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15th June 2026

Ref: CRASA/CIRCULAR/009/202627

To: Director Generals and Chief Executives
CRASA Members

Dear Sir/Madam,

INVITATION TO THE 1ST MEETING OF THE CRASA UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND SERVICE COMMITTEE (UASC) IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA, 13th –17th JULY 2026

The Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) renews its compliments to all Members of the Association.

In accordance with the communicated schedule for the First Ordinary Meetings of CRASA Standing Committees 2026/27, as previously communicated in the Circular Ref: CRASA/CIRCULAR/008/202627 dated 10th June 2026, I have the honour of inviting you or your representative(s) to the first meeting of the Universal Access and Service Committee (UASC) for 2025/26. The meeting will be hosted by CRASA Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, from 09H00 to 17:00 Central African Time (CAT).

The purpose of this first meeting of the Committee in the new financial year is to advance the implementation of the UASC Operational Plan 2026/27 and to discuss emerging issues related to the Committee's mandate. In addition, the Committee will consider the expected directives of the SADC Ministers responsible for ICT from their Meeting scheduled for 22nd to 26th June 2026, in pursuit of advancing universal and meaningful connectivity in the Southern African Development Committee (SADC) Region.

The meeting will also discuss and formulate action plans for the accomplishment of the following specific projects:

- (i) Development of an Assessment Report on the Role of Universal Service Funds (USF) in Addressing the Skills Gap in Broadband Access and Use; and
- (ii) Development of a Framework for Stimulating Local Innovation and Content Development in SADC: A Focus on Evolving Universal and Meaningful Connectivity.

The draft agenda of the meeting is attached as **Annex I** for your reference.

The Meeting will be preceded by a Capacity Building Workshop with the proposed title: ***“Accelerating Universal and Meaningful Connectivity through Local Innovation, Content Development, and Skills Enhancement using Community Networks,”*** to be facilitated by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), from 13th to 14th July 2026.

All participants are strongly encouraged to register in advance for the meeting via the CRASA Events Management Platform. The registration link will be shared in due course, together with the Country Information Note containing the venue details and a list of suggested accommodation facilities.

All requests for further information should be addressed to the undersigned at crasa@crasa.org , copying Mr. Shukya Kiroga, CRASA Head of Electronic Communications, at skiroga@crasa.org .

We look forward to your active participation and valuable contribution to these events and thank you for your continued support in the implementation of the CRASA Strategic Plan 2023/28 and the SADC Digital Transformation Agenda 2030.

Kindly accept the assurances of our highest regards.



Brian Kasonka Mwansa
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachments:

Annex I: Draft Agenda for the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the Universal Access and Service Committee (UASC) Meeting