



HARMONIZATION OF ICT REGULATIONS WITHIN CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

By

Pierre KAPTUE

Inspector General in charge of technical matters

At the Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications, Cameroon

Yaounde, 25-26 april 2013

S U M M A R Y

I- INTRODUCTION

II- PROGRESS MADE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

III- CHALLENGES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

IV- CONCLUSION

I- INTRODUCTION: *Presentation of Cameroon*

❑ Cameroon is a Central African country located between the 2nd degree and the 14th degree latitudes north of the equator and the 8th and 16th degree longitude East.

❑ Population: 20,386,799 inhabitants (2011)

❑ Area: 475,000 km²

❑ Regions: ten (10)

❑ Gross Domestic Product per capita: U.S. \$ 1,263

❑ Projected growth rate in 2013: 6%



I- INTRODUCTION: COMMITMENT OF AUTHORITIES TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ICTs...

The development policy of the broadband infrastructure is based on the vision of the Head of State H.E. Paul BIYA, expressed on the 3rd of November 2004 in these words: "***Our country needs a widespread access to the Internet***".

The validation of the Strategy Document for Growth and Employment by the Government that advocates the emergence of Cameroon in 2035 through the integration of ICT in all sectors of activities.

The Government's commitment in improving the mobile telephony services through the granting of a third generation license.

I-INTRODUCTION

- ❑ **cyberspace** : the term **cyberspace** refers to the global network of interdependent information technology infrastructures, telecommunications networks and computer processing systems in which online communication takes place. It is ubiquitous, i.e. being or seeming to be everywhere at the same time, at any time, omnipresent, It is very close to the internet;
- ❑ **Governance of the internet:** development and application by Governments, the Private Sector and Civil Society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet (Paragraph 34 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society);
- ❑ **Avoiding, preventing and combating** spam, Child abuse imagery and other abuses of children, identity theft and cybercrime, cyberterrorism, as well as use of Internet resources for purposes that are inconsistent with international peace, stability and security.

II- PROGRESS MADE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ❑ Regulations (Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications of Cameroon): in compliance with the CEMAC harmonized regulatory framework consisting in one regulation and five directives on
 - ✓ legal regime,
 - ✓ interconnection and access,
 - ✓ universal services,
 - ✓ users' rights,
 - ✓ and tariffing
- ❑ that has been adopted by CEMAC Ministers of telecommunications in Brazzaville on november 2008, then by the Council of Ministers in Bangui on december 2008 and approved by Heads of States and Governments in Djamena in 2009, 3 laws have been promulgated on december 2010. Great input from HIPSSA (Harmonization of ICT policy in the Sub Sahara Africa) project
- ❑ Some others CEMAC countries (i.e. Congo Brazza) are implementing these

II- PROGRESS MADE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

❑ **Law n°2010/013 of 21 december regulating electronic communications in Cameroon (which provides for the deliverance multiservice licenses in a convergent environment);**

aims to promote the harmonious and balanced development of electronic communication networks and services, with a view to ensuring the contribution of this sector to the development of the national economy, and satisfying the various needs of users and the population;

lays down the modalities for establishment and operating networks as well as for the supply of electronic communication services, taking into consideration national defence and public security prescriptions;

encourages and promotes the participation of the private sector in the development of electronic communications in a competitive environment.

▣ **Law n°2010/012 of 21 december relating to cybersecurity and cybercriminality (with a root certification authority and punishes cyber crimes);**

This law governs the security framework of electronic communication networks and information systems, defines and punishes offences related to the use of information and communication technologies in Cameroon.

Accordingly, it seeks notably to:

build trust in electronic communication networks and information systems;
establish the legal regime of digital evidence, security, cryptography and electronic certification activities;

protect basic human rights, in particular the right to human dignity, honour and respect of privacy, as well as the legitimate interests of corporate bodies.

II- PROGRESS MADE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ❑ Law n°2010/021 of 21 december on electronic commerce (that favours the emergence of e-commerce.)
- ❑ signature of a series of subsequent regulatory texts;
- ✓ Establishment of Root Certification Authority and certification authorities responsible for securing electronic transactions of governmental agencies and non governmental / private sector the security activities;
- ✓ Establishment of a National Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)
- ✓ Development of the Master Plan for securing Government applications;
- ✓ Securing the online payment application of the Single Window for Foreign Trade Operations (e-GUCE).

A typical multi-stakeholder approach which aims at democratizing access to ICTs at affordable prices;

- securing electronic exchanges;
- strengthening dialogue and social communication;
- reducing the digital divide between cities and villages.

III- CHALLENGES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Even within the Central Africa, in many countries, national laws do not yet comply with the CEMAC/ECCAS directives.

Globally there are remaining pending issues:

- IP naming and addressing

- Internet governance

- etc,

IV- CONCLUSION

As ICT are playing a major role as enablers/drivers of an inclusive socio-economic development, harmonization of policy and regulations will surely increase this role,



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND
ATTENTION**
