
Agenda item: PL 2.5

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Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM CAMEROON – “CONNECT THE WORLD” INITIATIVE

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution received from **Cameroon**.

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Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM CAMEROON

“CONNECT THE WORLD” INITIATIVE

1 Background

Instituted by **Resolution 1281 of the ITU Council in 2007**, the “Connect the World” Initiative is an innovative multi-stakeholder platform that leverages the benefits of ICTs and the power of partnership to bridge the digital divide.

Designed to showcase, consolidate and scale-up existing activities and stimulate industry-wide cooperation, its aim is to accelerate ICT development efforts worldwide.

By bringing committed partners together to empower people through communications and information, “Connect the World” is a catalyst for achieving the connectivity goals set at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2005.

2 Situation in Cameroon

Following the adoption of Resolution 1281 in 2007, Africa was the first to organize the Initiative summit “Connect Africa”. This took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 29 to 30 October 2007.

The goals specifically identified by the summit had been endorsed earlier by ministers and experts from the administrations of the African countries. They consequently became directives issued to those administrations following the summit.

The table below presents what has been achieved by Cameroon, by Directive:

	DIRECTIVES	ACTIONS AND/OR PROJECTS
1	Interconnect all African capitals and major cities with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthen connectivity to the rest of the world by 2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of Central Africa Backbone (CAB) project, focused in its first phase on Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic; ▪ Establishment of national fibre optic backbone already measuring over 6000 km, interconnecting all ten regional capitals and around one hundred departmental and district capitals; ▪ Deployment of fibre optic urban loop in Douala and Yaoundé; Physical interconnection of fibre optic networks of Chad and Cameroon ; ▪ Detailed technical study and environmental impact study with a view to deployment of fibre optic on the Bamenda-Mamfé-Eyoumodjock-Ekok route towards Nigeria and on

		the Bertoua-Garoua-Boulai-Kentzou segment towards the Central African Republic, produced and transmitted to ADB for follow-up.
2	Connect African villages to broadband ICT services by 2015 and implement shared access initiatives such as community telecentres and village phones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deployment of TCPs and digital access points nationwide. Around one hundred TCPs and digital access points are now operational in Cameroon.
3	Adopt key regulatory measures that promote affordable, widespread access to a full range of broadband ICT services, including technology and service neutral licensing / authorization practices, allocating spectrum for multiple, competitive broadband wireless service providers, creating national Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and implementing competition in the provision of international Internet connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promulgation of Law 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications ; ▪ Signature of implementing legislation deriving from the aforementioned law; ▪ Project for the construction of two Internet exchange points in Yaoundé and Douala in 2014.
4	Support the development of a critical mass of ICT skills required by the knowledge economy, notably through the establishment of a network of ICT Centres of Excellence in each subregion of Africa and ICT capacity-building and training centres in each country, with the aim of achieving a broad network of inter-linked physical and virtual centres, while ensuring coordination between academia and industry by 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Several ICT training centres (Institut Africain de l'Informatique, IFTIC-sup, universities, technical institutions, major training colleges) ▪ Six hundred (600) young people trained in ICTs as part of the Pan-African online services project implemented in partnership with Indian universities.
5	Adopt a national e-strategy, including a cybersecurity framework, and deploy at least one flagship e-government service as well as e-education, e-commerce and e-health services using accessible technologies in each country in Africa by 2012, with the aim of making multiple e-government and other e-services widely available by 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promulgation of Law 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon ; ▪ Promulgation of Law 2010/021 of 21 December 2010 governing e-commerce in Cameroon ▪ Signature of implementing legislation for the aforementioned laws ; ▪ Implementation of national public key infrastructure (PKI).

3 Difficulties

The main difficulty is that of access to funding for the projects to be implemented.

4 Proposals

Cameroon supports the initiative and proposes that the Council ensure that ITU regularly checks that the commitments made by financial institutions and other international organizations at meetings dealing with the matter are complied with.
