



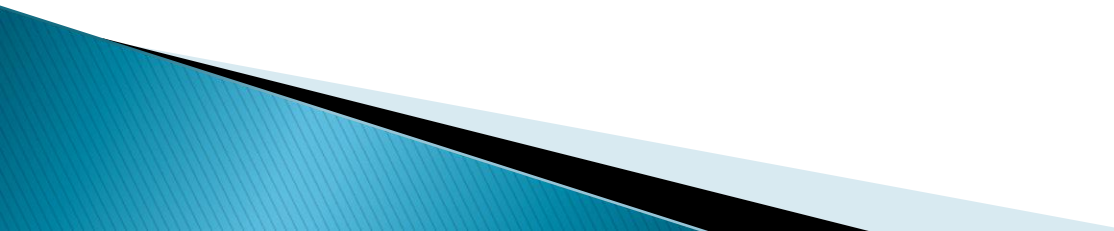
e-Health Policy: From Formulation to Implementation; Role of the AUC

e-Health Africa Conference: Integrating m-Health into e-Health Strategy
Implementation

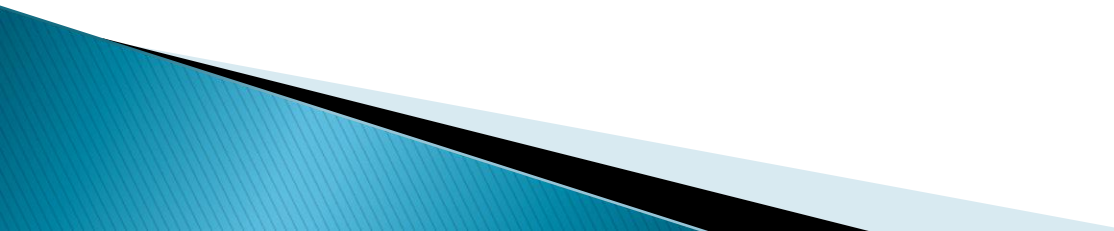
18 – 19 April 2012, InterContinental Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Mabvuto Kango
African Union Commission

Introduction

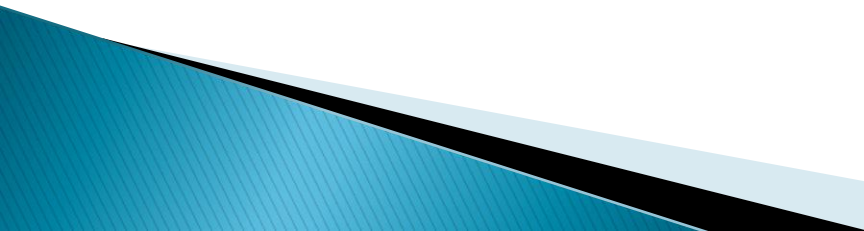
- ▶ Africa is still lagging behind in achieving the MDGs.
 - ▶ Africa suffers from a multiplicity of communicable diseases, of which HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis take a highest toll.
 - ▶ Health systems in Africa are generally weak (shortages of trained human resources, weak information systems and financial constraints)
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E-Health

- ▶ AUC views eHealth as the cost-effective and secure use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for health and health-related fields.
 - ▶ Expected benefits include:
 - ❖ Efficiency
 - ❖ Empowering of consumers and customers
 - ❖ Human resource development through Continuing Medical Education (CME)
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Concerns raised about e-Health in Africa

- ▶ To many partners approaching Member States on different e-health initiatives
 - ▶ Sustainability
 - ▶ Synergy/ harmonization
 - ▶ Conforming to local regulations
 - ▶ Regulation/accreditation
 - ▶ Fear that may not provide a high return on investment and help improve health outcomes.
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Measures taken to address these concerns

- ▶ At their 3rd Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health , the Health Ministers of Africa adopted the Africa Health Strategy (AHS) aimed at strengthening health systems
- ▶ At their 4th Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health , mandated the AUC to bring all stakeholders to one table to harmonise policies and put resources together for efficiency.

Goal


Evidence based advocacy & coordination for use of ICTs in health in Africa, in order to facilitate implementation of the Africa Health Strategy AHS (2007–2015)

AU Milestones in e-Health Development

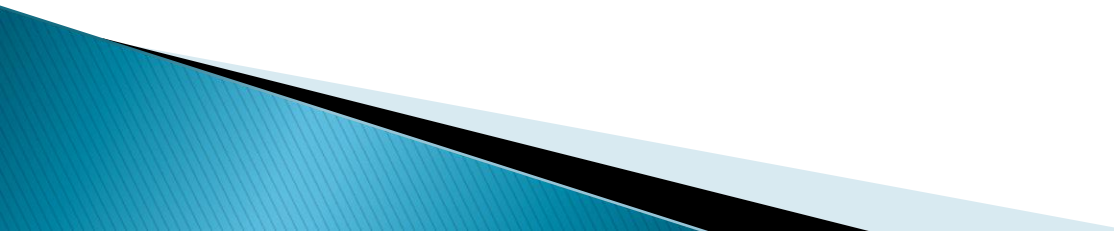
CAMH3	Africa Health Strategy adopted
CAMH4 (May 2009)	AU Ministers recommended coordination of e-Health initiatives in Africa
Abuja Experts' meeting (December 2009)	Recommended development of framework , advocacy & develop better collaborative arrangements
Addis Ababa Experts' meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Network of experts established•Agreement to articulate framework•Roadmap on development of e-health framework developed•Framework outlined
CAMH5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Approved outcome of Addis Ababa Experts meeting•Called on partners to support e-health initiatives

Opportunities

- ▶ Willingness by Africa Ministers of Health
 - ▶ Willingness of AUC to embrace e-Health
 - ▶ The increasing access to tele-communications in Africa
 - ▶ Availability of partners
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- ▶ All stakeholders can play a role in the Africa e-health framework;
 - ▶ To facilitate advocacy, there is need for more evidence on the return on investment and effect on health outcomes.
 - ▶ Documentation of lessons learnt and good practices
 - ▶ The AUC has the political platform to foster e-Health in Africa
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Anticipated benefits of “buying” into the Africa e-health framework

- ▶ Reduce workload on Member States
 - ▶ Instill confidence
 - ▶ The impact of our combined efforts in the framework shall be much greater than the sum of our individual efforts
 - ▶ Increased acceptability of e-Health by AU Member States
 - ▶ The policy/framework will “oil” our strategies
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Challenges

- ▶ Bilateral agreements vs Africa common positions
 - ▶ Adopting several common positions at various fora (other than AU fora)
 - ▶ High turn over of policy makers/ changing priorities due to various reasons e.g. change of Governments, transfers etc
 - ▶ Multisectoral involvement; e-health goes beyond health.
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Conclusions

- ▶ We need more evidence especially on return on investment for:
 - To use it for advocacy
 - To guide policy making