# The GAID-Africa Structure and Initiatives Implementation Framework - Revised

## Preamble

The proposed *GAID-Africa Structure and Initiatives Implementation Framework* is designed to provide a light-weight framework to provide the requisite and easily implementable mechanisms, modalities and suitable structures for ensuring Africa's effective participation in the GAID process.
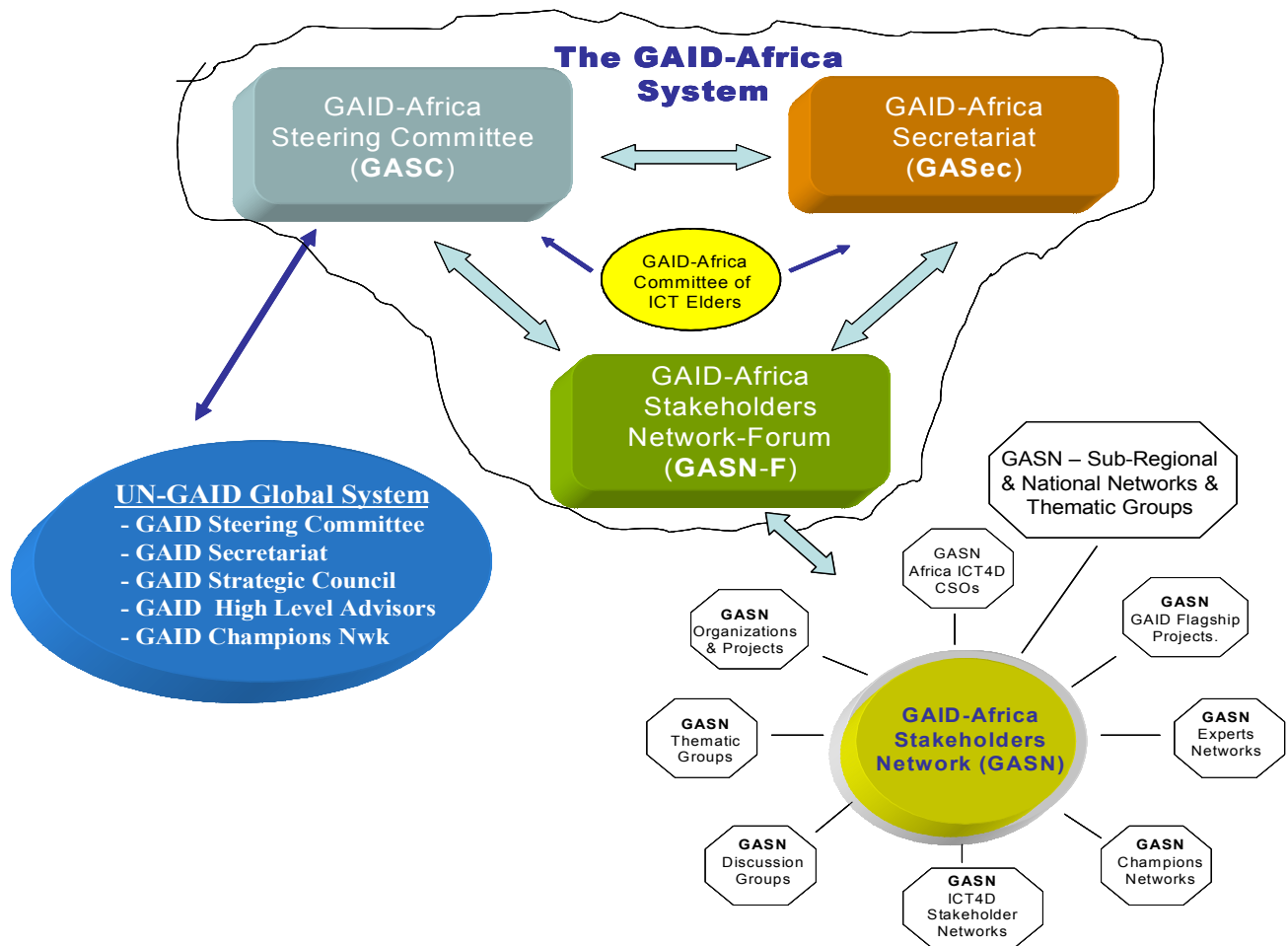
It also provides a suitable framework for developing and implementing suitable rules and mode of engagement of Africa players in the GAID process and for identifying and implementing Africa-specific and initiated flagship initiatives, advocacy initiatives and other stakeholder activities and initiatives.

The expectation is that by implementing the proposed framework, Africa working through its constituencies: governments, private sector, civil society and academia will play an effective and active role in the GAID process including:

– mainstreaming GAID's activities and initiatives into on-going ICT4D initiatives on the continent including the AISI initiatives and the Africa Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy [ARAPKE]

– identify and implement Africa specific initiatives (including flagship initiatives) in the 4 priority areas of GAID: education, health, entrepreneurship and governance and

– contributing to the overall GAID policy-dialogue process on advancing the global ICT4D agenda.

## The Structure

The *GAID-Africa Structure and Initiatives Implementation Framework* is made up of two collaborating entities: (i) the GAID Africa Coordination and Facilitation System (GACFS) or the **GAID-Africa System** (for short) and (ii) the **GAID Africa Stakeholders Network** (GASN) - serving as a network of Africa-specific GAID initiatives, activities and thematic and experts groupings.



## The GAID-Africa System

The **GAID-Africa System** is made up of: the *GAID Africa Steering Committee* (GASC), the *GAID- Africa -Secretariat* [GASec], and the *GAID Africa Stakeholders Network- Forum* [GASN-F] and the *GAID-Africa Committee of ICT Elders*

The **GAID-Africa System** serving as the Africa GAID initiatives facilitating, coordination and support system like the global UN-GAID system is not be an implementation entity, and will not by itself be involved in funding and execution of projects on the ground

Also the *GAID Africa System* will not duplicate, supplant or replace, existing continental, sub-regional or national ICT4D facilitating and implementation   structures, bodies, entities, or stakeholder networks but will rather serve as a mechanism/platform/avenue/forum   for dialog, triggering, enhancing, complementing, mainstreaming, fast-tracking, facilitating, coordinating (only where necessary), existing/on-going and possibly new continental, sub-regional or national ICT4D initiatives including those targeted at implementing  WSIS Action Lines.

- **The GASC – Membership and Role**

The *GAID-Africa Steering Committee* (GASC) will have 7 members, variably representing the stakeholder groups of GAID: academia, government, private sector, and civil society. The GASC will have a Chairman and Vice Chairman. The GASC will provide strategic direction and focus for GAID Africa working closely with the other constituents of the *GAID Africa System* and the UN-GAID Steering Committee and the UN-GAID Strategic Council.

The GASC will also represent GAID Africa at global GAID fora and reports to the UN-GAID Steering Committee on the work of the GAID-Africa. The GASC working in consultation with the GAID-Africa Secretariat and the UN-GAID Steering Committee (through the UN-GAID Secretariat) will from time to time identify and endorse list of projects, initiatives, stakeholder networks/groupings for incorporation into the list Africa-GAID Initiatives.

Any interested stakeholder(s): government, private sector entities, international agency/agencies or development partner organization(s), or individuals or group or network of individuals can elect to initiate a new (or nominate an existing) project/initiative/ or stakeholder/expert/thematic/champions network/group for consideration by the GASC to be part of the GAID-Africa Stakeholders Network (GASN). The GASC will prepare a simple template to be hosted  at the **un-gaid-africa.org** website which interested GASN candidate entities and individuals can complete.

- **The GAID-Africa Committee of ICT Elders: Membership and Role**

This is high-profile Committee made up of eminent and distinguished personalities who are internationally acknowledged as key players and champions in promoting ICT4D issues in Africa. Their role within the Africa GAID systems will include (i) championing GAID Africa and its activities and initiatives internationally and on the continent (ii) playing a leadership, inspirational and mentoring role aimed at promoting and advancing ICT4D in Africa within the context of GAID (iii) guiding and advising the GASC and the GASec on all issues and matters the Committee deemed necessary to promote and advance the objectives and the cause of GAID in Africa. Members of the Committee will also serve as Keynote speakers at GAID-Africa events and functions and as well as  serve GAID-Africa ambassadors within Africa and internationally.

- ## The GASec: Role and Responsibilities

The GAID-Africa Secretariat (GASec) is UNECA. Its role will include the provision of secretariat support, facilitation and coordination services for the activities and the initiatives of GAID-Africa. The Secretariat as the only physical entity (with financial and human resources) within the *GAID Africa System,* will be responsible for coordinating on behalf of the GASC, the implementation of key, major or flagship projects forming part of the *GAID-Africa Initiatives.*

In other words although the role of the GASC is to identify and endorse the *GAID-Africa Initiatives*, as a standing committee, with no resources of its own, it will not be in a position to coordinate the work of the GASN and for that matter the initiatives of the members of the GASN. Although only a minimum level of coordination is required, that role cannot be performed directly by the GASC, the Secretariat will perform this role including all other facilitation role on behalf of the GASC.

The GASec will also host and maintain the **un-gaid-africa.org** site that will host all materials and information on all the activities of the *GAID-Africa System* as well as the activities and the initiatives of all the entities within of the GAID-Africa Stakeholders Network (GASN). The Secretariat will also be responsible for creating and maintaining all the electronic discussions groups of GAID-Africa constituencies (including member organization/groups of the GASN) and as well as facilitate meetings (face-to-face and electronic) of the *GAID-Africa system*. (**Note**: It is anticipated that members of the GASN being self-organizing entities/organization will fund and host their own face-to-face/electronic meetings).

In the event that UN-GAID and or the Africa GAID System plan to organize or co-host a major stakeholder face-to-face meeting/conference or workshop, it will be the responsibility of the GASec to organize and facilitate this event.

The GASec will also be responsible for producing all reports on the activities of GAID –Africa for submission to the UN-GAID Steering Committee and other interested parties by the GASC.

- ## The GASN-F: Composition

The *GAID-Africa Stakeholders Network – Forum* (GASN-F) is to serve as an informal group of Africa GAID initiative facilitators, team leaders or task leaders and resource persons made up of representatives of the various *GAID Africa Initiatives* constituting the GASN – This include networks/groupings/implementing entities (of projects/activities) within the GASN. A representative on the GNSN-F may be the Team Leader, Task Leader, Lead Sponsor, Resource Person, Lead Initiator, or the Organizer of a particular initiative/project or group listed in the *GAID-Africa Initiatives* --- These include African-specific GAID activities, initiatives or network as well as regional, sub-regional, national or thematic groups endorsed by the GAID-Africa Steering Committee in consultation with the GAID-Africa Secretariat and the UN-GAID Steering Committee, that forms the GASN. Whenever a new member joins the GASN, its representative will automatically be incorporated into the GASN-F.

The GASN-F will work mainly online to: (i) share ideas, best practices and propose ways to make GAID Africa and its initiatives more effective and have impact on achieving the overall mission of GAID; (ii) solicit and channel inputs and contributions of the constituents of the GASN to the *GAID Africa System* and/or to the UN-GAID System through the GASC; (iii) assist the GASec and the GASC to annually review the Africa GAID initiatives and advise the GASC on resource mobilization issues and other issues that will assist, improve or speed on the implementation of on-going initiatives and activities within the GASN and (v) assist the GASC in identifying and/or endorsing new initiatives or stakeholder networks/groups for inclusion in the *Africa-GAID Initiatives* of the GASN

## The GAID-Africa Stakeholders Network

The *GAID-Africa Stakeholders Network* (GASN) is the main *action network* of GAID-Africa. In other words it is where the real action is when it comes to the Africa GAID initiatives and activities. The GASN provides an avenue/implementation platform or a 'framework-for-action' for facilitating, coordinating and carrying-out the actual implementation of GAID activities (stakeholder/thematic/experts group network discussions advisory services, dialogs, awareness raising); as well as continental/sub-regional/national projects, initiatives, groups or networks targeted at Africa – the *GAID- Africa Initiatives*

These *GAID-Africa Initiatives* include:

- on-going/existing or new ICT4D (continental/sub-regional/national) initiatives identified and endorsed by the GAID-Africa Steering Committee (GASC) in consultation with the GAID-Africa Secretariat (UNECA) and the UN-GAID Steering Committee. These initiatives including the new ones have their own implementation agency/agencies, sponsor(s) or initiators (individuals/organizations) – who are the owners and funders (or funding resource mobilizers) of the initiative. (In other words, the *GAID-Africa System* is not an implementing agency). Also these initiators or project/initiative owners apart from having their own resources to implement their initiatives are assumed to also have their own independent implementation structures/organizations and mechanisms to support and effect the implementation of the proposed initiative/project. The *GAID-Africa System* will therefore have no responsibility for mobilizing funds and/or for the actual implementation of these initiatives

- (ii) thematic groupings, experts/champions networks, discussion groups set up by the various GAID stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society and academic) as self-selected, self-organized, self-funded stakeholder groupings aimed at advancing the mission of GAID within Africa. These groups/networks although self-organizing and financing will have to be endorsed for including in the GASN by the GAID-Africa Steering Committee (GASC) in consultation with the GAID-Africa Secretariat and the UN-GAID Steering Committee. The groups/networks may be existing ones (that may apply and seek the GASC's endorsement to be part of the GASN) or they may be specially created to join the GASN. An organization or a body working in the ICT4D area (international or Africa-specific organization) may also join the GASN if they are

implementing or plan to implement a GAID-specific or relevant  project/initiative for Africa.

- (iii) continental, sub-regional or national groupings or stakeholder networks targeted at GAID relevant activities, initiatives or projects


**Comments and Notes**

1. The proposed structure and framework is intended to be less-bureaucratic,  less-top-heavy and move away from the typical urge in Africa to set up cumbersome representational not-workable institutional structures – which are all positions and committees but to action on the ground.

2. Also the light-weight structure as per the proposed constituents of the GAID-Africa System and the flexible multi-stakeholder structure as per the GASN will enable us moving faster and give everybody who want to contribute effectively and constructively a room to operate and contribute  within the GASN.

3. It is also key to note that the proposed structure conforms to the UN-GAID spirit and avoid duplicating  the structure of the UD-GAID within Africa context. So there is really no need for Africa to have its own Strategic Council, High-Level Committee of Advisors etc. The GASN provides a working model to bring all stakeholders on board without getting ourselves bugged-down with layers of structures and committees.

4<sup>th</sup> May 2007