Africa Broadband Maps | ITU

AFRICA-BB-MAPS | BRUSSELS, 30 NOVEMBER TO 3 DECEMBER 2026

Regional Community of Practice Briefing for the chairs

What Brussels is for, the three draft outputs, and how your CoP sends one common position by 26 November.

West Africa CoP | East Africa CoP | Southern Africa CoP

WHY THIS COMMUNITY EXISTS

Eleven countries map broadband in eleven different ways

1

Maps cannot be compared

Each country uses its own data, definitions and methods.

2

Gaps along borders stay invisible

Cross-border corridors cannot be assessed as one project.

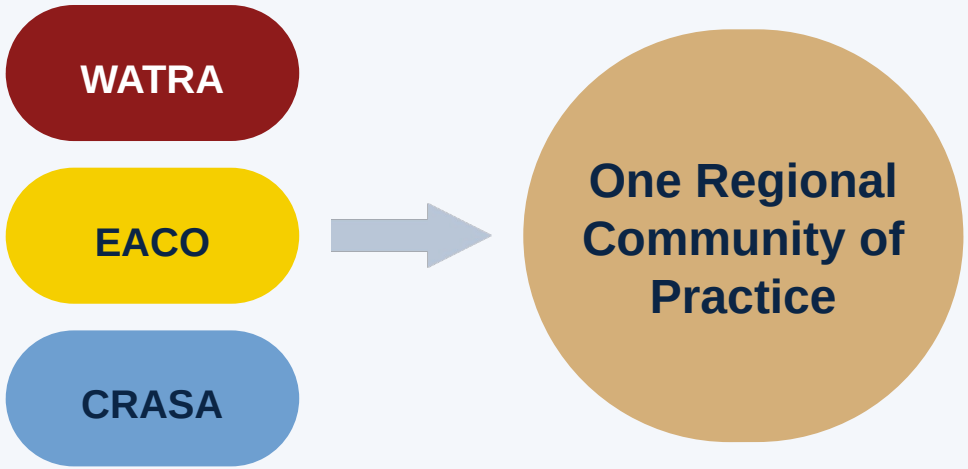
3

Investors lack evidence

Financing goes where the case is clear, not where the need is.

The Regional Community of Practice is where the regulators and their regional associations agree on common standards, turn maps into investment decisions, and carry the work forward after 2028.

One standard and one Community of Practice



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Agreement on a common data standard and data sharing approach

2. One Regional Community of Practice in place of three sub-regional groups

3. A start on investment readiness; investment planning in 2027-2028

THE FOUR DAYS

One objective per day

Day 1

MON 30 NOV

Broadband data and investment readiness

Corridor investment simulation in front of a donor panel

OUTPUT/1

Day 2

TUE 1 DEC

A common data standard

Agree which map features are mandatory, optional or national

OUTPUT/2

Day 3

WED 2 DEC

One Regional Community of Practice

Design its framework and co-draft the Work Programme 2027-2028

OUTPUT/3

Day 4

THU 3 DEC

Adoption of the outputs

Study visit, adoption of the three outputs and next steps

All three

OUTPUT/1 | DISCUSSED ON MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Investment Mapping and Prioritisation Guidance

WHAT IT IS

A common way to use broadband maps to identify, rank and present investment needs.

WHY IT MATTERS

A map only helps investors if it answers their questions: where coverage is missing, who is affected, what already exists nearby and what it would cost.

QUESTION FOR YOUR MEMBERS

Which of the data that financing institutions ask for are generally available in our sub-region, and where are the main gaps?

What financing institutions need is taken from reference sources (EU Broadband Investment Handbook, ITU ICT Infrastructure Business Planning Toolkit), not asked from you.

OUTPUT/2 | DISCUSSED ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER

Common Data Standards and Data Sharing Framework

WHAT IT IS

The minimum set of broadband data that all eleven countries would describe in the same way.

WHY IT MATTERS

Today each country measures coverage differently, so maps cannot be compared and cross-border projects cannot be assessed.

QUESTION FOR YOUR MEMBERS

For the twelve kinds of data in the draft (fibre routes, mobile sites, coverage, schools connected, etc.), which should be common to all countries, optional, or national only?

The draft is published on the Documents page by 9 November.

OUTPUT/3 | DISCUSSED ON WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER

Charter and Work Programme 2027-2028

WHAT IT IS

The rules of the Community (purpose, members, chairs and rotation, working methods, calendar) and its plan for 2027-2028.

WHY IT MATTERS

It keeps the work going after the programme ends in 2028, led by the region rather than by ITU.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR MEMBERS

How should the Community work together? What should it prioritise in 2027?

No document to fill in: ITU revises the draft Charter and Work Programme from the positions of the three CoPs, using an existing regulators' charter as a model.

FOR YOUR MEMBERS, TO ANSWER BY THE DATE YOU SET

Five questions for your members

1. Investment data. Which data asked for by financing institutions are generally available in our sub-region, and where are the gaps?

2. Common data. Of the twelve kinds of data, which should be common to all, optional, or national only?

3. Working together. How often should the Community meet, how should the chair rotate, and how should decisions be taken?

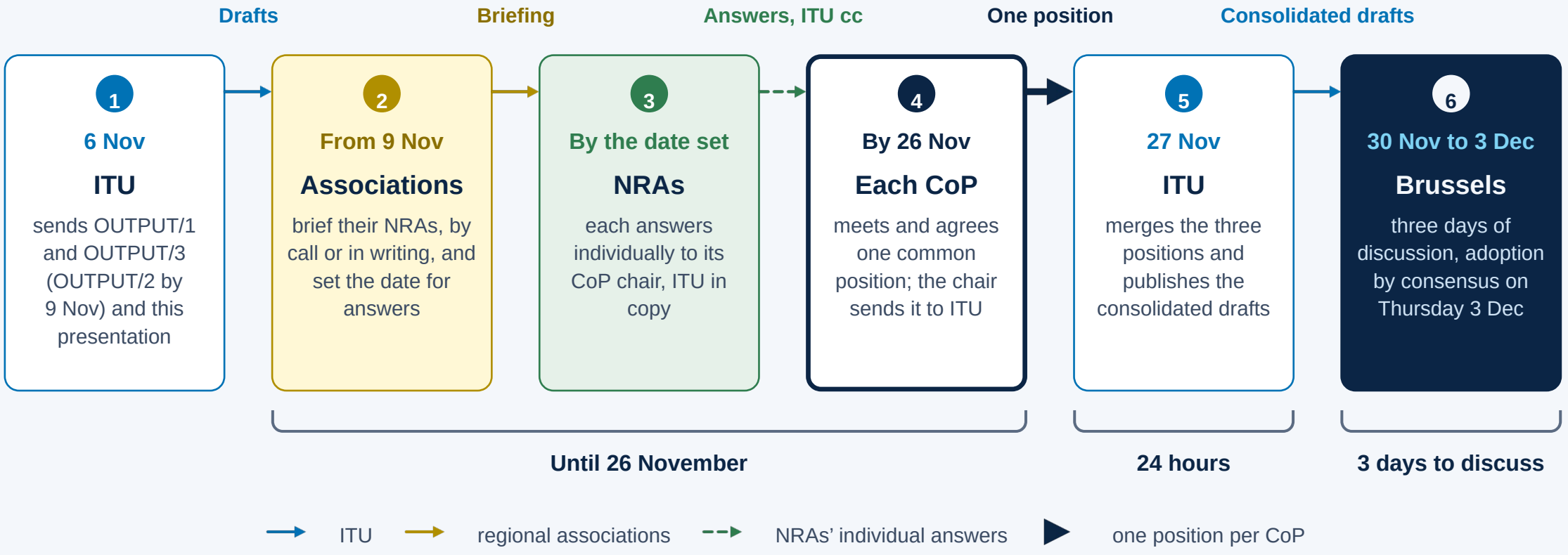
4. Priorities. What should the Community work on first in 2027?

5. After 2028. Who should host the Secretariat when the programme ends, and with which resources?

No country figures are needed. Answer from experience and for the region: no country is singled out.

FROM NOW TO BRUSSELS

How the answers reach the texts adopted in Brussels



FOR THE CHAIRS

What the chair does

Brief your members

From 9 November, send the drafts and the five questions to your members.

Choose a short call or a written round, and set the date for answers.

Members answer individually to you, with ITU in copy.

A CoP meeting, one common position by 26 November

Hold a meeting of your CoP members, merge their answers into one position based on the needs of all, and note where views differ.

Send it to **elind.sulmina@itu.int**, copy **danajon.kamason@itu.int**.

Subject: **“ReCoP position, [group] CoP”**.

EVERYTHING ONLINE

africabbmaps.itu.int/recop

ON THE WEBSITE, IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Contribute in 6 steps
Documents: the three draft outputs and, from 27 November, the consolidated drafts
Brussels: agenda for Days 1 to 4
Your CoP's page and contacts

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