

# FORUM: CONTRIBUTION OF REGULATORY AGENCIES IN THE TRANSITION PROCESS FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL

## INTRODUCTION: MEDIA CONVERGENCE

The advent of digitalisation has led to tremendous changes, both vertically and horizontally in the digital value-added chain and no stakeholder has been spared in this ecosystem. These changes can be better understood by analysing the main consequence of this digitalisation namely, convergence, that is, the coming together of all stakeholders at a meeting point. In our case, it is about the irreversible movement whereby three ecosystems of communications, telephone (voice), computing (data) and audio-visual (video), that previously stood in isolation, are all converging towards a common point we could call "an all-digital ecosystem". It is worth noting that these are living, dynamic ecosystems with real capabilities to react and provide feedback. The three ecosystems mentioned above used to rely on stakeholders, institutions and regulatory frameworks, with stakeholders changing their strategies to adapt to the new environment, generally faster than the institutions and regulatory frameworks governing them. To make things simple, the "all digital ecosystem" is based on the two natural pillars: content on the one hand and infrastructure on the other. Stakeholders, institutions and regulatory agencies can thus more or less fit in this division.

## II-General objective of the forum

Laws and regulations constitute the bases on which "all digital ecosystem" stakeholders will stand; a good regulatory framework will guarantee the development of a vibrant African digital ecosystem, meeting the expectations of all stakeholders in both the public and private sectors. At the level of the African continent, UAR and ATU are the main advisers of Member States in terms of content and infrastructure supporting the all-digital ecosystem. This forum will therefore provide an opportunity for the main stakeholders of these two pillars to converge to a place where their interests are better taken into account.

## III-Specific objective of the forum

This will include:

- identifying the major trends which the stakeholders of each pillar seem to follow;
- identifying points of convergence and divergence ;
- finding out what types of partnerships or cooperation can be established between stakeholders to achieve win-win solutions in an all-digital ecosystem;

- making recommendations to consolidate points of convergence and reduce those of divergence in order to serve as a basis for public policies and the regulations for an all-digital ecosystem.

#### **IV-Target of the forum**

This forum is open to UAR and UAT Member States and organizations, private sector stakeholders operating in the areas of ICT contents and infrastructure. The public sector comprises ministries in charge of content issues and ICT infrastructure, as well as the related regulatory bodies. The private sector includes designers and content providers (voice, data, and video), infrastructure providers (Telco, ISP), owners of different platforms.

#### **VI-Organisation of the forum**

*Morning:*

Thursday 26/03/2019

*Opening Ceremony 9 -9: 30 a.m*

*Session1 (10:15 -11:15)a.m*

- Introductory papers on:
  - The audiovisual regulatory frameworks in the era of convergence by an expert in audiovisual regulation (15 mn);
  - The telecommunications regulatory frameworks in the era of convergence by an expert in telecommunications regulation (15 mn);

*Session2 (11:15 12:15)a.m*

- Countries experience sharing - regulators

Each country will prepare a 15 mn presentation including:

1. Relationships between content developers and owners of ISP platforms, and Telco ()
  - a. Points of convergence and divergence
  - b. Recommendations
2. Relationships between DTT, Telco and ISP operators
  - a. Points of convergence and divergence
  - b. Recommendation;
3. The reflection on management of DTT frequency bands in the era of convergence;
4. Significant measures taken in the telecommunications and/or broadcasters for convergence management.

## Afternoon

*2 p.m – 3 p.m*

- Points of regional institutions on the above subjects (10mn per speaker)
  - AU, AUB, ATU
  - Sister organisations (ASBU, EBU)

*3 p.m – 4 p.m*

- Meeting with representatives of ministerial departments, regulatory agencies, observations and recommendations

*4 p.m – 4: 45 p.m*

- Reading out of recommendations

END OF THE FORUM

**NB:** 1. Please note that your papers should be sent to [mezom@yahoo.com](mailto:mezom@yahoo.com), date line March the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please do not forget to mention, your full address, organisation