e-Africa initiative for good governance:
Building e-governance capacity in African countries

A Framework for Action

INTRODUCTION

THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) is a holistic, integrated sustainable development initiative for the economic and social revival of Africa. It is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to the African people to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, at the same time, to participate actively in the world economy and body politic.

It is an initiative that is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world. It is a call for a new relationship of constructive partnership between Africa and the international community to overcome the development chasm. The partnership is founded on a realization of common interest, obligations, commitments, benefits and equality. The initiative is premised on African states making commitments to good governance, democracy and human rights, while endeavoring to prevent and resolve situations of conflict and instability on the continent.

NEPAD, recognizes the significant development role and crosscutting impact that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can have on all aspects of human life. The development of the ICT sector is therefore identified as one of the priority focus areas of NEPAD aimed at defining the continent’s new and aggressive effort to accelerate Africa’s economic development and growth. Accordingly, NEPAD has established the e-Africa Commission as its Task Team responsible for the structured development of the ICT programme and the use of ICT’s to support other NEPAD programmes such as the good governance initiative.

In view of the overall commitment of the NEPAD Heads of State to stimulate the use of ICT as a driving force to foster social and economic development of the continent, the initiators of the conference (CAFRAD, UNDESA and NEPAD), in consultation with participants and partners, have recognized the need to mobilize the African and global public administration and ICT communities for e-governance in Africa. To this end, the partners to the conference have agreed on an overall framework for action on e-governance for Africa. The framework identifies the vision for e-government, the mission that needs to be engaged by partners, strategic goals, the impacts expected, a set of strategic intervention areas and examples of outcomes expected.
VISION
Inclusive and participatory African systems of good governance that are capable of exercising their powers and functions, delivering public goods and services efficiently and effectively in a transparent and accountable manner using ICT’s, to reduce poverty, redress inequality, promote sustainable development, foster security and fulfill social, economic, cultural, civic and political rights.

MISSION
Strengthen the institutional capacity of the African governance system, especially that of regional, central and local government institutions, to improve policy making, coordination and delivery of public goods and services using ICT’s, in partnership with all stakeholders, complying to high standards of integrity, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and responding to the needs expressed by their constituencies.

STRATEGIC GOALS
♦ Government as a catalytic force of social and economic development, empowering its institutions through the use of ICT to work together with civil society and private sector to meet the needs expressed by their constituencies.
♦ Accountable, efficient and effective processes for performing government administration, reducing transaction costs and enhancing policy coordination between the different government entities.
♦ Effective delivery of public services through efficient administrative and financial systems, ensuring quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability.
♦ Increased capacity of Government to engage in participatory and consultative decision-making processes with individuals, communities and organizations, by simplifying and increasing the interaction and transaction through the provision of on-line services and channels of participation.
♦ Reduce the space and time constraints between providers of public services and goods and those that make use of these through application of ICT.
IMPACT EXPECTED

Impact on Political Governance
- Promotion and protection of, and compliance with, human rights
- Promotion of regional integration
- Enhanced capacity to coordinate and cooperate at international level
- Increased awareness of rights of civil society and obligations of government

Impact on Economic Governance
- Promotion of internal and foreign investments
- Increased international trade
- Increased economic cooperation
- Increased capacity to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner
- Increase and diversification of employment
- Enhanced competitiveness of African economies
- Economic growth

Impact on Social Governance
- Reduction of the digital divide through increased IT literacy, access to IT and connectivity
- Improved social security and social welfare
- Increased Gender equality
- Improved public safety and security
- Increased capacity for sustainable development
- Poverty reduction

STRATEGIC AREAS OF SUPPORT
1. e-Readiness
2. Enabling environment
3. Public participation and private sector engagement
4. Institutional capacity building
5. Monitoring, learning and knowledge management
SOME EXAMPLES OF OUTCOMES

- Better coordination and cooperation between different levels of government and government agencies
- More effective policy and regulatory framework and better integration and coordination of social and economic policy
- More effective alliances and partnerships with private sector and non-governmental organizations
- Greater accountability, transparency and integrity in public administration
- Streamlined government structure and business processes, consolidating common internal services and reducing transaction costs
- Enhanced capacity for data production, information sharing and knowledge management
- Planning processes in place for all major operations linked to financial resource allocation processes
- Improved public management capacity, in particular financial management
- Decentralization and redefined role of local government
- Greater public participation in governments’ affairs through improved information and communication capacity
- Better quality, delivery of and access to public services, especially in education, health, social security and social welfare
- Improved revenue collection on taxes and service levies