrid mode (both physical and online attendance) by the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and kindly hosted by the Government of Namibia through the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN). The meeting took place at *Droombos Vineyard Country Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia 18-19 July, 2024*.

The main objectives of the 1st Preparatory meeting for PP-26 were:

- i. To establish the interim Bureau for the 1st Preparatory meeting.
- ii. To consider the outcomes of the African participation and contributions to the PP-22 and recommendations.
- iii. To consider the outcomes of ITU PP-22 and Updates on Council-2024 meetings and the update on the PP-26 preparations.
- iv. To establish the Structure of the preparations for PP-26 and identify priority areas/topics.
- v. To consider Chairs and Vice Chairs of the various working groups.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended physically and virtually by 120 participants from the following 32 Member Countries namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The following institutions and organizations were also represented:

- International Telecommunications Union, (ITU); and
- Two (2) Associate Members (GSOA and Apple).

(The list of participants is attached hereto as Annex A)

3. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony of the 1st Preparatory Meeting for the PP-26 was done jointly with that of the second Preparatory Meeting of WTDC25. It featured welcoming remarks by **Mr. Elvis Nashilongo**, Vice Chairperson of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) Board of Directors. The keynote address was delivered by **Hon. Emma Theofelus**, Minister of Information & Communication Technology (MICT) of Namibia. Remarks were also given by **Mr. John OMO**, Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU). Video

messages were presented by ITU Secretary-General **Doreen Bogdan-Martin** and **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU.

(The details of the speeches at the opening ceremony are attached in the report as Annex B)

Remarks by the Secretary General – Mr. John Omo

- The Secretary General welcomed all delegates and extended his gratitude towards the Republic of Namibia for hosting the meeting. He stated that this was the 1st Preparatory meeting for the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2026.
- He reminded the delegates that the Plenipotentiary Conference is a major arena where important decisions are made regarding telecommunications /ICTs. That Africa needed to prepare itself and align her priorities before time. He also stated that, there was need to dialogue with other regions and other bodies such as ITU. These interregional dialogues help to have coordinated efforts for a successful conference.
- The Secretary General also informed the meeting that the preparations involved discussion of the structure of preparation and how the working groups shall operate.

4. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING BUREAU

The ATU General Secretariat proposed and the meeting elected the following bureau for the meeting:

Position	Name	Country
Chair	Ms. Linda Aipinge- Nakale	Namibia
Vice-chair	Mr. Chima Okorie	Nigeria
Rapporteurs	Mr. Kevin Bakulumpagi Mr. Dominique Mungimba	Uganda DRC

5. AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAM

The Agenda and Work program were adopted as attached in Annex C.

6. REPORT BY ATU ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE AFRICAN PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ITU PP-22 – (ATU)

Mrs. Meriem SLIMANI, ATU Coordinator for Development made a presentation on the outcomes of the African participation and contributions to the PP-22, held in Bucharest, Romania.

She highlighted the following key outcomes:

- the PP-22 Final Acts bringing together resolutions adopted at the plenipotentiary was signed by 157 members;
- the Milestones of the African group's preparatory process and structure.
- The identified priority areas and key topics by Africa that were addressed by the PP-22 which included- ITRs, Cyber security, Electoral Process, internet related issues, OTTs, Statistics, Spatial Issues and ITU Strategic plan;
- The African Group had submitted 40 African Common Proposals (AFCPs), particularly new draft resolutions on AI, Spatial, etc...
- African Candidatures for elective ITU positions, Council and RRB

She outlined the reasons for the success being good preparations and excellent coordination among the African delegates.

In terms of recommendations to guide the PP-26 preparations: Establishment of a permanent bureau chairmanship for consistency; Africa to give more attention to ITU Administration and Management topics; induction of new delegates to ITU - PP Conference; embracing the key role of coordinators and assistant coordinators; consider the contributions or strategies of other regions to modify African regional priorities to its advantage; the need to have a harmonized position of all relevant African Telecommunication/ICT players; plus the need to align the African approach to the PP-26 Conference with the ATU Strategic Plan.

The meeting took note of the report with few modifications and additions. The presentation is attached in Annex D of this report.

7. REPORT BY ITU ON THE PP-22 AND COUNCIL-2024, EGs AND CWGs MAIN OUTCOMES AND THE PP-26 PREPARATORY PROCESS.

The ITU Presentation was made by Mr. Vaggelis IGGELESI, the ITU Chief of Staff with the support of Dr. Emmanuel MANASSEH, the Acting Regional Director for Africa.

The Presentation highlighted the key PP-22 outcomes and tracked the ITU General Secretariat annual activities through the decisions of the Council (2023, 2024) as well as their respective implementation. He highlighted to the meeting the tools used to track implementation of PP-22, namely web-based platforms, report of the SG to Council, and interactive power Business Intelligence Dashboards.

He informed the meeting that ITU 2024 Council addressed 4 main themes, namely: (a) building a fit for purpose ITU, (b) delivering as one ITU on matters including Climate change, support for conflict situations such as Ukraine and Palestine; (c) reports on internet activities; (d) improving governance. In considering these matters, the Council also noted the reports of the ADM Committee - on strengthening organizational excellence in matters of budget and finance, oversight and internal controls, and enabling environment, HR, IT, among others. The Council

adopted various resolutions on operational plans, agenda for 2027 WRC, conditions of service, allocation of savings, sustainability and climate action, assistance and support to Palestine and strengthening Child Online Protection activities. He also mentioned that some resolutions were revised. The Council adopted new decisions such as the place, draft agenda for WTDC-25, dates and durations of the Council meetings for 2024 and 2025 and endorsed the Code of Conduct for ITU events and language style. The Council also appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs of CWGs.

On PP-26 preparations, which will be held in Doha, Qatar, the meeting raised concerns regarding visa challenges for African delegates and the need to work with the host country to deal with such challenges. The meeting also implored the membership to ensure adequate participation of women and youth at PPs.

On behalf of ATU membership, the Secretary General thanked the ITU for sharing the report of the ITU PP-22 and Council 2024, and for the support and collaboration towards the preparations for the PP-26. He also mentioned the need to have inter-regional meetings on time to help progress the work of the Conference. The presentation is attached to this report in Annex E.

8. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED ATU PREPARATORY STRUCTURE FOR PP-26, AND PRIORITY AREAS

Mrs. Meriem SLIMANI presented the proposed structure for the African PP-26 preparation which was similar to the ATU structure for PP-22 preparations and in line with the Plenipotentiary Committees. The only addition is the Group of the plenary/permanent bureau. The proposed structure is as follows:

Group of the Plenary: to be managed by the established Bureau on permanent basis; and 3 Working Groups, as follows:

- **WG1 on Policy and Legal Matters [PP-COM5]**

Mandate	Areas of Priority
<p>WG1 Policy and Legal Matters would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Reports and proposals related to policy matters of the Union, including the reports submitted by the Council on the activities of the Union; • Development of appropriate decisions with respect to the activities of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors; • Proposals for amending the Constitution, Convention, General Rules and Optional Protocol; taking into account relevant reports and recommendations from WG2 and WG3, recommend all appropriate actions to the Plenary; consider any other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change (NOC) to CS/CV • Review General Rules (GR), such as voting procedure, etc.; • Elections Matters; • Space Strategy 2030 • Introduce the alignment principle between CS/CV, different regulations such as Staff, financial regulations, etc. and Policy • ITU documents such as internal service orders, charters and other policies whistleblowing, etc...) to best practices such as those from JIU, External,

questions of a legal nature raised during the Conference; and transmit to WG2 [Com6], matters having financial implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditors and IMAC • ITU treaties such as ITRs.
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• **WG2 on Administration and Management Issues [PP-COM6]**

Mandate	Areas of Priority
<p>WG2: the ITU Administration and Management issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the draft Strategic Plan and other reports and proposals relating to the Strategic Plan; • examine relevant reports and proposals on the general management of the Union, in particular those relating to financial and human resources and relevant parts of the reports submitted by other Working Groups; • prepare inputs to the draft financial policy and to draft strategic and financial plans for 2028-2031; recommend to the Plenary all appropriate decisions related to the management of the Union’s activities; • transmit to WG1 [Com5] matters requiring amendments to the Constitution, Convention and General Rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITU Governance: review of current governance and accountability framework, etc • ITU role in AI governance, formalize the AI for good Summit by PP • ITU Role in the GDC and its implications on CWG; • Remote Participation to ITU Conferences; • WSIS&SDGs, CWG-Internet, etc • Human Resources SFP, Res 48, Res 71 • Regional Presence, Res 25 • IMAC Res 162 • Financial matters: ITU headquarter and Decision 5, review criteria for exemption, etc • Clarify the oversight function • Transformation of ITU, • External auditors and IMAC

• **WG 3 on Public Policy Issues [PP_WG-PL]**

Mandate	Areas of Priority
<p>WG3 on Public Policy issues would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider reports and proposals and recommend appropriate actions with regard to issues related to public policies on Internet issues from Members and RTOs; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet related issues: Res 101, 102, 133, 180 • Cybersecurity and COP: Res 130, 174 and Res.179 • NGN in developing countries: Res 137; • Digital Divide, Connectivity, BSG:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider other general matters; and transmit to WG1 [COM5], matters requiring amendments to the Constitution, Convention and General Rules, and to WG2 [COM6], matters having financial implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • : Res 139 • WSIS: Res 140 • OTTs: Res 206 • AI: Res 214 • Digital Platforms; • International Conflicts • Diversity and inclusivity • Sustainable ICTs/ green ICTs • Digital public Infrastructure (DPI) • Global Digital Compact (GDC)
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After due consideration, the meeting adopted the proposed structure of the three Working Groups with their Terms of Reference and the tentative priority areas, noting that the WGs could add more priority areas. Likewise, within their respective terms of reference, the WGs were mandated to consider proposals from other regions and develop Africa common positions and negotiation strategy.

The meeting raised the issue of the Election Process for Candidates from the African region and urged the ATU Secretary General to put in place a mechanism to facilitate a process of enabling Members reach a consensus early before the ITU PP Conference.

NOTE: The priorities are not static. The WGs have power to consider additional priority areas and study the same for future discussion.

Consultation on appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Working Groups

After due discussions, the meeting agreed that the Secretary General should issue a circular to Member States requesting for nomination of candidates to different positions of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the various Working Groups to prepare for the ITU PP-26.

The meeting stressed the need for the General Secretariat to develop criteria for Member States to apply while nominating their candidates. The criteria should include: competence, dedication of personnel, gender equality as well as regional balance. In cases of conflict in nominations, the Secretariat will hold consultations with the member states concerned.

9. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The draft report was considered and adopted.

10. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date and venue for the next physical meeting will be communicated by the General Secretariat after due consultations.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was recommended that ATU should take active interest in the works of the Council as well as the Council Working Groups of ITU as these feed directly into the process of ATU at the PP-26. The Secretariat undertook to prepare membership for participation and follow up in the Council Working Group meetings.

Annexes available in the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NvBkHqZ1ZEahliZvoDkhuQPznaBjehEv?usp=drive_link

12. VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSING

The vote of Thanks was given by the honorable delegate of Ghana. In her allocution she thanked, the Government of Namibia for the warm hospitality, the ATU Secretary General and his team for the good organization of the meeting, the Chairperson and the members of her bureau, for wise guidance of the work of the meeting, the ITU, the interpreters and technical staff and all esteemed delegates both present and online for their active participation. She wished a safe journey for all those travelling back home.