



# CRAN

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

**WELCOMING & OPENING REMARKS BY**

**MS. RONEL LE GRANGE,**

**EXECUTIVE: ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL SERVICES**

**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:** 08:00

- 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 with great pleasure and honour that I stand before you today as the Executive: Engineering & Technical Services at the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN). As we gather here at the Droombos Estate in Windhoek, Namibia for the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) meetings: 1st African Preparatory Meeting (APM26-1) for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26), and the 2nd African Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25), I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you.

The importance of these meetings cannot be overstated, as they provide a crucial platform for us to come together, exchange ideas, and collaborate on shaping the future of telecommunications in Africa and beyond. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to delve into the technical aspects of telecommunication networks and services, and to work towards innovative solutions that will drive the development and expansion of telecommunications infrastructure across the continent.

The role of ATU is pivotal in ensuring that African countries are able to harness the full potential of telecommunications to drive economic growth, improve connectivity, and enhance the overall wellbeing of our citizens. Through our collective expertise, experience, and dedication, we have the power to shape the

future of telecommunications in Africa and make a real difference in the lives of millions of people.

I am confident that the discussions, presentations, and collaborations that will take place during these meetings will be instrumental in advancing our shared goals and objectives. It is my hope that we will use this time wisely to exchange best practices, learn from each other's experiences, and identify new opportunities for cooperation and partnership.

Let us approach these meetings with a spirit of camaraderie, and a determination to work together towards a common vision of a more connected, prosperous, and inclusive Africa.

Once again, I extend a warm welcome to all of you and wish you a productive and successful series of meetings. Together, let us seize this opportunity to shape the future of telecommunications in Africa and make a positive impact that will be felt for generations to come.

I Thank You!