

ICT FOR A GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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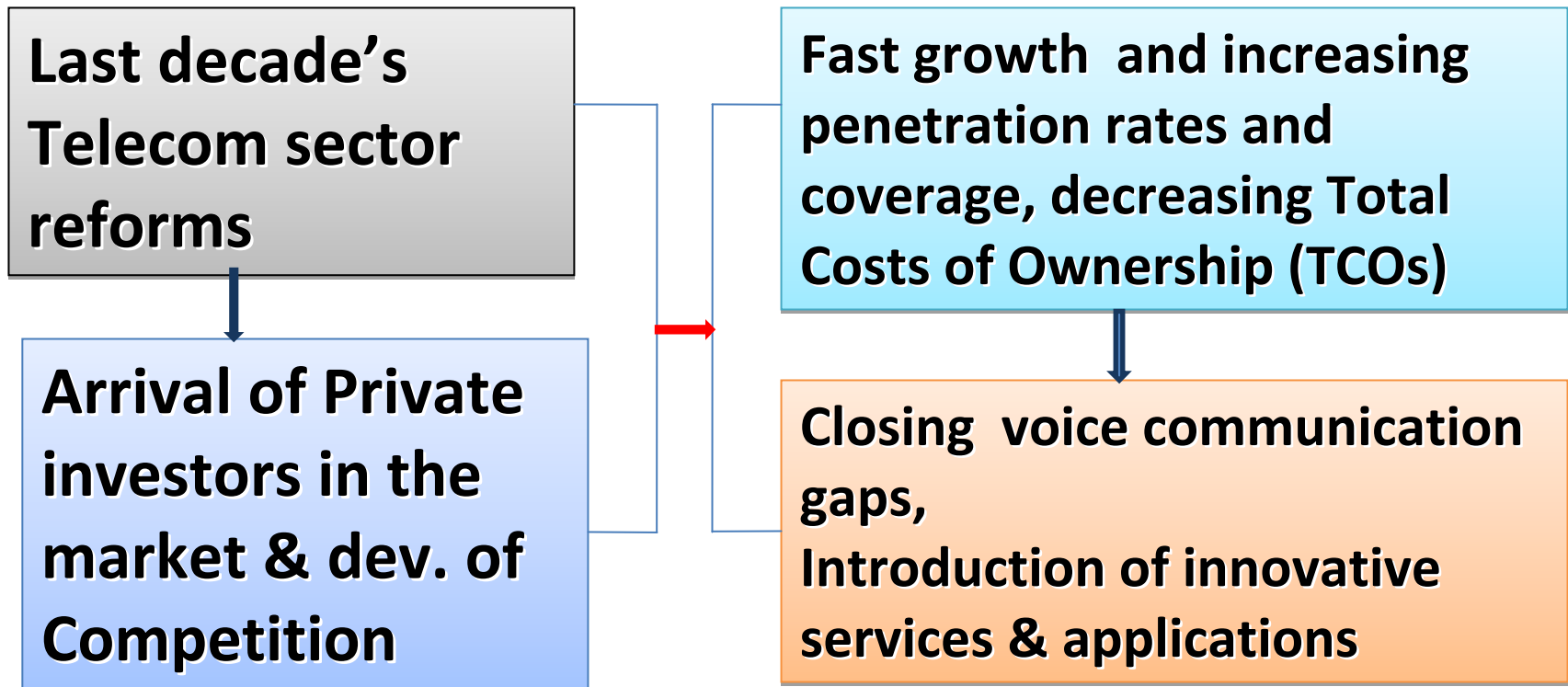
Broadband and ICT-driven Sustainable development in Africa

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Outline

- 1. Significance and limits of mobile communications in socioeconomic development.**
- 2. Broadband digital divide: new challenges and opportunities for Africa**
- 3. Suggestions: Fostering an African broadband-based economy**

1. Significance and limits of mobile communications in socioeconomic development



Benefit

Significant socioeconomic impact:

- **Macroeconomic: Growth (GDP) and cost effective management (m.government)**
- **Micro economic: SMEs (competitiveness)**
- **Socio cultural (at individual level)**
- **Labour landscape (job creation and mobility)**

Limits

Narrow band, small screens, non cost-effective mobile broadband Internet make it difficult for:

- **High speed, bandwidth hungry applications (e.commerce, e.education, telemedecine, e.trade,etc.);**
- **Media convergence related services and products (IPTV, iterativity and other multiple play conveniences)**

2. **Broadband digital divide: Challenges and opportunities for Africa**

Challenges

Lack of National and/or regional IP-enabled backbone

Poor national basic infrastructures and networks

Outdated legal and regulatory frameworks in times of convergence

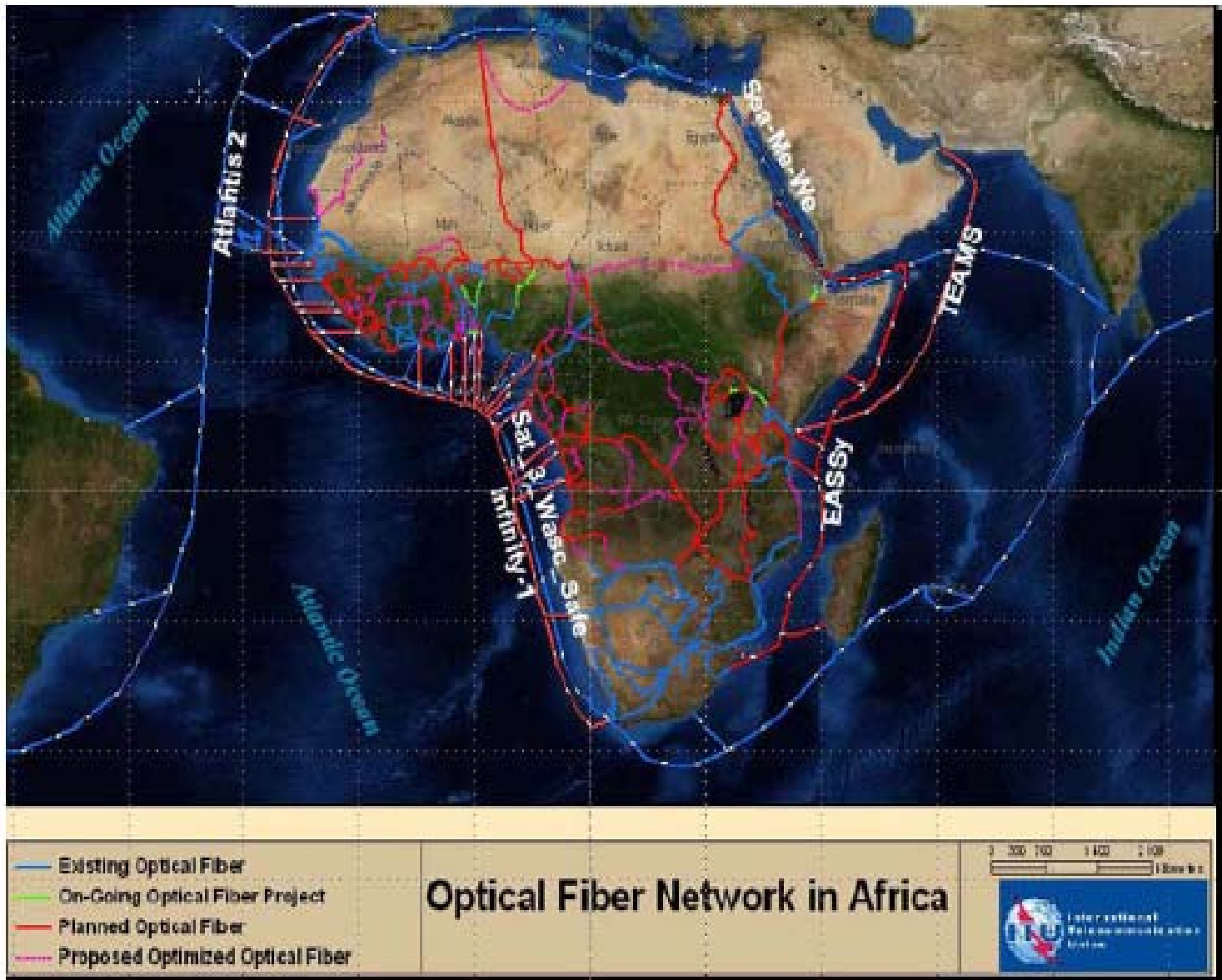
Lack of R&D policy

Increasing number of Submarine FO Cable aiming at cheaper international bandwidth

Increasing number of BB required government projects (e.government..)

Regional frameworks for policy and regulatory harmonisation

Opportunities



3. Sugestions : Fostering the African broadband economy

Situation

3.1. Ubiquitous and affordable BB connectivity (e.g: *Flat rate access price for xDSL*) is indispensable for successful competition in the global market and the development of an effective knowledge economy including other applications such as e.democracy

3.2. Weakened State-owned incumbent telcos don't have investment capacity for a nation wide IP-enabled BB backbone. Mobile operators and privatised incumbent telcos focus on ways to recoup their investment and to shorten their ROI time frame

3.3. **Governments** to:

- Take the lead in the building of national IP-BB backbone and infrastructures through a PPP strategy
- review the legal and regulatory framework taking into account the convergence environment
- Build capacity of the regulatory body to ensure an efficient competitive open access regulation at the downstream market
- Build capacity of the SMEs and take incentive measures to foster the development and provision of innovative services (e.g: Tax breaks, outsourcing government IT services to local private sector)

3.4 **Regional Economic communities** (REC) to:

- Speed up the process of regional harmonisation with the support of regional regulatory associations (ex: regional convergence bill)
- Foster the building of regional IP-enabled Backbones
- Support, coordinate and encourage R&D at a regional level
- Development and implement regional integration projects such as e.commerce,
- **Issue a directive for member countries to declare and consider national and regional BB Backbone a public good and be treated as such like roads and power grids**

Thank you for your attention