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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in
2013 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

Africa ICT Alliance

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 17th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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Contribution of AfICTA (Africa ICT Alliance) to the WSIS Stocktaking Process

by Dr Jimson Olufuye, Chair AfICTA 15.01.2014

Executive Summary

AfICTA – Africa Information and Communication Technologies Alliance, is a private sector-led organization of ICT Industry associations, companies and individual professionals established in May 2012 and registered in Nigeria on 30 December 2013. AfICTA members include ICT associations, companies and professionals in 12 African countries namely Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, the Gambia, Rwanda, Namibia, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burundi and Niger republic.

AfICTA formation in 2012 is a derivative of progress recorded in the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) target realization in its member countries in the area of Action Lines C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7 (e-Government & e-Business), C8, C9 & C11. The realization of WSIS targets constitutes its vision, mission and goals. Please see <http://aficta.org/index.php/home/visionmission>.

AfICTA within the period under review organized its first Summit in Lagos, Nigeria (26-28 June, 2013) bringing representatives from 5 African countries plus the USA. It also participated in workshops, seminars, parliamentary public hearing, fora and capacity building programmes in Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt and Ethiopia underscoring its commitment to the WSIS Action Lines (AL) and targets realization in the African region. Specifically, AfICTA evolved and supported initiatives in collaboration with other organisations to impact on Action Lines (ALs) C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7 (e-Government & e-Business), C8, C9 & C11.

The AL Interventions

1. C1 - The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development: In its role as a stakeholder, AfICTA promoted the WSIS action lines and targets to participating stakeholders from 5 countries at its first Summit on 26-28 June 2013 with the theme “Fulfilling the Promise of Digital Age in Africa”. It also extended the reach to global audience through the publication of WSIS materials on its website (www.aficta.org). The aim was to publish what needed to be done to meet the WSIS 2015 targets thereby promoting ICTs for development. Over 100 top level delegates across Nigeria, Africa and USA participated in the Summit. Please visit

- <http://aficta.org/index.php/aficta-summit-2013> for more details on the Summit.
2. C2 - Information and communication infrastructure: AfICTA participated in TransformAfrica Summit 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda organised by the Rwandan government in collaboration with ITU. The event emphasized building ICT (fibre) infrastructure across African states with strong collaboration with the African private sector to enable broadband driven African economies. The conference had the buy-in of many African government. AfICTA has so far endorsed the TransformAfrica manifesto - http://www.transformafrica2013.org/IMG/pdf/smart_africa_manifesto_2013_-_english_version.pdf. Part of the 2014 Summit is focused on further promotion of the Manifesto. AfICTA also participated in the report validation workshop for the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Priority Action Plan (PAP), organized by Aurecon with funding from AU and African Development Bank. The event took place 4-5 November, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.
 3. C3 - Access to relevant information and knowledge. Through its universal resource locator (URL) – www.aficta.org and its weekly e-Newsletter, AfICTA provides access to information and knowledge on the digital age in tandem with its goal number 2 ie to create awareness and improve African digital literacy by 50% in collaboration with stakeholders by the year 2020.
 4. C4 - Capacity building: AfICTA as part of its first Summit organised a Domain Name System Security Extension (DNSSEC) workshop for domain name engineers and business owners in collaboration with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Nigerian Internet Registration Association (NIRA). More than 40 DNS experts in the Nigerian DNS industry benefited from the training. In addition, AfICTA also conducted a workshop on global standards on project management and procurement. 9 delegates mainly from state governments participated in this workshop.
 5. C5 - Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs: Confidence and security go hand-in-hand and in the Internet space. A weak security infers low confidence and a high security implies strong confidence in the use of ICTs. Therefore, with DNSSEC workshop mentioned above, AfICTA added to confidence building as the key benefit of the DNSSEC is the prevention of cyber-attacks like DNS cache poisoning which leads to domain name hijacking, website defacing, phishing data theft etc.
 6. C6 - Enabling environment. AfICTA made a presentation at the public hearing on the passage of a Cybersecurity Bill by the Nigerian Parliament. This is with the aim of enabling conducive environment for increased e-activities.
 7. C7 – ICT Applications (e-Government & e-Business): Through its 1st Summit, AfICTA

- provided opportunities for governments particularly state governments in Nigeria (notably Ekiti, Ondo, Nasarawa and Edo States) to strengthen their eGovernment and eBusiness policies and strategies. Business entities also benefitted in exposure to DNSSEC processes and to biometric ATM application and systems demonstrated at the event.
8. C8 - Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content: AfICTA participated in the 2nd African IGF organized by UNECA & AU with the support of ISOC and keNIC in Nairobi Kenya on 23-26 September, 2013. The theme of the Forum was “Building Bridges – Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Development. AfICTA delegate, Dr Olufuye chaired the panel on Access and Diversity: Internet as an engine for growth and sustainable development. He challenged stakeholders on reaching the over 1000 ethnic groups in Africa with ICT benefits in more than 3000 local languages they speak.
 9. C9 – Media: AfICTA uses the new media to enrich the information society. It has a robust presence on the social media eg facebook, twitter #aficta, and the domain space www.aficta.org.
 10. C11 - International and regional cooperation: AfICTA collaborated with ICANN to organize the DNSSEC workshop in Lagos, Nigeria. It also cooperated with UNECA and AU leading to the success of the 2nd African IGF in Nairobi, Kenya. It is important to emphasize the on-going co-operation among the African ICT organization to promote intra-African ICT trade, ICT policy development and sharing of critical information on good practices. AfICTA plays active role in the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Business Action in Support of the Information Society (BASIS). It has collaborative agreement with the Korean Electronics Association, the Consumer Electronics Association, USA and African Information and Technology Exhibitions and Conference (AITEC). AfICTA delegates participated in trade shows, global trade exhibitions and conferences organised by its partners mentioned above to increase global co-operation and knowledge sharing for economic growth. The move was also to create more ICT jobs and engender prosperity in the African economies.

Lessons Learned

1. Organising new initiatives (eg AfICTA) in support of WSIS targets is costly for champions in the private sector in the developing and the least developed economies. This is because most interest in championing something new with long term benefit is usually from the small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
2. Identifying champions for initiatives is a challenge. It would be good to build a

repository of development experts and champions. The database can be used for new global initiatives to accelerate the realization of new development targets.

3. Not all business entities are able to commit scarce resources to sustained participation in the WSIS and WSIS related activities e.g. IGF, CSTD Working Groups.
4. The success of any such global initiative depends on the political will and vision of national governments particularly in the developing and least developed nations. Therefore, the need for strong national government liaison at the WSIS Secretariat cannot be over-emphasized.

Obstacles encountered

1. Zero granting opportunity for business stakeholders in the developing and least developed nations (who are mainly SMEs) due to erroneous impression that they would fund themselves. They need to be supported to attain the critical mass from where self-funding will be possible as it is in the developed economies.
2. Lack of effective collaboration with government entities
3. Intra-government rivalries. Agencies of governments particularly in the developing and the least developed nations are found to be in unhealthy rivalries leading to state of zero or delayed collaboration on initiatives that are for common good of the citizens

Recommendations

1. WSIS 2.0 should be initiated at the end of this WSIS phase to sustain the momentum generated with WSIS 1.0 of 2003-2005.
2. A funding mechanism should be established at the commencement of such initiatives to support effective participation of indigent stakeholders whether government, private sector, or civil society in the developing and least developed economies
3. For similar initiatives in the future, very strong secretariat structure should be in place for important follow-up and process support.

Conclusion

It is important to note that the above report is not exhaustive of the activities of AfICTA to promote the WSIS themes and targets realization in Africa and across the global ICT ecosystem.