



Northern Corridor Integration Project-ICT Infrastructure Cluster

PRESS RELEASE

Partner States Sign Resolution to Advance Regional Satellite Initiative

Nairobi, Kenya | 29th April 2026 - Ministers responsible for ICT from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan have jointly signed a resolution to undertake a feasibility study for a regionally owned communication and broadcasting satellite under the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP).

The resolution was adopted at an inter-ministerial meeting held in Nairobi on the sidelines of the Connected Africa Summit. The meeting was chaired by Uganda and co-chaired by South Sudan.

This was a follow-up to the 14th Summit, where the Heads of State directed Partner States to develop a regional, member-state-owned communication satellite to strengthen sovereignty, expand connectivity, and support digital transformation. Ministers reaffirmed the need to reduce reliance on external systems and invest in shared infrastructure aligned with regional priorities.

In his remarks, the Chair of the ICT Infrastructure Development Cluster at the Ministerial level and Uganda's Minister of ICT and National Guidance, Hon. Dr Chris Baryomunsi, noted that the meeting was being held at a critical time and would formalise Member States' commitment and authorise the commencement of a feasibility study to provide the necessary technical, financial and institutional guidance for informed decision-making.

Speaking for the host country, the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, H.E Hon. William Kabogo Gitau, described the initiative as a timely intervention to strengthen telecommunications, broadcasting and digital integration, while enhancing the region's preparedness and resilience. He noted that our countries continue to rely heavily on external systems. This has implications for cost, reliability and continuity of services.

Also addressing the meeting, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for East African Community Affairs, Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, emphasised that the session marked a transition from concept to implementation, with a focus on aligning the roadmap, validating the feasibility framework, and agreeing on sustainable funding and governance

arrangements. She reiterated Kenya's commitment to regional integration and shared infrastructure that improves efficiency, reduces connectivity costs and drives innovation.

The Minister of Information, Communication Technology and Postal Services of South Sudan, Hon. Ateny Wek Ateny, supported the initiative, noting it aligns with national priorities such as expanding connectivity, advancing e-government and improving access to essential services. He added that the satellite would provide a strategic solution for extending broadband, broadcasting and critical communication services to underserved areas.

Also in attendance were Mr Benon Kariisa, representing Hon. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation of the Republic of Rwanda; Principal Secretaries from Kenya's Ministry of ICT; the Undersecretary from South Sudan's Ministry of ICT; technical teams and delegates from the Partner States.

As a first step, Partner States agreed to jointly finance the feasibility study. Ministers also agreed to establish a dedicated project account with clear oversight to ensure transparency and accountability.

The Permanent Secretary at Uganda's Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and Chair of the ICT Infrastructure Development Cluster at the Technical Level, Dr Aminah Zawedde, confirmed that the concept note, implementation roadmap, and terms of reference for the feasibility study are complete, enabling the mobilisation of resources and the commencement of procurement.

The proposed satellite will complement existing terrestrial infrastructure, extend connectivity to underserved areas, and support broadcasting and digital services across the region.

Ministers unanimously agreed to jointly fund and advance the roadmap for developing a regionally owned communication and broadcasting satellite, marking an important step towards strengthening regional digital infrastructure and integration.

Ends.