

A report of 5,000 words is to be submitted by 11 June 2012. Your essay will count for 70% of the final mark for the module. The word limit applies to the text of the essay, including footnotes. You should also supply a bibliography listing all the sources consulted in preparing the essay which you consider were relevant to the topic even though they may cover the same ground as other works that are specifically relied upon. These should be referenced in footnotes.

At the end of 2011 over 160 Regulatory Bodies were identified as being in place world-wide. However, in Africo, a monopoly network of fixed telephones exists, under the direct control of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Africo is a least developed country with a GDP per capita of US\$600. The population, which is 36 million is mainly located in the rural areas, although the capital where 9% penetration has been achieved is home to over 7 million people. The rural areas have a teledensity of 0.2%. (Average number of people per household in Capital is 5)

You have been asked to advise the government as to how the country, which has recently discovered a huge source of oil in an undeveloped location 150 kilometres from the capital, can transform itself from its current lowly developmental status.

With the rapid evolution of the ICT sector globally, your recommendations should include:

A national strategy for communications development from the existing monopoly to a commercialised environment

A description of the proposed regulatory framework

Suggestions as to how the ITU and WTO might assist in the development process

Radical proposals on network interconnection and licensing/authorising

New services that will assist with transformation but take due note of climate change and environmental impact

Each of the above elements will attract 20% of the final mark

You will be assessed on the following:

The clarity with which you describe the regulatory issues

The quality of your analysis

The appropriateness and feasibility of implementing your proposals