



# **CRAN**

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY**

**MR ELVIS NASHILONGO,  
VICE CHAIRPERSON: CRAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**AT THE AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ATU)  
MEETINGS: 1<sup>ST</sup> AFRICAN PREPARATORY MEETING (APM26-1)  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  
(ITU) PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2026 (PP-26); AND 2<sup>ND</sup>  
AFRICAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE WORLD  
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2025  
(WTDC-25)**

**DATE:** Monday, 15 July 2024

**VENUE:** Droombos Estate, Windhoek

**TIME:** 10h00

- Hon. Emma Theofelus, Minister of Information & Communication Technology (MICT),
- Dr Audrin Mathe, Executive Director in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT),
- MICT Executive Management and team,
- CRAN Board of Directors and Executive Management and team,
- Mr. John OMO, ATU Secretary General,
- ATU Secretariat,
- Mr. Emmanuel Manasseh, Acting Regional Office Director: ITU Regional Office for Africa (online),
- Distinguished Delegates from various African countries, participating physically and online,
- Regional Telecommunications Organizations (RTOs) present (physically & online),
- We also wish to recognize in absentia (Pre-recorded speeches)
  - Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, ITU Secretary General
  - Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, BDT Director
- Esteemed stakeholders,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Director of Ceremonies,

Good morning!

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to Windhoek, the capital city of our beautiful country Namibia. Windhoek is located in the central part of the country, surrounded by the Khomas Highland Plateau. It is the largest city in Namibia and serves as the political, economic, and cultural center of the country.

Windhoek is a hub for business and commerce in Namibia, with many international companies having offices in the city. It is also a popular tourist destination, serving as a gateway to Namibia's stunning natural landscapes, such as the Namib Desert and Etosha National Park. Overall, Windhoek is a bustling and dynamic city that offers a unique blend of history, culture, and modern amenities.

It is also a great privilege for me to welcome you to the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> African Preparatory Meeting (APM26-1) for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26); and 2<sup>nd</sup> African Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25). These meetings will be taking place from 15 to 19 July 2024. These meetings are crucial in shaping the future of telecommunications in Africa and beyond.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we come together as representatives of African nations, we are united by a shared vision and commitment to harnessing the power of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to drive

socio-economic development, bridge the digital divide, and empower our citizens. The opportunities that lie ahead for Africa in the realm of telecommunications are vast, and it is imperative that we work together to seize these opportunities and leverage them for the benefit of our people.

Over the course of the next few days, we will engage in discussions on a wide range of issues related to telecommunications and ICTs, including the expansion of broadband access, the development of digital infrastructure, the promotion of internet connectivity, and the fostering of digital literacy and skills development. These discussions will be guided by our shared goal of creating a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable digital future for Africa.

I am confident that the insights, perspectives, and expertise that each of you brings to the table will enrich our discussions and help us to identify innovative solutions to the complex challenges that lie ahead. By working together in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation, we can make meaningful progress towards achieving our common goals and aspirations.

I encourage each of you to embrace this opportunity to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another. Take the time to engage with your fellow delegates, share your experiences and insights, and explore potential avenues for cooperation and partnership. By fostering a spirit of openness, inclusivity, and mutual respect, we can build bridges and forge relationships that will endure long after this meeting has concluded.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, I am confident that these meetings will be a valuable platform for all of us to exchange knowledge, insights, and best practices to prepare for WTDC-25 and ITU PP-26. By collaborating and learning from each other, we can strengthen our regulatory frameworks and contribute to the growth and development of the ICT sector in Africa. I encourage all of you to actively participate in the discussions and engage with your fellow delegates to make the most of these meetings.

Thank you and welcome to Windhoek, Namibia.