



II. CONNECTING AFRICA

“There can be no Global Information Infrastructure without an African Information Infrastructure.”

--Chairman William E. Kennard

The Kennard Development Initiative for Africa involves 3 major components:

Regional outreach to the telecommunications regulators of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Telecommunications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (TRASA), as well as to regulatory officials from countries in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) - See Chapter IV;

Bilateral work plans with Ghana, South Africa, and Uganda, which provide for technical assistance from the FCC as well as exchanges of information – See Chapters V and VI; and

Future opportunities for cooperation and assistance to countries seeking to establish independent regulatory bodies and open and competitive markets – See Chapter VII.



***U.S.-Africa Ministerial:
Blueprint for a
U.S.-Africa Partnership
for the 21st Century***

The African ministers and U.S. government officials who met at the White House in March of last year to consider the future of the U.S.-Africa Partnership in the 21st Century expressly recognized the critical role of telecommunications infrastructure in supporting Africa's economic growth, in facilitating national and regional integration, and in expanding trade regionally as well as globally. Poor telecommunications infrastructure continues to be one of the greatest barriers to Africa's development. Participants agreed on the importance of continued privatization and increased investment in this core market sector.

Implementation of the Kennard Development Initiative began in Africa, a continent with tremendous opportunity and promise. The challenge to achieve universal service there is critical. In Africa, there are almost 800 million people but less than 20 million phone lines – 80 percent of which are in six countries. Although the number of internet hosts in Africa in general is growing at a rate almost double the world average, in central and sub-Saharan Africa there is less than one internet host per 100,000 people. The implementation of forward-looking pro-competitive regulatory policies in Africa will transform the lives of a great number of people.

Africa is important to all Americans. African consumers currently buy over \$6 billion worth of American products annually, supporting over 100,000 U.S. jobs. Africa has abundant natural resources – providing, for example, over 16 percent of America's imported crude oil, almost as much as from the Persian Gulf region. As



President Clinton noted in 1998 while visiting South Africa, “Africans are being stirred by new hopes of democracy and peace and prosperity ... it is time for Americans to put a new Africa on our maps.”

As Chairman Kennard stated in August in his keynote address to the telecommunications regulators of the Southern African Development Community (Appendix 3),

“I believe that we can make Africa the “connected continent.” I believe that we can do this because I know the commitment that all of you have to build the regulatory structure that undergirds this growth – and because you know as well as I the real effects that these advances have on the lives of the people of Africa.

Working together, we can connect southern Africa and all of Africa to the opportunity and prosperity of the next century.

A few decades ago in a different context, the great American civil rights leader Martin Luther King wrote that we are all tied into an “inescapable network of mutuality.” As globalization takes root, as commerce and trade among all regions becomes easier, and as the problems that we all face affect us all, this could not be more true.

That’s why [we need] to make sure that these networks built on the technologies of tomorrow reach not only Manhattan and Madrid, but also Malawi and Mozambique ... to ensure that the opportunities found in these phones, wires, and web pages are there for the children of Norway and Singapore as well as the children of Namibia and Seychelles.

That’s the challenge for us all. We cannot wait a decade to get this done. We must bring to this task dedication and a sense of urgency....The time is now for all of us to step up to this challenge. And if we go forward together, I am confident that we can and we will succeed .”