

**Under the High Patronage of His Excellency Zine El-Abidine BEN ALI,
President of the Republic of Tunisia**

**ICT 4 ALL Forum – Tunis +3
Hammamet – Tunisia, 27 and 28 November 2008**

Broadband, industry of content for development

FINAL REPORT

ICT4All Forum-Tunis+3, was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, the **27th** and **28th** of **November 2008** dealing with “**Broadband, industry of content for development**”, Under the High Patronage of His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia.

The forum was attended by 1750 participants coming from 67 different countries.

The forum’s works had been enhanced by the praiseworthy participation of:

- H.E. Mr Mohamed Ghannouchi, Tunisian Prime Minister
- H.E. Mr Cheikh Sidi Diarra, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Special Representative of UNCTAD in New York,
- Mr Hamadoune Touré, Secretary General of ITU
- Mr Youssouf Ouedrogo, Special Adviser of the President of the African Development Bank.
- Mr Talal Abou Ghazala, Vice President of UNGAID
- Mr Abdoulhakim Elwaer, African Union,
- Mr Gordon Graylich, Vice President, Intel Corporation
- Mr Faouzi Zaghib, UTICA
- 20 Ministers and State Secretaries,
- Representatives of 20 international organisations,
- Representatives of 16 information enterprises,
- 40 expert speakers.

The Forum had been holding a sequence of parallel events including:

- Arab Group Meeting on the establishment of an ICT Arabic strategy.
- A workshop organised by the Arab ICT Organization on “Technological evolutions for the development of the industry of content, Arab World challenges”.
- Le Forum des Opportunités numériques, organisé par le CERT et l'Agence Coréenne KADO
- Digital Opportunity Forum, organized by CERT and the Korean Agency KADO.
- Intel Corporation information day.
- Executive Council Meeting of the Mediterranean Federation for Internet Associations.
- One to One Meetings

Furthermore, in parallel to the forum, a sequence of agreements between different ICT actors had been signed aiming at consolidating cooperation and partnership relations in ICT sector.

A - Opening Ceremony of the symposium

At the opening ceremony of the Forum, Mr El Hadj Gley, Tunisian Minister of Communication Technologies, delivered a welcome speech to participants and launched the forum's general framework.

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi, Tunisian Prime Minister, had preceded the opening ceremony by reminding in his speech that ICT4All Forum-Tunis+3 is an extension to the World Summit on Information Society and that this forum aims mainly at contributing to the realization of the Tunisian Engagement as well as Tunis Agenda adopted throughout the WSIS in November 2005.

Through the choice of the theme "Broadband, Industry of Content for Development" for this third session of ICT4All, the Prime Minister noted that ICT services now represent over 50% of services trade, and that broadband and industry of content are actually representing real opportunities for African countries and developing countries, both for the socio-economic and cultural development to optimize the use of ICT infrastructure. He also pointed out that promoting the use of broadband opens up new prospects for activities in ICT sector, including Offshoring.

He also gave evidence about the Tunisian government's commitment to the implementation of the World Summit on Information Society, emphasizing the importance of ICT as a vital tool for the development of Tunisia, which has established a strategy specifically designed to modernize the country and its integration into the new information society, a long-term project which began to bear its fruit mainly from an economic point of view. In this context, he announced an upcoming launch of a consultation for an integrated licensing of an operator for fixed and mobile services of 2nd and 3rd generation.

Finally, while announcing the opening of the Forum, the Prime Minister emphasised the importance of international cooperation to achieve these objectives, and assured participants that developing a structured Arab, African and Mediterranean partnerships for the promotion of broadband services and boosting the development of content will be the main priority of Tunisia.

Other speeches were pronounced during the opening ceremony mainly by:

- H.E. Mr Cheikh Sidi Diarra, United Nations Organisation
- Mr Hamadoune Touré, ITU
- Mr Youssouf Ouedrogo, African Development Bank
- Mr Talal Abou Ghazala, UNGAID
- Mr Abdoulhakim Elwaer, African Union,
- Mr Gordon Graylich, Intel Corporation
- Mr Faouzi Zaghbib, UTICA

They highlighted the importance of implementing WSIS's recommendations on the use of ICT, especially through wide spreading the use of broadband and promoting the development of content.

B – Progress of the Forum's work

The Forum was organized around a special ministerial session and four panels:

- **Special Ministerial Session on “National strategies on Broadband and Digital e-content”:**

The ministerial session which was devoted to national strategies for the development of broadband and digital content has enabled the representatives of different countries to share their experiences in development policies of innovative services and digital content. Particular attention was given to the role of universal services as a vector for the spread of broadband.

Regarding gaps in fixed infrastructure, the question also arose of whether mobile technologies could usefully contribute to a more equitable dissemination of broadband and how it might impact the diffusion of digital content.

Through their national experiences, participants put emphasis particularly on:

- The requisite to continue efforts to build ICT infrastructure, through integrating innovative technologies to accelerate the development of networks and applications,
- Provide efforts to remedy the weaknesses in the dissemination of e-culture at the broader layers of the population.

The participants had expressed their appreciation for the undertaken initiatives by noteworthy international ICT enterprises for the use of ICTs in the areas of health, education and etc.

Likewise, several speakers underlined the need to boost the recommendation of Kigali Summit 2007 on the implementation of the "One Laptop per Child".

- **Panel 1 : Bridging the Digital Divide : The Benefits and Challenges of Broadband**

This panel was moderated by Mr Montassar Ouali and presentations by Mr Ken Willett, Gordon Graylish, Thierry Albrand, Yvon Le Roux, Zied Malouch, Mondher Ben Ayed, Ali Faramawy, Aldo Romano, and Deepak Padmanabhan.

The panel discussed the role of new technologies in bridging the digital divide. Panellists highlighted that access to Internet and communications is fundamental to socio-economic growth, since it provides access to information, education, training, culture, leisure, telecommuting, on line trade, administrative formalities ...Participants have mentioned the need to reduce the cost of access to international bandwidth as one of the required conditions for the development of broadband.

The main recommendations made by participants to bridge the digital divide focused on the need to have a country strategy addressing the following:

- Boosting the development of all types of infrastructure for broadband access (wired, radio, satellite)

- Strengthening capacity (Academic and professional ICT training)
- Developing content (Development of on line services for citizens)
- Establishing equitable funding frameworks
- Creating a favourable environment for investment

In conclusion they have approved that Africa must not remain a mere consumer of technology but rather a productive and powerful actor in innovation and technology development.

- **Panel 2 : Ultra High-Speed Broadband for Business and investment promotion**

This panel was moderated by Mr Jamoussi Bilel and presentations by Zied SON, Robert R Patton, Iikka Lakaniemi, Karim Taga, Yves Gauthier, Jean Pierre Bienaimé, Lynn St Amour, James Kinsella and Karen Farberove

The panel stressed the importance of high-speed Broadband in strengthening infrastructure and enterprises technical capabilities, promoting investment and sustaining economic growth.

Considering that Broadband is now a reality, it has become a prerequisite for the development of outsourcing and the support of business world. In the years to come, it will act as an indicator of development and will have an impact on the growth of countries and will as well improve their competitiveness and economic efficiency.

It is therefore essential that African countries connect and take steps to set themselves in broadband markets.

Hence, economic actors have a social and technical responsibility in the process of bridging the digital divide.

We should learn from best practices and advantages associated with the establishment of a dynamic interactive market for online content.

The main recommendations made by participants are as follows:

- Access to high broadband is a right which must be exercised with affordable prices.
- Africa should have a unique and valuable opportunity to connect and use the existing infrastructure and services to create its own solutions in terms of access,
- The development of broadband infrastructure requires large investments and its exploitation can be economically and financially profitable in case that an appropriate regulation sets out clear rules for using these facilities.

- **Panel 3 : Regional Projects for ICT development**

This panel was moderated by Mr. Mongi Hamdi and presentations by Mrs Khadija Ghariani, Mrs Najet Rochdi, Mrs Salma Abbassi and Mr. Makane Faye, Mr. Hakim Elwaer, Mr. Ibrahima N'Diaye, Mr. Carlo Maria Rossotto, Mr. Ahmed Toumi.

This panel has enabled representatives of noteworthy international organizations, such as UNO, Arab ICT Organization, African Union, African Development Bank, World Bank, as well as representatives of big enterprises in charge of regional projects, to introduce their own projects and to show how these initiatives have promoted African countries' connectivity and developed equitable content for populations.

Throughout this panel, participants have mainly recommended:

- The implementation of an appropriate regulatory environment which is primarily intended to encourage investment and provide favourable conditions for private companies to settle in Africa. Therefore, it is recommended to accelerate the development of the Global Broadband Satellite Infrastructure (GBSI) for Africa.
 - The government's commitment in synergy with the contributors for realizing the objectives set by Kigali Summit "Connect Africa" in 2007.
 - Adopting an integrated approach to establish coordination among the various stakeholders in ICT sector.
 - Strengthening North-South, South-South and North-South-South cooperation under the framework of the implementation of regional action plans which are considered as a preparatory step towards setting international cooperation plans.
 - Implementing regional projects including those recommended by the Arab ICT Organization to intensify Arab efforts for a developed industry of content and to achieve a promoted Arabic content.
 - Founding a group of experts representing ICT organizations to transfer their interests and challenges and to assess the achievements of previous summits.
- **Panel 4 : Broadband and Mobile Services : Business Models, opportunities and best practices**

This panel was moderated by Mr Yves Gassot and presentations by Mr Hansuk Kim, Woo-Young Kwak, Moez. Limayem, Yann Courqueux, Jean Michel Soulier, Thami Mtshali, Takoi Hamrita, Said Aidi, Mehanda Guiddir

Throughout this panel, participants dealt with the noteworthy success achieved by mobile telephony in Africa and highlighted the innovative business models which lead this success. The lack of fixed access infrastructure in many developing countries has led to wonder about the potential of 3G mobile telephony in the dissemination of mobile broadband. They also addressed the issue of regulatory, financial and economic resources in relation to the deployment of 3rd generation mobile services in Africa. Participants have agreed on the following recommendation as fundamental tools to foster the development of mobile broadband:

- Setting up a national managing plan for frequencies
- Establishing regional cooperation to optimize the management of frequencies
- Setting up business models for mobile operators to provide people with access to 3G data

C – Closing Session

Throughout the closing session and after submitting the final report and the results of ICT4All Forum-Tunis+3 in a plenary session under the title of "Recommendations of the Forum", the Tunisian Minister of Communication Technologies has closed the works of the forum and expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation for the important issued recommendations throughout the various panels. He expressed his profound confidence that these recommendations will undoubtedly enrich the national and regional approaches for building the information society.