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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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**REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (CIT) was held on 14 May 2008 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. The conference was preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts, which took place from 11 to 13 May 2008 at the same venue.

2. In attendance were Ministers in charge Telecommunications/ICT and Posts, and Experts from thirty four (34) African Union Member States as well as representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions and regional & International partner organisations.

3. A new Bureau of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies was elected for a two-year period (2008 – 2010) to replace the one that had held office from 2006 to 2008. The current Bureau which presided over the proceedings of the Cairo session of the conference has the following membership:

Chairman : Nigeria (Western Africa)

1st Vice-Chairman: Kenya (Eastern Africa)

2nd Vice-Chairman: Zambia (Southern Africa)

3rd Vice-Chairman: Chad (Central Africa)

Rapporteur: Egypt (North Africa)

Issues Discussed

4. The Ministers considered and made a number of recommendations on the various key issues and challenges currently facing Telecommunications/ICT and Postal sectors in Africa. The main topics of the conference were as follows hereunder:

- The Reference framework for the harmonization of telecommunications/ICT policies and regulations in Africa;
- Strategies, policies and regulations for the development of postal services in Africa ;
- African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

Outcome

5. At the end of their deliberations, the Ministers adopted a Declaration named “2008 Cairo Declaration” in which, they have endorsed the following:

- The reference framework for the harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT policies and regulations in Africa;
- The strategic orientation and action plan for the development of postal services in Africa;
- The eleven ARAPKE flagship projects

6. The Executive Council is invited to note the enclosed Report of the 2nd Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Communications and Information Technologies and endorse the attached documents as adopted by the Ministers at the Conference.