AFRICAN TELECOMUNICATIONS UNION
L'UNION AFRICAINE DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS

4th February 2026

Ref.: 013/02/ATU/SC/CIR-2025

Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Attn: Country Focal Persons

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Invitation to host a sub-regional IPv6 Test Bed Infrastructure.

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) General Secretariat presents its compliments to the Membership.

I refer to my letter with reference number:135/10/ATU/PD/CIR-2025 dated 31st October 2025 which invited your Administration to nominate two (2) experts for the ATU sponsored capacity building and training on IPv6 Adoption in Africa, for which you graciously obliged. I am pleased to inform you that, the said training was completed successfully on 28th November 2025 for 52 participants from 26 Member Countries.

The next phase of the project is to select five (5) countries, preferably one from each sub-region and deploy IPv6 test bed pilots in these countries. This process is designed to translate the evidence, policy recommendations and capacity gains achieved in the training into measurable deployment outcomes through hands-on technical assistance and structured implementations for future replication and achieve the 20% target of regional IPv6 adoption by the end of the project.

The criteria for selecting a country within a sub-region is guided by attached country readiness assessment leveraging on the training, policy roadmap, level of stakeholder engagements, existing partnerships, governance structures among others.

Interested Member States should submit their proposals in line with the **attached criteria not later than 20th February 2026** for competitive evaluation.

Should you require any additional information, please send it to sg@atuuat.africa and copy i.boateng@atuuat.africa.

Yours faithfully,

John OMO
Secretary-General

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IPv6 TEST BED CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A COUNTRY

CRITERIA	Weight	KEY PARAMETERS
Technical Readiness	20%	Existing Network Infrastructure
		Previous IPv6 Deployment Experience
		Hardware and Software Compatibility
		Existing IXP
Policy and Regulatory Environment	20%	Supportive Policy Environment
		Demonstrated Political will
		Regulatory Frameworks
Stakeholder Engagement	10%	Willingness to Collaborate
		Commitment to Knowledge Sharing
Capacity for Deployment	20	Technical Expertise
		Capacity Building Potential
		Institutional Support
Geographical Representation	10%	Regional balance
		Scalability and Replicability
Existing Partnerships	10%	Collaborations with Key Organizations
		Local University and Research Engagement
		Operator and Government Alliances
Monitoring and Evaluation Capability	10%	Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms
		Alignment with Centralized Monitoring Platform
Recommendation for the Selection		**Yes or No**
TOTAL Score	**100**	

Selection Criteria for IPv6 Test Bed Countries in Africa

This document outlines the selection criteria for identifying five (5) suitable ATU Member States for pilot deployment of IPv6 network with the aim of promoting IPv6 infrastructure across the continent. The selection process is transparent, objective, and designed to ensure strategic impact, providing valuable lessons for broader continental adoption.

Technical Readiness

This criterion assesses a country's current digital infrastructure and its capacity to support IPv6 deployment.

- **Existing Network Infrastructure:** Evaluate the presence of a reasonably well-developed network infrastructure capable of supporting IPv6 implementation. This includes assessing internet connectivity, backbone infrastructure, and the readiness of internet service providers (ISPs) and government networks.
- **Previous IPv6 Deployment Experience:** Consider any prior initiatives or partial deployments of IPv6 within the country, as this can indicate a foundational understanding and existing technical capabilities.
- **Hardware and Software Compatibility:** Identify the prevalence of IPv6-compatible hardware and software, and the willingness of vendors and operators to upgrade or adapt their systems.
- **Existing IXP:** Consider existence of operational national or regional Internet Exchange Point (IXP), or clear access to one

Policy and Regulatory Environment

This criterion examines the governmental and regulatory landscape to determine its conduciveness to IPv6 adoption.

- **Supportive Policy Environment:** Assess the existence of government mandates, incentives, or strategic plans that explicitly support or encourage IPv6 adoption.
- **Demonstrated Political Will:** Look for clear evidence of commitment from high-level government officials and regulatory bodies to prioritize and facilitate the IPv6 transition.
- **Harmonized Regulatory Frameworks:** Evaluate the potential for aligning national regulatory frameworks with regional and international best practices to create a consistent and predictable environment for IPv6 deployment.

Stakeholder Engagement

This criterion focuses on the willingness and capacity of key local actors to participate in and support the IPv6 transition.

- **Willingness to Collaborate:** Assess the commitment of governments, ISPs, regulators, internet registries, and other relevant organizations to actively engage with the project.
- **Commitment to Knowledge Sharing:** Evaluate the readiness of local stakeholders to share their experiences, challenges, and successes to benefit other African nations.
- **Active Participation:** Gauge the potential for sustained involvement from technical communities, academic institutions, and private sector entities in the project's activities.

Capacity for Implementation

This criterion evaluates the human and institutional resources available to drive and sustain IPv6 initiatives.

- **Technical Expertise:** Determine the availability of skilled personnel, such as network engineers and IT professionals, who possess the necessary expertise to deploy, manage, and troubleshoot IPv6 networks.
- **Capacity Building Potential:** Assess the country's potential for developing local technical capacity through training programs, workshops, and mentoring initiatives.
- **Institutional Support:** Consider the presence of local institutions (e.g., universities, technical colleges, national research and education networks) that can contribute to capacity building and technical support.

Geographic Diversity

This criterion ensures that the pilot projects represent the varied contexts and challenges across the African continent.

- **Regional Representation:** Countries from different geographical regions within Africa to capture a wide range of operational environments and socio-economic conditions.
- **Scalability and Replicability:** Countries where successful pilot deployments can serve as replicable models for other nations facing similar challenges.

Existing Partnerships

This criterion identifies existing collaborations that can leverage resources and expertise for the project.

- **Collaborations with Key Organizations:** Countries that have established working relationships with organizations such as AFRINIC, ICANN, ISOC, AFNOG, AFRALTI, regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), and national regulatory authorities.
- **Local University and Research Engagement:** Partnerships with academic institutions that can contribute to technical training, research, and local capacity building.
- **Operator and Government Alliances:** Existing alliances between local network operators and government can streamline project implementation and ensure broader buy-in.

Monitoring and Evaluation Capability

This criterion assesses the ability of a country to track and report on the progress and outcomes of the IPv6 transition.

- **Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms:** The capacity to collect, analyze, and report on key performance indicators (KPIs) related to IPv6 adoption rates, traffic ratios, and other relevant metrics.
- **Alignment with Centralized Monitoring:** The ability to integrate local monitoring data with a ATU centralized monitoring platform to ensure consistent progress tracking across member states.

Evaluation and Selection:

The following steps will be applied for the selection process:

- **Shortlisting of Candidate Countries: T**he ATU will evaluate and shortlist candidate countries that best meet the defined selection criteria.
- **Site Visit and Due Diligence:** ATU will conduct on-site assessments in the shortlisted countries to verify network infrastructure, technical expertise, and policy environments. This phase will also include interviews with key stakeholders to confirm their commitment.
- **Final Selection:** A project committee will make the final decision.

Pre-Selection requirements

1. Participated in the IPv6 training held in November 2025, Nairobi
2. Financially good standing with the Union – Paid up to date annual contributions
3. Evidence of summitted official proposal

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