African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN)

CACRA 2013

7TH CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN COMMUNICATION REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (CACRA)

Niamey – Niger, From 10th to 12th December, 2013

GENERAL REPORT

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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ECRA : Electronic Communications Regulatory Authority

PTRA : Post and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

TRA : Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

ADMA : African Digital Media Academy

SCSC : Social Communication Superior Council

ACSC : Authority and Communication Superior Council

CNC : Communication National Council

CACRA : Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities

GEOC : Great Events Organization High Commission

NCAR : National Council of Audiovisual Regulation

NCM-DTT : Ivory Coast National Committee Migration to Digital Transition

CCAMS : Commission of Central African Member States

NCD : National Committee on Digital

ECOWAS : Economic Community of West African States

NCTAD : National Committee of Transition from Analogue to Digital

NCTD : National Committee of Transition from analogue terrestrial broadcasting to Digital

UDHR : Universal Declaration of Human Rights

DVBT : Digital Video Broadcasting Terrestrial

EPRA : European Platform of Regulatory Authorities

EACO : Eastern Africa Communication Meetings Organization

ISP : Internet Service Providers

AFIF : African Fashion International Festival

FCC : Federal Communication Commission

HAPA : High Authority of Press and Audiovisual

HCC : High Council of Communication

HACA : High Authority of Audiovisual Communication

HAAC : High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication

DTT : Digital Terrestrial Television

LTE : Long Term Evolution

MCPNT : Ministry of Communication, Post and New Technologies

MVNO : Mobile Virtual Network Operator

MMDS : Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service

NMC : National Media Commission

NTC-DB : National Technical Committee for Digital Broadcasting

NAIFT : National Institute of Film and Television

OATP : Organization of African Television Professionals

REFRAM : French speaking Media Regulators Network

TDR : Terrestrial Digital Radio

MRAN : Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities Network

ACRAN : African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network

DRC : Democratic Republic of Congo

BFBC : Burkina Faso Broadcasting Corporation

SADC : Central African Development Community

NSRT : National Society of Radio broadcasting and Television

SONITEL : Nigerien Telecommunication Company

CIEW : Craft industry International Exhibition for Women

TOR : Terms of Reference

TCRA : Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority

ATU : African Telecommunications Union

ITU : International Telecommunications Union

WAEMU : West African Economic and Monetary Union

WTA : Wireless Telegraphy Act

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INTRODUCTION

From 10th to 12th December, 2013, Niamey, the capital of Niger, hosted the proceedings of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA).

Placed under the sponsorship of His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Niger's Head of State, the opening ceremony was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Brigi RAFINI, Prime Minister, Head of Government. The 7th CACRA recorded the participation of eighteen (18) States members of the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN) which are : the HAAC of Benin, the CSC of Burkina Faso, the CNC of Burundi, the CNC of Cameroon, the CNC of Gabon, the NMC of Ghana, the CNC of Guinea Conakry, the HAPA of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the CSC of Mali, the CSCS of Mozambique, the HACA of Morocco, the CSC of Niger, the CSAC of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the CNAR of Senegal, the TCRA of Tanzania, the HCC of Chad and the HAAC of Togo.

Besides, three (03) international and regional organizations - the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the African Television Professionals Organisation (ATPO) - took part to the works of the 7th CACRA. It is finally necessary to note the presence of several satellite and Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) operators.

Under the theme entitled "**Inventory Of Fixtures Of The Transition Processes To Digital In Africa : Role And Challenges For Media Regulatory Authorities**", the 7th CACRA was unfolded in four (4) phases : Opening Ceremony, Thematic Seminar, Conference of Presidents and the Closing Ceremony.

PART ONE : PREPARATIONS OF THE 7TH CACRA

Chapter I : ACRAN Steering Committee's Meeting in Niamey, Niger

The Steering Committee of the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN) met in Niamey, in Niger, from 27th to 28th August, 2013 at Ténéré hotel. The meeting registered the effective participation of Chairmen of regulatory Authorities members of the Steering Committee and a delegation from Chad's regulatory authority admitted as an observer.

We note the presence of :

- Mr. Vuaï IDDI LILA, Vice-president of the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA), ACRAN's Serving Chairman ;

- Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, President of the Communication Superior Council (CSC) of Niger, Vice-president of ACRAN ;

- Mr. Theophile NATA, President of the High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication (HAAC) of Benin, Executive Secretary of ACRAN ;

- Ms. Amina Lemrini Elouahabi, President of the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HACA) of the Morocco Kingdom ;

- Mr. Moustapha ALI ALIFEI, President of the High Council of Communication (HCC) of Chad, FMRN Vice president.

The official opening ceremony was held in the presence of the Nigerien Minister of Communication, in charge of Relations with Institutions, Mr. SADISSOU Yahouza, Benin's Ambassador in Niger, Ms. Hawaou LABOUDOU and Chad's Ambassador in Niger, Mr. Mahamat Nour MALLAYE.

The President of the Communication Superior Council of Niger, Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, has, in his address, expressed his sincere thanks and wished, on behalf of Nigerien authorities and members of the CSC, Niamey welcome to all delegations participating in the meeting of African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN) Steering Committee.

President Abdourahamane OUSMANE welcomed the participation in the meeting of Chad's High Council Communication Chairman and wished that to be the beginning of an excellent and close partnership between the REFRAM and ACRAN under the respective presidencies of Chad and Niger.

After the welcome address by ACRAN Vice president, ACRAN's Serving Chairman Dr. Vuai IDDI ILAB, proceeded to the solemn opening of the meeting. He has, for this purpose, thanked the CSC of Niger for its warm welcome and participants for attending that meeting, and he invited them to observe a minute of silence in memory of the former President of Tanzania TCRA, the ACRAN former Serving President, Judge BUXTON CHIPETA, dead on 16th July, 2013.

After the opening ceremony, participants examined the draft agenda of ACRAN Steering Committee's meeting, which includes the following points :

- Presentation of tasks performed by ACRAN Executive Secretariat since the last meeting of the Steering Committee in Arusha ;
- Presentation of the report of English-speaking focal points' meeting ;
- Assessment of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan ;
- Preparations of the 7th CACRA ;
- Miscellaneous.

After several interventions, the agenda has been unanimously adopted by Presidents, with the inscription by Chad's HCC President of an information item related to the coming Conference of Presidents of Authorities members of REFRAM supposed to be held in N'Djamena, Chad in October 2013.

1. Preparations of the 7th CACRA

After the exhaustion of other items of the agenda, the President of CSC Niger, Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, gave an update on the organization of the coming Presidents' Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA), scheduled for the end of the year 2013 in Niamey.

ACRAN Vice president has, first of all, informed the Steering Committee of the steps undertaken by the CSC to inform the highest Authorities of Niger (the President of

the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU ; the President of the National Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Hama AMADOU and the Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Mr. Brigi RAFINI) about the holding of the 7th CACRA in Niamey. At the end of these hearings, His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Head of State of Niger has agreed to sponsor the opening ceremony of the 7th CACRA.

He, thereafter, informed members of the Steering Committee about the drafting of the 7th CACRA's Terms of Reference project, the establishment of a Working Group for the development of the event budget's project. Finally, ACRAN Vice president asked participants at ACRAN Steering Committee's meeting to choose the main theme and to set the date for the holding of the 7th CACRA in order to accelerate the preparatory process.

Regarding the period, the Steering Committee has selected the first fortnight of December 2013. The precise date will be communicated later to member countries, according to the agenda of the President of the Republic of Niger.

Concerning the question of the 7th CACRA's central theme, ACRAN Executive Secretary informed participants of the launching in June 2013 of a call for proposals towards all member Authorities. For instance, about ten propositions of themes were collected and submitted to the Steering Committee's appreciation.

At the end of exchanges, ACRAN Steering Committee's meeting selected the proposal of HACA Côte d'Ivoire as central theme of the 7th CACRA, namely : **"Inventory Of Fixtures Of Transition Processes To Digital In Africa : Role And Challenges For Media Regulatory Authorities".**

The theme thus retained will be well treated by capitalizing, on one hand, achievements of all previously meetings organized by ACRAN on the transition to digital issue ; on the other hand, the other theme propositions that were made in the context of the call for proposals, notably :

- 2015 is tomorrow : the steps to switch from analogue to digital" ;

- Which partnership between contents and containers regulatory Authorities at the digital era ? ;

- Which contents at the DTT era ? ;

- Audiovisual media landscape's feature after the digital switchover ;

- Role of regional and sub regional organizations in the transition process to digital.

Concerning the draft of ACRAN 2014-2015 Action Plan, the President of the CSC of Niger immediately expressed the availability of his Institution to any activity proposition coming from the Steering Committee's member Authorities. Within this framework, the President of the HACA of Morocco Kingdom, Mrs. Amina LEMRINI, proposed the inclusion of an activity related to **the role of audiovisual regulatory Authorities in promoting equality between men and women in and through media**.

Full of contributions arising from the exchanges, the CSC of Niger committed itself to present a roadmap project at ACRAN Steering Committee's next meeting, scheduled from 29th to 30th October, 2013 in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Further to the presentation of preliminary works for the 7th CACRA, Mr. Moustapha ALIFEI ALI, Chairman of HCC Chad and Vice president of REFRAM, shared with ACRAN Steering Committee's members, information related to the organization of the third (3rd) REFRAM Conference of Presidents, scheduled from 14th to 15th October, 2013 in N'Djamena.

Chapter II : ACRAN Steering Committee's Meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Within the framework of ACRAN's activities and in his quality of Serving President of the Network, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) sheltered, in prelude to the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA), a meeting of the Network's Steering Committee from 29th to 30th October, 2013 at the White Sands Hotel in Dar Es Salaam.

Apart from of ACRAN Steering Committee's members currently composed of TCRA of Tanzania, CSC of Niger, HAAC of Benin and HACA of Morocco, the meeting also registered the participation of CSCS of Mozambique and NMC of Ghana, admitted as observers.

The main objective of the meeting is, on one hand, to assess the implementation of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan adopted at the 6th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA) held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 15th to 18th December, 2011 ; on the other hand, to prepare the 7th CACRA scheduled for December 2013 in Niamey, Niger, through the examination of Terms of Reference's drafts, working program and Action Plan developed by the CSC Niger.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports of Tanzania representing the prevented Minister, in the presence of :

- Mrs. Margaret MUNYAGI, Member of the TCRA and Representative of the prevented ACRAN Serving President ;
- Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, Chairman of the CSC Niger, Vice-president of the Network ;
- Mr Theophile NATA, Chairman of the HAAC Benin, in charge of ACRAN Executive Secretariat ;
- Mrs. Amina Lemrini ELOUAHABI, Chairman of the HACA, honorary member of the Steering Committee ;
- Mr. Armindo NGUNGA, Chairman of the CSCS Mozambique, observer ;
- Mr. Kabral BLAY-AMIHERE, Chairman of the NMC Ghana, observer.

Adopted further to amendments of participants, the agenda includes four (04) points, namely :

- **Clarification report of "focal points" and "webmasters" concepts ;**
- **Examination of the implementation report of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan ;**
- **Examination of the draft of the ACRAN 2014-2015 Action Plan ;**
- **Examination of the agenda drafts and working program of the 7th CACRA and the Conference of Presidents.**

After the exhaustion of the first two points, the Chairperson of the CSC of Niger, Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, spoke to make the state of the preparations for the 7th CACRA. His speech focused on three points :

- The presentation of the CACRA's Terms of Reference ;
- The presentation of the draft of ACRAN's 2014-2015 action plan ;
- The presentation of the working program projects of the 7th CACRA and the Conference of Presidents.

I. Terms of Reference of the 7th CACRA

It emerges from the presentation made on this point, that the Terms of Reference of the 7th CACRA are articulated as follows :

1. Context and justification :

- Context ;
- Justification.

2. Objectives and expected results :

- Overall objective ;
- Specific objectives ;
- Expected results.

3. Progress of the CACRA :

- Opening ceremony ;
- Thematic Seminar ;
- Conference of Presidents ;
- Closing ceremony.

4. Participants in the CACRA :

- ACRAN member Authorities ;
- Institutions and Organizations ;
- Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Operators.

II. Draft of ACRAN 2014-2015 Action Plan

After having described the context in which the 7th CACRA is going to be held, the draft of the 2014 - 2015 Action Plan, presented by the Chairman of CSC Niger, is built around five (5) thematic axes, which reflect the main concerns of ACRAN member Authorities.

- Axis 1 : Transition towards the digital ;
- Axis 2 : Legal and institutional framework of the regulation ;
- Axis 3 : Media Regulation in electoral period ;
- Axis 4 : Gender Equality in media ;
- Axis 5 : Partnership and Networking.

Through the thematic axes thus declined, the ACRAN 2014 - 2015 Action Plan's draft aims the following strategic objectives :

- Strengthen ACRAN as well as its members Authorities' power and visibility in the transition processes to digital in Africa ;
- Promote a legal and institutional framework convenient to communication regulation in Africa ;
- Contribute to the organization of free and transparent elections through an independent and fair media regulation in electoral period ;
- Contribute to guarantee gender equality and to eliminate discriminations based on sex in media contents and programs ;
- Strengthen cooperation between ACRAN member Authorities and develop new partnerships.

For each strategic axis, activities propositions were made. The implementation of those activities will enable to achieve the following results :

- ACRAN and member Authorities participate in an active and visible way, in the transition process to digital in Africa ;
- ACRAN and member Authorities contribute to the organization of free, transparent and honest elections in Africa ;
- ACRAN launches advocacy on the harmonization of the legal and institutional framework of communication regulation of in Africa ;
- ACRAN strengthens capacities of member Authorities regarding sexes equality in media ;
- ACRAN develops partnerships with other Networks and strengthens cooperation between member Authorities.

III. Drafts of the 7th CACRA and Conference of Presidents' Working Programme

The program draft of the 7th CACRA, submitted by ACRAN Vice-president, will spread out on three days, as follows :

1. Tuesday, 10th December, 2013

- Official opening ceremony ;
- First session : "Transition to digital in Africa : inventory of fixtures and perspectives"
- Second session : "What interactions between ACRAN, regional and international institutions within the framework of the digital switchover ?"

2. Wednesday, 11th December, 2013

- Third session : " Media regulatory Authorities facing the digital transition in Africa : Roles and Challenges".
- Fourth session : " contents and containers regulation in the era of the television by satellite, cable, mobile and Internet".

3. Thursday, 12th December, 2013

- Conference of Presidents of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA)
- Award witnessing to the new Presidency
- Closing ceremony

- Audience with political authorities
- Guided tours : National Museum / Craft Village.

Following these three presentations, ACRAN Steering Committee's members made their contributions to enrich the preparatory documents of the 7th CACRA. They additionally formulated recommendations that should be notified to the Conference of Presidents. These concern :

- ✓ Financing, on ACRAN funds, of the study on the harmonization of Authorities' legal and institutional framework on ACRAN scale ;
- ✓ Acquisition by the Executive Secretariat, on ACRAN funds, of a high-speed server and a broadband line for its website's future host at its seat ;
- ✓ Invitation of Presidents of peer Networks [Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities Network (RIRM), French-speaking Media Regulators Network (REFRAM), European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA)] to the 7th CACRA by the Executive Secretariat in good intelligence with the HACA of Morocco, the TCRA and the CSC of Niger ;
- ✓ Blocking of ACRAN's part of the fund at the bank in order to avoid account maintenance charges and to generate additives resources through interests ;
- ✓ Designation of the TCRA to represent ACRAN at the next summit of AU and institutionalization of the Presidency of honour as the Network's Representative at the AU ;
- ✓ Political marketing, by member Authorities organizers of statutory activities so that heads of delegation will be received by the respective Heads of State with the aim of a better visibility of the Network ;
- ✓ Optimization of trainings by taking advantage on ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) that allow technical

trainings in the form of "webinar, e-learning" or "teleconference" to ACRAN members, particularly Webmasters and Focal Points to cover skills deficit within the Network ;

- ✓ Institutionalization of focal points' activities within the Network's member Authorities.

In her final address, Madam Margaret T. MUNYAGI iterated the recognition of the TCRA to all delegates while emphasizing on the importance of the Network of which she urges all participants to promote a better visibility.

Chapter III : Implementation of the 7th CACRA's Organizing Committee

Within the framework of preparations of the 7th CACRA, the CSC Niger set up an organizing committee composed of members and staff of the CSC, officials and agents of the Great Events Organization Office (GEOO), State protocol agents, defence and security force elements. The organizing committee is headed by a Bureau composed as follows :

- President : Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, Chairman of the CSC ;
- Vice-president : Mr. Ali Ousseini SOUNTALMA, Vice-president of the CSC ;
- Reporters : Mrs. DIAFFRA Fadimou Moumouni, Reporter of the CSC, Mr. Ishmael Laoual Salaou, Reporter of the CSC and Garba OUSMANE, Studies and Programming Director of the CSC.

In addition to the Bureau, the Organizing Committee of the 7th CACRA includes four (4) Sub Commissions.

5. The Sub Commission Communication, in charge of :

- Developing and implementing CACRA media plan ;
- Making the banners and assuring the bunting ;
- Supervising the CSC website's update ;
- Serving as an interface between the press, participants and the Organizing Committee.

6. The Sub Commission Transport and logistics, in charge of :

- Mobilizing logistics means for participants' transport ;
- Drawing up the provision plan of means of transportation to participants and ensuring its implementation ;
- Providing participants' transport (airport- accommodation places - Gawèye-airport) ;
- Ensure daily the arrangement of meeting rooms and other places of reception ;
- Support the GEOO
- And the State Protocol for the opening and closing ceremonies.

7. The Sub Commission reception and accommodation, in charge of :

- Raising and communicating to participants hotels list ;
- Proceeding to the booking of rooms for participants ;
- Making sure of accommodation good conditions ;
- Establishing the arrival and departure schedules of all participants ;
- Ensuring the welcome on arrival and the assistance at departure ;
- Facilitating police formalities to participants on arrival and at departure.

8. The Sub Commission Secretariat, in charge of :

- Facilitating information circulation between the organizing committee and participants ;
- Assisting sub commissions in fulfilling their tasks ;
- Producing and duplicating all the documents of the CACRA ;
- Preparing kits for participants.

The organization of opening and closing ceremonies and the official dinner was especially given to the GEOO and the State Protocol.

PART TWO : PROGRESS OF THE 7TH CACRA

Chapter I : The opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA) intervened in the morning of December 10th, 2013, in the great hall of the Congress Palace of Niamey. It was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Brigi RAFINI, Prime Minister, Head of Government, representing His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Head of the State of Niger.

The opening ceremony was enhanced by the presence of the first Vice president of the National Assembly, Chairmen of Institutions of the Republic, Members of the Government, Ambassadors and Representatives of international organizations accredited in Niger. It started by a minute of silence observed in memory of Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa, and Mr. Buxton CHIPETA, TCRA former President, ACRAN Serving Chairman, respectively God reminded on December 5th and on July 18th, 2013.

Four speeches were pronounced during the opening ceremony : at first that of Mr. Garba HAMIDOU, Governor of Niamey region ; then that of Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, ACRAN Vice-president, Chairman of the CSC Niger ; then that of Madam Margaret MUNYAGI, representative of TCRA Chairman, ACRAN Serving President ; finally the official opening speech of His Excellency Mr. Brigi RAFINI, Prime Minister, Head of the Government of Niger.

In taking the floor, Mr. Garba HAMIDOU wished, on behalf of the people of Niamey, the warm welcome to all participants. He, afterward, indicated that the massive presence of participants to the 7th CACRA, in spite of the calendar pressure in this end of year, translates all the interest they carry in the activities of the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN) ; it is also, according to him, the translation of their will to visit Niger and its capital, which every day becomes more flirtatious, thanks to the program "*Niamey Nyala or Niamey the pretty*", initiated by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Issoufou

MAHAMADOU. The Governor of Niamey concluded his address by wishing a very good stay in Niger to all participants.

Speaking in his turn, Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, President of the CSC Niger, ACRAN Vice-president, addressed, first of all, his gratitude to individuals and Institutions that contributed to the good organization of the 7th CACRA. He then reminded the preparatory process of the meeting, in particular, ACRAN Steering Committee's meetings, held in Niger and in Tanzania. He, finally, indicated that the 7th CACRA will be an ideal opportunity for media regulatory Authorities to think, on one hand, over the question of the digital transition in Africa ; on the other hand, to consider and adopt the implementation report of the 2012-2013 Action Plan, the moral and financial report of the Executive Secretariat, ACRAN 2014-2015 Action Plan, and to indicate the Network's Vice-presidency for the next term.

As for Mrs. Margaret MUNYAGI, the TCRA representative, who assured ACRAN Serving Presidency, she first thanked the Government of the Republic of Niger, for the excellent welcome reserved to all delegations and for the conveniences put at their disposal since their arrival in Niamey. She then indicated that during the mandate of the Tanzanian presidency, a huge work has been done in conjunction with the Executive Secretariat, the Vice-presidency and the Presidency of honour, to impulse a new dynamic to ACRAN. Mrs. Margaret MUNYAGI concluded her speech by emphasizing on the new challenges African media regulatory Authorities are facing - telecommunications convergence, multimedia emergence - and the necessity of taking them up through a harmonization, at the Continental scale, of the legal and institutional framework.

In pronouncing the official opening speech of the 7th CACRA, the Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Mr. Birgi RAFINI, once more, wished welcome to Niger to all participants on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Head of State, of the Government of the 7th Republic and of the People of Niger.

After having called back the history of media regulation, since its origins in 1934 in the United States, the Prime Minister specified that the practice began in Africa in the early 1990s with the democratization of the political life and its direct corollary that is the liberalization of the media space. "In order to manage information new flows and to create conditions for a healthy and a free-market economy between various actors of the media, States found it necessary to set up Institutions in charge of regulating media and communication", he underlined. According to His Excellency Mr. Brigi RAFINI, the existence of the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network demonstrates that the culture of regulation is being strengthened on the African continent.

The Prime Minister ended his speech by reminding that the greatest challenge of the moment to which regulatory Authorities are confronted still remains the transition to digital. This new situation is going to upset television's current chain of values, with the appearance of new actors, what requires a rehabilitation of the legal and institutional framework, infrastructures development, contents and programs development and actors' capacities building. "States have to be aware of the latest technology, which can induce important effects for the socioeconomic development of our populations", he concluded.

Chapter II : The Thematic Seminar

The thematic seminar was held from 10th to 11th December, 2013, in the room Margou of Gawèye Hotel of Niamey, further to the opening ceremony. The seminar works focused on the central theme of the 7th CACRA namely: **"Inventory of fixtures of transition processes to digital in Africa : role and challenges for Media Regulatory Authorities"**.

The seminar was held in four sessions, with two sessions per day. During each session, an introductory communication was presented by a person of resource stemming from an ACRAN member Authority or among invited institutions and operators. Afterward, experiences of countries, organizations and invited operators were presented, followed by general discussions.

I. First session : Transition to digital in Africa : inventory of fixtures and perspectives

This session was chaired by Mr. Babacar TOURE, President of the CNRA Senegal moderated by Mrs. Amina Lemrini ELOUAHABI, President of the HACA Morocco. At the start, two communications were presented respectively by Mr. PHAM NHU HAI, broadcasting services head of Division, at the ITU Radio communication Office, and Mr. Abdulkarim SOUMAILA, ATU General Secretary.

Following these two communications, several interventions were recorded, within the framework of ACRAN member countries and operators experiences sharing in terms of transition to DTT (Digital Terrestrial Television).

1. ITU Communication

In his communication, Mr. PHAM HAI NHU, treated "**challenges on the way of analogue to digital** ". Mr. Pham highlighted at first advantages of the digital television for viewers. It is, among others, about the variety of programs, the image quality, the interactivity and the accessibility. This requires the extinction of some analogue equipments and the arrival of new actors ; a diversified content, a

competition between contents producers who would favour accessibility to quality programs. As a matter of fact, he pointed out the advantages induced by the all-digital's arrival to all actors.

The digital transition will also allow freeing up a significant portion of frequencies, which are scarce resources. Dividends thus generated will enable the development of other services such as the mobile telephony.

To enjoy all these benefits, governments must consult each other in order to see, by mutual agreement, how they can rationally use the advantages bound to the transition from analogue to digital.

The challenges of the digital transition, according to Mr. Pham, are notably :

- The definition of a clear legislative framework and at the appropriate time ;
- A good planning of the analogue switch-off ;
- A good communication of views and supports ;
- An attractive digital offer ;
- A narrower cooperation between different actors.

For the ITU, in order to achieve this, they need strengths pooling of all stakeholders (managers, content producers), a good common legislation, conducting studies, broadcasting the information, etc. it is also needed a technical, financial support between stakeholders.

2. ATU Communication

The second communication was presented by Mr. Abdulkarim SOUMAILA, General Secretary of the African Telecommunications Union. It has for theme : "**Migration from the analogue to digital in Africa**." The communicator has at first made a brief overview of the ATU, which is an institution of the African Union, created in 1977 in Kinshasa, in Democratic Republic of Congo.

From the outset, the ATU General Secretary reiterated the advantages of the switchover from analogue to digital. He cited in particular : the improvement of the audiovisual offer ; the decrease of exploitation and maintenance costs ; the reduction of the use of radio spectrum by the television ; the use by States of the digital dividend to the benefit of new telecommunication services, particularly wireless broadband Internet, a major tool for reducing the digital divide and the competitiveness of the economy.

By approaching the implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Television in Africa, Mr. Abdulkarim SOUMAILA emphasized on disparities which exist between states. Some countries such as Tanzania and Mauritius Island have already completed their migration process ; others such as South Africa, Kenya, and Uganda are at the stage of testing ; whereas the majority of African countries are at the stage of the elaboration of national strategies or the implementation of structures of piloting the aforementioned strategies.

To facilitate the transition from analogue to digital, ATU conducts several actions including : coordination of activities, elaboration of the strategy, technical support, capacity building, etc.

In conclusion, the communicator formulated several recommendations relating to :

- The elaboration of a complete transition plan, shared by actors and stakeholders ;

- The possibility of financing the transition in most of the countries with the digital dividends ;

- The necessary legal security to attract international investors ;

- The collaboration between States, at the regional and sub regional level, in order to mutualise efforts and favour external financings ;

- The selection of an identical standard and technology that would enable a globalization of the equipments market ;

- The use of a common satellite, or common satellite capacities, which would provide the solution for the states which would so wish, to broadcast at a lower cost other national channels of the sub-region on their own territory.

3. Experience of Chad

The first presentation was that of Mr. Moustapha Ali ALIFEI, Chairman of the HCC Chad, and President of the French speaking Media Regulators Network (REFRAM). In his speech, Mr. ALIFEI thanked, first of all, the CSC Niger for the quality of the organization and the welcome full of heat in which participants have been since their arrival in Niamey. He also congratulated the Tanzanian presidency for the effort brought down to strengthen ACRAN's visibility.

He then underlined that the choice of the seminar's central theme is completely in line with debates which liven up media regulatory Authorities, since the announcement of the extinction of the analogue signal set in 2015. Mr. Ali ALIFEÏ reminded discussions held on this issue in Dakar in November 2012, to conclude on the pressing need to take this set of problems and to contribute, through Networks commitment, to ensure the continuity of regulator's mission especially in the formulation of the new normative frame resulting from the transition to digital switch. For that purpose, REFRAM has produced a guide on the digital terrestrial television, available on its website. This document, although reflecting the experience of a REFRAM member country, develops an introductory approach to the digital transition's set of problems in its legal, technical and financial dimensions. He added that "*the absence of a clear and comprehensive vision of regulatory, political, technological and economic challenges of the transition to digital necessarily induced procrastinations, so delay in the implementation of the process, as it is the case today in many countries particularly Chad. That is why, the accompaniment which our Networks can supply to member Authorities is of an indisputable contribution for the emergence of a local expertise to contribute to the identification of needs and means of achieving the numerous objectives related to this process*". It is on this invite for more cooperation between REFRAM and ACRAN he finished his speech.

4. Experience of Ivory Coast

The second experience to be presented was that of Ivory Coast, through a Communication untitled "***the inventory of fixtures of the digital transition in***

Ivory Coast ", presented by Mr. Tuo ABOU, technologies, studies and prospecting Manager of the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HACA). In his communication, Mr. ABOU made the genesis of the DTT implementation process in his country.

It emerges from his presentation that several steps have already been taken in this context particularly :

- The creation of the Working Group for the preparation of Ivory Coast to the Digital Broadcasting passage and to Networks Development ;
- The effective installation of this Group and the starting up of its works ;
- The restoration of the Working Group's Final Report on the National Strategy of the passage to Digital Terrestrial Television ;
- The adoption by the Cabinet of a communication relative to conclusions of the report on the national transition strategy to Digital Terrestrial Television ;
- The creation of Ivory Coast's Migration National Committee to Digital Terrestrial Television (MNC-DTT) ;
- The installation of the MNC -DTT members.

The communicator then indicated that the set up committee has already started its work by producing several actions and proposals submitted to the Ivorian government among which :

- The adoption of two logos : one for the Piloting Committee and the other for the Executive Secretariat ;
- The adoption of a mascot ;
- The adaptation of the Action Plan (Roadmap) developed within the framework of the national transition strategy to Digital Terrestrial Television.

5. Experience of Cameroon

After Ivory Coast, it was the turn of Bishop Joseph BEFE ATEBA, Chairman of the CNC Cameroon, to take the floor to draw up **the inventory of fixtures of the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting in Cameroon**. He, first, made the genesis of the digital technology in Cameroon ; he, then, set the general problem of that mutation ; he, finally, gave Cameroon's answer to this worldwide process.

In the first slice of his communication, the Chairman of the CNC made an overall contextual analysis of the phenomenon to uncork on the advantages this technology provides. It is especially, according to him, digital technologies' capacity of flexibility, allowing to overcome analogue systems insufficiencies.

In other respects, it is important to mention that the mutation from analogue to digital is not an optional change because the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), of which Cameroon is a member, has already adopted this migration process recommending deadlines and modalities to all the States Parties, he added.
In spite of the undeniable advantages of the digital switchover, the fact remains that there are some difficulties. In order to respond efficiently to these main concerns, the Government of Cameroon proceeded to an inventory of the social communication sector, which helped to highlight the various challenges to take up for the migration from analogue to digital.

In conclusion, he underlined that "migration from analogue broadcasting to digital is an imperative for Cameroon with regard to requirements of its membership to the international community, and notably to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). But it is also an opportunity, taking into account the multiple potential advantages of this technological revolution".

6. Experience of Niger

The experience of Niger was presented by Mr. Ali Ousseini SOUNTALMA, Vice-president of the CSC. **Where are we within the framework of the digital transition in Niger ?** It is to that question the communication tried to answer. In his speech, the Vice-president of the CSC Niger made a genesis of the elaboration of the national transition strategy to digital, before approaching the installation of the national committee in charge of the implementation of this strategy.

Adopted on 12th April, 2013, the National Strategy for Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television in Niger is built around four major axes namely :
- adaptation of the legal and institutional framework ;

- development of Infrastructures ;
- development of programs and contents ;
- capacity building.

Niger's strategy is matched with accompaniment measures and an action plan to be implemented so that the digital terrestrial television is a reality with the deadline of June 17th, 2015. Under accompanying measures, we can note :
- elaboration and implementation of a communication plan ;
- popularization of reception means ;
- creation of reception community centers ;
- digitalization of audiovisual archives.

In conclusion, Mr. Ousseini insisted on the necessity of taking urgent decisions and measures, in political, legal, economic and technical plans, to speed up migration from the analogue broadcasting to digital.

7. Experience of Guinea-Conakry

Presented by Mr. NFA Ousmane CAMARA, Permanent Secretary of the CNC Guinea - Conakry, the communication focused on **the inventory of fixtures of the transition to digital in Guinea**.

Mr. CAMARA, first of all, reminded the legal framework that created the National Commission for the implementation of the analogue broadcasting transition to the digital radio and terrestrial television, as well as its powers and its functioning.

After its installation, the commission completed several actions, notably :
- An international seminar on the transition stakes to digital ;
- A BENCHMARKING mission in Dakar, Rabat and Paris ;
- A national roadmap ;
- The adoption of compression standards MPEG 4 and broadcasting standards DVB-T2 ;
- A national strategy document for the digital transition matched with an Action Plan;

Despite the fulfilment of all these actions, Mr. CAMARA noted that several challenges remain to cover notably :

- the process financing ;
- capacities building of human resources involved in the process ;
- regulation of various and varied contents ;
- separation of publishing activities and contents broadcasting ;
- fair access to the transmission and distribution Network ;

He concluded his intervention by insisting on the opportunities offered to African countries in the implementation of their transition strategies to digital.

8. Experience of Burkina Faso

The implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) experience in Burkina Faso was presented by Mrs. Beatrice DAMIBA, Chairman of the CSC. In her presentation, Mrs. Beatrice DAMIBA held to renew her thanks to delegations members of the fifteen countries which participated in ACRAN seminar, held in Ouagadougou on 25th and 26th June, 2013, on the theme : "**the audiovisual communication regulation and the digital convergence**."

Approaching the experience of Burkina Faso, Mrs. Beatrice DAMIBA indicated that preparations for the advent of the DTT started in 2010, with seminars and workshops organized by the CSC and the Electronic Communications Regulatory Authority (ECRA).

She pointed out that the involvement of all stakeholders - institutional and non-institutional - has been gradual. All these consultations led to several results, including among others :

- adoption in 2010 of the national strategy process to DTT (Digital Terrestrial Television) ;
- establishment of an institutional framework with the creation of a piloting committee and a national technical commission ;
- adoption of legislative and regulatory texts of technical standards and of the national knocking over scheme ;

- creation in 2013 of the Burkina Faso Society of Television Broadcasting (BSTB);
- creation of the coordination unit in charge of the monitoring of activities' execution within the Ministry of communication ;
- specifications writing for the supply, installation and commissioning of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) equipments ;
- A provisional timetable of works.

Mrs. Beatrice DAMIBA indicated that the CSC Burkina Faso is in charge of the communication and awareness rising campaign which must accompany the DTT advent. For the execution of that mission, she specified, the CSC set up an internal committee, responsible for monitoring the entire process of preparation and implementation of the strategy. For that purpose, a broad public awareness campaign and meetings are planned, at the level of capitals of regions, with all the DTT process institutional actors.

However, underlined Mrs. DAMIBA, there are constraints related to several factors, the most significant of which are :
- funds mobilization necessary to the DTT deployment ;
- current broadcast Network necessity through the creation of new sites ;
- extinction deadline respect of the analogue broadcasting in June 2015.

In conclusion, Mrs. DAMIBA noted that the transition process to digital will require a reorganization of the audiovisual sector, for a better adaptability to the new vision of the television, in term of administrative organization and contents production.

9. Experience of Mauritania

This communication presented by Mr. Cheick OULD EBBE, Technical Advisor of the Chairman of the High Authority for Press and Audiovisual (HAPA) of Mauritania, focused on the following theme : **"mutation process to digital in Mauritania"**. In his introduction, Mr. Ould EBBE addressed at first his sincere thanks to the President of the Communication Superior Council of Niger, to CSC members and all

of his staff for the warmly and brotherly welcome which has been reserved to his delegation, since his arrival in Niamey.

Mr. Ould EBBE then presented the apologies of HAPA's Chairman, Mr. Hamoud Ould M'HAMED, who has not unfortunately been able to make the trip to Niamey, due to the holding of legislative and municipal elections in Mauritania. Approaching the Mauritanian's migration experience to digital, Mr. Ould EBBE indicated that it is at the stage of the strategy design to be implemented to ensure the process success.

Mauritania has, within this framework, included its action right in line with its international commitments under which it agreed to operate the digital transition by June 2015 and June 2020. To this effect, a committee called the National Committee for the Migration from analogue broadcasting to digital, chaired by the Minister in charge of Communication, was set up. A coordination commission of this committee's activities was also created.

This commission, he stressed, is itself subdivided into four specialized sub-commissions namely :
- the legal sub-commission : in charge of the existing legal framework adaptation to switchover context and defining audiovisual operators and services new concepts that the digital migration will generate ;
- the sub-commission of norms and standards : in charge of the establishment of technical standards necessary for the coverage of the territory and the types of multiplex ;
- the sub-commission of communication and raising awareness : responsible for explaining to the public the nature of the digital migration, its interest and the new services it can offer ;
- the sub-commission of the digital dividend : responsible for the design of the digital dividends exploitation plan, chaired by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).

Pursuing his presentation, Mr. EBBE indicated that the sub-commissions have already transmitted their preliminary reports to the national committee of the digital

broadcasting migration. On the basis of these reports, the national committee will develop a strategy for migrating to the digital broadcasting that Mauritania will run from the year 2014, will he specify.

The committee's objective aims for the implementation of this strategy before the deadline of June 2015, so that it could notice in time the potential obstacles to the digital transition.

In conclusion, Mr. EBBE will say that the international but also inter African cooperation, the experiences and competences exchanges can help our States to overcome some of their handicaps regarding the digital switchover issue.

10. Experience of Mali

This communication which focused on the theme "**Transition to digital : inventory of fixtures and perspectives in Mali**," was presented by Mr. Oumar KAMIAN, Permanent Secretary of the CSC Mali. In his presentation, Mr. KAMIAN said that the implementation of the digital transition process in Mali required the creation by the Government of a National Committee of Transition from analogue terrestrial broadcasting to Digital (NCTD). The committee, which brings together all the national actors involved in the transition, is placed under the authority of the Minister of Communication. Mr. KAMIAN stressed that the committee adopted the national strategic roadmap and made numerous recommendations.

The NCTD includes two (2) specialized commissions whose operating modalities are fixed by the Inter ministerial Order No.1574/MCPNT-MEFB-SG of June 15th, 2012.

Unfortunately, noticed Mr. KAMIAN, the socio political crisis Mali has experienced disrupted a lot the activities of the transition committee to digital, in particular the achievement of the inventory of fixtures. However, at the initiative of the Ministry of Communication, Post and New Technologies, the terms of reference were developed in August 2012. This current state aims at making a comprehensive inventory of the

Malian media landscape in terms of human, material and financial resources deployed all over the country in all areas of the television broadcasting.

Pursuing his presentation, Mr. KAMIAN specified that the current legal framework satisfies neither regulators nor operators of the audiovisual communication sector. However, he said, the implementation of the Law N° 2012 - 019 of March 12th, 2012 will enable to take over some shortcomings.

Within the framework of the digital transition, the main challenge to take up is that of human resources which is reflected by a significant deficit as well at the level of the quality, as that of all the building trades' number taking part in the process.
Mr. KAMIAN also indicated that regulatory organs will have a very important role in the supervision of the transition process and the management of the new audiovisual landscape in the digital context ; hence the necessity, beyond the legal arsenal, to have quality human resources to assure their missions.

Regarding the digital transition process in Mali, Mr. Oumar KAMIAN ended with recommendations concerning, among others, the establishment of the communication regulatory organ, the adoption of enforcement legislative terms of the Law n° 2012-019 of March 12th, 2012 (decrees and orders), the periodic assessment of audiovisual texts for a regular updating in a changing environment, the adoption of digital broadcasting and video compression standards (DVB-T2 and MPEG-4 AVC) made by WAEMU for countries of the area.

11. Experience of OATP

This communication was presented by Mr. Ali TOUMANI, OATP representative (Organization of African Television Professionals). He particularly focused his intervention on the enormous advantages of the switchover to digital television for all stakeholders, especially viewers. According to Mr. TOUMANI, the Digital Terrestrial Television gives viewers a clearer image, without burrs, and a stereo sound of an exceptional quality ; in addition, it allows broadcasters to gather together from ten

(10) to twenty (20) programs on a single UHF frequency. However, transition to digital has a price ; and that price is raised, for it supposes, first of all, to provide the millions of television sets which are circulating on the African continent with an adapter that will convert the digital signal in a readable signal by those television sets ; then, it is necessary to change all the current broadcasting equipments by digital materials. The high cost of the digital transition and the low means of African states will urge most of them to run again for external financing sources. What would risk granting foreign companies of opportunities to the detriment of African companies.
He concluded by inviting African regulatory Authorities for more vigilance and attention to African television operators, some of whom have competences in the domain of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT).

At the end of this first session, a general discussion about different raised issues was opened to allow participants to exchange their points of views on the inventories of fixtures of transition processes to digital in Africa.

It emerges from various interventions that only two African countries - Tanzania and Mauritius Island - have achieved their transition to digital. For the rest, there is a wide disparity between countries in the implementation of transition processes to digital. The discussions also highlighted the risks of a return to the State's monopoly in terms of broadcasting in countries which opted for a single operator of multiplex ; the restriction of the audiovisual communication's freedom, which implies the rights to produce and to broadcast contents ; the difficulties related to the regulation of connected televisions ; the necessity to enhance African experiences in matters of Digital Terrestrial Television etc.

For most of African ACRAN member countries, the main challenge to take up is that of the financing of the transition to the all-digital, as regard the approaching of the deadline set by the ITU at 17th June, 2015.

II. Second session : Which partnership between ACRAN, regional and international institutions within the framework of the transition to digital ?

The second session was chaired by Mrs. Beatrice DAMIBA, Chairwoman of the CSC Burkina Faso and moderated by Bishop Joseph BEFE ATEBA, Chairman of the TNC Cameroon. In the same way as the first, it started with an introductory communication followed by debates. The objective pursued through this session is to lay the foundations for a partnership between ACRAN, regional and international institutions occurring in the field of the transition to digital.

1. Introductory Communication : A handy universe

The introductory communication was presented by Mrs. Astrid BONTE, person in charge of international affairs at EUTELSAT. At the beginning of her presentation, she highlighted the importance of digitization of the television. For Mrs. BONTE, satellite plays an important role in achieving the transition to digital. Indeed, satellite responds both to the needs of audiovisual contents dissemination (TV and radio) and the provision of broadband Internet access. According to her, it is the natural complement of terrestrial infrastructures for the most remote areas to urban centers. In addition, she noticed in her communication that the cost of cover does not vary depending on the geographical location of populations ; the infrastructure (the satellite), already being in orbit in the space, it is therefore instantly operational.

According to Mrs. Astrid BONTE, the transition from analogue to digital is a unique opportunity for television development in Africa. It is therefore imperative for African States ; she underlined, to make the switch to the DTT (Digital Terrestrial Television). In this regard, plans have been defined notably by ITU which anticipated:

- The end of analogue television in UHF band (470-862 MHz) in 17th June, 2015 ;
- The end of analogue television in VHF band (174-230 MHz) in 17th June, 2020.

That is why, the satellite use, which is the first vector of the contents' supply growth to African populations, can offer the following advantages :

- 2010 : 930 channels broadcasted by satellite ;

- 2011 : 1262 channels broadcasted by satellite ;
- 2012 : 1506 channels broadcasted (that is + 19% in a (1) year).

Mrs. Astrid BONTE considers that satellite is a broadcasting mode perfectly adapted to African countries and it offers an immediate availability. Finally, she argued that EUTELSAT can allow all ACRAN member countries a mutualisation of their contents, to reduce the recurring costs of transport and to make available a content rich and varied in each country, while including financing offers.

After this communication, and at the end of debates, participants recommended ACRAN to initiate partnerships with international and regional organizations involved in the transition process to digital, particularly ITU, ATU, ECOWAS, WAEMU, CEMAC, SADC etc. Several interventions also raised other concerns relating to :

- the problematic of control and regulation ;
- the preservation of fundamental freedoms in the digital switchover process ;
- the use of digital dividends ;
- the noticeable absence of sub-regional organizations (ECOWAS, WAEMU, CEMAC, SADC) at the 7th CACRA ;
- the consideration of the legal aspects inherent to the digital switchover ;
- the signals' transports by satellite ;
- the exploitation of comparative advantages in matters of the DTT technology for a massive citizens' access to that technology ;
- national operators and investors' protection ;
- the mutualisation of approaches.

III. Third session : Media regulatory Authorities facing the transition to digital in Africa : roles and challenges

This session was chaired by Mr. Moustapha Ali ALIFEI, Chairman of the HCC Chad and President-in-office of REFRAM, and moderated by Mr. Kabral BLAY-AMIHERE, Chairman of the NMC Ghana. It was marked by the presentation of four countries experiences, followed by debates.

1. Experience of Niger

The experience of Niger was presented by Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, Chairman of the CSC Niger. By way of introduction, Mr. OUSMANE indicated that the passage of analogue to digital will create many opportunities ranging from the availability of a wide range of services with interactivity, to the improvement of the picture and the sound's quality compared with the analogue supply.

He continued by stating that digital broadcasting also offers the possibility to use data compression techniques, which allow broadcasting several programs on one channel, and thus to occupy less spectral resources. What will thus allow releasing a significant spectrum. This amount of released spectrum or "digital dividend" can be used for new applications.

The President of the CSC Niger indicated that the role of CSC is to contribute to study technical, economic, political, legal, cultural and social implications of the transition to digital and to assess investments needs.

However, he specified, the challenges to take up are also of several orders. Indeed, he continued, the DTT advent is going to upset the television's current value chain, with the arrival of new actors such as multiplex, transport, broadcasting and distribution operators. The advent of those actors will necessarily lead to a review of the legal and institutional framework of regulation. To face all these challenges, Niger has decided to :

- Establish a transitional regime on infrastructures by grouping multiplexing, transport and broadcasting activities within a single public structure for a period of five (5) years after the extinction of the analogue signal ;

- Revise the Ordinance N° 93-31 of March 30th, 1993 concerning the audiovisual communication ;

- Adapt the Communication Superior Council's missions and competences to the context of digital terrestrial television and correct the inconsistencies with other texts including the Ordinance N° 99-045 of October 26th, 1999 on telecommunications regulation in Niger amended and completed by the Ordinance N° 2010-089 of December 16th, 2010.

2. Experience of Gabon

The communication was presented by Mr. Faustin ONANGA of the CNC Gabon. Talking about the progress of the analogue television migration project to the terrestrial digital in the Gabonese Republic, Mr ONANGA indicated that it is a delicate strategic transformation of a whole country, and not about a simple technological upgrade. He stressed that the reasons of the transition to digital in Gabon are multiple. It is first of all, in favour of operators to create conditions for a better coverage of the national territory ; for a substantial energy savings with DTT transmitters that require less energy to assure a better coverage than the analogue ; for a significant reduction in costs compared to the analogue in terms of investment ; the choice of wider television programs with the creation of a large number of channels and the broadest possibility of programs for a single transmitter.

Then, will say Mr. ONANGA, in favour of viewers to promote the creation of a large number of channels and the wider programs possibility for a better choice of consumers in a single channel ; a better interactivity between viewers-consumers and television channels ; a better reception quality of images and sound ; an abundance of reception modes (fixed, portable, mobile) ; an easier access to the

high-definition television. Finally, in favour of the Communication National Council, Mr. ONANGA indicated that it is to comply with 2006 Geneva Plan's decisions; to favour a better competition between terrestrial platforms, satellite and cable and an efficient use of the spectrum for the management of the digital dividend. Tackling the national strategy, Mr. ONANGA stressed that Gabon has taken on the establishment of an institutional and regulatory framework, the development of the national strategy, the adoption of the roadmap and terms of reference for the launching of two notices of appeals for expressions of interest concerning the feasibility study relating to the DTT coverage throughout the national territory, and the recruitment of a multidisciplinary technical assistance cabinet to attend the national steering committee until the end of the process.

3. Experience of Morocco

Morocco's experience was presented by Mrs. Amina LEMRINI ELOUAHABI, Chairwoman of the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication. Mrs. Amina LEMRINI ELOUAHABI articulated her presentation on six main points :

- Morocco, a deployed structure;
- Stakeholders in the migration process;
- Regulator's role in the transition to digital;
- Regulatory stakes facing this new vector;
- New breath for a diversification of the offer;
- Implications for the continent: Towards a fracture reduction.

To reach there, Morocco has deployed a number of devices notably the establishment of multiplexing companies: the National Society of Radio broadcasting and Television (NCRT) and SOREAD-2M. Several broadcasting infrastructures are also installed everywhere on the Moroccan territory. Thus, the current network assures 75% coverage of the population.

Regarding stakeholders, Amina LEMRINI ELOUAHABI, stressed that "by its very nature, the transition to digital is a multiparty program which requires a decisive

leadership from governments. As in all multiparty programs, the complexity and the providing effort in matters of management and governance must not be underestimated ".

Several actors are involved in that purpose; there are the government, the regulator, the distributor, the public, retailers of digital receivers, devices manufacturers, broadcasting equipments suppliers, contents suppliers, spectrum owners and users, international organizations working in the field, etc.

Talking about the specific role of the HACA, she noted that the decree N° 2013-614 concerning the establishment of the National Committee of the transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting conferred to it the attributions to:
- Make sure that technological choices are made in a sufficient time for a successful deployment of DTT services;
- Make sure that the procedures for licenses granting are updated for the digital switchover;
- Make sure that all technical and coordination activities for the switch-off are completed;
- Make sure that the aid program as well as the means to implement them in due course are ready.

According to Mrs. Amina LEMRINI ELOUAHABI, several challenges arise in the HACA, particularly the regulation of contents, the self-regulation, the public service and the settling of the audience. To these challenges, it must be added the upgrade of the legal framework and the prospecting of new forms of regulation, more in line with ongoing changes.

She concluded her communication by arguing that "it is therefore necessary to converge stakeholders in the reflection to understand how consumers of different audiovisual contents can be protected and how those contents must be regulated in the future (immediate) ... To set this dynamic at the service of a sustainable development in accordance with the legitimate ambition of all member countries of the network, or even of the entire Continent".

4. Experience of the DRC

It was presented by Mr. Jean Bosco BAHALA, Chairman of the ACSC of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In introduction, Mr. BAHALA acknowledged that "the transition to digital television is a widespread process involving as well policy makers, media professionals as the general public".

Faced to the international obligations assigned to ITU's Region 1 in accordance with the Geneva Agreements GE-06, the DRC works to avoid falling behind in the transition process compared with other committed countries. Thus, a committee of experts - composed of advisers and technicians coming from different institutions and decisions making structures on media, frequencies, regulation, government, infrastructures and distribution - was set up.

After several working months, the committee was able to:
- establish and harmonize (with the neighbours) the digital frequency plan for DTT transmitters. This temporary digital plan provides about seven hundred (700) frequencies channels;
- project a deployment strategy of the DTT on the Congolese territory. That deployment strategy is based on the geo-administrative distribution of the country. The DTT deployment order in the Democratic Republic of Congo is scheduled as follows:

• capital cities and administrative centers of provinces;
• localities and administrative centers of districts;
• administrative centers localities of Territories;
• Other localities.

In the same way as the other Authorities, the ACSC is faced with several challenges particularly that of financial, technical order, and those related to the digital audiovisual broadcasting.

Mr. BAHALA concluded in these terms: "the search for a new commercial model will maybe ring the end of the free television and will mark the transition to a paying television which would allow raising the necessary financial resources to ensure the

transition to digital in African countries as a whole, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The royalty's war on the television is on the horizon. A good awareness will enable all the actors to better prepare themselves in order to avoid the delay in the achievement of the transition".

5. Experience of Guinea Conakry

It was presented by Mrs. Martine CONDE, Chairwoman of the CNC Guinea Conakry. At the beginning of her speech, she praised the quality of the organization of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities.

Speaking about the experience of Guinea, Mrs. Martine CONDE underlined that the Geneva Agreement, to which the Republic of Guinea is a Stakeholder, knew for the last two years, an appreciable evolution in her country.

Thus, by decree D/2013/ N° 023/PRG/SGG of January 21st, 2013, the presidency of the Commission in charge of the Passage from Analogue to Digital was assigned to the CNC. What indicates, according to her, that the role of media regulatory Authorities is very important in the digital transition process.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Guinean transition strategy to digital, several other actions are being carried out, notably those of:
- watching over that the access to DTT network is equitable;
- negotiating relevant exemptions with the government so that prices of reception kits are accessible to all;
- intending to make a study that allows to have a good visibility on needs in reception kits but also and especially to identify the destitute households to validate quantitative estimations.

Mrs. Martine CONDE concluded her intervention by insisting that "a national policy for the development of local contents is essential, accompanied by a strategy to guarantee the best balance in the distribution of spaces bouquets offer. There is no need to demonstrate what can cause the absence or the inadequacy of local contents

in multiplexes. What justifies the adaptation of existing current laws and regulations to the new context to better equip regulators".

6. Experience of Senegal

This communication was presented by Mr. Matar SALL, a member of the CNRA Senegal. In his address, Mr. SALL indicated that the Senegalese experience devotes two fundamental steps in the coverage of societal, economic and political issues inherent to the transition from the analogue to digital. These steps are :

- The creation of a National Committee on the Digital (NCD) in charge of the strategic thinking in view of the transition from analogue to digital;
- The creation of a Piloting Committee in charge of the operational implementation of the transition from analogue to digital.

Senegal has established by Order N° 07593 of August 26th, 2010, the National Committee for the passage from the analogue broadcasting to digital (NCD). This committee was placed under the authority of the Minister of Communication, Telecommunications and digital economy. Within this committee, the Audiovisual Regulatory National Council holds the Vice presidency.

During several months, about one hundred and twenty (120) multisectors national actors - public and private - are associated to lead reflection on the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting. Their deliberations resulted in an agreed set of consensual proposals, with regard to the societal, economic and political issues.

Regarding the National Committee of Transition from Analogue to Digital (NCTAD), it was created by a presidential decree in November 2013. It is in charge of the coordination and implementation of the passage from analogue audiovisual broadcasting to digital. The NCTAD, placed under the authority of the President of the Republic, is chaired by the CNRA President. The Ministry of Communication,

Telecommunications and Digital Economy holds the Vice-presidency. Mr. SALL underlined that the main axes of the roadmap set by the NCTAD include particularly :

- The identification of financing and partnership levers for the acquisition of infrastructures and platforms which will constitute the heritage of the state;

- The definition of standards and technical specifications for coding, multiplexing, transport and encryption infrastructures;

- The determination of operating procedures of multiplexed Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) and Digital Terrestrial Radio (DTR) which will be managed by an independent entity that will be part of the Senegalese State's heritage ;

- The adoption of the mobile communication standard LTE Advanced, official for 4G systems and mutualised to offer MVNO (Mobile Virtual Network Operator) services to operators, the State and privates;

- The negotiation and the provision of partnership proposals with equipment and solution suppliers for the DTT, the DTR, the LTE (Long Term Evolution) Advanced, the backbone in optic fiber and the satellite connection.

7. Experience of Tanzania

The Tanzania experience was presented by Mr. N. Habbi GUNZE, Broadcasting Manager at the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Mr. Habbi Gunze articulated his intervention around five main axes :
- The financing of the DTT ;
- The status of the DTT ;
- The role of the regulator ;
- Challenges ;
- Conclusion.

Mr. GUNZE first of all reminded that Tanzania has completed its transition to DTT. Consequently, the extinction of the analogue signal started since December 31st,

2012. This extinction was made in a progressive way, under the supervision of the authorities, according to the program defined by ASO. The first phase of this process started with seven (7) major localities, namely: Dar Es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, Moshi, Dodoma, Tanga and Mbeya. The second phase involves seven other cities and Tanzania wishes to finish the extinction of the analogue by June, 2014.

The communicator added that to make a well success of this phase, the National Technical Committee for Digital Broadcasting (NTC-DB) identified five switching criteria :

- The coverage of the analogue television service area by the digital television signal;
- A sufficient awareness campaign towards the public on the migration to digital;
- The availability of the Set Top Boxes;
- The tax exemption of decoders to ensure their accessibility;
- The availability of five (5) digital television channels;

Mr. GUNZE indicated that several factors converged to the success of the migration phase: a good roadmap, an asserted political will, an appropriate regulation, a regular consultation between the involved actors, the exemption on incomes and taxes, a good communication strategy and an accession of consumers.

Concerning the role played by the TCRA, Mr. GUNZE stressed that the regulator has a leading role, particularly in the definition of the migration's roadmap, the delivery of licenses, the communication with involved actors and the institutional anchoring. He added that challenges of the implementation of the migration are of several orders, including :
- contents of new services ;
- the question of the Multiplex ;
- regulatory aspects ;
- needs of customers and consumers.

In conclusion, Mr. Habbi GUNZE indicated that the success in fine of the migration process to the digital depends on :

- The awareness of all stakeholders (consumers, government and operators);
- The quality of local content;
- The low price of decoders (accessibility and availability);
- The availability of free of charge channels;
- The convergence of the legal and institutional framework;
- The introduction of a value added service in the broadcasting value chain;
- The availability of digital equipment.

Several other oral communications were recorded during this session. There may be mentioned those of :

- Mr. Pierre BAMBASSI, Chairman of the CNC Burundi on "reflections on the digital migration in Burundi";
- Mr. Oulatar Yaldet BEGOTO of the HCC Chad on "The strategy and challenges of the digital switchover in Chad";
- Mrs. Amina LEMRINI, Chairwoman of the HACA Morocco;
- Mr. Babacar TOURÉ, Chairman of the CNRA Senegal;
- Mr. Matar SALL of the CNRA Senegal.

The contributions recorded at the end of presentations on these themes suggest, among others :

- The leading of a study to find the best mechanism in order to reduce costs, such as the use of the optic fiber ;
- The granting of license to several channels ;
- The encouragement of local producers ;
- The risk management of encroachment between several distributors ;
- The possibility of having transferable decoders able to capture several signals.

Participants particularly insisted on States' level of progress in the migration process to digital transition and the necessity to further involve media and communication regulatory Authorities.

IV. Fourth session: Regulation of contents and containers in the era of the television by satellite, cable, mobile and Internet

This session was chaired by Mrs. Martine CONDE, Chairwoman of the CNC Guinea and moderated by Mr. Jean Bosco BAHALA, Chairman of the CSAC of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The objective aimed through this session is to know how to regulate contents and containers in the era where the broadcasting is made by satellite, cable, mobile and Internet. On this matter, several communications were registered.

1. Communication of Niger's PTRA

The first communication of the fourth session was presented by Mr. Salou DORO, Telecoms Sector Director at ARTP of Niger. It is structured around six main points :

- The new technological context ;
- The television by satellite ;
- The television by cable ;
- The television by the mobile ;
- The television by Internet ;
- Conclusion.

By introducing the presentation, Mr. DORO reminded that the digitization of audiovisual contents allowed a proliferation of the television's reception channels : satellite, cable, mobile phone and Internet. These containers, which free themselves more and more from land borders, raise a problem of territoriality. And States are

often without means of legal action on television channels they receive. In these weaknesses, unbearable contents can spread.

This new technological context requires from contents and containers' regulators to define new rules, for the audiovisual is from now closely bound to the exercise of States' sovereignty. The problem settles with a lot of acuteness as regards the direct broadcasting satellites, which can transmit several programs to individual receivers.

With this new broadcasting method, it is possible to regulate local operators who rebroadcast foreign channels since stations installed on the national territory. But the satellite channels which do not have national representation are not object of regulation.

By contrast, when such chains start commercial activities with authorized distributors on site, consideration should be given to regulate them.

For the specific case of Niger, there is no cable television yet. However, to create it, it is necessary to get the regulator's permission. What gives consequently the possibility of regulating the contents.

Thus, if SONITEL is authorized to broadcast audiovisual contents by cable, these contents could be regulated, in virtue especially of the Article 7 of the Law N° 2012-34 of June 7th, 2012 carrying composition, attributions, organization and functioning of the CSC which stipulates that this latter looks in particular after :

- The control of contents and modalities of programming advertising emissions broadcasted by television channels ;

- The protection of childhood and adolescence in the planning of programs broadcasted by public and private audiovisual communication companies ;

- The promotion of Niger's sport and culture in the programming of emissions broadcasted by public and private audiovisual communication companies.

As for the television broadcasting by mobile phone, telephony operators must first request a prior authorization of the CSC. That gives to the media regulator the opportunity to control contents.

The most delicate is the broadcasting by Internet. Because, this mode of broadcasting calls into question the scope of intervention of the authorities responsible for regulating containers and contents. A law that shall regulate the electronic press in Niger has been announced, but it has not yet been adopted. In this context, it will then be kept in mind that the public access to a specific Internet content can be controlled by Internet Service Providers (ISPs). According to Mr. DORO, it is indeed possible to block web addresses whose access is made through ISPs.

In conclusion, Mr. Abdou DORO underlined that it is possible to regulate contents of foreign television stations installed on the territory of Niger and approved by the CSC. By contrast, it does not seem possible to regulate satellite television channels which do not have representation in Niger. In any case, face to global scale containers such as satellite and Internet, only cooperation between States will allow efficient contents regulation.

2. Communication of OATP

This communication was presented by Mr. Ismaël SIDIBÉ, Chairman of OATP. According to the communicator, African television operators have a great experience in the matter of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT). They have already proved their ability to offer digital services to people and to television channels. That is why, for more than twenty years now, they broadcast TV5 in digital in all African French Speaking countries.

It must also be kept in mind that from the early 2000s, almost all African operators of television got down to digitize their signals. First of all in MMDS frequency band and then, more recently, in UHF band, added Mr SIDIBE.

But, according to OATP President, "*the situation is serious, because if we do not remain watchful, the DTT advent, instead of bringing the digital dividends to Africa, will be a real cultural and economic disaster, doubled by the total loss of achievements of democracy so dearly acquired for decades*".

He also wondered about the modalities to regulate "satellite faucets" which poured nowadays more than one thousand fifty hundreds (1,500) television channels in Africa ? Those faucets often poured violent programs or promoting values contrary to African cultures. Are African societies ready to consume such images? He wondered. Mr. SIDIBE finally called African Communication Regulatory Authorities to guard themselves of efficient tools in order to protect the interests of Africa in the transition processes to digital.

3. Communication of INTELSAT

It was presented by Mr. Lare ACHTA OUBA representative of INTELSAT in Western Africa. It was focused on the theme "**Support of the digital transition to African customers**." In his intervention, Mr. ACHTA OUBA exposed the satellite arsenal available at the INTELSAT group. This latter has thirty nine (39) video communities in the world.

In Africa, its network has several channels. This device allows delivering quality products to viewers, said Mr. OUBA. In fact, according to him, INTELSAT offers solutions which enable each country to be endowed with uplinks national channels, with or without regionalized contents, by using the HEMI capacity so that any country under the hemispherical coverage can receive the multiplex of other countries and choose to inject (or not) the contents in its national DTT network.

Several other interventions were recorded during this session. It is particularly about those of :

- Mr. Ibrahim SY SAVANE, Chairman of the HACA Ivory Coast ;
- Mr. Babacar TOURÉ, Chairman of the CNRA Senegal ;
- Mrs. Séverine LAURENT of AB SAT ;
- Mr. Jean Christophe RAMOS of Canal + Africa ;
- Mr. Traoré DEMBA of SEE AFRICA ;
- Mr. Ali TOUMANI of OATP ;
- Mr. Amadou N'DIAYE of OATP.

Conclusion

The thematic seminar on " **The Inventory Of Fixtures Of Transition Processes To Digital : Role And Challenges For Media Regulatory Authorities** " allowed ACRAN Authorities to make an assessment of the evolution of the migration process in different member states.

This evaluation highlighted a wide disparity between States. Some have already switched to the DTT; others are in the testing phase, whereas the majority of ACRAN member States is at the stage of development or validation of national strategies. In Africa, only Tanzania and Mauritius Island have fully completed their transition.

It also appears from inventories of fixtures that several challenges will arise for African media and communication regulators. Among those challenges are :
- The institutional anchoring of strategies implementing structures ;
- The financing of national strategies ;
- The legal and regulatory framework ;
- The regulation of contents, etc.

To take up those challenges and make a success of the transition to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) within the deadline allowed, participants in the 7th CACRA formulated several recommendations towards States, regional and international organizations, television operators and Authorities of regulation. It is especially to :

- encourage the least developed countries in the process to ensure they are actually in the appointment of June 17th, 2015 ;

- operate appropriate choices on the modes of financing and the technical options ;

- strengthen audiovisual regulators' capacities on the transition to digital ;

- establish consultation frameworks between regulators of contents and containers ;

- strengthen cooperation and experiences exchanges between ACRAN member Authorities ;

- establish a participatory and inclusive approach in the implementation processes of national migration strategies to digital ;

- preserve the interests of national operators of television and involve them in processes ;

- endow communication regulatory Authorities of means enabling them to face challenges related to the transition to DTT.

CHAPTER III : THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

The Conference of Presidents of African Communication Regulatory Authorities, which grouped eighteen (18) Presidents and Heads of delegations, was held on December 12th, 2013 according to the founding texts of ACRAN. The Conference, chaired by Mrs. MARGARET MUNYAGI, ACRAN Serving President, was moderated by Mr. Ibrahim SY SAVANE, Chairman of the Ivory Cost HACA.

The agenda of the Conference of Presidents was adopted as follows :

1. Presentation of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan's implementation report (TCRA - Tanzania) ;
2. Presentation of ACRAN's moral and financial report (Executive Secretary) ;
3. Presentation of ACRAN 2014-2015 Action Plan's draft (CSC of Niger) ;
4. Discussion and adoption of reports and 2014-2015 Action Plan ;
5. Examination of new applications for membership ;
6. Appointment of the new Vice - presidency ;
7. Handing over to ACRAN new Presidency.

1. Presentation of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan's implementation report

The presentation of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan's execution report was made by Mr. Habi GUNZE, on behalf of the TCRA Tanzania, assuring the Presidency in-Office of ACRAN.

It appears from this presentation that since its taking over of the torch, on December 17th, 2011 at the end of the 6th CACRA, held in Arusha from 15th to 18th December,

2011, the TCRA has planned and implemented several activities, in accordance with the roadmap.

By way of reminder, this roadmap's objectives were to:

- equip African Communication Regulatory Authorities with a formal framework of meetings;
- develop the exchanges of ideas and experiences;
- promote cooperation in the field of training and technical assistance between members.

To achieve these goals, several actions were carried out notably: the strengthening of members' capacities, the regular holding of meetings of ACRAN's organs and bodies, the improvement of the network's internal and external communication and the improvement of the international cooperation. On the whole, the Conference of Presidents has deemed positive the evaluation of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan's implementation.

2. Presentation of ACRAN Executive Secretariat's 2012-2013 moral and financial report

This report was presented by Mr. Theophile NATA, Chairman of the HAAC Benin assuring ACRAN Executive Secretariat. Mr. NATA, first of all, reminded that under the terms of Articles 10 of the amended Convention establishing ACRAN and 13 of the Rules and Financial Regulations, the Executive Secretariat is assured by the Authority of the country which shelters the seat of ACRAN. As an administrative organ, the Executive Secretariat assures the representation of ACRAN and the execution of its organs' decisions, in good terms with the Presidency-in-Office of the network.

As such, it manages and administers financial and material resources of ACRAN. It is therefore the kingpin of the network. In good cooperation with the presidency and the vice-presidency, several actions were led. Mr. NATA cited the institutional communication which has improved a very good reactivity between the secretariat, the presidency and the vice-presidency. He also appreciated the regular holding of

Authorities' meetings and the development of cooperation inter and intra network. He finally denounced the endless delay observed in subscriptions' payment.

On the financial plan, it is necessary to note that some countries are up to date towards the payment of their subscriptions, while others accumulate arrears. Overall, it appears that the amount of accumulated subscriptions (paid subscriptions + settled arrears) amounted to eleven million one hundred forty two thousand six hundred and thirty one (11,142,631) CFA francs, or twenty two thousand five hundred (22,500) US dollars in 2012 and sixteen million two hundred seventy eight thousand seven hundred ninety-one (16,278,791) CFA francs or thirty-nine thousand (39,000) US dollars in 2013.

In total, during the 2012-2013 term of office, eighteen (18) countries out of thirty-four (34) contributed to the mobilization of statutory subscriptions. This gives a cumulative contributions of twenty seven million four hundred twenty-one thousand four hundred and twenty two (27,421,422) CFA francs, equivalent to fifty five thousand (55,000) US dollars. In addition, eight thousand (8,000) US dollars were received in December 10th and 11th, 2013 during the 7th CACRA held in Niamey. Those resources were used for the functioning of the Executive Secretariat and contributed to finance several activities of the 2012-2013 Action Plan. At the end of discussions, the Conference of Presidents unanimously adopted the two reports and declared ACRAN 2012-2013 balance sheets broadly positive.

3. Presentation of ACRAN 2014-2015 Action Plan's draft

ACRAN 2014-2015 Action Plan's draft was presented by Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, Chairman of the CSC Niger. Declined in five (5) thematic axes, this draft aims, on one hand, at consolidating achievements of previous Presidencies through the capitalization of good practices; on the other hand, to take up challenges faced by ACRAN, particularly the remobilization of member Authorities, the research of technical and financial partners, the enlargement of the network to countries that are not yet members and the increase of ACRAN's visibility in under regional, regional and international spaces dealing with communication and regulation issues.

To achieve these goals, five (5) strategic axes are retained, which reflect the main concerns of ACRAN member Authorities :

Axis 1: Transition to Digital

Axis 2: Legal and institutional framework of the regulation

Axis 3: Media Regulation in electoral period

Axis 4: Gender Equality in the media

Axis 5: Partnership and Networking.

The strategic objectives aimed by these different axes are :

- ✓ to strengthen ACRAN's authority and visibility as well as that of member Authorities in the digital transition process in Africa ;
- ✓ to promote a legal and institutional framework convenient to communication regulation in Africa ;
- ✓ to contribute to the organization of free and transparent elections through an independent and fair media regulation in electoral period ;
- ✓ to contribute to guarantee gender equality and to eliminate discriminations based on sex in contents and programs of media ;
- ✓ to strengthen cooperation between ACRAN member Authorities and to develop new partnerships.

Several activities have been proposed. Their implementation will enable to achieve the following results :

- ✓ ACRAN and member Authorities participate, in an active and a visible ways, to the digital transition process in Africa ;
- ✓ ACRAN and member Authorities contribute to the organization of free, transparent and honest elections in Africa ;
- ✓ ACRAN launches the advocacy on the harmonisation of the legal and institutional framework for communication regulation in Africa ;
- ✓ ACRAN strengthens capacities of member Authorities in matters of sex equality in media ;

- ✓ ACRAN develops partnerships with other networks and consolidates cooperation between member Authorities.

He concluded by saying that the implementation of the Action Plan falls statutorily to the Serving Presidency of ACRAN, in this particular case the CSC of Niger.

In this frame, it will be appointed within the Office of the CSC Chairman, a person especially in charge of the implementation of ACRAN 2014 - 2015 Action Plan and the tale-telling of activities carried out by the Serving Presidency. In addition, ACRAN member Authorities will be empowered for the implementation of some activities, further to the commitments they have taken at the 7th CACRA.

With regard to follow-up and evaluation, it will be assured by the Presidency-in-Office, together with the Vice-presidency and the Executive Secretariat, through the regular holding of the Steering Committee's meetings. For that purpose, it is planned to organize, in the course of each year, a meeting of the Steering Committee to review the implementation of the Action Plan. Other meetings of the Steering Committee will also be held on the fringes of seminars and meetings organized by ACRAN.

The draft of Niger's Action Plan was adopted by acclamation.

It was then proceeded to the appointment of the President and the Vice-president of ACRAN. Thus, Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, Chairman of the CSC Niger was appointed by the Conference of Presidents as the new President of ACRAN and Mr. Bray KABRAL AMIHERE, President of the NMC Ghana was appointed Vice-president of ACRAN for the biennium 2014-2015. It is necessary to notice that the Presidency of honour is returned to the TCRA Tanzania.

Chapter IV: CLOSING CEREMONY

This ceremony was marked by the outgoing President's witness remittance to the incoming President, the presentation of two motions of thanks, the presentation of the summary report and the closing speech of ACRAN President, Chairman of the CSC Niger.

The first motion was addressed to President Abdourahamane OUSMANE and to the CSC Niger for the quality of the welcome and for the organization of this Conference. The second motion was addressed to His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Head of State, to his Government and to all the people of Niger.

In his closing speech, Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, ACRAN President, has first of all addressed, in the name of the highest authorities of Niger and on behalf of the CSC, his sincere thanks for the depth and the quality of contributions, for the sincerity of exchanges which took place during the thematic seminar and Presidents' behind closed doors session.

He then indicated that the special feature of the 7th CACRA has been without no doubt to have allowed four categories of actors, namely media regulators, regional and international institutions, television broadcasters, satellite operators, to confront their points of view and sometimes their interests on the problematic of the transition to Digital Terrestrial Television.

He has also noticed that at nineteen months from the deadline set by ITU for the extinction of the analogue signal, exchanges raised that only two African countries out of fifty-four have completed their transition to digital; it is about Tanzania which is present at the 7th CACRA and Mauritius Island.

"The debate on DTT is not exclusively technological; it can also hide unsuspected political stakes, in particular, freedom of the audiovisual communication, freedom of expression and opinion, citizens' right of access to information. It is the responsibility

of media regulatory Authorities to place or to replace these issues at the centre of the digital migration’s national strategies ", he insisted.

He finally greeted efforts supplied by the Tanzanian presidency to reach undisputed results during the years 2012-2013, and requested the support of the whole member countries to achieve the objectives set by the 2014-2015 Action Plan.

ANNEX 1 : ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES

1. Official Opening Speech of His Excellency Mr. Brigi RAFINI, Prime Minister, Head of the Government of Niger

2. Address of the Governor of Niamey Region

3. Address of the Chairman of the CSC Niger

4. Address of the Representative of the TCRA

5. Farewell Speech of the Tanzanian Presidency of ACRAN

6. Closing speech of ACRAN new President.

Speech of His Excellency Mr. Brigi RIFINI, Prime Minister, Head of the Government during ACRAN 7th Conference

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents of Institutions of the Republic,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Government,

Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of the diplomatic corps and International Institutions,

Madam the representative of ACRAN Serving President,

Sir Executive Secretary of ACRAN,

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents of ACRAN member Institutions,

Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of International, Regional Organizations and television operators,

Sir Governor of the Region of Niamey

Sir Mayor, President of Niamey City Council

Honourable Traditional and religious leaders

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like, in the name of the President of the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU, the government and the people of Niger to wish all our guests welcome in Niamey, Niamey which, three lasting days, will be the Capital of the Communication regulation with the holding of the **7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities, CACRA**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Practice of Anglo-Saxon's origin, media regulation began in 1934 in the United States with the creation of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). Fifteen years later, the United Kingdom creates the second media regulatory authority in the world, the Wireless Telegraphy Act (WTA).

In Africa, the phenomenon of regulation is very recent ; it dates from the early 1990s. Indeed, the democratic wave that swept over almost all African countries has led to the liberalization of media landscapes. Several private newspapers, private radio and television channels have emerged, ending the State's monopoly in the fields of press and communication.

To manage these new flows of information and create conditions for a healthy and free competition between different actors of the media, many of our States have found it necessary and useful to set up new Institutions, in charge of media and communication regulation. In Niger, the Communication Superior Council was created in November 3rd, 1991 by Act N° XI of the Sovereign National Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The existence of a network grouping almost all the African communication regulatory authorities is the proof that a real culture of communication regulation is being taking shape in Africa.

To consolidate this culture, ACRAN deserves to be supported and encouraged by all the African States, in order to contribute to further strengthen press freedom, expression freedom and opinion freedom in our continent.

I can assure you, Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network, of the commitment of the Government of Niger to accompany you in the implementation of your 2014-2015 Action Plan, and to support all other actions aimed at improving the practice of regulation in our countries.

I would like to raise, to congratulate myself on it, the enormous progresses realised by my country during these last years. Indeed, and as an illustration, the audiovisual landscape of Niger is one of the most opened of the continent with twelve (12) television channels among which two (02) public channels, fifty two (52) private radio stations, thirty three (33) community radios and eighty (80) titles.

Niger also decriminalized offenses committed through the press. Therefore, any journalist will no longer be imprisoned in the exercise of his/her profession. To further mark this commitment of the State of Niger in favour of press freedom, the President of the Republic, **His Excellency Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU** signed in November 30th, 2011, in this very room of the Congress Palace, the Declaration of the Table Mountain. As the first African Head of State-in-Office to sign this text, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Issoufou MAHAMADOU, is also committed to plead with his peers to do likewise.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The signing of the Declaration of the Table Mountain, in November 30th, 2011, proves with sufficient evidence the commitment of the President of the Republic to work for the full respect of all freedoms, starting with that of the press.

Mr. President of the Communication Superior Council, if the President of the Republic and the Government are working everyday for a greater press freedom in our country, particularly through the provision of a consistent aid fund on its behalf, the decriminalization of offenses committed by means of the press, the adoption of an Ordinance on citizens' free access to public information and to administrative documents, the fact remains that our press would gain to show more rigor and responsibility in the research, the processing and the broadcasting of information. It's going on its credibility and its future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The other concern of the moment is the great challenge of the digital. Indeed, it is for our countries to keep abreast of the latest technology, which can induce significant effects on our relationship to communication, information and multimedia, gage of the socio-economic development of our populations.

This transition to digital will also have impacts on the legal, social and political plans. It is going to upset the current values chain of television, with the separation of contents production activities and those of transport and programs broadcasting. This is going to generate the appearance of new actors in the media landscape. In order not to stay on the margin of this inevitable development, Niger has developed a national transition strategy to digital.

This strategy is based on four main axes, namely: the legal and institutional framework adaptation; the development of infrastructures; the development of contents and programs; the capacities building. For each strategic axis, measures of institutional and legal order have been recommended. The set of interventions were recorded in an Action Plan, which constitutes Niger's roadmap, in its race to digital.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At less than two years of the deadline for the transition to digital, it is entirely appropriate to make the inventory of fixtures of the transition process to digital in Africa. And especially to wonder about the roles and challenges for media regulatory Authorities. This theme, which will be the focus of your discussions during the next three days, is on the agenda.

The strong participation of ACRAN member Authorities, international, regional, sub regional organisations and private operators testifies of the quite particular interest that these various actors grant to the problematic of transition to digital but also to the question of communication regulation in Africa.

It also augurs for the wealth and the diversity of debates and exchanges which are going to take place. Wishing full success to your deliberations, I declare opened the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities.

Thank you for your attention.

Welcome address
of the Governor of Niamey Region

At the opening of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA)

Niamey, December 10th, 2013

Excellency President of the Republic, Head of the State,

Excellency President of the National Assembly,

Excellency Sir Prime Minister,

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents of Institutions of the Republic,

Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers,

Honourable members of the Parliament,

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of the diplomatic corps and International Institutions,

Madam the representative of ACRAN President-in-Office,

Sir Executive Secretary of ACRAN,

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents of ACRAN member Authorities,

Ladies and Gentlemen members of delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of International, Regional Organizations and television operators,

Sir Governor of Niamey Region

Sir Mayor, President of Niamey City Council

Sirs Mayors of Niamey districts

Respectable Traditional and religious leaders

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

After Libreville in 1998, Johannesburg in 2002, Maputo in 2004, Ouagadougou in 2007, Marrakech in 2009, Arusha in 2011, it is the turn of Niamey to host the 7th Conference of the African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA).

Through my voice, the whole population of Niamey region is delighted at the honour done to Niger's capital to host such an important meeting. And in the pure tradition of Niger, Niamey, hospitable city, situated at the edge of the majestic Niger River, warmly said to you : **Kubeyni, Barka Da Zuwa**, in other words **Welcome, bienvenue, Buenvenido**.

Your massive presence in Niger, in spite of the calendar pressure at this end of year, translated all the interest you carry in the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network's activities ; it is also, somewhere, the expression of your willingness to visit Niger and its capital, which every day becomes more pretty, thanks to the program Niamey Nyala or Niamey the charming, initiated by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Issoufou MAHAMADOU.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Indeed, Niamey, our capital, becomes more and more the crossroads of international meetings. For proof, I shall quote the holding from 16th to 19th last November of the 16th OILGAZMINE conference; the organization from 20th to 25th November of the 9th edition of the African Fashion International Festival (AFIF); the holding from 29th November to 09th December of the 8th edition of the Craft industry International Exhibition for Women (CIEW).

I will not forget sittings of the Regional Conference on education problematic in nomadic environment in the Sahelo-Saharan space, which took place even here at the Congress Palace, from 2nd to 5th December, 2013; as well as those of WEAMU's Inter Parliamentary Committee, held in December from 2nd to 6th.

It is also appropriate, to emphasize that the end of the 7th CACRA's works, will coincide with the beginning of WEAMU's regional integration fair, which will take place from 13th to 22nd December, 2013.

These few examples demonstrate, if need is still there, that since the advent of the authorities of the 7th Republic, Niger has regained its credibility on African and international plan. Therefore, Niamey recovered its legendary attraction for seminars, conferences, symposia and other prestigious events.

I seize this opportunity to express my gratitude and my sincere thanks to all the persons whose perceptiveness, dynamism and commitment have made it possible to start the transformation of our beloved capital's appearance.

Among these, I will quote His Excellency Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Head of State, whose vision and ambition are "to make Niamey the capital of which Niger people have always dreamed" through the program Niamey Nyala or Niamey the charming.

With the implementation of this program, Niamey will soon present a new appearance ; but it will especially be endowed with infrastructures which will allow it to attract and welcome in better conditions other great events.

In conclusion, let me wish a pleasant stay in Niamey to all participants in the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Address of the Niger's Communication Superior Council Chairman

At the opening of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA)

Niamey, December 10th, 2013

Excellency the Prime Minister, Head of Government

Excellency the first Vice-president of the National Assembly

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents of Institutions of the Republic,

Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers,

Honourable members of the Parliament,

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of the diplomatic corps and International Institutions,

Madam the representative of ACRAN Serving President,

Sir Executive Secretary of ACRAN,

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents of ACRAN member Authorities,

Ladies and Gentlemen members of delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of Institutions and invited operators,

Sir Governor of Niamey Region,

Sir Mayor, President of Niamey City Council,

Sirs Mayors of Niamey municipal districts,

Respectable Traditional and religious leaders,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like, first of all, on behalf of the Communication Superior Council and in my own name, to wish once again welcome to Niger to my colleagues, Chairwomen and Chairmen of African Regulatory Authorities, to members of their delegations, as well as to all the persons who have made the trip of Niamey to attend the proceedings of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA).

The 7th CACRA, which gathers us today December 10th, International Day of Human Rights, registered the participation of eighteen (18) ACRAN member Authorities. These are: HAAC of Benin; CSC of Burkina Faso; CNC of Burundi; CNC of Cameroon; HACA of Ivory Coast; CNC of Gabon; NMC of Ghana; CNC of Guinea-Conakry; HAPA of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; CSC of Mali; CSCS of Mozambique; HACA of the Kingdom of Morocco; CSC of Niger; CSAC of the Democratic Republic of Congo; CNRA of Senegal; TCRA of Tanzania; HCC of Chad and HAAC of Togo.

The 7th CACRA also recorded the participation of three (3) institutions namely: the International Telecommunications Union, based in Switzerland; the African Telecommunications Union based in Kenya and the Commission of Central African Member States (CCAMS), whose seat is established in Central Africa.

It is also noteworthy to underline the presence, at this Conference, of a strong delegation of the Organization of African Television Professionals (OATP) coming from Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) and from Senegal.

Finally, several Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) and satellite operators coming from Europe and Asia are present among us: I will quote SEE AFRICA, Canal + Africa, EUTELSAT coming from France; The Africa Regional Office of INTELSAT based in Senegal; the China STARTIMES; HIT RADIO of Morocco; CEO HTA- TRADE GROUP whose headquarters is in Israel.

In total, there are ninety-three (93) participants stemming from twenty four (24) countries that are given appointments in Niger to exchange on the problematic of the transition to digital.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this solemn moment, let me express my thanks to the highest authorities of Niger for their multiform supports, which enabled the CSC organizing this meeting in good conditions. I would also like to thank WAEMU Commission for the financial support which it was kind enough to bring to CSC. Finally, I would like to express my thanks and my encouragements to all the persons who contributed, somehow or other, to the organization of this meeting.

I make a special mention to members of the CSC organizing committee, to the team of Great Events Organization High Commission (GEOC), to the State Protocol and to journalists of public and private media.

In prelude to the 7th CACRA, ACRAN Steering Committee met twice: the first time in Niger in August 2013 and a second time in Tanzania last October.

These meetings were intense moments of reflection and fruitful exchanges, which helped the CSC in preparing the CACRA. May the members of ACRAN Steering Committee find here the expression of my deep gratitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues

According to a tradition which is now established, the 7th CACRA will take place in two phases. The first will be devoted to the seminar which is going to take place on December 10th and 11th, around the theme: "Inventory of fixtures of transition processes to digital in Africa: role and challenges for media regulatory Authorities." This theme was chosen right here in Niamey, during the meeting of the Steering Committee, further a call for proposals launched by ACRAN Executive Secretariat.

It will be debated in great details during four sessions:

- The first session will be an opportunity to draw up inventories of fixtures and perspectives of transition processes to digital in Africa;

- The second will focus on the exploration of partnership opportunities between ACRAN, international and regional Institutions involved in the transition process to digital;

- The third session will focus on the roles of media regulatory Authorities in national strategies of transition to digital and the challenges they are facing ;

- The fourth session will be centred on contents and containers' regulation in the era of television by satellite, cable, Internet and by phone.

The second phase will be the Conference of Presidents which will be held in December 12th. In accordance with ACRAN founding Convention, the Conference of Presidents, as the supreme organ of ACRAN, will notably :

- ✓ Examine and adopt the implementation report of 2012-2013 Action Plan and the Executive Secretariat's moral and financial report ;
- ✓ Examine and adopt the 2014 - 2015 Action Plan's draft the CSC submitted to it;
- ✓ Identify the Network's Vice-president for the coming term.

As you can observe, the agenda is fairly loaded. But experiences of our previous encounters lead me to believe that we will be able to find the efficient method which is going to allow us exhausting all the items registered on the order of the CACRA. And certainly to release some free time so as to offer the opportunity to those who visit Niger for the first time to discover some wonders of this so beautiful country.

Thank you for your pleasant attention.

SPEECH OF ACRAN SERVING CHAIRWOMAN AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 7TH CACRA

His Excellency President of Niger Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU ;

Honourable Governor of Niamey Mr. Hamidou GARBA ;

Dear Chairpersons of ACRAN member States ;

Distinguished Participants ;

Dear Friends and Colleagues ;

Ladies and Gentlemen ;

It is indeed a great pleasure for me on behalf of ACRAN to be able to attend this important meeting. I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Niger for the excellent welcome and hospitality extended to our delegations since we arrived here in Niamey.

For the few days we have been here, the people we have met really show that Niger people have a very warm heart.

Your Excellency, it is almost two years since we met in Arusha on December, 2011. We are meeting again, this time in Niamey to hold a statutory meeting prescribed by our Network's Acts of Association.

It is imperative to all of us here to know that ACRAN was born as a result of liberalization of the media landscape on the African continent during the nineties. The rationale for which it was established is still relevant today as Regulators continue to grapple with a lot of regulatory challenges brought about by the change in technology.

Tanzania has been the Chairman of ACRAN for the past two years from 2012 to 2013. During its chairmanship, it has worked closely with the Executive Secretariat, CSC of Niger and HACA of Morocco to ensure that ACRAN moves to another level of development as a strong continental organization.

The process of harmonization of regulatory framework within the Network has started ; the terms of reference for the study on the harmonization of the legal and institutional framework with ACRAN member states has been approved by the ACRAN Board. In two years time from now we expect the study to be ready.

In these two years of Tanzania Presidency, some progress has been made as it will reveal in the Presidency's Report. However, the African continent is still facing various challenges in the sector of Communications and Information Technology. The convergence of Broadcasting and Telecommunications, the emergency of multimedia services as well as digital migration clearly necessitates communications regulatory authorities to come together and chart out how best they can embrace the changes through sustainable legal and regulatory frameworks.

ACRAN's rich tradition has the objectives of providing the African Communication Regulatory Authorities with a formal framework of meetings, dialogue and experience sharing in order to streamline individual efforts into a concrete unified mission for the growth of the sector. This objective gives us strength and power to overcome all these challenges as we all believe that "a problem shared is a problem solved".

It was a privilege and a pleasure for Tanzania to serve this continental body as ACRAN's Presidency. I have to acknowledge and thank the Executive Secretariat, CSC of Niger and HACA of Morocco for their support during the entire period of Tanzania's Presidency. We worked together in accomplishing the ACRAN Road map 2012-2013 and the mission of our Network.

Tanzania's Presidency has prepared a report of implementation for the 2012-2013 period which will present and discussed during the 7th CACRA meeting here in Niamey.

With this few remarks, I wish again to thank the government of the Republic of Niger for the good welcome and hospitality and I have no doubt that we will have fruitful deliberations

I thank you very much for listening

HANDOVER SPEECH TO INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF ACRAN

Chairpersons of ACRAN ;

Distinguished Guests ;

Ladies and Gentlemen ;

Dear friends and colleagues ;

It is indeed a pleasure for me, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Management of TCRA, to be bestowed the honour to lead this important organization for the past two years.

I have no doubt in mind that Tanzania has discharged well its responsibilities to ACRAN during the two year period.

I would like to congratulate Honourable Abdourahamane OUSMANE, Chairperson of the CSC, Niger for being elected ACRAN Chairman for period of 2014 - 2015. I pledge to continue strengthening the relationship amongst ACRAN Board Members to build on what we have achieved in the past two years.

Before I finish I would like to thank the Executive Secretariat led by President Theophile NATA for his excellent leadership of the ACRAN Secretariat and support given to Tanzania during the entire period. It is my hope that President NATA and his team will extend the same support to Niger during its tenure of office for the realization of the objectives for which ACRAN was created. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Ghana for election to Vice Chair of ACRAN for a period of 2014-2015. Tanzania will work closely with Niger and Ghana to ensure that ACRAN is taken to the next level of its development.

With these few remarks, I once again congratulate Niger for being elected ACRAN Chairman. I now have the pleasure to handover the Chairmanship to Niger.

Thank you for listening.

Speech of Niger's Communication Superior Council Chairman

At the closing of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA)

Niamey, December 10th, 2013

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen the Presidents,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen, members of delegations,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

After three days of intense works, we are at the end of the proceedings of the 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities.

Let me once more, probably not too much, extend to you, on behalf of the highest authorities of Niger and on behalf of the CSC, our sincere thanks for the depth and the quality of your contributions, for the sincerity of exchanges which took place during the thematic seminar and the closed doors session of Presidents.

The special feature of the 7th CACRA has been doubtless to have allowed four categories of actors, worth knowing media regulators, international and regional institutions, television broadcasters, satellite operators, to confront their points of views and sometimes their interests on the issue of the transition to digital.

At nineteen months of the deadline set by ITU for the analogue signal extension, our exchanges raised that only two African countries out of fifty four have completed their transition to digital; there are Tanzania which is present among us and Mauritius Island.

The presentation of the Tanzanian experience has much edified us on the crucial role played by the TCRA in this process, but also on the multifaceted challenges to which this regulator has been confronted.

Our exchanges have also enabled us to discover that experiences of Digital Terrestrial Television already exist in some African countries. It is necessary to exit from the anonymity all these wonderful initiatives, whether they emanate from the public or private sector, to enhance them, to model them, in order to propose solutions which take into account the interests of African countries and citizens.

However, the door must not be closed to partnership opportunities which offer themselves to African countries, since these ones join win-win partnerships logic; and seeing that these offers will allow countries to draw well their roads to digital.

Following an inclination increasingly notorious, debates on the digital transition are almost exclusively focused on technological aspects. That is perhaps of good war. Since the very essence of the transition is technological. But, I am one of those who are convinced that technology is never completely neutral. It can wear and often hide unsuspected political issues.

For the case which concerns us, behind the analogue signal extinction and the digital switchover are outlined eminently political stakes, notably audiovisual communication freedom, expression and opinion freedom, citizens' access right to information. It is the responsibility of media regulatory Authorities to place or to replace those questions at the centre of national strategies of migration to digital. In effect, we shall always have to keep in mind, further to Philipe BOURE, I quote: "the idea of regulation is actually compared to those of freedoms. Freedom to obtain a frequency, freedom registered in the right to broadcast programs and in that to receive them. "

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear Colleagues

From this day December 12th, 2013, Niger will assure the Presidency-in-Office of ACRAN. I would like to thank you for this mark of confidence and to assure you at the same time of my personal commitment to be up to your expectations and hopes.

During the mandate which has just ended, ACRAN has carried out tremendous progresses. I shall quote in particular the improvement of its governance through the regular functioning of its organs and bodies; the capacity building through training seminars which we held in Benin, in Morocco, in Tanzania and in Burkina Faso ; the strengthening of bilateral cooperation through the intensification of visits of

experiences exchanges and the signature of partnership conventions between the members; Finally it should be noted during the Tanzanian presidency, a greater external visibility of ACRAN and a strengthening of its internal communication. The adoption by cheer of the 2012-2013 Action Plan's implementation report amply proves that the balance sheet of the outgoing Presidency has been broadly positive. The opportunity lends itself to me to deliver my congratulations to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, TCRA, for the outstanding work carried out at the head of our Network. I also seize this opportunity to send my encouragements to the High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication of Benin, the HAAC, which assures with high efficiency, the loads of ACRAN Executive Secretariat since its inception in June, 1998.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues

The Conference of Presidents adopted the draft 2014-2015 Action Plan, developed by the CSC of Niger. From this moment, it becomes the common roadmap of ACRAN for the next biennum. This roadmap is centred on five thematic axes :

1. Transition to digital ;
2. Legal and institutional framework of regulation ;
3. Media regulation in electoral period ;
4. Gender equality in media ;
5. Partnership and Networking.

Through these five (5) thematic axes, the Action Plan that we have just adopted aims on one hand at consolidating the achievements of previous presidencies through the capitalization of good practices; on the other hand at taking up challenges which come up to ACRAN notably the remobilization of member Authorities, the search for technical and financial partners, the extension of the Network to countries that are not yet members and the increase of ACRAN's visibility

in under regional, regional, and international areas dealing with communication and regulation issues.

We have the ambition, perhaps excessive in the light of our means, to achieve fifteen (15) activities in two years. I am delighted at the commitment taken by some regulatory Authorities to voluntarily perform certain activities. What testifies to the ever growing interest of members for the revitalization of our Network. I am also delighted at the consensus that has prevailed to appoint the National Media Commission of Ghana, to the Vice-presidency of ACRAN.

Through this choice, we have kindly expressed the will to perpetuate an unwritten rule of ACRAN, which wants that the binomial President – Vice-president may take into account the linguistic configuration of our Network. I remain convinced that we will work in synergy with the Executive Secretariat for the efficient implementation of all the activities registered in the roadmap. Before ending my words, I make it my duty to reiterate my thanks to all those who have contributed to the good performance of this Conference.

Further to those whom I have already mentioned in my opening speech, I shall add Presidents, Speakers and moderators who brilliantly led the works of the various sessions ; I also mention the interpreters who faithfully rendered in both working languages, the spirit of our communications, our interventions and debates ; I also think of hostesses and the staff of Gawèye hotel who served us with dedication and professionalism ; my thought also goes to the Defence Forces, who discreetly but efficiently assure the security of the workplace and participants ; to the health staff ; to drivers who defied the cold sometimes at late hours to transport participants. May all these people find here the expression of my profound gratitude.

To conclude, in my quality of the new Chairman of ACRAN, I wish you all, by anticipation, happy holidays early New Year and welcome back to your countries and to your respective homes.

Thank you for your kind attention.

ANNEX 2 : DOCUMENTS OF THE 7th CACRA

1. Working program

2. Moral Report of ACRAN Executive Secretariat

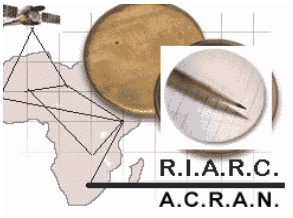
3. Financial Report of ACRAN Executive Secretariat

4. Implementation Report of ACRAN's 2012 - 2013 Action Plan

5. ACRAN's 2014 -2015 Action Plan

6. Resolutions, Motions and Recommendations

7. List of Participants



RESEAU DES INSTANCES AFRICAINES DE REGULATION DE LA COMMUNICATION

AFRICAN COMMUNICATION REGULATION AUTHORITIES NETWORK

Le Secrétariat Exécutif

Executive Secretary

7th CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN COMMUNICATION REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (CACRA)

MORAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT OF MISTER THEOPHILE NATA, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF AUDIOVISUAL AND COMMUNICATION (HAAC) OF BENIN, ACRAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Niamey, December 12th, 2013

7th CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN COMMUNICATION REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (CACRA)

MORAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT OF MISTER THEOPHILE NATA, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF AUDIOVISUAL AND COMMUNICATION (HAAC) OF BENIN, ACRAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Niamey, December 12th, 2013

- Mister President of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Chairman of ACRAN ;
- Mister President of the Communication Superior Council (CSC) of Niger, Vice-President of ACRAN ;
- Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents of African Communication Regulatory Authorities,
- Ladies and Gentlemen members of the various delegations,
- Honourable Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Two years after Arusha, we are meeting again, this time in Niamey, to hold a statutory meeting prescribed by the founding texts of our Network, the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN), in order to make an assessment of the execution of the Network's Action Plan for the account of the biennum 2012-2013 and to arrest the roadmap for 2014-2015 biennum.

I would first of all like to greet and congratulate the Communication Superior Council (CSC) of Niger and its dynamic Chairman, Mr. Abdourahamane OUSMANE, for the particular attention we have enjoyed since our arrival in Niamey and for the quality of the organization of this Conference and ask him to pass on, on behalf of ACRAN,

our sincere thanks to the highest authorities of Niger as well as to all the people of Niger.

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents,

Honourable Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From December 2011 up today, what a path travelled through together! The actors are no longer necessarily the same because of normal changes that experiences every organization, our regulatory Authorities do not escaping that rule. So I am getting the happy duty to welcome our colleagues Presidents who are taking part in their first Conference of Presidents.

Our Network is now in its seventh Conference of Presidents. This constitutes, in itself, a guarantee of the performance and the immutable willingness that have the Member Authorities of seeing perpetuate the ideal which had gathered them in Libreville, fifteen (15) years ago.

Created indeed in June 5th, 1998 in Gabonese earth and rich of thirty-four members, the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN), while allowing us to develop and to deepen mutual relationships of cooperation and exchanges, has for main objectives to :

- contribute, through the synergy of exchanges, to establish the technical, professional and institutional authority of each of member Authorities ;

- develop, between member Authorities, exchanges of ideas and experiences on issues in relation with their missions ;

- organize, between member Authorities, a close cooperation in the matter of training and technical assistance, either under its responsibility or in collaboration with other organizations having similar activities ;

- help to set up, in every regulatory Authority, a reliable system of collection, processing and broadcasting of information and documentation in favour of Authorities colleagues ;

- Contribute to establish the authority of ACRAN in international and regional forums whenever are treated problems of communication and communication regulation in order to make ACRAN the privileged interlocutor of the legislative bodies of international and regional development institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents,

Honourable Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the end of Article 10 of the amended Convention establishing ACRAN and Article 13 of the Rules of Procedures and Financial Regulations, the Executive Secretariat is assured by the Authority of the country which shelters the seat of ACRAN. As an administrative organ, it assures the day-to-day representation of ACRAN and the execution of its organs' decisions in good understanding, of course, with the Presidency-in-Office of the Network.

As such, it is in charge of all matters of administrative and financial order, of collection, processing and transmission of information. It is still the Executive Secretariat which assures the good preparation of the Conference of Presidents, organizes and coordinates activities of statutory organs, commissions and specialized committees always in relation with the Presidency-in-Office.

It manages and administers financial and material resources of ACRAN. In a word, it is at the centre of the functioning of the Network and turns there out to be the

kingpin. Its role could not and should not be appreciated if it was not working in perfect synergy with the Presidency-in-Office for the implementation of the Action Plan which received the anointing of the Conference of Presidents for the concerned biennum.

To sum all up, I have been able to notice a very good institutional communication, a very good reactivity in the relationships between the Executive Secretariat, the Presidency-in-Office and the Vice-presidency, what enabled us to consult one another on the Network's life whenever it is necessary to consider promising prospects of hope.

At the organizational level, in addition to the coordination of the Executive Secretariat, the Steering Committee, in charge of the follow-up of the Action Plan and which currently gathers together the Presidency, the Vice-presidency, the Executive Secretariat and the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HACA) of Morocco as immediate past President of the Network, for its part, held five meetings which allowed to evaluate as one goes along the implementation of the Action Plan adopted in December 2011 in Arusha, to conduct relevant reflections on the Network's life and to prepare the current meeting of Niamey. These are :

- the first meeting in April 23rd, 2012 in Cotonou which recommended the collection of contributions and the sending of recovering notification letters by the Executive Secretariat ;

- the second, in November 7th, 2012 in Dakar on the margin of the seminar on the Digital Transition organized by the French-speaking Media Regulators Network (FMRN) and which allowed the formalization of Webmasters training ;

- the third, from May 16th to 17th, 2013 in Arusha which decided on the assessment of Webmasters training by the sending of a questionnaire to the concerned and a notice of proposed topics for the 7th CACRA by the Executive Secretariat as well as the development by the TCRA, of Terms Of Reference (TOR) on the harmonization of ACRAN Member Authorities' legal and institutional framework ;

- the fourth, from August 27th to 28th, 2013 in Niamey which is devoted to the drawing up of the balance sheet of 2012 - 2013 Action Plan's implementation, to the choice of the theme of the 7th CACRA and recommended the launching of the acquisition procedure of the management and accounting software materials as well as the clarification of the concepts of "webmasters" and "focal points".

- It is necessary to note that the notice of international call for tenders for the acquisition of such software has already been launched as ACRAN and HAAC Benin's websites testify it. Concerning the clarification of concepts of "webmasters" and "focal points ", it will be presented, on recommendation of the Steering Committee's meeting of Dar Es Salaam, in the form of a TOR.

- The fifth, from October 29th and 30th, 2013 in Dar Es Salaam that has devoted the adoption of the 7th CACRA's working documents.

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents,

Among advances, it is appropriate to retain :

- *The organization of the seminar on print media in Cotonou from 24th to 26th April, 2012, by the High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication (HAAC);*

- *The organization of Webmasters training from 1st to 5th April, 2013 by the High Authority of the Audiovisual Communication (HACA) of Morocco in Rabat ;*

- *The revision of ACRAN website which is from now on our exchanges and communication space ;*

- *The training of English-speaking focal points assured by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) ;*

- *The organization in Ouagadougou from 25th to 26th June, 2013 of the Seminar on the audiovisual communication regulation and the digital convergence by the Communication Superior Council (CSC) of Burkina Faso.*

Without getting in the details of Action Plan's balance sheet which will be presented by the Serving President, It would be improper, within the framework of a moral and financial report, to skip over the difficulties that still hinder unfortunately the good functioning of the Network and which require urgent actions.

Apart from the recurring issue of the non-payment of contributions by many member Authorities, other difficulties not least important, already mentioned in the past, continue hampering the good functioning of the Executive Secretariat and by extension of the Network. This is for example the persistent lack of responsiveness of some member Authorities.

To that, it must be added the still low level of the institutional cooperation. Indeed, the fact is that the level of cooperation is raised as the partner speaks the same language like you, and of course very low even non-existent when the languages are different.

The Ideal would be that our Network overcomes linguistic considerations to work in unity. Wishing that the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN) becomes "***our common cultural identity***", I would like to invite all of us, and especially the members of the Steering Committee, to better praise the merits of the Network and to make everywhere its promotion so as to arouse the support of other African countries that are not yet members.

Other inhibitory factors of the Network's dynamic are related to :

- the lack of communication to the Executive Secretariat of activities and other Information relating to the different member Authorities, despite various reminders ;

- the non-appointment by certain Authorities of focal points ;

- the non-sending by certain Authorities of the synoptic sheet which data reliability on the Network's website remains doubtful ;

- the impossibility for the Executive Secretariat to dispose of reliable addresses and phone numbers information of all member Authorities ; we would like, for this purpose, to rely on the support of all participants for having, at the end of this Conference, the reliable contacts information (email, phone, fax) of all the Presidents, their Instances and of their focal points.

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents,

Honourable Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Conference of Presidents, the works of which start this day, Thursday, December 12th, 2013, will be for us the opportunity to lead forward-looking reflections on the life of our Network focused on its future in the era of the digital migration and the technological, social and economic changes it induces, its institutional anchorage, its visibility and influence at the sub-regional, regional and international level having as fields of competence, communication and regulation.

Before concluding, let me thank and with the most beautiful manner, the Presidency of our Network, whose commitment since Marrakech and the different initiatives taken during the biennum have been seamless and beneficial, first of all with President Buxton CHIPETA of regretted memory before which I bow here, then with the Vice-President Dr Vuai Iddi LILA. With the very dynamic Radio Broadcasting Manager at the TCRA, Mr. Habbi GUNZE as kingpin and other members of the TCRA, the Presidency has fulfilled all commitments taken:

- *organization of two English-speaking focal points' trainings in Arusha ;*
- *organization of a workshop on the digital technology in Arusha ;*
- *organization of the 6th CACRA in Arusha ;*
- *organization of two meetings of the Steering Committee in Arusha and in Dar Es Salaam ;*
- *visit of a delegation to ACRAN seat in Cotonou from 6th to 12th May, 2012 ; the said delegation was composed of Mr. Judge Buxton CHIPETA, Chairman of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, Serving President of the African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network and Mr. HABBI GUNZE;*
- *sending in Cotonou of an executive from 6th June to 1st July, 2013 ;*
- *Visit to ACRAN seat in Cotonou from 30th June to 4th July, 2013 of a delegation composed of Dr Vuai Iddi ILAB, Vice-President of the TCRA and Mr. Frederick NTOBI, Deputy Director of the radio Broadcasting.*

Big thanks to all the officials of the TCRA who have spared no effort to hold high the banner of our Network.

This is the place and the moment to express also my endless gratitude and my sincere thanks to the High Authority of the Audiovisual Communication of Morocco through its Chairwoman Madam Amina LEMERINI ELOUAHABI, but also to his entire administration provided with exceptional competences, for their quickness and their constant and multifaceted supports to initiatives and actions undertaken by the Executive Secretariat. Without this reactivity, many actions would have been limited

in their scope. And many of the Network's member Authorities have been able to benefit, in other respects, from the vast expertise of the HACA of Morocco.

My thanks finally go to the Communication Superior Council (CSC) of Niger, Vice-President-in Office of our Network, which will take over just now the reins for 2014-2015 and which I would want to reassure as for the availability and the pro activity of the Executive Secretariat to accompany it in its new responsibilities.

Big thanks to you all for your invaluable cooperation throughout the finishing biennum, for your trip to Niamey and full success in our works.

Thank you.

AFRICAN COMMUNICATION REGULATORY AUTHORITIES NETWORK (ACRAN)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF ACRAN FOR 2012-2013

Niamey, Niger, December 12th, 2013

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2.0 Background

3.0 Presidency of Tanzania

4.0 Action Plan of ACRAN

5.0 Implementation of the Action Plan

6.0 Achievements

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8.0 Conclusion

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) assured the presidency of ACRAN since December 17th, 2011 after the HACA of Morocco. The implementations of these activities have been carried out in conformity with the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the 6th CACRA and the subsequent meetings of ACRAN's Board of Directors.

1.2 Tanzania succeeded in sheltering the Board meetings and the meetings of English-speaking Focal Points of ACRAN member countries.

1.3 Tanzania implemented ACRAN activities in line with objectives which include the establishment of the Technical, professional and institutional Authority of each of the member communities to develop between member Authorities, ideas and experiences sharing, to organize, between member Authorities, a close collaboration in matters of training and technical assistance under its responsibility and in collaboration with other institutions having similar activities.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The African Communication Regulatory Authorities Network (ACRAN) was created in 1998 in Libreville, Republic of Gabon, during the first Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities. ACRAN is an Institution created for the establishment, the development and the strengthening of consultation and sharing relationships between African communication regulatory Authorities. The seat of the Network is established in Cotonou, Benin, and is welcomed by the High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication (HAAC) of Benin. ACRAN Members

are : Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo - Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Chad, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. ACRAN accepts any African regulatory body as long as it adheres to ACRAN's texts which advocate an independent regulation and has, as core media freedom.

2.2 The liberalization of the media industry in the early 1990s led to the necessity to create a harmonized regulatory framework as ACRAN within which different countries shared information and knowledge transfer on how to overcome the various challenges such as the digital migration process, the contents development and the sharing between member States, the liberalization of the audiovisual media landscape, the protection of intellectual property rights, the elections monitoring and other issues.

3.0 TANZANIA PRESIDENCY

3.1 The 6th CACRA which was held in Arusha, Tanzania from 15th to 18th December, 2011, elected Tanzania to the presidency of ACRAN for 2012-2013. The 6th CACRA also adopted ACRAN's 2012 - 2013 Roadmap and the Action Plan of the Network over the period 2012-2013.

3.2 The Action Plan has been prepared under the Moroccan Presidency and was then presented, discussed and adopted by the 6th CACRA, held in Arusha, Tanzania, on December 17th, 2011.

3.3 The 2012-2013 Action Plan concerned all the activities to be undertaken during the period and the methodology of systematic reporting of the structure in load.

4.0 ACRAN Action Plan for the 2012 - 2013 period

4.1 Action Plan 2012 - 2013 has been developed on the following objectives:

4.1.1 to equip African Communication Regulatory Authorities with a formal framework of meetings, dialogue and exchanges in order to share experiences on the implementation of their respective missions;

4.1.2 to develop exchanges of ideas and experiences between member Authorities on issues related to their missions;

4.1.3 to improve the capacity of member Authorities with a know-how, a reliable and efficient structure for the collection, the access and the sharing of information, the data and all other intellectual and material resources necessary for achieving ACRAN's objectives ;

4.1.4 to promote cooperation in the field of training and technical assistance between member Authorities, either under its own supervision, or in collaboration with other organizations having similar activities ;

4.1.5 to strengthen communication within member States and with other regional organizations ;

4.1.6 to contribute to define ACRAN's authority in international and regional forums, whenever a question relating to audiovisual communication or its regulation is lifted, in order to make visible ACRAN to international and regional institutions.

4.2 Means of implementing the Action Plan

4.2.1 To promote the good governance so as to improve the functionality of ACRAN.

4.2.2 To hold meetings, workshops, seminars and trainings related to the missions of the respective regulatory Authorities.

4.2.3 To promote visits of exchanges between member Authorities.

4.2.4 To strengthen the collection and the display of information on ACRAN website.

4.2.5 To strengthen ties of cooperation with regional and international organizations.

4.2.6 To promote the role of ACRAN focal points with the aim of improving communication between member Authorities.

4.2.7 To promote the building of ACRAN's capacities by assigning qualified staff members from member Authorities to the Executive Secretariat.

4.3 Projects Implementation

4.3.1 Project 1 : Promoting good institutional governance

Action 1 : Examination of texts and structures of ACRAN

In order to have an efficient organization, it is necessary to revise deeds of the association, ACRAN's structures and procedural rules in view of the improvement of its functionality, according to the recommendations of the financial and organizational audits.

Action 2 : A functional and efficient Executive Secretariat

(a) ACRAN must be endowed with a functional and efficient Executive Secretariat so as to enable ACRAN to implement the projects.

(b) To set up an efficient incentive system for the Network to achieve all its objectives, in particular the implementation of the Technical, professional and institutional Authority in each of the member authorities in establishing synergies and exchanges between them.

(c) To help member Authorities to set up, at their respective levels, a reliable system of information communication, collection, analysis, broadcasting and of documentation.

(d) In order to reach this goal, the Executive Secretariat will need :
- a modern and efficient equipment,
- appropriate human resources able to use their imagination and creativity to ACRAN's service.

Action 3 : To promote the role of ACRAN focal points in order to improve communication between member Authorities.

Action 4 : To promote capacities building

(a) put of a qualified staff at the disposal of the Executive Secretariat by member Authorities.

(b) the training of operators and the Network's database system management users. This activity will allow an optimal use of the entire computer network of ACRAN and to harmonize the knowledge of different users in this area.

(c) the training of member administrations' employees in the regulation of radio stations and private television channels. The regulation of private radio stations and television channels is a requirement of regulatory Authorities in this sector. It is therefore important that employees are trained for that purpose in the technical, legal and administrative domains. The training will also be an opportunity for the sharing of expertise between ACRAN member Authorities.

Action 5 : Harmonization of regulatory frameworks governing communication Authorities

(a) Studies must be conducted in this domain for an examination of the situation and to make suggestions on necessary modifications so as to harmonize laws.

(b) Recommendations of studies will be validated by ACRAN statutory organs and communicated to members Authorities for monitoring.

Action 6 : Improving the financing of ACRAN's activities

- To review the contributions system, to rely on internal financing and to look for potential donors.

- To set up an efficient system of invoicing, collection and monitoring of contributions.

4.3.2 **Project 2 :** Improving the institutional communication

Action 7 : ACRAN Relationships

(a) The Network concept supposes that there is a good communication between the different members Authorities, between the office of the Serving President and the Executive Secretariat and between this latter and the other Authorities.

(b) Consequently, ACRAN will become a functional Network of African communication regulatory Authorities only if each of its members has a minimum communication system to enable it exchanging information and experiences with the Office of the Serving President and the Executive Secretariat, in particular.

(c) Similarly, it is essential that each Authority sets up a system of information, data collection, analysis, broadcasting and of a reliable

communication. Each national regulatory Authority should be able to provide that information to ACRAN through the Executive Secretariat.

(d) Consequently, ACRAN has to help national Authorities with fewer resources to enable them to acquire a minimum of means of communication, as well as to ensure that each of them sets up a collection system of information, analysis, broadcasting and documentation, and that each of them is a strong chain link of the Network.

Action 8 : The website and the database of ACRAN

(a) To develop an updated database that will allow the centralization and the immediate recovery of information relating to ACRAN by member Authorities and accessible through Internet.

(b) In addition, the rapid flow of information between ACRAN member Authorities can be reached thanks to an Intranet belonging to ACRAN.

(c) As long as this connection is not born, ACRAN will not be able to carry out one of its main objectives, worth knowing to assure information sharing and cooperation between member Authorities.

Action 9 : Comparative analysis and visits of exchanges

This kind of program is favourable to the exchange of ideas and the exchange of useful experiences. The duration and objectives of visits are to be decided in agreement with the practical concerns of interested administrations.

Action 10 : ACRAN Newsletter

(a) The newsletter will not only be a means of enabling member Authorities to learn from one another but also to provide a better understanding of

ACRAN at the international level in particular, to natural partners and to the general public.

(b) The development of ACRAN website does not constitute a reason so that the Network puts aside the other traditional communication tools - the newsletter.

4.3.3 **Project 3**: Improving the institutional cooperation

Action 11 : Cooperation with development partners

(a) The newsletter will not only be a means of enabling member Authorities to learn from one another but also to provide a better understanding of ACRAN at the international level in particular, to natural partners and the general public.

(b) The development of ACRAN website does not constitute a reason so that the Network puts aside the other traditional communication tools - the newsletter.

Action 12 : Promotion of the visibility of ACRAN

(a) ACRAN is an inter African institution in charge of the regulatory issues of communication.

(b) Consequently, it is important for ACRAN to have a high visibility in the implementation of its activities, in the eyes of continental organizations. This will give ACRAN the status it deserves as regards communication regulatory issues.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012-2013 ACTION PLAN

ACRAN Steering Committee which is composed of the President of ACRAN, the Vice President of ACRAN, the Executive Secretary and of Morocco as former president of ACRAN has set up a mechanism to implement the Action Plan for the period 2012-2013 by the following means :

(i) To promote the good governance in order to improve the functionality of ACRAN.

(ii) To hold meetings, workshops, seminars and trainings related to the missions of respective regulatory Authorities. The promotion of exchanges visits between member Authorities.

(iii) To strengthen the collection and the display of information on ACRAN website.

(iv) To strengthen ties of cooperation with regional and international organizations.

(v) To promote the role of ACRAN focal points with the aim of improving communication between member Authorities.

(vi) To promote the building of ACRAN's capacities by assigning qualified staff members from member Authorities to the Executive Secretariat.

The ACRAN's Matrix activities for 2012-2013 is set in **Annex I**

6.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

6.1 Harmonization of legal and statutory frameworks

Within the framework of ACRAN steering Committee's meetings in Arusha, Tanzania, from 16th to 17th May, 2013 and the second, held in Niamey, Niger, from 27th to 28th August, 2013, members recognized that there is no study on the harmonization of the statutory framework on the continent. ACRAN Steering Committee agreed that the TCRA prepares the Terms Of Reference of the study on the harmonization of the legal and institutional framework with ACRAN member Authorities. The terms of reference will be used to realize the study during the period 2014-2015. The draft of terms of reference is articulated as follows:

1. The study should have objectives and expected results in the framework of the Network ;

2. The study must include the legal and statutory framework, the mission, the structure, the mandate, the financing modality, the

functions, and the economic regulation of regulatory organisations within the Network;

The study will have to assess the current state of the audiovisual sector (multimedia) and the legal and institutional framework of ACRAN members on the following key questions:

(a) The role of media freedom;
(b) The state broadcaster;
(c) The cultural identity;
(d) The liberalization of the audiovisual media's landscape;
(e) The ownership of media, the competition, diversity and media pluralism;
(f) The protection of Intellectual Property Rights;
(g) The promotion of Local Contents;
(h) The protection of Minors;
(i) The Monitoring of elections;
(j) The guidelines on the Advertising;
(k) The monitoring of contents;
(l) The community radio broadcasting;
(m) The principles of subscription.

3. The study will have to analyze ACRAN member States' relevant political option on technologies convergence questions;

4. The study should determine the statutory gap in the legal and institutional framework of the audiovisual of ACRAN members on the relative issues of technological convergence;

5. The study should consider sharing strategies of local contents between member States;

6. To recommend the way to follow.

The above terms of reference of the study on the harmonization of the legal and institutional framework with ACRAN member States will be adopted during the 7th CACRA and thus pave the way for the realization of this important study.

6.2 Training and Experience Sharing

6.2.1 Within the framework of the implementation of the Network's 2011-2012 Action Plan, workshops and seminars on various topics were proposed during this period as follows:

(I) HAAC of Benin volunteered to welcome the workshop on the press regulation;

(II) HACA of Morocco volunteered to host webmasters training ;

(III) NMC of Ghana volunteered to host ACRAN Focal Point's meeting ;

(IV) CSC of Burkina Faso volunteered to host the seminar on audiovisual communication regulation and digital convergence ;

(V) CNC of Guinea volunteered to host the workshop on media regulation during the electoral campaign.

6.2.2. The following elements are the ones which were executed.

(a) Workshop on the press regulation, held in Cotonou, Benin from 24th to 26th April, 2012 ;

The workshop provided participants with a conceptual framework that allowed them to understand the regulation issue of the print media in all its aspects (legislative and statutory, technical, technological, etc.). The workshop had two themes namely "Stakes and Challenges in the press regulation" and "The problem of electronic journals regulation." The workshop provided participants with the know-how in terms of legal, technical and technological means for a better management of the Press and the identification of external factors which influence regulations and the proposed alternative measures.

(b) ACRAN webmaster's training in Rabat, Morocco, from 1st to 5th April, 2013

The training was organized by the High Authority of the Audiovisual Communication (HACA) of Morocco. The training gathered participants from thirteen (13) ACRAN member countries, representing a third party of the continent. It was an opportunity to participate in the discussion and the sharing of experiences on issues of productivity, the optimization skills and the building of mutual capacities on web mastering. In addition, the training provided to ACRAN website's webmaster with skills to download the contents of real-time events.

(c) ACRAN Focal Points Meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania, from June 29th, 2013 to July 2nd, 2013.

The meeting was scheduled to be hosted by Ghana, but it was finally transferred to Arusha, in Tanzania. Besides the discussion on the role of ACRAN focal points, the meeting held a workshop on the theme "**Challenges of the digital transition implementation in Africa : The way to follow''**. The meeting gathered together participants from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Ghana and Mozambique. It allowed members sharing experiences and knowledge on the status of the radio broadcasting migration from the analogue and the digital migration challenges. Each country presented the progress report on the migration. The meeting also examined matters related to the development of local contents. The meeting recommended what follows :

(a) The Digital Migration Implementation in Africa

(i) ACRAN members are encouraged to have a roadmap of a clear digital migration that is understood by all stakeholders ;

(ii) ACRAN members are encouraged to involve all stakeholders in each of the analogue switching preparation stage ;

(iii) ACRAN members are encouraged to have an analogue and as far as possible to include it in the relevant regulations ;

(iv) ACRAN members must ensure that free frequencies for channels are available and freely accessible on the digital platform so as to assure a place to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) ;

(v) ACRAN members should adopt and develop a model that will serve as a guide in the determination of the interconnection tax / transmission between MUX and CSP ;

(vi) ACRAN members must assure the availability of decoders in non-broadcasting periods to avoid any inconvenience to customers ;

(vii) ACRAN member States are encouraged to conduct a feasibility study to determine the number of television sets in order to obtain a good estimation of required decoders ;

(viii) ACRAN member states are encouraged to consider a tax exemption on STB and equipments related to DTT in order to make decoders affordable to all citizens.

(b) Local Contents Development Strategies

(i) Member States are encouraged to conceive a legislation on the content development and production as soon as possible to avoid the importation of any unguided content;

(ii) There should be a national policy on the development of local contents and the sharing out between member States;

(iii) Member States should be encouraged to develop incentive programs to encourage and support the development of local contents;

(iv) Member States should consider the withdrawal of equipments taxes for the development of contents to assure accessibility ;

(v) Member States should make local contents producers aware of copyright laws and radio broadcasters' obligation to use local contents in their programs ;

(vi) Member States are encouraged to adhere to the African Broadcasters Union (AB / RAU), Multimedia Exchange by Satellite Network (MENOS) to generate and share local contents throughout the continent and even beyond ;

(vii) Member States are encouraged to have local contents regulations, monitoring and enforcement mechanism of local production quotas ;

(viii) Member States are encouraged to set up institutes for the development of local contents such as: African Digital Media Academy (ADMA) in Rwanda and the National Institute of Film and Television (NAIFT) in Ghana ;

(ix) Member States are invited to require MUX that they set up a mechanism for the insertion of local contents (on DTT Networks) in regions / provinces ;

(x) Regulatory organizations have to make sure that Multiplexes and transport service providers are optimally involved in the deployment of effective energy networks (particularly in the effectiveness of digital transmitters) to reduce costs for broadcasters / contents producers who are their main customers.

(c) Communication Strategies for Migration to Digital

(ii) Member States are encouraged to develop communication strategies to make the public conscious with a clear message;

(iii) Member States are encouraged to involve all stakeholders, such as consumers, consumers' associations, heads of governments, journalists and media owners, while conducting public awareness campaigns ;

(iii) Member States are encouraged to use all types of media, in this particular case, television sets, radios, newspapers, social media, street entertainments, seminars, lotteries, etc. to broadcast information concerning the digital migration.

(d) Seminar on the audiovisual communication regulation and the Digital convergence, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 25th to 26th June, 2013

This seminar was organized by the Communication Superior Council of Burkina Faso (CSC) within the framework of sharing ACRAN experiences and knowledge transfer. The seminar registered the participation of African Communication Regulatory Organisations and fifteen national and international media.

The workshop deliberated on the current developments in the sector of communication and economic integration policies in Africa. In addition, it were noted during debates the necessity of the integration of the African audiovisual industry to support the economic integration process.

With the advent of the DTT and challenges that are associated to it in terms of proposed programs and new tasks and the challenges in contents regulation, it has been agreed that this approach on statutory challenges in the era of the convergence cannot be achieved in a context of national ill-assorted regulatory frameworks and legislation, but rather in the cooperation within the continent.

To achieve these objectives, States which regulatory organizations are members of ACRAN recommend what follows :

(a) The harmonization of legislation in the communication regulation sector by States which regulatory organizations are members of the Network ;

(b) A coordinated approach for the DVBT process with sub-regional organizations ;

(c) The setting up of communication regulatory organs is essential for the establishment of democracy and the strengthening of functional autonomy tools ;

(d) The development of legal and / or institutional mechanisms to strengthen collaboration between regulatory organizations of the audiovisual communication and those in charge of telecommunications ;

(e) To intensify cooperation in the harmonization of legislation governing the communication sector and to implement the digital migration as stipulated by ITU in June 2015 ;

(f) To set up a team of experts in synergy with sub-regional organizations, to undertake an inventory and a comparative analysis of States' laws

whose regulatory organizations are members of the Network with the aim of a harmonization at the sub-regional level.

PHOTO : ACRAN Seminar in Ouagadougou, June 2013

The workshop on media regulation during the electoral campaign which should be organized by the National Communications Council of Guinea (CNC) was not performed and is deferred for the period 2014-2015.

6.3 The institutional life of the Network "(exchanges and meetings of ACRAN Steering Committee)

6.3.1 Within the framework of ACRAN's 2012-2013 Action Plan, five meetings of ACRAN Steering Committee have been conducted since the 6th CACRA of Arusha held in December 2011. The meetings of ACRAN Steering Committee and the exchange of correspondences between members are essential to the existence of a Network. In

addition, the Steering Committee's meetings are essential to strengthen empowerment to all ACRAN organs. The led meetings are the following ones:

6.3.1.1 The first meeting in April 2012 in Cotonou and the second in November 2012 in Dakar on the margin of the workshop on the digital transition organized by the Media Regulatory French Network ;

6.3.1.2 The third meeting was held in Arusha, from 16th to 17th May, 2013 : This meeting was held to provide progress reports of activities planned for 2012-2013;

6.3.1.3 The fourth meeting was held in Niamey, Niger, on 27th and 28th August, 2013. This meeting was mainly devoted to the assessment activities performed by the Network and the preparation of the 7th CACRA;

6.3.1.4 The fiftieth meeting of the year 2013 to finalize the preparation of the 7th CACRA took place in Dar es Salaam, from 29th to 30th October. The meeting approved the agenda, the program of the workshop and that of ACRAN's 2013 Summit.

6.4 Institutional Communications

During the 2012-2013 periods, the realization of the institutional communication resulted as follows:

6.4.1. Downloading ACRAN's Activities on the website

Since the decision taken in Morocco to set up a webmaster, the downloading of activities undertaken in the Network has been regularly updated on the ACRAN site: HAAC as French language webmaster; TCRA as English language webmaster and HACA as Arabic language webmaster. However, to improve the coordination of downloaded contents, the webmaster makes sure of the consistency of information's contents independently of the downloading language.

6.4.2. Communication on ACRAN's activities

During the 2012-2013 period, the Executive Secretariat progressed a lot on the use of the network's electronic mail and website to facilitate communication within and between member States.

6.4.3 ACRAN Newsletter

In line with the promotion of the institutional communication within ACRAN member States, the Presidency has taken the initiative to prepare an online newsletter. This is very important in the exchange of information and experiences on various issues and activities which are going on and share the same vision for ACRAN members. The newsletter will be revealed on the 7th ACRAN Summit.

6.4.4 Promotion of ACRAN's Visibility

Within the framework of the promotion of ACRAN's visibility, the Presidency made a statement describing the activities of ACRAN at the Digital Migration Forum of the Central African Development Community (SADC) in Namibia from 15th to 17th April, 2013. This is part of the improvement of ACRAN's visibility at the regional level. In addition, the Presidency is committed in activities carried out by the Eastern African Communications Meetings Organisation (EACO) within the framework of ACRAN English-speaking committees. The meeting took place in Kigali, Rwanda from 5th to 7th November, 2012 and in Bujumbura, Burundi from 6th to 10th May, 2013. The Presidency stressed on the importance of EACO member States' decision to maintain their membership to ACRAN

Besides, the Presidency communicated with the Chairman of the African Union Commission for the formalization of ACRAN's accreditation to the African Union.

6.5 International Cooperation

6.5.1 Participation of the Network to international events

During the 2012-2013 period, ACRAN President participated to several international events related to media regulation as follows :

(a) 4th Forum of the digital migration of SADC

(b) (Maputo, Mozambique, from 26th to 30th August, 2012)

ACRAN was represented by the TCRA Director in charge of the broadcasting, Mr. Habbi Gunze. The Forum aims at strengthening collaboration between SADC member States on the implementation of the Roadmap for the digital broadcasting and evaluated the institutional structure for the implementation of the digital broadcasting migration in SADC member States that are also ACRAN members.

(c) **ATU Migration to Digital and the Spectrum Policy Forum (Accra, Ghana, from 26th to 28th September, 2012) Frequency.**

ACRAN was represented by the TCRA Director in charge of the broadcasting, Mr. Habbi Gunze. The Forum aims at strengthening the collaboration between SADC member States on the implementation of the Roadmap for the digital broadcasting and evaluated the institutional structure for the implementation of the digital broadcasting migration in SADC member States that are also ACRAN members.

(d) **CNN price of Journalist of the Year (Multi Choice) of CNN (Lusaka, Zambia from 18th to 22nd July, 2012) Frequency.**

ACRAN was represented by the TCRA Director Mr. Habbi Gunze. The purpose of the event was to celebrate and to reward the continent Journalist of the Year.

(e) Meeting of SADC Ministers of Communications (Maseru, Lesotho, from 19th to 24th April, 2013)

ACRAN was represented by the TCRA Director Mr. Habbi Gunze. It was about a meeting of Ministers in charge of Communications. Tanzania introduced the report of countries' progress on the implementation of SADC's Roadmap on the Digital Broadcasting in 2013. In addition, Tanzania has made a statement on behalf of ACRAN for SADC member States.

6.5.2 Bilateral exchanges meetings between members

For strengthening cooperation between ACRAN member States, ACRAN President, the (retired) judge BUXTON CHIPETA visited Benin HAAC from 7th to 12th May, 2012. The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the way the Executive Secretariat carries out its activities.

PHOTO : Mr. Théophile Nata (Right) and Judge Buxton Chipeta (left) at the Seat of ACRAN in Cotonou, Benin

The Presidency also received delegations of ACRAN member States among which Uganda, Burundi, Zambia and Senegal. Those visits have enhanced cooperation between member States. In addition, the Vice-president Dr. Vuai Idd Lila and the Deputy Director of TCRA Affairs, Mr. Frederick Ntobi had visited HAAC of Benin from 29th June, 2013 to 4th July, 2013.

In addition, the Presidency has put Mr. Adam Fouad at the disposal of the Executive Secretariat in Benin from 05th June, 2013 to 2nd July, 2013 in order to promote the capacities building and the understanding of the Network's functioning, according to the 2012 -2013 Action Plan.

7.0 CHALLENGES

The evaluation of the 2012-2013 period concerning the Network's performances was in general good. Especially in terms of bilateral relationships between member States, competences sharing out and communication flows within members.

However, the convergence of radio broadcasting and telecommunications, the emergency situation of multimedia services as well as the digital migration still raise challenges to regulatory organizations in Africa. The regulation of more contents from multiple sources, the citizen journalism and Internet contents clearly require more communications from regulatory Authorities to come together and to see how these challenges can better be taken up.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The implementation of ACRAN 2012-2013 Action Plan showed great achievements on the harmonization of regulatory frameworks, achievements in matters of training and sharing out of experiences between member States, the achievements in matters of institutional communications and of international cooperation between member States.

ACRAN Action Plan

2014 – 2015

Adopted by the 7th CACRA

December 2013

I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Created in June 1998 in Libreville, Gabon, on the initiative of the Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA), the African Communication Regulation Authorities Network (ACRAN) is a formal framework of establishment, development and deepening of cooperation relationships and exchanges between African Communication Regulatory Authorities. ACRAN, which seat is based in Cotonou, Benin, currently gathers together thirty three (33) members[1]. Since its inception, it pursues the following objectives :

- To contribute, through the synergy of exchanges, to establish the technical, professional and institutional authority of each member Authorities ;

- To develop between member Authorities, exchanges of ideas and experiences on issues related to their missions ;

- To organize, between member Authorities, a close cooperation in matters of training and technical assistance, either under its responsibility, or in collaboration with other organizations having similar activities ;

- To help to set up, in every regulatory Authority, a reliable system of collection, treatment and broadcasting of information and the documentation in favour of Authorities colleagues ;

- To contribute to establish ACRAN's authority in international and regional forums whenever are treated issues of communication and communication regulation so as to make ACRAN the privileged interlocutor of deliberative organs of international and regional development institutions.

[1] South Africa, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo - Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique , Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome E principles, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo and Zimbabwe.

The Conference of Presidents is the supreme organ of ACRAN. It meets every two years in ordinary session in a member country. Since the creation of ACRAN, the Conference of Presidents met six times in :

- ✓ Libreville in Gabon, from 2nd to 5th June, 1998;
- ✓ Johannesburg in South Africa, from 25th to 27th September, 2002;
- ✓ Maputo in Mozambique from 3rd to 5th May, 2005;
- ✓ Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, from 2nd to 4th July, 2007;
- ✓ Marrakech in Morocco from 19th to 20th November, 2009;
- ✓ Arusha in Tanzania from 15th to 18th December, 2011.

According to ACRAN's founding Convention, the Conference of Presidents has for attributions to:

- ✓ discuss all questions relating to the Network's life;
- ✓ decide on ACRAN's biennial activities program;
- ✓ examine the President and the Executive Secretary's reports;
- ✓ fix the amount of subscriptions and other contributions of member Authorities to the functioning of statutory organs;
- ✓ decide on the membership of new members and to acknowledge ACRAN withdrawal's decisions;
- ✓ appoint the Network's vice-presidency.

The 7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA), scheduled for December 10th to 12th, 2013 in Niamey, Niger, will examine and adopt ACRAN Nigerien Presidency's biennial (2014-2015) Action Plan's draft. Declined in five (5) thematic axes, this Action Plan's draft aims on one hand at consolidating the achievements of previous Presidencies through the capitalization of good practices; on the other hand to reveal challenges which arise to ACRAN notably the remobilization of member Authorities, the search for technical and financial partners, the enlargement of the Network to countries that are not yet members and the increase of ACRAN's visibility in under regional, regional and international areas dealing with communication and regulation issues.

II. THEMATIC AXES

The Action Plan 2014 - 2015 is built around five (5) thematic axes, which reflect the main concerns of ACRAN member Authorities.

Axis 1 : Transition to Digital

The Geneva Agreement adopted in 16th June, 2006 under the aegis of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) fixed to June 17th, 2015 the end of the analogue broadcasting in television sector. The advent of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) will lead to the appearance of new actors in the audiovisual landscape, particularly operators of multiplex, transport, broadcasting and distribution. The consideration of these actors will require a revision of the legal and institutional framework of the regulation and audiovisual communication. It will also induce new regulatory practices. At nineteen (19) months from the deadline, it is imperative for ACRAN to assess and to strengthen member Authorities' capacities, so that they can face the DTT challenges.

Area 2 : Legal and institutional framework of regulation

The democratic wave that swept over almost all African countries in the early 1990s has led to the liberalization of the media landscape. Several newspapers, radio and private television channels have emerged, thus ending States' monopoly in the fields of press and communication. To manage these information flows and to create conditions for a healthy competition between different media actors, African States have found it necessary to set up new institutions, in charge of media and communication regulation. The denomination, mission, composition, independence, legal anchorage, operation, competences and attributions of regulatory Authorities vary from one country to another. More than twenty years after the establishment of the first Authorities, it is time to have a retrospective look on the legal and institutional framework of the regulation in ACRAN member countries in order to identify the main lines which can lead, in the short or medium term, to a harmonization of texts.

Axis 3 : Media Regulation in electoral periods

In electoral period, media are frequently requested. At first, by the electoral management organ, within the framework of the information and of voters' awareness ; then, by political parties and candidates, in the context of the electoral campaign. During the same period, the media regulatory Authorities have to guarantee a fair access to public media and to watch over the respect of pluralism in private media. Indeed, the equal or equitable access of political parties and candidates to media and the respect of pluralism are parts of the fundamental principles of a democratic election.

During the 2014-2015 period, several African countries will hold presidential, parliamentary or municipal elections. Hence the necessity to build the capacities of ACRAN member Authorities in matters of media regulation in electoral period.

Axis 4 : Gender Equality in media

The first article of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood". More than sixty (60) years after the adoption of the UDHR, the fight against discrimination, and particularly those based on sex, constitutes one of the challenges for democratic processes and movements for the defence of human rights. The media, thanks to their functions and their influence, must in principle be actors contributing to the enjoyment by all citizens, without discrimination, of their rights as recognized by national laws, regional and international instruments. However, we have to admit that media do not always play their role of vectors of the equality of rights between citizens. Worse, they are, in some cases, reproductive instruments of inequalities, discriminations, prejudices and stereotypes of which women are victims.

To reverse this trend, it is urgent to instil and entrench a new media culture, which guarantees equal rights between sexes in media, including civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights. For that purpose, media regulatory Authorities members of ACRAN must ensure that the specifications of audiovisual media take into account the issue of equal rights for citizens without any discrimination.

Axis 5 : Partnership and Networking

The founding Convention of ACRAN specifies that the Network's means of action are: the staff training, the supply of equipments, the organization of thematic seminars and the publication of newsletters or magazines. To acquire such means, ACRAN must mobilize internal and external financial resources. The low level of contributions' payment by member Authorities must push ACRAN to look for new technical and financial partners. In addition, ACRAN has set, among others objectives, to develop exchanges of ideas and experiences and to organize forums between members Authorities, a close cooperation in matters of training and technical assistance. During the biennum 2014-2015, ACRAN must strengthen the bilateral cooperation between its members and establish partnerships with all other Networks of media and communications regulatory Authorities existing throughout the world.

III. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Through the above thematic axes, ACRAN pursues the following strategic objectives:

1. to strengthen the authority and the visibility of ACRAN and that of its member Authorities in the transition processes to digital in Africa ;
2. to promote a legal and institutional framework convenient to the regulation of communication in Africa ;
3. to contribute to the organization of free and transparent elections through an independent and fair media regulation in electoral period ;

4. to contribute to guarantee gender equality and eliminate discriminations based on sex in media contents and programs ;

5. to strengthen cooperation between ACRAN member Authorities and develop new partnerships.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Axis 1 : Transition to Digital

Activity 1 : Assessment of ACRAN member Authorities' role in the transition processes to digital.

Activity 2 : Conference on the regulation of audiovisual communication by satellite and the new means of broadcasting.

Activity 3 : Participation of ACRAN to forums dealing with issues on the transition to digital.

Axis 2 : Legal and institutional framework of the regulation

Activity 1 : Study on the legal and institutional framework governing communication regulatory Authorities members of ACRAN.

Activity 2 : Restitution and validation seminar of the study on the legal and institutional framework of communication regulation in Africa.

Activity 3 : Advocacy close to sub-regional and regional organizations with the aim of the harmonization of the legal and institutional framework of communication regulation in Africa.

Axis 3 : Media Regulation in electoral period

Activity 1 : Seminar on " media access to in electoral period"

Activity 2 : Experiences exchanges missions on media regulation in electoral period.

Activity 3 : Information and contact missions close to ACRAN member Authorities which countries hold elections.

Axis 4 : Gender Equality in media

Activity 1 : Elaboration of an analysis guide of audiovisual media programs schedules in the matter of sex equality.

Activity 2 : Workshop on the monitoring of audiovisual media's contents in terms of gender equality.

Activity 3 : Experiences exchanges in the field of media monitoring on gender equality.

Axis 5 : Partnership and Networking

Activity 1 : Search of technical and financial partners for ACRAN and development of the partnership with other Networks (FMRN, RIRM, EPRA, Ibero-American Network etc.).

Activity 2 : Exchanges meeting between ACRAN and the Ibero-American communication regulators Network.

Activity 3 : ACRAN missions in member and non-members countries.

V. EXPECTED RESULTS

1. ACRAN and the member Authorities participate actively and visibly, to the transition process to digital in Africa ;
2. ACRAN and the member Authorities contribute to the organization of free, transparent and honest elections in Africa ;
3. ACRAN launches advocacy on the harmonization of the legal and institutional framework of communication regulation in Africa ;
4. ACRAN builds the capacities of member Authorities in the matter of sex equality in media ;

5. ACRAN develops partnerships with other Networks and strengthens cooperation between member Authorities.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION, FOLLOW-UP – EVALUATION

The implementation of the Action Plan falls statutorily to ACRAN Presidency-in-Office, namely the CSC of Niger. In this context, it will be appointed within the CSC Chairman's Office, a person specifically in charge of the implementation of ACRAN 2014 - 2015 Action Plan and reporting activities performed by the Presidency-in-Office. In addition, ACRAN member Authorities will be given responsibilities for the implementation of some activities, further to commitments they will have taken at the 7th CACRA.

As for the follow-up - evaluation, it will be assured by the Presidency-in-Office, together with the Vice-presidency and the Executive Secretariat, through regular meetings of the Steering Committee. For that purpose, it is planned to hold every year a meeting of the Steering Committee to review the implementation of the Action Plan. Further meetings of the Steering Committee will be held on the margin of seminars and meetings organized by ACRAN.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants to the 7th CACRA recommend with regard to the transition process to digital :

- The encouragement of least developed countries in the process of implementing everything so as to be at the appointment of 17th June, 2015 ;
- The financing of the passage to the all-digital, the regulation and the technical choice to be operate ;
- The updating of regulatory Authorities facilitators' knowledge ;
- The establishment of co-regulatory framework between media regulators and telecommunication regulators ;
- A closer cooperation between media and communication regulatory Authorities;
- A participatory approach in the implementation process of policies and the migration strategy to digital ;
- The preservation of national and African operators' interests as well as their involvement in the process ;
- The granting of substantial resources to regulators in order to ensure respect of ethics and deontology.

However, all the participants to the 7th CACRA believe that the debates are far from being exhausted and suggest that the reflections continue on the broadcasting by INTERNET, the unfair competition between bouquets distributors and optical fibre broadcasters.

MOTION OF THANKS

Participants to the 7th CACRA address their thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Head of State, the Government and to all the people of Niger for their commitment and support for the good holding of the 7th CACRA in Niamey.

They also address their sincere thanks to President Abdourahamane OUSMANE and to the CSC of Niger for the quality of the welcome and the organization of this Conference.

Done in Niamey, 12 December, 2013
Participants

Synoptic picture of ACRAN's Action Plan 2014 – 2015

Strategic axes	Objectives	Activities	Period	Actor	Observations
Axis 1 : Transition to digital	To strengthen ACRAN's authority and visibility as well as member Authorities in the transition processes to digital in Africa	**Activity 1** : Evaluation of the involvement of Authorities in the transition processes to digital	1st semester 2015	**CNC Guinea - Conakry**	**confirmed**
		Activity 2 : Conference on the regulation of audiovisual communication by satellite and the new means of broadcasting.	1st semester 2014	**HACA Ivory Coast**	**confirmed**
		Activity 3 : Participation of ACRAN in forums on the transition to digital	2014 - 2015	**CSC Niger, NMC Ghana, HAAC Benin**	**Confirmed**
Axis 2 : Legal and institutional framework	To promote a legal and institutional framework suitable for communication regulation in Africa	**Activity 1** : Elaboration of terms of reference related for the study on the legal and institutional framework	2nd semester 2014	**TCRA Tanzania**	**confirmed**
		Activity 2 : Choice of the expert in charge of realising the study	2nd semester 2014	**HAAC Benin**	**After the elaboration of TOR**
		Activity 3 : validation seminar on the study	2014- 2015	**HCC Chad**	**Unconfirmed**
Axis 3 : Media Regulation in	To contribute to the organisation of free and	**Activity 1**: Seminar on media access in electoral period	1st semester 2015	**NMC Ghana**	**Unconfirmed**

electoral period	transparent elections through an independent and fair media regulation in electoral period	**Activity 2 :** Exchanges of experiences on media regulation in electoral period	2014 - 2015	**ACRAN Member Authorities**	**Confirmed**
		Activity 3 : Information and contact missions	2014 - 2015	**CSC Niger, NMC Ghana, HAAC Benin**	**Confirmed**
Axis 4 : Equality Men / Women in media		**Activity 1 :** Elaboration of an analysis guide for audiovisual media program schedules in matters of gender equality	1st semester 2015	**CSC of Niger**	**Confirmed**
		Activity 2 : Workshop on the monitoring of audiovisual media's contents in terms of gender equality.	2nd semester 2014	**HACA of Morocco**	**Confirmed**
		Activity 3 : experiences Exchanges in matters of media monitoring on gender equality	2014 - 2015	**Authorities members of the ACRAN**	
Axis 5 : Partnership and Networking	To develop partnership with other networks of regulators and to strengthen cooperation between ACRAN member Authorities	**Activity 1:** Search of technical and financial partners for ACRAN and development of the partnership with other Networks	2014 - 2015	**CSC Niger, NMC Ghana, HAAC Benin**	**Confirmed**
		Activity 2 : Exchanges meeting between ACRAN and the Ibero-American communication regulators Network.	2nd semester 2014	**HACA of Morocco**	**Confirmed**

		Activity 3 : ACRAN Missions in member and non-member African countries to re-mobilise them or to provoke their membership	2014 - 2015	**CSC Niger, NMC Ghana, HAAC Benin**	**Confirmed subject to the identification of the county**

7th Conference of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (CACRA)

(Niamey, 10th December, 2013 Hotel GAWEYE)

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