

**ITU GLOBAL STANDARDS
SYMPOSIUM: JOHANNESBURG
20th OCTOBER 2008**

**A FEW REFLECTIONS ON BRIDGING THE
STANDARDISATION GAP**

BY

**PATRICK MASAMBU: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, UGANDA
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

1.Introduction

- First things first : Understanding the role and value of ICT's in social and economic development agendas
- Recognition of linkage and similarities between the digital divide and the standardisation gap
- Linkages at macro level in individual countries:holistic solutions
- Strategic decisions at policy,regulatory and operational levels

2. Policy and Regulatory Concerns

- National ICT & Telecom Policies: is there adequate and appropriate focus on issues of standardisation?
- The roles and interventions of specific agencies and departments
- Defining and measuring the standardisation gap-varying degree of responsiveness at national levels
- The need for a paradigm shift: at operator level, opportunity for capacity development and at regulatory level, the need for higher levels of proactive responsibility.

3. Efforts to date

- Commendable foresight, efforts, actions by ITU as exemplified thru : free downloads, regional fora etc. More still needs to be done
- Regional fora created excellent opportunity for concerted & joint efforts. Some excellent proposals made for bridging the divide
- Institutional strengthening at continental and national levels still an issue
- Broadening stakeholder involvement is key

4. Concluding Thoughts.....

- Strategic path and direction by ITU is good but more effort is still desirable
- At national and regional levels, institutional strengthening and focus will be key to bridging the standardisation gap
- A possible strategic solution for bridging the gap may well lie in adopting some of the principles in the approach currently used for Universal Access

THANK YOU

patmas@ucc.co.ug