



OPENING REMARKS BY

**MRS. EMILIA NGHIKEMBUA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

AT THE

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU) POLICY
AND REGULATION INITIATIVE FOR DIGITAL AFRICA (PRIDA)
CAPACITY WORKSHOP ON SPECTRUM PRICING, SPECTRUM
ENGINEERING AND AUDIT**

Date: Tuesday, 02 April 2024

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Windhoek

Time: 09h00

- Mr. Jimmy-Christel Ngoma, PRIDA Project Manager: ITU Regional Office for Africa,
- Mr. Joshua Bocker, PRIDA Project Assistant: ITU Regional Office for Africa,
- CRAN Executive Management and Team,
- Distinguished Delegates from various African countries,
- Esteemed Stakeholders,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to Windhoek, the capital city of our beautiful country Namibia. Windhoek is located in the central part of the country, surrounded by the Khomas Highland Plateau. It is the largest city in Namibia and serves as the political, economic, and cultural center of the country. Windhoek is a hub for business and commerce in Namibia, with many international companies having offices in the city. It is also a popular tourist destination, serving as a gateway to Namibia's stunning natural landscapes, such as the Namib Desert and Etosha National Park.

Overall, Windhoek is a bustling and dynamic city that offers a unique blend of history, culture, and modern amenities.

Back to the business of the day, it is a great privilege for me to present my opening remarks at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) Capacity Workshop on Spectrum Pricing, Spectrum Engineering and Audit. This workshop is taking place from 02 to 05 April 2024 at the Hilton Hotel, and I am honoured to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).

Additionally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the ITU and PRIDA for organising this workshop, which provides a platform for policymakers and regulators from various African countries to convene and share insights on spectrum management. As we all know, spectrum is a finite and valuable resource that is vital for the provision of telecommunication and broadcasting services. Therefore, it is crucial that we have robust policies and regulations in place to ensure efficient and effective spectrum allocation and utilisation in Africa.

One of the key topics that we will be discussing during this workshop is spectrum pricing. Spectrum pricing plays a critical role in promoting efficient spectrum utilisation, encouraging investment in network infrastructure, and promoting healthy competition in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. As a regulator, it is important for us to strike a balance between maximizing economic benefits from spectrum auctions and ensuring affordable access to

spectrum for service providers. We look forward to engaging in discussions with all of you on best practices in spectrum pricing and learning from each other's experiences.

Another important aspect of spectrum management that we will be addressing in this workshop is spectrum engineering. Spectrum engineering involves the technical planning and optimisation of spectrum use to minimise interference and maximise spectrum efficiency. By adopting sound spectrum engineering practices, regulators can ensure that spectrum resources are utilised in the most efficient and effective manner, ultimately leading to better quality of service for consumers. We are excited to explore the latest developments in spectrum engineering and discuss strategies for optimising spectrum use in our respective countries.

Finally, the workshop will also be focusing on spectrum audit. Spectrum audit is a crucial tool for regulators to verify compliance with spectrum licence conditions, assess spectrum utilisation, and identify any instances of spectrum hoarding or misuse. By conducting regular spectrum audits, regulators can ensure transparency and accountability in spectrum management, as well as promote fair competition among service providers. We look forward to sharing insights on spectrum audit practices and learning about the experiences of other regulators in this regard.

In conclusion, I am confident that this workshop will be a valuable platform for all of us to exchange knowledge, insights, and best practices in spectrum management. By collaborating and learning from each other, we can strengthen our regulatory frameworks and contribute to the growth and development of the ICT sector in Africa. I encourage all of you to actively participate in the discussions and engage with your fellow delegates to make the most of this workshop.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ITU and PRIDA for organising this workshop, and to all of you for your attendance.

I wish you all a productive and successful workshop, and we look forward to fruitful discussions and collaborations over the next few days.

I Thank You!