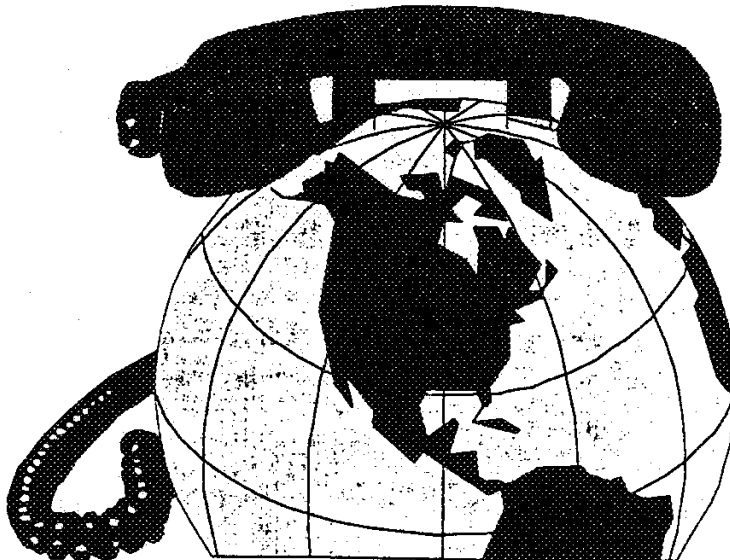




**UNITED STATES AND UGANDA REGULATOR
CONSULTATIONS
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR DEC 1999 TO DEC 2000**

23 DECEMBER 1999





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Introduction

The United States of America Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), recognizing the significant efforts that are required of UCC during its formative stages, have discussed mutual cooperative activities aimed at helping UCC to fulfill its mandate. To this end, the two organizations have developed the following Work Program to be accomplished during the 1999-2000 period.

Work Program

Rulemaking procedures and the Public Process

The 1999-2000 fiscal year will see UCC becoming fully engaged in a public process in the making of various regulations. This is an extremely important process, and the FCC has much experience in this area. UCC wishes to benefit from this experience as the public process unfolds.

The FCC will assist UCC on numerous aspects of the administrative process throughout this period, including internal agency structure, the rulemaking process, the proper role of UCC staff, issues relating to the processing of applications, delegation of authority issues and conflict of interest management. The Work Plan envisions continuous contact throughout the year between FCC and UCC staff. These contacts will include continuous consultations on these and other related issues.

Universal Access

Throughout the year, the FCC will be available to provide UCC with policy and technical advice, as requested, regarding the expansion of universal access to telecommunications throughout Uganda, focusing on strategies to attract investment, foster competition and choice for the public, ensure open access to the network, and provide for appropriate and flexible regulation. The two agencies will discuss applications to education, health, the environment, and the interconnection of libraries through telecommunications.

Competition and Interconnection

Throughout the year the FCC will be available to provide advice to UCC, as requested, on methods of promoting competition and choice for the public through interconnection regulatory policy, numbering plans and other regulatory structures and processes. These discussions will include consultations on specific UCC proposals related to these topics.



Telecommunications Licensing

In pursuit of government policy to introduce in the telecommunications sector greater choice to the Ugandan public, UCC has embarked on a program to provide for additional telecommunications licensing. The FCC and UCC will engage in ongoing consultation in this area.

Spectrum Management and Monitoring

The use of spectrum is increasing exponentially as begins the process of delivering on her promise of fostering telephony for the vast majority of her population who have no access to telecommunications. The users of the spectrum will need unencumbered, interference-free use of the spectrum. UCC has initiated a project to determine the status of its preparedness to serve the public interest in this regard, and to supplement its resources, both human and infrastructure. The long record of experience that the FCC has in these matters will be used to assist UCC in this effort in the form of ongoing advice and consultations during the course of the Work program period.

Information Technology Infrastructure Development

The sensitivity and confidentiality of certain of the various databases, information and other data necessary for the proper functioning of an independent regulatory agency cannot be over emphasized. Accordingly, UCC wishes to take advantage of the advanced expertise available within the FCC with respect to its handling of sensitive data and information.

Telecommunications Training

The FCC has certain staff training capabilities and training of new UCC staff is considered to be a top priority during the next 12 months. Therefore, during the period for the Work Program, UCC and the FCC will cooperate on training in telecommunications topics. Such topics will include Regulations and Licensing, Frequency Management, Legal, Finance and Management. Training in the United States will be conducted through the USTTI program and the FCC International Bureau Visitor's program. Meetings and discussions via satellite conferencing also will be used for training of UCC staff. To the extent resources permit, the FCC will send a representative to Uganda for an on-site regulatory training session. Finally, the FCC will work with other agencies and experts in the private sector in an effort to supplement FCC training efforts.

Other Exchanges

Throughout the year, the FCC and UCC plan to exchange information on other regulatory issues relating to telecommunications, trends in technology, satellite licensing issues, and operational aspects of communications services, including experimental authorizations and new services. This work program is subject to the resources constraints of both organizations and may be modified as necessary by mutual agreement.



Roderick K. Porter, FCC International Bureau Deputy Chief is the FCC representative responsible for overall implementation of this work program. The Executive Director of UCC is the UCC representative responsible for such implementation.

William Kennard

William E. Kennard
Chairman, FCC
Date: December 23, 1999

Abel M. S. Karamore

Eng. Dr. Abel. M. S. Karamore
Chairman, UCC
Date: *December 10, 1999*