# Charter and Work Programme 2027-2028 of the Regional Community of Practice on Broadband Mapping (ReCoP)

## Africa-BB-Maps Deliverable 3: input document for the Regional Regulatory Associations and the Regional Community of Practice

*Draft for discussion, version 0.3, November 2026. Prepared by the ITU Secretariat on the basis of the coordination calls of 22 and 23 October 2026, for review and amendment by the members of the three sub-regional CoPs, chaired by WATRA, EACO and CRASA, with the CoP co-chairs (ARCEP Bénin, NCC, MACRA). Not an agreed text.*

## Part A. Draft Charter

### Article 1. Name and nature

1.1 The Regional Community of Practice on Broadband Mapping (hereinafter "the ReCoP") is an informal, voluntary and non-binding network of African regulatory authorities and regional organisations.

1.2 The ReCoP does not create legal obligations for its members and does not replace the mandates of national authorities or of the Regional Regulatory Associations.

### Article 2. Purpose

2.1 The ReCoP aims to:

- exchange experience and good practice on the design, operation and use of national broadband mapping systems;
- promote a common regional data standard and comparable broadband indicators;
- support the use of mapping data for policy, regulation, universal service and investment decisions;
- strengthen cooperation with regulators and regional organisations of other regions;
- ensure the continuity of the results of Africa-BB-Maps after the end of the programme in 2028.

### Article 3. Membership

3.1 Members: the national regulatory authorities of Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the Regional Regulatory Associations CRASA, EACO and WATRA.

3.2 Observers: organisations admitted by consensus of the members.

3.3 Other African regulatory authorities may join as members at their request, subject to the agreement of the members.

### Article 4. Structure

4.1 The ReCoP is composed of three sub-regional Communities of Practice:

| Sub-regional CoP | Countries | Chair (Regional association) | Co-chair (NRA, first term) |
|---|---|---|---|
| West Africa | Benin, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire | WATRA | ARCEP Bénin (Benin) |
| East Africa | Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda | EACO | NCC (Nigeria) |
| Southern Africa | Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe | CRASA | MACRA (Malawi) |

*Note: the allocation of chairs and co-chairs follows the coordination calls of 22 and 23 October 2026.*

4.2 Each sub-regional CoP is chaired by its Regional Regulatory Association and co-chaired by a national regulatory authority of the sub-region. The co-chair rotates every six months among the member authorities of the sub-region, starting in September. The rotation order is set out in Annex 1.

4.3 The three Chairs and the three Co-chairs form the ReCoP Coordination Group, which prepares the plenary meetings and the Work Programme.

4.4 Where a Regional Regulatory Association has an existing working group on broadband, data or spectrum, the sub-regional CoP aligns its work with that group to avoid duplication.

### Article 5. Working groups

5.1 The ReCoP establishes two working groups:

- **Working Group 1: Policy and Regulation**, covering mapping obligations, data collection rules, use of maps for universal service and investment, and alignment with regional and international frameworks;
- **Working Group 2: GIS and Data Standards**, acting as custodian of the common regional data standard (mandatory, optional and country-specific indicators) and of its updates.

### Article 6. Secretariat

6.1 ITU provides the Secretariat of the ReCoP until the end of Africa-BB-Maps in 2028. Before then, the members agree on the arrangements for handing over the Secretariat to one or more Regional Regulatory Associations, on a rotating or permanent basis.

### Article 7. Meetings

7.1 Each sub-regional CoP meets at least quarterly, online or in person. The ReCoP meets in plenary at least once a year, back to back with a regional or international event where possible.

### Article 8. Contributions and documents

8.1 Members and observers may submit written contributions on any item of the Work Programme. Contributions are submitted through the Africa-BB-Maps contributions page, numbered by the Secretariat and made available to all members at least 10 days before the meeting at which they are considered.

8.2 Input documents prepared by the Secretariat are drafts for discussion and may be amended by members.

### Article 9. Decision making

9.1 The ReCoP works by consensus. Outcomes take the form of guidelines, good practice reports and recommendations, which are non-binding.

### Article 10. Sustainability

10.1 Members commit to identify, by the end of 2027, the institutional and financial arrangements needed to continue the ReCoP after 2028, including hosting of the Secretariat, the data standard and the Regional Data Challenge Register.

### Article 11. Amendments

11.1 This Charter may be amended by consensus of the members at a plenary meeting, on a proposal submitted at least 30 days in advance.

## Part B. Draft Work Programme 2027-2028

### B.1 Workstreams and activities

| Workstream | Main activities | Lead | Output | Timing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Governance | Adopt Charter (Brussels, 3 December | Coordination | Adopted Charter | Q4 2026 to Q1 |

| Workstream | Main activities | Lead | Output | Timing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2026); confirm chairs and rotation; set up Coordination Group | Group, ITU | | 2027 |
| 2. Data standard | Maintain and update the regional data standard; collect feedback from national implementation | WG 2 | Data standard v1.1 and v2.0 | 2027, 2028 |
| 3. Investment mapping | Apply the Investment Mapping and Prioritisation Guidance; maintain Regional Data Challenge Register | WG 1, RRAs | Country investment profiles; updated register | From Q1 2027 |
| 4. Policy and regulation | Compare mapping obligations and data collection rules; good practice on USF use of maps | WG 1 | Good practice report | Q3 2027 |
| 5. Inter-regional cooperation | Twinning with regulators of other regions; joint webinars with partner regulatory networks | Chairs, ITU | Twinning arrangements; webinar series | 2027 to 2028 |
| 6. Sustainability | Handover plan for Secretariat and data custodianship | Coordination Group | Sustainability plan | By Q4 2027 |

### B.2 Meetings calendar (indicative)

| Period | Meeting |
|---|---|
| 6 November 2026 | ITU sends the three drafts to the three sub-regional CoPs and their chairs (WATRA, EACO, CRASA) |
| 6 to 26 November 2026 | Members answer; each CoP sends one common position to ITU |
| 27 November 2026 | ITU publishes the consolidated drafts |
| 30 Nov to 3 Dec 2026 | Africa-Europe Study Visit, Brussels: discussion of Charter and Work Programme; adoption by consensus on 3 December 2026 |
| Quarterly 2027 to 2028 | Sub-regional CoP meetings (online) |
| 2027 | First ReCoP plenary meeting |
| 2028 | Second ReCoP plenary meeting and handover |

### B.3 Key performance indicators

- Charter adopted by all 14 members.
- Number of countries reporting data according to the regional data standard.
- Number of contributions submitted per year.
- Number of investment profiles presented to financing partners.
- Sustainability plan agreed before the end of 2027.

## Part C. Questions for the members of each CoP

On 6 November 2026, ITU sends this draft to the three sub-regional CoPs and to their Regional Regulatory Associations (WATRA, EACO and CRASA), which chair the CoPs. From 9 November 2026, each association briefs its national regulatory authorities. Each authority answers individually to its CoP chair, with ITU in copy, by the date set by the chair. By 26 November 2026, each CoP agrees one common position, which its chair sends to ITU. ITU merges the three positions within 24 hours and publishes the consolidated drafts on 27 November 2026. The consolidated drafts are discussed in Brussels from 30 November to 3 December 2026, with adoption by consensus on 3 December 2026.

1. Is the name "Regional Community of Practice on Broadband Mapping (ReCoP)" acceptable?
2. Should membership be open to African NRAs outside the 11 beneficiary countries from the start?
3. Is a six-month rotation of co-chairs appropriate, and which order of rotation do members propose?
4. How should the sub-regional CoPs link to the existing working groups of WATRA, CRASA and EACO?
5. Which Regional Regulatory Association(s) could host the Secretariat after 2028?
6. Are the workstreams and timing in Part B realistic?

## Annex 1. Rotation of co-chairs (to be completed)

| Sub-regional CoP | Sep 2026 to Feb 2027 | Mar 2027 to Aug 2027 | Sep 2027 to Feb 2028 | Mar 2028 to Aug 2028 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Africa | ARCEP Bénin | | | |
| East Africa | NCC | | | |
| Southern Africa | MACRA | | | |