Addis Ababa University

Perception of ECA's Officials and Stakeholders on the role of ICT in the campaign against Illicit inancial Flows (IFF) from Africa

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This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Meseret Arega, entitled Perception of ECA's Officials and Stakeholders on the role of ICT in the campaign against Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communication complies with the regulations of the University and notes the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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ABSTRACT

Perception of ECA's Officials and Stakeholders on the role of ICT in the campaign against Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa

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This study examines the roles that ICTs play in Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA's) campaign against Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) as documented in the report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa submitted to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2015. The report finds that over $50 billion of Africa's funds, which could have been used to meet development needs is salted out of the continent yearly in illicit flows.

The study employed two prominent theoretical frameworks that could underpin the study; they are Networking Theory popularized by Manuel Castell and Diffusions of Innovations theory by Everett Rogers.

In exploring the role of ICTs in the campaign against IFF, the study adopts triangulation both quantitative and qualitative approaches: First, it examines the ICT-related elements, especially the IFF Webtracker, in the communication strategy designed by ECA for the purpose of tracking, stopping and returning the funds illicitly transferred out of Africa. Second, it dwells on the response to questionnaires administered to 115 people who are the staff members of ECA and ECA's stakeholders and collaborators who are purposively sampled based on their areas of engagement, which is either ICT or are involved directly to the programme, IFF. ECA's

stakeholders and collaborators that include the African Union, African Development Bank, the World Bank, the African Capacity Building Foundation, NEPAD Agency and relevant Civil Society Organizations including Action Aid and Tax Justice Africa were selected considering their exposure to IFF and ICT events organized by ECA. Thirdly, in order to get deeper insight, one-on-one interviews were carried out with eight experts who are either connected with the preparation and implementation of the High Level Panel (HLP) report or have expertise in areas including ICT for development, Communications and development, Data management, etc.

The study unveiled that ICTs plays a significant role in tracking and stopping IFFs through the use of web applications, advocacy campaigns led by social media, as well as communication systems and devices which vent the negative impacts of IFF, create public awareness and curb the problem. The study, however, finds that ICT plays less of a role in returning the money to the source countries and argues that political will of governments should complement ICTs in order to stop IFFs. The study, accordingly, calls for enhanced communication strategies and involvement of media in advocacy campaigns.

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Lastly, I also place on record, my sense of gratitude to all who directly and indirectly lent their helping hands to this venture.

Thank you all and God bless!!!

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Definition of Terms

Adapted from the HLP report on IFF from Africa.

- **Double taxation** - Where a company or individual incurs a tax liability in more than one country, the two countries' claims on the taxing rights can overlap, resulting in double taxation of the same declared income.

- **Secrecy jurisdiction** - Secrecy jurisdictions are cities, states or countries whose laws allow banking or financial information to be kept private under all or all but few circumstances. Such jurisdictions may create a legal structure specifically for the use of non-residents.

- **Tax avoidance** - The legal practice of seeking to minimize a tax bill by taking advantage of a loophole or exception to tax regulations or adopting an unintended interpretation of the tax code.

- **Tax evasion** - Actions by a taxpayer to escape a tax liability by concealing from the revenue authority the income on which the tax liability has arisen. Tax evasion can be a major component of IFFs and entails criminal or civil penalties.

- **Tax havens** - Jurisdictions whose legal regime is exploited by non-residents to avoid or evade taxes. A tax haven usually has low or zero tax rates on accounts held or transactions by foreign persons or corporations.

- **Trade misinvoicing** - The act of misrepresenting the price or quantity of imports or exports in order to hide or accumulate money in other jurisdictions. The motive could, for example, be to evade taxes, avoid customs duties, transfer a kickback or launder money.

  - **Abusive transfer pricing** - A transfer price may be manipulated to shift profits from one jurisdiction to another, usually from a higher-tax to a lower-tax jurisdiction. This is a well-known source of IFFs, although not all forms of transfer pricing abuse that result in IFFs rely on manipulating the price of the transaction.

  - **Trade-based money laundering** - A technique where trade mispricing is used to hide or disguise income generated from illegal activity.

- **Transfer pricing** - The price of transactions occurring between related companies, in particular companies within the same multinational group

ACRONYMS

ACBF – Africa Capacity Building Foundation

AfDB - African Development Building

AUC – African Union Commission

CIA - Central Intelligence Agency

CSGs –Civil Service Groups

CSOs – Civil Society Organizations

DTA - Double Taxation Agreements

GFI- Global Financial Integrity

GPS - Global Positioning Systems

HDR-Human Development Report

HLP - High Level Panel

ICT - Information and Communications Technology

IDRC- International Development Research centre

IFF - Illicit Financial Flows

IMF – International Monterey Fund

ISPs - Internet Service Providers

IT- Information Technology

ITU – The International Telecommunication Union

MDGs – Millennium Development Goals

NEPAD Agency - New Partnership for African Development

NGO – Non Governmental Organization

NICI- National Information Communication Infrastructure

NSA- National Security Agency

ODA - Official development assistance

RECs - Regional Economic Communities

TBML – Trade Based Money Laundering

UDHR – Universal Declaration of Human Right

UNCST - United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development

UNDP - United Nation Development Project

UNECA/ECA - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

USAID – United States' Agency for International Development

WBG – World Bank Group

WSIS - World Summit on the Information Society

Chapter One: 1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

There is compelling evidence that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a crucial role in the transformation of African countries. Africa is transformation-ready and new and innovative technologies are helping change the development paradigm. Examples of how governments, businesses and people in general are using ICTs to make public services more efficient, grow businesses and strengthen and expand social networks are apparent in every corner of the continent. ICTs have transformed health, businesses processes, and decision making.

In democratizing information flow, improving transparency and contributing to the making of more informed citizens, ICTs have also greatly improved governance and transformed journalism. The internet provides an immediacy that was not easily obtainable a few 20 years ago. Today, almost anyone can post news, features, photographs and video clips depicting actual events and realities. Rambau (Rambau, 2010) indeed says the internet/World Wide Web has turned everyone into a journalist. Citizen journalists are using ICTs to share their views and mobilizing citizens behind their views. Online blogs and social media are effectively used to expose anti-social behaviors and illegal transactions by public officials which were carried out secretly. Because of its simplicity and affordability, everyone with content now has the opportunity to publish. Accordingly, media content is now more citizen-driven than government-influenced, (Ademuyiwa, 2012). The downside of this is that the rules of journalism become diluted or outrightly ignored since citizen journalists are not necessarily trained professionals.

The medium can also be used to libel and/or damage adversaries or innocent people with little or no recourse.

ICT is a broad and encompassing term that refers to the range of technologies that facilitate the sharing of knowledge. ICT includes: (a) telecommunications infrastructure that provides the underlying foundation for communication through mobile and fixed line telephony; (b) global distributed networks such as the Internet; and (c) ICT-based industries that include a range of Internet-related and information technology (IT) based industries. The global and national industries that rely on ICT infrastructure and the Internet make up the knowledge economy. For the purpose of this paper, the term ICT will include various systems and tools such as: The internet (Websites e.g. uneca.org; web portals e.g. iGoogle and MyYahoo; news feeds; telecommunications, social media tools e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Google +, etc., multimedia communications such as video streaming; e.g. YouTube and Vimeo, internet radio…etc, internal web usage within ECA in implementing its work.

Africa now has some of the fastest growing mobile telecommunication markets globally with millions of subscribers increasing annually (MDG Report, 2013). Concurrently, internet usage in Africa has become increasingly commonplace in more developed urban cities as well as rural areas. These advancements in ICT throughout the continent have arguably led to financial growth, increased opportunities and ultimately, the development of infrastructure and other areas. The deliberate spread of ICT knowledge through education and training also shows that the economic forecast continentally could be a positive one if the potential is efficiently utilized. This is especially important for Africa as its economic growth has not been necessarily transformed into concrete development.

Over the years, African countries have grappled with the quest for development and improvement in the general wellbeing of their people. While six of the fastest growing countries in the world are in Africa, the continent also houses more than half of the world's poor. According to a World Bank report, if the situation remains the same, the proportion of Africa's poor will significantly increase. The World Bank says, almost half of Africa currently lives in extreme poverty and, while the rate will fall to between 16% and 30% by 2030, most of the world's poor will still live in Africa by that year. Africa will need to contain natural disasters, threats of conflicts, high inequality, and human development deficits (in health and education) and, as 2014 has demonstrated, prepare for GDP-impacting epidemics such as the Ebola virus. By 2025, about 40 percent of the world's new births will be in Africa while half of the continent's population will be under the age of 18. Reversing this trend requires that Africa finds a way to stop the illicit flow of its money out of the continent, by some account, amounting to over $50 billion a year. This is a huge amount that could be used for the continent's development.

International organizations such as ITU, World Bank and IMF, among others have indicated that ICT is a potential tool for economic development (Morawscrynski & Ngwenyama, 2007). Several countries have formulated national ICT policies and invested huge amounts of money into their ICT sectors to aid economic development. The growth in the worldwide ICT market has resulted in globalization, enabling integration of financial markets among different countries in small geographical regions. This in turn has led to intra-regional cooperation and trade. This is most evident in Europe, Asia and North America (Christodoulopoulou, Garofalakis, & Koskeris, 2006).

1.1. 1. ECA, ICTs and Africa's development

The Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) was established in 1958 as the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa, dedicated to broad social and economic development of African countries. Specifically, ECA delivers its support to African countries through a variety of mechanisms, including technical support, analytical studies and advisory services in diverse areas such as development planning, statistics, regional integration, infrastructure financing, human and political security as well as social and economic development. Its main stakeholders and beneficiaries include the African Union, 54 African countries, and the NEPAD Agency. In order to ensure effective delivery of its work, ECA uses its crucial convening power to assemble high level decision makers around crucial development challenges articulated by African Union at its flagship forums which include Africa Development Forum and Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Development.

Over the years, using these Forums, ECA has called attention to Africa's information age, HIV and AIDS, regional integration, governance, sustainable development, industrialization and transformation. In 2011, ECA collaborated with the African Union Commission to call attention to the development problems caused by the illicit financial flows from Africa. ECA's modality of work requires appropriate targeting of key audiences across Africa to ensure that its work is understood and its policy recommendations are implemented to improve livelihood and accelerate the continental integration agenda. For a continent of almost one billion people at different stages of development, speaking thousands of distinct languages, distributed in 54 sovereign countries and carrying various burdens of colonialism, the task of constructing consensus which may lead to common positions is a tough one.

It is therefore an imperative that ECA had to develop creative ways of reaching its targets and achieving its development objectives, an exercise that became more urgent in 2012 when the organization began retooling and repositioning itself. Since its internal restructuring, the areas of science and technology, specifically, the development of ICT in Africa has been one of the leading agendas of the organization. Through its capacity building programmes, ECA strengthens ICT knowledge delivery at the grassroots level with training and the provision of funding for training establishments as well. More so, at its core, ECA is a research institution and so it constantly undergoes ICT related studies aimed at proposing policy recommendations to the continent's leaders while also providing methods of turning these policies into actionable development.

It is clear that ECA is heavily invested in the continent's technological growth and its consequential transformation into economic development. This transformatory attribute is underscored by Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, who said, "We all are becoming more familiar with the extraordinary power of information and communication technologies....ICTs give us potential to improve standards of living throughout the world."
Accordingly, the past few decades have witnessed a growth in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) infrastructure as a catalyst for development in many countries (Mbarika, 2002).

Taking into consideration the struggle of Africa to extricate itself from poverty, one can easily see how ICT has somewhat carved out an alternative path to sustainable development by engendering better and speedy flow of information, promotion of evidence based understanding,

improvement of governance, strengthening of democracies, etc . However, its negative effects should also not be neglected.

The report of ECA's High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa (IFF), chaired by former President Thabo Mbeki, asserts that with the growth of ICT infrastructure in Africa, there has also been an undeniable increase in practices of cybercrime as well as online fraud. In addition to this, weak educational systems as well as existing development frameworks in Africa which have been rather slow in extending development to rural areas and villages could mean a wider gap between rich and poor Africans as opposed to an increased middle class. Could the tools (ICTs) used to perpetrate most illicit financial flows and other online frauds be the very tools that could help solve the problems?

Against this background, this paper probes and analyzes the role that ICT plays in ECA's campaign against illicit financial flows from Africa. . The paper examines and analyzes ECA's communication and advocacy strategy which was prepared for this purpose, with particular attention on the role of ICT tools.

The campaign against IFF is selected on the heavy negative impact and direct relevance to Africa's quest for sustainable development, its potential for accompanying Africa's structural transformation and the high level political buy-in that the programme enjoys, which enhances the potential success of its implementation. Can the promises of ICTs work for Africa in containing IFF? Can ICTs help in tracking the funds; stopping further flows and finally returning the money to their sources? In the following section, I present a brief description of the selected case in order to support my rationale and shed light on the focus of this study.

1.1.2. The Illicit Financial flows from Africa (IFF)

Faced with serious development challenges which have confined its citizens to intolerable adverse social and economic conditions, African countries have had to look closely at the extent to which the continent's resources are frittered away, robbing respective countries of much needed resources to pursue and implement their development agenda. In 2011, a joint meeting of the AU and ECA's ministers of finance, economic development and planning established the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. Co-chaired by the former President of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Mbeki and the Executive Secretary of ECA, Abdoulie Janneh (later Carlos Lopes), the Panel was composed of eminent regional and global personalities including Ambassdor Olusegun Apata, former Nigerian Ambassador to DRC and Chairman of Coca Cola Bottler in Nigeria; Mr. Raymond Baker, the Director of Global Financial Integrity, Dr. Zeinab Bashir el Bakri, a member of the World Bank Inspection Panel, Mr. Abdoulaye Bio Tchané, former Director of the Africa Department at the International Monetary Fund and former President of the West African Development Bank; Henrik Harboe, Director of Development Policy at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and previously Norway's Chief Negotiator in the international climate negotiations; Prof. El Hadi Makboul, Secretary General, Ministry of Industrial Development and Investment Promotion Algeria.

Others are Barrister Akere Muna, founder and former president of Transparency International Cameroon and a member of the Transparency International working group that drafted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; and Ms. Irene Ovonji-Odida, the Chairperson of Action Aid Uganda.

The Panel was asked to investigate and report on the huge loss of development funds due to rampant illicit financial flows from Africa. For the HLP, IFF is money that is illegally earned, transferred, or utilized. "If it breaks laws in its origin, movement, or use, it merits the label,"the HLP report says. As indicated above, illicit financial flows from Africa could be as much as US $50 billion per annum, approximately double the official development assistance (ODA) that Africa receives and, indeed, the estimate may well be short of reality as accurate data does not exist for all transactions and for all African countries. (ibid)

As an advocacy platform, ECA developed a communications strategy premised on the clarion call...Track it. Stop it. Get it. Can ICT enhance the tracking of illicit financial flows from Africa? How can ICT be used to accelerate steps to stop further illicit flows from the continent and can ICT be used to return the funds to their countries of origin?

1.2. Statement of the problem

While some literature have suggested that ICT has a big role to play in economic development and poverty reduction in particular, others stress that these tools also have a negative side. There are two sides to this development coin. One of the negative sides of ICT is the use to commit cybercrime, which we define as an illegal activity committed on the internet, using a computer and the Internet, for instance, to steal data or information, hacking, virus dissemination, computer vandalism, cyber terrorism, and software piracy etc.

While not denying these negative sides, this study is inclined towards the positive role of ICT, acknowledging the roles ICT can play in development, and assessing the extent to which it can

be used to achieve the objectives of ECA's flagship programme, the campaign to stop illicit financial flows from Africa.

There is broad consensus that ICT plays an important role in development by connecting people to more accurate and up-to-date information and knowledge. By creating a more knowledgeable and empowered citizen, therefore, ICT contributes to building democracies and the desired action to track, stop and reverse IFF from Africa.

While it is now evident that ICT is a catalyst to improved governance, improved public services, accountability, and domestic resource mobilization, not every country in Africa has adequate access to ICT to achieve these development objectives, a reality that is captured in the term "digital divide".

There is a concern that developing countries are deprived of the opportunities for economic growth and life improvement generally enjoyed by advanced economies because of the scarcity of ICT, particularly limited Internet connectivity, (Avgerou. C, 2009).

Internet penetration in Africa stands at around 15 percent with very skewed spatial distribution. For instance, penetration stood at 15.6 % in 2012, though it increased to 21.3% in 2013 (http://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm). In absolute numbers, internet users increased from 167,335,676 in 2012 to 240,146,482 in 2013. While those numbers may look impressive from a total continental population of 1,125,721,038, the spatial distribution reveals a different story, (Adeyemi.A, 2014). According to the World Bank, half of the 89 million internet users in sub Saharan Africa are in Nigeria while two countries, Nigeria and Kenya, account for 62% of the users (World Bank, African Development Indicators, 2012/13). Internet penetration ranges

from 6.52% in Cameroon to 45.46% in Tunisia, with Botswana registering 13.15%, Kenya 36.7% and Senegal 21.96%. (For more on inequality in broadband access, see Wilson, 2004; Galperin and Mariscal, 2007; Katz, 2008; Rice, 2008).

In the case of Africa, the digital divide is a stark reality and will highly impact a communications campaign that dwells largely on ICT, especially where mass mobilization of the targets (ICT-savvy population) is a necessity. Absorption and diffusion are affected; therefore the extent to which we can reach the targets and mobilize them behind the campaign is directly limited by the access to ICT tools that are critical to an upscale campaign such as that against IFF. For instance, *ceteris paribus*, even if the same level of advocacy knowledge is delivered to, say, Kenya and Ethiopia, the rate of ICT diffusion and penetration in the two countries would lead to disparity in absorption and utilization of knowledge that is critical to development action.

To the best knowledge of this author and based on preliminary research, there are no past studies on the role and the challenges of ICT utilization to achieve ECA's development objectives generally and the campaign against IFF, in particular, in the context of Africa's digital divide.

In this regard, the issue of disparity between African countries with regards to their level of ICT diffusion also begs a question which this paper hopes to answer –is the digital divide an obstacle. to the diffusion and absorption of development messages? Despite the disparity, how can ICT be used in tracking IFF; in stopping it and in returning the money to the source countries?

Using the report of the HLP on IFF and the campaign against IFF as a case study, this study takes an in-depth look at what ICT tools are employed by ECA in its advocacy on development programmes and initiatives which require mass mobilization.

1.3. Objectives of the study

1.3.1. General Objective

The general objective of the paper is to shed light into the role of ICTs in achieving the objectives of ECA's development initiatives.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this research are:

- To explore the role of ICTs in the advocacy/communications campaign against Illicit Financial Flows from Africa
- To determine what ICT challenges are faced by ECA workers and its stakeholders and collaborators in the performance of their daily tasks

1.4. Research questions

In consideration of the objectives, the study seeks to provide answers to the following major research questions:

- What is the role of ICTs in the advocacy/communications campaign against Illicit Financial Flows from Africa?
- What ICT challenges are faced by ECA workers and its stakeholders and collaborators in the performance of their daily tasks?

1.5. Significance of the study

One of the most enduring development challenges of Africa is how to eradicate poverty from the continent. The UN (2013) says the number of people living on less than $1.25 a day in Africa increased from 290 million in 1990 to414 million in 2010. The GDP per African in 2013 was

$2000, a fifth of global level. The continent is the only region that would not achieve the MDGs this year. Yet Africa has a largely youthful population. By 2050, according to the UNDP (2012), the median age for Africa would be 25 years; for the world as a whole, the average would be 36 years. Without IFF, Africa's capital stock would have expanded by 60% and GDP per capita, by 15% according to the HLP.

In 2014, a study by ECA and NEPAD Agency revealed that Africa had immense sources of domestic resources that could be harnessed to meet its development needs. To meet infrastructure needs, Africa would need about $40 billion yearly. What all of this means is that the amount of money taken out of Africa illicitly every year, combined with identified domestic resource potential, could redress much of Africa's development challenges and deal a blow on poverty on the continent. Much of the IFF utilizes ICT tools; it would require ICT tools to stop it. This is why this study is significant.

By interrogating how ICTs can serve this purpose, the study makes available needed knowledge which can be used independently by social networks and critical target groups in their bid to track, stop and return IFF. In this way, the study makes substantive contribution to advancing the growth and development of Africa and improving the livelihoods of its citizens.

1.6. Scope of the study

This study does not extend to the overall ways in which ECA supports its member states which involves various ways and means, some of which have been well documented. The focus of this study is simply how ICT can be used in achieving the objectives of the HLP report on IFF in particular how ICT can be used to track IFF, stop IFF and return the IFF to its source countries.

1.7. Limitation of the study

As the study relies largely on the opinions and perspectives of respondents, purposively selected, it is expected that the study would face some limitations like any other studies conducted using similar methods, including bias that can contaminate the findings and skew interpretation. The study is also limited by the relative newness of the issue and source report. The HLP report on IFF was submitted to African heads of state in 2014 while the report "Track it. Stop it. Get it" was published by ECA in 2015. This does not give ample time for a post evaluative exercise, which would be a worthy exercise for scholars in future. It would be interesting, for example, to investigate how much of IFF has been tracked, stopped and returned after about two years of implementation, due to the use of ICT.

Apart from this, the study is also limited by availability of data, minimal financial resources, limited access to information especially that of past ICT tools used on already existing ECA projects, limited access to useful research assistance in terms of ECA's work on the ground, constraints in time period with management of programmes under study and the tendency of interview subjects to be defensive with respect to projects and programmes they are associated with.

Chapter Two: 2. Literature Review

In this chapter, I briefly review related literature on ICTs, development and the application of ICT tools to stop fraud, including IFF. The chapter discusses the various definitions of ICT in different contexts and scenarios; while briefly discussing the role of ICTs in development, freedom of expression, health, and democracy/good governance

In addition, it reviews the digital divide and how the associated ICT challenges impact the implementation of development programmes, such as the campaign against IFF. The study also attempts to assess the prominent theoretical foundations.

2.1. Definitions

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been given several definitions and interpreted in various ways and various occasions. It is often used as an extended synonym for information technology (IT), but as indicated in many literature the term is very broad and its application very extensive.

ICT is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning. ICTs are often spoken of in a particular context, such as ICTs in education, development, health care, peace building, libraries, governance, climate change, poverty reduction and so on.

ICT encompasses technologies used in our day-to-day life for communication and decision making purposes such as digital radio, digital TV, e-mail, Internet, broadband networks (wired and wireless) , mobile phones , GPS (global positioning systems), videoconferencing, instant messaging, fax and others technologies that are used to communicate and transfer information from sender to receiver and vice versa.

In this study, ICT refers to the internet (Websites e.g. uneca.org; web portals e.g. iGoogle and MyYahoo; News Feeds etc), Telecommunications, Social media tools e.g. Face Book, Twitter, Google +, etc. Multimedia communications such as video streaming; e.g. YouTube and Vimeo, internet radio...etc

ICT has been used by ECA in various forms from its inception in 1958 to accompany its development programmes and objectives which, themselves, reflect the development challenges of Africa at the time. In the next section I briefly discuss the ECA and its development mandates and argue that ICT in various forms has been used by ECA in its communication efforts

2. 2. The development mandates of Economic Commission for Africa

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was established in 1958 to promote the economic and social development of African countries, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. Among other areas, ECA focuses on ICT, Science and Technology for Development.

ECA is made up of 54 member States. As the preeminent UN regional body in Africa, ECA is well positioned to make unique contributions to address Africa's development challenges.

ECA's strength derives from its role as the only UN agency mandated to operate at the regional and subregional levels to harness resources and bring them to bear on Africa's priorities. To enhance its impact, ECA places a special focus on collecting up-to-date and original regional statistics in order to ground its policy research and advocacy on clear objective evidence; promoting policy consensus; providing meaningful capacity development; and providing advisory services in key thematic fields.

Building on the African Information Society Initiative and the African Innovation framework, ECA assists African countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the formulation, adoption and implementation of new technology and innovation policies to help them accelerate the transformation process to improve the competitiveness of their firms, the welfare of their citizens, including ensuring their collective and individual security.

In 2011, the 4th Joint AUC/ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development initiated the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa (HLP on IFF) because of the realization that Africa was losing too much money to illicit flows that could have been used for development.

2.3. Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa

The determination to ensure Africa's accelerated and sustained development relying as much as possible on its own resources necessitated the campaign to address the huge amount of money which leaves Africa yearly as illicit flows, (Report of the HLP on IFF, 2015).

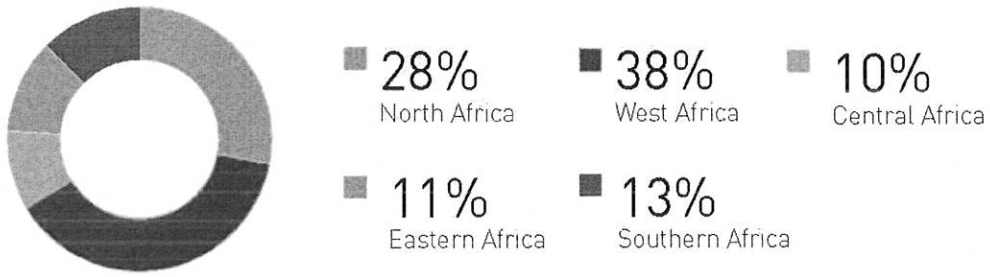
African leaders were concerned that the continent remained over dependent on resources supplied by development partners and that many African countries would not meet the MDGs on

target by 2015. Additionally, the leaders felt that Africa ought to ensure respect for the development priorities it had set itself, as reflected for instance in the NEPAD priorities. To do this, Africa needed to harness all its available resources and plug all necessary financial loopholes through which Africa loses more than $50 billion annually, (ibid).

The HLP met over a period of two years and visited key countries and all parts of Africa for consultations with governments and key stakeholders including civil society organizations, the media, etc. Its report was delivered to the AU Summit in February 2015 where it was endorsed by African heads of state. The report defines illicit flows as money that is illegally earned, transferred or used, (ibid). The Panel says its definition avoids complicated explanations of what qualifies as IFFs and unwieldy debates about whether investors should be allowed to respond rationally to economic and political risk. It says its simple definition also addresses the issue of IFFs across the entire breadth of financial transactions.

Therefore, "illicit" describes activities that, while not strictly illegal in all cases, go against established rules and norms, including avoiding legal obligations to pay tax. According to existing studies, illicit financial flows in Africa take the form of laundering of criminal proceeds, corruption, tax abuse and market abuse. The first two consists of drug trafficking, human trafficking, bribery of officials and theft of state assets while the last two pertain to corporate and individual tax abuse, conflicts of interests and regulatory abuse, (Tax Justice Africa, 2014; HLP report 2015).

Figure 1-Cumulative illicit financial flows from Africa by region, 1970–2008



Source: HLP's calculations based on Kar and Cartwright-Smith (2010)

Data show that IFF is more pronounced in oil-exporting countries dominated by the North African and West African sub-regions. Nigeria accounts for the largest share of IFFs for West Africa (79 per cent of the West African total), whereas Egypt and Algeria account for 66 per cent of the IFFs from North Africa. Non-oil-exporting countries such as South Africa, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia also register significant levels of IFFs for 1970–2008. Interestingly, says the HLP report, IFFs are extremely concentrated in a few countries: the top 10 for 1970–2008 accounted for 79 per cent of total IFFs from Africa (table below).

Table 1-Top 10 African countries by cumulative illicit financial flows, 1970–2008

Country	Cumulative IFFs (1970–2008) US$ Billion	Share in Africa's Total IFFs
Nigeria	217.7	30.5%
Egypt	105.2	14.7%

South Africa	81.8	11.4%
Morocco	33.9	4.7%
Angola	29.5	4.1%
Algeria	26.1	3.7%
Côte d'Ivoire	21.6	3.0%
Sudan	16.6	2.3%
Ethiopia	16.5	2.3%
Republic of Congo	16.2	2.3%

Source: HLP report on IFF, based on Kar and Cartwright-Smith (2010).

2.3.1. The declaration of ministers and mandates to ECA

In January 2015, African Ministers of Finance and Economic Development, meeting in Addis Ababa, endorsed the report of the HLP and called for concerted regional and global action to implement its recommendations. The Declaration called on ECA to work with other stakeholders in implementing the recommendations. To do this, ECA designed a communications strategy which involves innovative use of ICTs to track IFF, stop further flows and get back the funds illicitly transferred back to Africa.

In the next section, dwelling substantially on the report of the HLP, I analyse the costs and consequences of IFFs and examine elements of the communications strategy designed to support the global advocacy against it.

2.3.2. Why Africa needs to stop IFF

In its study spanning 39 years, from 1970-2008, titled Illicit Financial Flows from Africa: Hidden Resource for Development, the Global Financial Integrity (GFI) estimates that Africa lost about $1.8 trillion over the period. GFI says the massive flow of illicit money out of Africa is facilitated by a **global shadow financial system comprising tax havens, secrecy jurisdictions, disguised corporations, anonymous trust accounts, fake foundations, trade mispricing, and money laundering techniques. (Emphasis mine)**

The flows drain hard currency reserves; heightens inflation, reduces tax collection, cancels investment, and undermines free trade. It has its greatest impact on those at the bottom of income scales in their countries, removing resources that could otherwise be used for poverty alleviation and economic growth (GFI, 2014). In a similar fashion, the HLP concludes that African governments have a political interest in IFFs because these flows impact their national development aspirations and encroach on state structures, (HLP, 2015), which is why many of them have law enforcement and regulatory agencies (police, financial intelligence units and anti-corruption agencies) whose duties include preventing IFFs.

The HLP report says IFF also has serious developmental impacts. By some account, says the Panel, Africa's capital stock would have expanded by more than 60 percent if funds that illicitly left Africa had remained on the continent, while GDP per capita would be up by more than 15 percent, (HLP, 2015; Boyce and Ndikumana, 2012). There would also have been more money to invest within Africa if these vast sums were not salted away, (African Economic Outlook, 2012).

For instance, citing a study by O'Hare et al, 2013, the HLP says without IFFs, the Central African Republic would be able to reach the MDG 4 indicators in 45 years compared with 218 years at current rates of progress; Mauritania, 19 years rather than 198 years; Swaziland, 27 years rather than 155 years; and the Republic of Congo, 10 years rather than 120 years. The Panel concludes that if IFFs had been arrested by the turn of the century, Africa would reach MDG 4 by 2016.

2.3.4. The recommendations of the HLP

The title of the final report of the HLP aptly summarizes its ambition and determination: ***Track it! Stop it! Get it!*** The report made 15 findings as follows:

1. Illicit financial flows from Africa are large and increasing; **2.** Ending illicit financial flows is a political issue; **3.** Transparency is a key across all aspects of illicit financial flows; **4.** Commercial routes of illicit financial flows need closer monitoring; **5.** The dependence of African countries on natural resources extraction makes them vulnerable to illicit financial flows; **6.** New and innovative means of generating illicit financial flows are emerging; **7.** Tax incentives are not usually guided by cost-benefit analyses; **8.** Corruption and abuse of entrusted power remains a continuing concern; **9.** More effort needed in asset recovery and repatriation; **10.** Money laundering continues to require attention; **11.** Weak national and regional capacities impede efforts to curb illicit financial flows; **12.** Incomplete global architecture for tackling illicit financial flows; **13.** Financial secrecy jurisdictions must come under closer scrutiny; **14.** Development partners have an important role in curbing illicit financial flows from Africa; **15.** Illicit financial flow issues should be incorporated and better coordinated across United Nations processes and frameworks.

2.3.5. Implementing the recommendations of the HLP on IFF

Based on the above findings, the HLP made the following recommendations in five clusters: the *commercial component* of illicit flows; the *criminal component* of illicit flows; the *corrupt component* of illicit flows; *additional strategic measures* by African states and *further responsibilities* of Africa's partners. I now briefly spotlight the recommendations.

With respect to the first cluster of recommendations, dealing with trade mispricing, transfer pricing, and base erosion/profit sharing, the HLP calls for transparency of ownership and control of companies, partnerships, trusts and other legal entities. "African countries should require that beneficial ownership information is provided when companies are incorporated or trusts registered; such information is updated regularly; and such information is placed on the public record. Beneficial ownership declarations should also be required of all parties entering into government contracts. False declarations should result in robust penalties, the HLP says. (ibid, page 81). The Panel observes that double taxation agreements can contain provisions that are harmful to domestic resource mobilization and can be used to facilitate illicit financial outflows. It recommends "that African countries review their current and prospective double taxation conventions, particularly those in place with jurisdictions that are significant destinations of IFFs, to ensure that they do not provide opportunities for abuse. The use of the Model Double Taxation Agreement developed by the African Tax Administration Forum is recommended for consideration, the Panel said. The Panel calls on African countries to join the African Tax Administration Forum and provide it with the necessary support and political impetus at relevant forums such as the Conference of African Ministers of Finance. It also recommends that Africa's extractive sector, which is a primary source of IFF, should join initiatives such as Extractive

Industries Transparency Initiative while Africa should push for mandatory country-by-country and project-by-project reporting requirements in the extractive sectors and across all sectors.

Regarding the second cluster (criminal component of illicit flows), the Panel calls on financial intelligence unit in each African country to share information with other African financial intelligence units about cases of people and companies being prosecuted for facilitating the movement and laundering of the proceeds of crimes so that cross-border illicit activities and patterns can be identified. (ibid, page 83).

On Cluster C (corrupt component of illicit flows), the Panel recommends that IFFs are integrated as a specific component in the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. "This will immediately bring IFFs into the Strategy of the Advisory Board of the Convention. The association of civil society and media, as required of governments under Article 12 of the Convention, will become accepted standard practice, "the Panel says. To eliminate the opportunity for IFFs from national and local government treasuries, the Panel recommends that African States ensure that the public can ***access national and sub national budget information,*** and that processes and procedures for budget development and auditing are open and transparent to the public. (ibid) (Emphasis mine). Additionally, the Panel calls for the integration of IFF-related issues in the questionnaires of the APRM and recommends that CSOs are given the "***operating space and legal freedoms required for advocacy, activism and research***" (ibid page 84). (Emphasis mine). The Panel says non-transparent government procurement and supply chains can provide opportunities for corruption-related IFFs and calls on African governments to adopt best practices in open contracting to reduce IFFs through government procurement processes.

What remains in this chapter is to examine the extent to which ICT, as embedded in the ECA communications strategy, can help in the achievement and implementation of these recommendations.

2.3.6 ECA Communication Strategy on IFF

Communication is a critical and fundamental component of running any organization that deals with a diverse group of stakeholders. The diversity may be in terms of culture, nationality, ideas, language, orientation, etc. Communication is the tool that can unify, clarify and enhance understanding while potentially triggering desirable actions.ECA routinely uses communication strategies as part of its advocacy tools.

In line with this, a communication strategy was designed by ECA to accompany the work of the HLP and the implementation of the recommendations contained in its final report. The objectives of the strategy are: creating awareness about the work and HLP's recommendations, enhance the credibility of the HLP, support the creation and dissemination of credible knowledge on IFF, position IFF as a legitimate development issue with a general outcome of achieving those goals and ultimately be able to track, stop and get the stolen money from Africa.

To attain the objectives, target groups were identified: top 10 African countries (by IFF), other selected African countries, Ministers of Finance and Development Planning in Africa, governors of Central Banks, key "in-flow" countries in the west, key civil society organizations, students, labour unions and academia, watch group organizations in targeted countries, G20/G8/C10, etc. (Adeyemi. A, 2014)

In addition to this, the strategy also proposes some key elements and tools to facilitate the implementation and conduct a mass mobilization planned to engender a concerted global action sought to tackle this development challenge. Almost all the tools planned to be used are ICT related, like for example; using a community Radio, Social media platforms (Facebook, twitter, Instagram etc), Websites that will be used for knowledge sharing purposes where one can sign up and share intra-Panel discussions using an application called "FORUM", Web-tracker which is a web-based visualization tool to graphically convey the quantum and gravity of the illicit flows, and the adverse impacts on development efforts, including achievement of MDGs, to track the money transaction process and engaging phone companies when conducting "Get involved" campaign in partnership with those companies such as MTN, Glo, Airtell, Vodaphone etc this is designed with anticipation of spotlighting the costs of IFF and providing information on getting involved".

In several interviews with the author of the IFF communication strategy, it became obvious that ECA had planned for the IFF advocacy to begin, even before the HLP concluded its report. This was the intention of the tagline which ultimately became the title of the report: Track it. Stop it. Get it. "The idea behind the tagline is three-folds: First, we track the huge amount salted away using credible statistics. Then we stop further illicit flows and lastly, we get back the stolen money," Adeyemi said during an interview with me, (Adeyemi.A, 2015).

He said the most powerful weapon used in IFF is secrecy and a lack of transparency, which is why the most potent force in the communication strategy is IFF Tracker a unique android application which will be made available, free of charge, on all android sources (such as Google Play Store). The tracker provides real time information and credible statistics on the movement

of funds from African countries, without necessarily insinuating the legal nature of the funds transferred. The idea is to give information and provide the facts which ordinary citizens can follow up on or use for advocacy, (ibid).

2.3.7. ICT's role in IFF

As it has been elucidated in the above section, a communication strategy was developed as an advocacy tool in support of implementing the recommendations of the HLP. The strategy involves key ICT-related tools (radio, social media and the use of web-tracker).

ICTs contribute to the free flow of information and this may increase accountability and transparency. In the report of the HPL, transparency was identified as one of the solutions to illicit financial flows from Africa. The Panel says the massive flow of illicit money out of Africa is facilitated by a global shadow financial system comprising tax havens, secrecy jurisdictions, disguised corporations, anonymous trust accounts, fake foundations, trade mispricing, and money laundering techniques.

"Through greater transparency in the global financial system illicit outflows can be substantially curtailed, thereby enhancing growth in developing countries and at the same time stabilizing the economies of richer countries," the HLP's report says. Hence, it is conceivable that the use of ICTs, in democratizing information access, will enhance transparency and help in achieving the desired goals.

2.4. ICT in Africa

Africa is the world's second largest and second most populous continent, with over 1 billion people and covering six percent of the earth surface and 20.4 percent of its total land area.

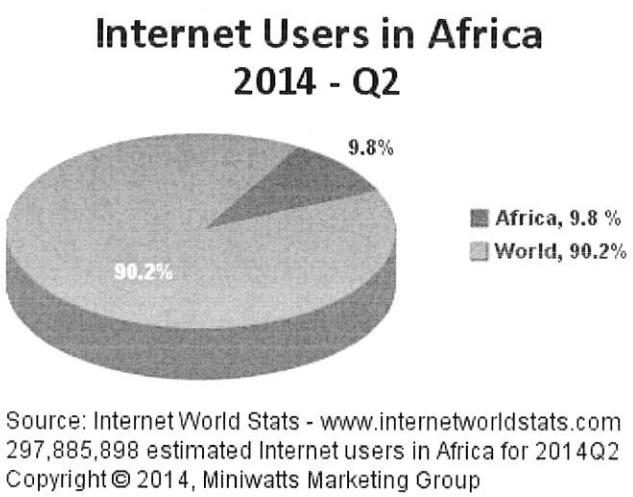
ICT in Africa is relatively new, commencing in the mid-90s with the call for an African information society. While the continental ICT landscape has changed dramatically since the last decade of the 1990s, with millions of citizens having access to relevant ICT. ICT poverty is real and magnified by the spatial disparity on the continent. According to Jensen, in 2001, only 1 African in four had radio, one in 13 had a television, one in 35 had a mobile telephone, one in 130 had a personal computer and one in 160 used the internet.

While mobile telephony has bloomed in many African countries, and has positively affected the lives of citizens, it is a different case with the internet. The picture is dire when we consider the digital divide in terms of the number of access lines per 1000 inhabitants. In 1998, almost 90% of internet use was concentrated in high income countries while 0.5% was in low income countries. In that year, there were 851 million lines, 64.5% of which were in OECD countries. In countries with the lowest GDP, there were 1.6 lines per 100 inhabitants. Although, the numbers have improved for low income countries over the years, the trend remains the same: the digital divide remains significant.

There are clear indications that African countries are determined to correct this imbalance. Over the years, many initiatives have been designed in this regard, including the World Economic Forum –SADC e-Readiness Forum, The Task Force on Digital Bridge to Africa (2002), the

World Bank's Gateway Project and various ICT-related initiatives of NEPAD (including E-Justice Africa, E-Customer Africa, Telemedicine, E-History and Africa Cyber market.

Chart 1- Internet users in Africa 2014



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com
297,885,898 estimated Internet users in Africa for 2014Q2
Copyright © 2014, Miniwatts Marketing Group

Lately, the Africa Union's Agenda 2063, the long term continental vision, aims for a continent on equal footing with the rest of the world as an information society, an integrated e-economy where every government, business and citizen has access to reliable and affordable ICT services by increasing broadband penetration by 10% by 2018, broadband connectivity by 20 percentage points and providing access to ICT to children in schools and venture capital to young ICT entrepreneurs and innovators.

Whatever the good intentions of the African Union may be, improvement in ICT in countries has to be led by African countries themselves. This means that ICT would have to compete with many other critical sectors, infrastructure, health, education, defense, etc...for resources. Also, strategically, to promote ICT in Africa, obstacles to its use need to be removed, by ensuring

geographical dispersion, sectoral absorption, and availability of connectivity infrastructure, among others, (Roy. S, 2005).

For it to catalyze development, countries must give considerations beyond the sheer presence or even abundance of ICT. Policy considerations should include the degree of appropriateness, affordability, capacity to use, relevance, language and trust, (Olaf Nielinger, 2006). The ICT picture will not improve if it is not appropriate for the target population in terms of their critical need or if it is beyond their reach due to high cost, ability to understand it or if they do not have confidence in it.

The significance of ICT and the roles it plays in the development effort of a country especially developing countries is perceptible, and this fact is reflected by the focus given by Africa's heads of state to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and by the ICT Priority Projects of the NEPAD. The awareness as to how useful ICTs for development are becoming apparent, as a result countries in the world are clearly recognizing that ICT can contribute to tackle some of the region's challenges by providing the underlying means for new interactions within any given society or across the region that can in turn facilitate social and economic development.

In support of this, the World Bank Group (WBG) has established a revitalized ICT agenda, Africa Region Development Strategy which was adopted in July 2003 that identifies ICT as one of the three emerging positive factors of the 21st century for Africa. WBG expects ICTs to play a major role in the continent's efforts to drive strong regional development and integration in the 21st century. The WBG has supported many of the region's reform programs that have been instrumental in driving the phenomenal growth in connectivity. Whilst witnessing the impacts

and achievements gained through ICTs, the WBG however warns that these successes should not overshadow the critical gaps that still exist in terms of broadening access to the wider population of Africa, ensuring affordable prices, and mainstreaming the use of ICT for development.

2.5. The role of ICT

There is clear evidence that ICT contributes to growth and development of countries in diverse ways, including through direct empowerment, and fortifying citizens with information and knowledge that they need to hold their governments accountable. (For more on this, See World Bank, 2004; 23; Aliron (2007). There is also literature on the role of ICT and investment/productivity (Brynjolfsson, E., and Hitt, L. 1996); ICT as a catalyst for social and economic transformation (Bell 1999, Castells 2000, Steinmuller 1993, Toffler 1980); ICTs as trigger to economic boom of developed countries (Davison et al. 2000); ICTs and promotion of freedoms, (Sen. A, 1999); ICTs and self-determination, (Hague and Loader 1999, P7), Kraemer and Dedrick found found a positive correlation between IT investments and GDP growth as well as productivity growth for 12 Asia-Pacific nations during the period 1984 to 1990, (Cited in Kauffman.R & Kumar.A, 2008).

On the flip side, ICT can be a double-edged sword as it comes with unintended destructive and anti-development consequences. As much as ICTs are very useful in bringing many positive outcomes in terms of development, modernization and simplifying our life style by creating an atmosphere where we can conduct most of our day to day routines just in a few seconds and at a cheaper cost, they do also have awful sides of their own, mainly associated with crimes (as in the case of Ross William Ulbricht who used ICT to sell narcotics (Newsweek Magazine, 27.02.2015), and invasion of privacy resulting in devastating endings in most cases. (For more on this, see the Case of whistle blower Edward Snowden, The Guardian, July 2014). I now

briefly discuss ICT in relation to frauds and freedom of information/expression, two items that are more closely associated with my research interest.

2.6. ICTs and frauds, including IFF

The double-edged nature of ICT also relate directly to IFF. While ICTs are used in the process of transferring illicit funds they can also be used in tracking the flows; in stopping them and in triggering the processes that can lead to repatriating the funds to Africa. Almiron refers to the "fraud of an information society" where the new information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been used predominantly for the sake of theft rather than being applied to Citing the work of French journalist, Denis Robert, Almiron says "It is not a paradox but common sense, that the same technology which allows parallel opaque financial systems to exist, may be the key to change this state of affairs". In fact, ICTs, writes Robert, are at the core of global finance that "the main instrument of these clearing societies is itself a technology company: The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT). SWIFT created in 1973 in Belgium by the main shareholders of the two international clearing systems (a group of 239 European and North-American banks)", (Robert 2001)

SWIFT now belongs to over 3000 banks. Currently, it belongs to more than 3,000 and connects more than 7,600 financial institutions, providing an instrument for extra fast transmission of cash in every currency. According to data from the company itself, in 2004 the SWIFT world network transferred several billion dollars a day for the 3.5 million messages negotiated daily (which meant more than 2,000 million messages negotiated that year), (Robert, 2001:42-43).

It is the secrecy and opacity of the SWIFT clearing systems, among others, that makes many to conclude that it is absolutely impossible to track and control world financial transactions. But

this is not necessarily correct. Almiron says it is possible (and relatively easy) to accurately quantify the daily value of international financial transactions since the most important financial transactions are cleared and recorded electronically by only two international clearing societies, (Almiron 2007).

2.7. ICT and freedom of expression

The internet and new technologies or ICTs have become an integral part of people's life and are used to accomplish tasks fast and efficiently. For instance, the internet enables people to access and share information instantly in a manner that promotes knowledge and social interaction. It therefore, serves as a vehicle to practice the right to freedom. Moreover, it is literally contributing to becoming the voice of the people. Nowadays, many people use the internet; social media such as twitter, Facebook, while many have their private blogs and other ways to share their points of view on specific topics. These have also been used effectively to air out grievances or protest, as in the case of the Arab Spring, the Baltimore case where a detainee died of spinal injury in custody, and protests that followed the killings of black unarmed kids by white cops in the US.

To demonstrate and reaffirm that the concept that the framework of international human rights law is applicable to new communication technologies such as the internet, Frank La Rue, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression highlighted in his report to the UN Human Rights Council that Article 19 of the UDHR and the Covenant was drafted with foresight to include and to accommodate future technological developments through which individuals can exercise their right to freedom of expression".

Thus, restriction must have a legal basis. In addition to this, such legal basis must be accessible and narrowly tailored so as to enable individuals to predict the legality of a particular conduct and thereby allow them to regulate their own conduct.

In view of this, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled that blanket website blocking violated the right to freedom of expression under the European Convention on Human Rights.

2.8. Factors affecting use of ICT for the campaign against IFF

Many factors affect the use of ICT in the campaign against IFF from Africa. The most critical ones are:

2.8.1. Digital Divide in Africa

According to Roy, digital divide captures the bias in patterns of the internet (region, sector, socio-economic group (income, sex, age) the ownership of computers or public facilities, the availability of telecommunications (telephone lines), the nature of use (e-mail, using the World Wide Web), and the institutions (public and private) offering ICT facilities, (Roy. S. 2005, P.113).

With regards to ICT integration in Africa, two major obstacles have been identified -inadequate access to IT resources and computer illiteracy. According to a taskforce of the UN on ICT, Africa is the only continent with a pronounced digital divide (UN reference). In nearly every country, it is primarily a certain percentage of people who have the best information and communication technology that is available to society. These people have access to computers and information sources, telephone and facsimile services, Internet services, as well as a wealth of content and training relevant to their lives. Then there is another group of people, who, for

social or economic reasons, do not have access to computers or even relatively valuable information sources, reliable telephone services, let alone the wealth of information and convenience afforded to one via Internet services. The differences between these two groups of people are what is known as the digital divide, (Herselman and Britton, 2002). In a world which relies more on connectivity, the African continent still remains 'in the dark' and lacks widespread connection to the internet. (See. Table 2)

This divide has to be corrected by raising the level of digital inclusion; that is, increasing the number of people who have access to and use the technology tools of the digital age, is of vital importance. Scholars have argued that it is imperative for governments to find ways to bridge this divide and wire the poor, whose livelihoods could be enhanced through access to technology, (Herselman and Britton, 2002). But there are critical factors limiting Africa's access to ICTs, including infrastructure, high costs and training.

2.8.2. ICT Infrastructure and High Cost of Services

One of the most obvious factors affecting ICT growth in Africa is the high cost of equipment and services. Most African countries have low GDPs with costs for broadband services in Africa as high as US$100 per month, compared with around US$20 in Europe. This challenge is faced by both potential and existing consumers. Potential consumers face the difficulty of subscribing to new broadband services due to the high costs. Existing customers also, usually have to suffer from uncontrolled increases in subscription costs because of a minimally competitive market and a lack of government regulations on said market. Furthermore, these consumers also have little awareness of quality of service issues and there is little protection against unsatisfactory performance by operators and Internet Service Providers (ISPs), (Souter, 2010) highlights best the challenge of the high cost of ICT in Africa by using the country of Zambia as a case study.

He points out that ICT equipment is already expensive for the citizens of a country with a per capita GNP which only just exceeds the cost of a single personal computer. In addition to this, the high cost of PCs and peripherals such as modems is pushed up further by high rates of taxation.

As a result of this challenge, only the wealthy have access to the internet and other useful ICT tools in their homes and/or offices, while most African consumers have to rely on pay by use services such as telecentres and cyber-cafes. From a governmental standpoint, there is also a significant challenge for many African countries, in adequately planning and financing the use of ICT in development programs nationally, (Devex, 2013). There is a crucial need for multinationals who provide these ICT services to bring down the cost of ICT tools to a level where Africa can compete with the rest of the world. African governments must also ensure increased African investment in broadband Infrastructure across the continent, (Katiti, 2013). Coupled with adequate capacity development in the areas of ICT training to its citizens, the provision of this investment would also build business and entrepreneurship opportunities.

2.8.3. Inadequate Training / Education on ICT

The issue of a lack of capacity in the areas of ICT education stems from the high cost of ICT tools and services in Africa in most cases. Besides, national policies aimed at fostering open and free entrepreneurship and nationwide e-government facilities, community and regional level leadership must be present to encourage creative ICT application to education, public services, health and various aspects of life, (Abdoulkarim.S, 2013). This then demands efforts from all stakeholders including the citizenry to ensure the success of ICT in Africa.

According to the communication strategy of the IFF, ICT tools will be deployed to carry out the task of sensitization and awareness creation in Africa and beyond. Among the tools are online press releases and editorials, video news releases, social media platforms (Facebook, Linkedin, Twitter, Flicker and so on) and the use of a unique web application called ***IFF Webtracker*** (an Android and IOS visualization tool that will be used for tracking, knowledge sharing and mass mobilization) which will be accessible via the internet and on all relevant social media platforms. It is exactly why access to internet in African countries is crucial, *ab initio*, for this campaign.

2.9. Theoretical framework

This study employs the prominent Networking Theory popularized by Manuel Castell and Diffusion of Innovations Theory by Everett Rogers.

2.9.1. Networking Theory

At the base of ECA's use of ICT to accomplish its development objective is a simple strategy of building multiple networks, vertically and horizontally, which will interact as a network society on the key findings of ECA's policy recommendations. The traditional perception of networks is as social organization. The idea is that generally, members of the network will understand the work more and be able to assimilate and implement the recommendations, even as social groups.

The capability of the network is greatly enhanced when it has access to appropriate ICT. Understanding is enhanced, predicated on rapid sharing of information. Coping mechanisms are strengthened because shared experiences and lessons are facilitated by ICT. At the end, quality decisions and superior behaviors are developed. As stated by Castell, although "networks are old forms of social organization, they are now empowered by new information/communication

technologies, so that they are able to cope at the same time with flexible decentralization, and with focused decision-making".

While technology enhances social networks, the influence is not one way. In fact, in social situations, technology affords interdependence between members of social networks, promotes trust, and deepens knowledge and understanding necessary for quality decision making. At the most basic level, the intention of applied technology is to use knowledge to facilitate the process of production (of consensus, common positions, decisions, actions, etc. Therefore, we must integrate technology, on its own ground, as a specific layer of the social structure, following an old tradition in human ecology. We have entered a new technological paradigm, centred on microelectronics- based, information/communication technologies, and genetic engineering, (Castell).

Castell says the new information economy is characterized by three fundamental features: First, it is informational, that is, the capacity of generating knowledge and processing/managing information determine productivity and competitiveness. Second, this new economy is global because its activities have the capacity to work as a unit on a planetary scale in real time or chosen time. Third, the new economy is networked, giving rise to a new form of economic organization, the network enterprise made from either firms, social organizations or segments of firms or organizations. In this perspective, size of organization does not matter. Big organizations can be decentralized with appropriate technology as networks while small units are connected in the same way.

ECA's staff strength stands at around 800. Structurally, its head office in Addis Ababa is made of seven Divisions which are subdivided into Sections and Units in line with the priorities of the

African Union and its NEPAD programme. It also maintains a sub-regional office in five locations across Africa...Zambia, Cameroon, Morocco, Niamey and Rwanda. Annually, these Divisions and sub-regional offices are charged with implementing the programmes of ECA. It is a complex organization which must reach millions of stakeholders. Networks and information are crucial tools.

The new information economy comes with some distinct advantages. First it transforms work and employment by making it flexible and more productive. "Part-time work, temporary work, self-employment, work by contract, informal or semi-formal labour arrangements, and relentless occupational mobility, are the key features of the new labour market. Feminization of paid labour leads to the rise of the flexible woman', gradually replacing the 'organization man', as the harbinger of the new type of worker", (Castell).

An integrated ICT propel society and promotes the sharing of cultural expressions, which is a necessity in a large multicultural organization such as ECA. These technologies help in diffusing information using various multimedia, bridging gaps and eliminating or reducing misunderstanding.

2.9.2. Diffusion of Innovations Theory

The additional theoretical framework used in this study is the Diffusion of Innovations Theory by Everett M. Rogers.

As the study mainly focuses on the roles of ICT in the campaign against IFF from Africa, it would invariably need mass mobilization of citizens behind the campaign using innovative ICT tools. The messages have to be sharp and targeted; the tools have to be appropriate and the

campaign has to be consistent overtime, allowing for the messages to diffuse through the masses, and eliciting the desired actions.

According to Rogers, diffusion is the process by which an innovation is communicated through certain channels over time among the members of a social system. Diffusion is a special type of communication concerned with the spread of messages that are perceived as new ideas. And an innovation is "an idea, practice, or object that is perceived as new by an individual or other unit of adoption,"(Rogers.E, 1995).

To implement the recommendations of the HLP report, an advocacy slogan (IFF: Track it! Stop it! Get it!) was developed and eventually adopted as the title of the report. A communication strategy was also developed with a view to creating awareness about the work and HLP's recommendations, enhance the credibility of the Panel, support the creation and dissemination of credible knowledge on IFF, position IFF as a legitimate development issue with a general outcome of achieving those goals and ultimately be able to track, stop and get the stolen money from Africa. For this purpose, target groups were identified and these are; top 10 African countries (by IFF), other selected African countries, Ministers of Finance and Development Planning in Africa, governors of Central Banks, key "in-flow" countries in the west, key civil society organizations, students, labour unions and academia, watch group organizations in targeted countries, G20,G8,C10, etc.

In addition to this, the strategy also proposes some key elements and tools to facilitate the implementation and to conduct a mass mobilization planned to engender a concerted global action sought to tackle this development challenge. Almost all the tools planned to be used are

ICT related - community radio, social media platforms, websites that will be used for knowledge sharing purposes where one can sign up and share discussions by using in a forum; IFF Web-tracker, which is a web-based visualization tool to graphically convey the quantum and gravity of the illicit flows, as well as the adverse impacts of IFF on development efforts, including achievement of MDGs. It also deals with creation of partnerships with media organizations (such as CNN and Aljazeera) and telecommunication companies including MTN, Glo, Airtel, and Vodaphone, to be in the vanguard of the advocacy campaign through innovative messaging to the masses in appropriate languages and doses.

As posited by Rogers, the four main elements in the diffusion of new ideas are innovation, communication channels, time and the social system (context). According to the IFF communication strategy innovative tools (such as the web-tracker) are deployed through different communication channels to the society and to all the targeted groups in order to raise awareness and achieve the desired results in a two-way dynamic where messages elicit feedback which feed into the diffusion loop.

In its best conception, experts see communication as a process in which participants create and share information with one another in order to reach a mutual understanding. It is a two-way process of convergence, rather than one-way, linear act in which one individual seeks to transfer a message to another, (Rogers and Kincaid, 1981, as cited in Rogers, E.M. (1983). Diffusion of innovations (3rd edition).

Therefore diffusion can be seen as process of communication, in which the messages are embedded with clear, new idea. It is this newness of the idea in the message content of communication that gives diffusion its special character.

Chapter Three: Research Methodology

3. Introduction

In this chapter, I discuss the research design and methodological approaches employed in this to collect and analyze data. It discusses the sampling techniques and justifies the selections ground. The chapter also discusses the organization of the study in terms of.

3.1. Research Approach

In this study, a triangulation research methodology, which is a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, were used with structured questionnaires developed based on Likert-scale. The questionnaires are composed of close-ended and open-ended questions. As Miller and Brewer, (2003, p. 326) point out, "proponents of triangulated approaches to research assert that the results of combining varied approaches is a net gain–the strengths of each contrasting approach more than cancel the weaknesses of their counterpart."

The questionnaires were supplemented with structured interviews which were conducted with knowledgeable people in the subject area for collecting primary data. Methodology experts Rubin and Rubin argue that interviews allow one to unravel complicated relationships in a way that other means do not, (Rubin & Rubin, 1995, P.61). Qualitative research explores attitudes, behavior and experiences through such methods as interviews or focus groups. It attempts to get an in-depth opinion from participants, (Dawson. C. Dr, 2007, P.33). The study uses structured interviews intended to harvest qualitative data from key informants from officials of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and major collaborators and Stakeholders of ECA, including: African Union (AU), New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) this include: East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD),

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS), Community of Sahel-Saharan States(SEN- SAD, World Bank (WB), Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Civil Society Group (CSGs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in order to complement the quantitative survey. According to Creswell, in-depth interviews are appropriate for soliciting a rich, detailed and a holistic picture of people's experiences, (Creswell, 2003). This method was taken as one of the data gathering instrument which gives a qualitative depth to the thesis.

The secondary data were obtained through comprehensive literature review with emphasis on the report of the High Level Panel (HLP) on Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from. Data were collected from books, online journals, reports, online, workshop papers, internet and other electronic media

3. 2. Population of the study and its setting

This study relies on primary data obtained from interviews with the officials of ECA and major collaborators of ECA who are responsible for implementing Africa's development initiatives in various capacities.

This is because the objective of the study calls for the engagement of those who charged with implementing ECA's programmes or who have expertise in the area of ICTs, development and communication as well as those involved in ECA's campaign against IFF, to complete this study.

3. 3. Sampling

The number of staff members of ECA is about 800, but about one-tenth of that number constitutes the professional groups who are targeted for this study. Almost all of them possess an advanced degree (Masters or PhD). They are divided among seven main Divisions focused on the following thematic areas: Strategic Planning and Operational Quality (SPOQ), Macroeconomic Policy (MPD), Public Information and Knowledge Management (PIKMD), Regional Integration and Trade (RITD), Social Development Policy (SDPD), Special Initiatives (SID), African Centre for Statistics and Capacity Development (CDD). Among these Divisions, the following are considered to have the appropriate knowledge and expertise to provide the required information and appropriate data for this study: the Public Information and Knowledge Management Division (PIKMD), African Centre for Statistics and Capacity Development Division (CDD). PIKMD has Sections devoted to IT Support, and External Communication/Media Relations and RITD were selected as a target groups based on researcher's knowledge of the population's research activities, in the subject area of the study and have the appropriate knowledge and experiences. CDD is targeted because it was involved in the HLP work from inception. Officials of CDD were members of the technical committee which served as the Secretariat of the HLP. The selection process ensures that the issues of non-response due to lack of knowledge, expertise or exposure in the area of study is kept to the minimum.

The staff lists were obtained from the Administrative Assistants attached to these Divisions whose jobs include records keeping on staff. Thus, the accuracy of the staff list is not in question. It was established that there were 95 staff members in the targeted Divisions.

Regarding the organizations that are regarded as collaborators/beneficiaries of ECA's programmes and activities, the researcher took advantage of her work-related interactions with the focal points of the organizations to contact the right persons at the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AUC, NEPAD Agencies, African Capacity Building Foundation, etc. Accordingly, questionnaires were administered (online and physically) to these groups. Where responses were not forthcoming (due to interest, internet difficulty, etc) the researcher visited the local Liaison Offices of these groups in Addis Ababa.

3.4. Sample design

The study employs purposive sampling which includes all actors that are involved in the area of interest as much as possible. According to Dattalo, this method "basically involves the use of the researcher's knowledge of the population in terms of research goals. That is, elements are selected based on the researcher's judgment that they will provide access to the desired information. Purposive sampling also can be used to select participants based on their willingness to be studied or on their knowledge of a particular topic,"(Dattalo.P, 2008, P.4)

According to Singh, "purposive sampling can be very useful for situations where you need to reach a targeted sample quickly and where a random process of selection or proportionality is not the primary concern,"(Singh.k, 2007, P. 108) This was preferred because of the fact that it was assumed that the researcher working in that organization where most of the data collection was taking place, is in a better position to make judgment and select the people whom she thinks could provide the information sought based on their expertise in the area of study.

As the name suggests, purposive sampling refers to selection of units done with the particular purpose of tapping into knowledge of the sample especially in situations it is necessary to reach a

targeted sample quickly and where a random process of selection or proportionality is not the primary concern, (Singh.K. 2007, P. 109). For this reason, the entire or total population (i.e. the universe) is sampled because they have particular sets of characteristics. (e.g., specific attributes/traits, experience, knowledge, skills, exposure to an event, etc.

Accordingly, this study utilizes both sampling methods: It uses purposive sampling to identify. the population that is knowledgeable in the relevant aspect of ICT, particularly related to its use for achieving development objectives. It is also based on experience, skills and knowledge in the critical area of interest of this study: the work of the HLP on IFF. This selection was made from the Departments where the targets work. Thus ECA's Information and Communication Technologies Services Division (ICTSD) was targeted. In addition to this sample unit, ECA staff members who were directly involved in the work of the HLP report were selected.

With regards to the population regarded as collaborators or stakeholders of ECA, the study sampled organizations and institutions which have had exposure to IFF and ICT events at ECA. Accordingly, the total population of 123 was used as sample, of which 8 were selected for in-depth interviews due to their involvements, knowledge and skills in ICTs and IFF-related areas.

Therefore, a total of 115 questionnaires were administered to collect data, out of which 91 (79.1%) were returned. To ensure reliability of the sample universe, staff lists were obtained from ECA's Administrative Assistants who are charged with keeping custody of staff information. For ECA's collaborators, I focused on the participation register of relevant ICT and IFF events.

The methods also included a wide-ranging review of related literature along with special focus of the study, the Report of the HLP on IFF, which is of course a secondary data tool for this research paper.

3. 5. Data collection

As the study uses triangulation or mixed methodology, both questionnaires and in-depth interviews were employed to collect data. Two sets of questionnaires were administered: the first is to officials of ECA who are in the position to utilize ICT and implement ICT policy in their daily work of supporting Africa's development and who were fully or partially engaged in the IFF programme and the work of the HLP from the inception and have roles in the implementations process as well. The second questionnaire was targeted at major collaborators of ECA including AU, NGOs, CSG and CSOs, NEPAD and member states. Accordingly, the data were collected in two different ways. As mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, two structured questionnaires, for ECA's Officials and ECA's collaborators with some open ended questions were distributed in person and by employing an online/electronic survey tool called Survey Monkey was used. The structured interviews were conducted by the researcher in the interviewees' offices to probe deeper on the responses that had been received through the questionnaires that were self-administered. The questionnaires were administered between April 29, 2015 and May 25, 2015.

The structured, tape-recorded and one-on-one interviews were conducted with knowledgeable people in the subject area for collecting primary data and to help maintain the consistencies with the questionnaires in the data analysis part by the researcher from 13 –19 May 2015. In all cases,

the interviews were carried out in the offices' of the informants. All interviews were done in English Language.

In addition to the above data collection methods, secondary data collection tool was employed which is reviewing related literature on the subject area.

3.6. Data Analysis

Data were collected quantitatively and qualitatively. Coding and groupings were done before and after the data collection as the questionnaires and interviews were composed of open-ended and close ended questions. Operational definitions were given to the different scales used in the questionnaire in order to create a clear distinction between them, enhancing clarity. For the qualitative part of the data collection, two sets of questionnaires were administered and the data were analyzed using Excel. After feeding the data into Excel, frequencies were computed to analyze the scores of the scales for each item. In addition to this, for data gathered using interviews, tape-recorded transcripts were analysed.

Chapter Four: 4.1. Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

There are strong indications in the literature that countries with efficient ICT programmes are able to curb the level of corruption and promote good governance, (Brussel, 2011, Cited in Zenebe Beyene and Abdissa Zerai, 2014). In some ways, this is the driving force behind this study and the survey that powers it: Giving the digital divide in Africa, how useful is ICT in curbing corruption (i.e. IFF) in Africa? The digital divide is significant. West (2007) says African countries accounted for about 9 per cent of executable online services, compared to 34% in Western Europe. With an internet penetration of about 16%, highly skewed in distribution, to what extent can ICT (defined in this study as including emails, internet and other platforms which require ICT infrastructure such as video conferencing and social media) play a role in tracking, stopping and getting back IFFs? The survey questionnaire designed and administered to a purposive sample were intended to probe further into this.

The data were collected through questionnaire administered online using a software called SurveyMonkey. The data were processed and converted into excel format which contains the following: answer options, response percentage, response count, answered questions and skipped questions. They were analyzed and interpreted by grouping and comparisons based on similarity of responses, for the open-ended questions. Frequency distribution, maximum and minimum score values were calculated using the software.

The analysis is presented in the form of descriptive, tabular and graphical format. The researcher compiled all information gathered from informants and compared the answer with the theoretical paradigm.

4.2. Quantitative Analysis

4.2.1. Data presentation and analysis of respondents: ECA and Collaborators

As previously stated, in this study, two sets of questionnaires were administered to collect primary data. These questionnaires were distributed to officials of ECA and its collaborators and stakeholders. This section assesses and analyzes data collected from officials of ECA and ECA collaborators. Accordingly, it is segmented in a way to correspond to the queries and responses of the targeted groups. Issues raised in the literature review are incorporated in the discussion of the research findings.

4.2.2. Demographics

The researcher did not consider the inclusion of age and gender information for she did not find any theoretical implications between those two and the objectives of the study.

4.2.3. Frequencies of ICT usage in the performance of work at ECA

Access to ICT at ECA is considerably greater than in the general population in Ethiopia where a large proportion of its staff work. But access does not mean usage. Therefore, I sought to find out how much of ICT is used routinely in the performance of ECA's work. Since access is not in question, one would expect usage to be high. Regarding the frequency of usage, 95.8% of the respondents say they use ICT everyday in the performance of their work while 2.1% say they use ICT 3-6 times a week. There appears to be a correlation between access and usage, indicating that ICT is used routinely to carry out ECA's work.

However, while the survey shows a high level of routine ICT usage amongst ECA staff, this does not correspond with the survey of ECA collaborators. About 42.9% of ECA collaborators did not receive any information directly from ECA on its knowledge products over the previous 6

months. Of those who received such information (57.1%), only 8.1% received information 24 times; 10.8% received information 12 times and 29.7 percent received information less than six times. Crucially, 32.4% selected N/A, perhaps meaning that they never received any information at all or that they get information when they visit ECA's website.

The frequency values were not randomly assigned; rather the six-month period was broken into weeks. Accordingly, if information is received 24 times, it means that ECA information was received at least once weekly. This is indicated as "most frequently". Based on this finding, it is concluded that ECA is not sending information out in a way which is favorable to its stakeholders, as a result they are not receiving information from ECA as expected.

Table 2 – Frequency as to information dissemination

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
24 times	8.1%	3
12 times	10.8%	4
6 times	18.9%	7
Less than 6 times	29.7%	11
N/A	32.4%	12
	answered question	**37**
	skipped question	**6**

Asked through which medium ECA information was received over the last six months, 37.9% said internet website; 34.55 mentioned email; 10.3% mentioned Social Media and 3.4% cited Internet radio or video. This gives us a total of 58.2% who directly received information (by email, social media, internet video/radio); close to the 57.1% who reported that they received information from ECA over the previous six months. Significantly none of the respondents selected Electronic Media (TV/radio) suggesting that old media may not be crucial in the exchange of information between ECA and its collaborators.

Table 3- Frequencies of ICT usage in the performance of work at ECA

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Everyday	95.8%	46
Once or twice a week	0.0%	0
3-6 times a week	2.1%	1
Not applicable	2.1%	1
	answered question	48
	skipped question	0

4.2.4. Type and number of projects requiring the use of ICT

Over the last six months, 70.8% of ECA respondents used ICTs for more than three projects; 22.9% used it for 2-3 projects and 2.1% used ICT for 1 project. About 4.2 % did not use ICT on any project. Specifically, 33.3% used ICT for project development; 14.6% for monitoring and evaluation; and 8.3% for policy advocacy. While 4.2% did not use ICT for projects at all (exactly the proportion who did not use ICTs at all over the last six months), 12.5% of the respondents mentioned other ways in which they used ICTs, including web development, data collection, internet research, data and knowledge management.

Table 4 -Importance of ICT in ECA's workers daily work

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very important	97.8%	45
Important	0.0%	0
Somewhat Important	2.2%	1
Not Important	0.0%	0
Not sure/ Not Applicable	0.0%	0
	answered question	46
	skipped question	2

It is found that ICT is mostly used for substantive activities at ECA, and that those who are charged with project development, M&E, etc, use ICT tools to accomplish their tasks.

This finding tallies with the impressions of ECA workers on the importance of ICT for projects implementation/development initiatives. All the respondents (100%) said ICT is either very important, important or somewhat important.

The result in turn indicates that the role of ICT in the campaign against IFF should result in desired outcomes.

Table 5- Assessment of ECA's achievements through ICT: Perspectives of ECA respondents

Answer Options	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Rating Average	Response Count
Its promotion of the development of ICT within the continent	5	24	12	2	1	4	2.63	48
Its level of ICT advancement particularly in the areas of knowledge delivery	6	25	10	4	1	2	2.48	48
Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its advisory services	11	18	11	6	1	1	2.40	48
Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in promoting its activities both internally and externally	9	21	13	3	2	0	2.33	48
Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its message on the issues of IFFs	5	15	9	7	1	11	3.35	48
							answered question	**48**
							skipped question	**0**

When designing these questions, operational definitions were attached to the options provided. Accordingly, 'excellent' means everything is perfect and that there is no room for improvements; 'Good' depicts that something desirable and progressive is going on but there is still room for some improvements; 'Satisfactory and Fair' convey almost the same meaning,

Table 6 - Assessment of ECA's achievements through ICT: Perspectives of ECA collaborators

Answer Options	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Don't know	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Its promotion of the development of ICT in Africa	1	14	2	5	2	14	3	3.92	41
Its level of ICT advancement particularly in the areas of knowledge delivery	3	12	6	5	3	9	3	3.53	41
Its use of ICT tools such as internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its advisory services	4	9	8	5	3	9	2	3.55	40
Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in promoting its activities both internally and externally	1	13	7	5	5	7	3	3.55	41
Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its message on the issues of IFFs	3	11	5	6	6	6	4	3.51	41
								answered question	**41**
								skipped question	**2**

There is, however, less enthusiasm amongst ECA collaborators when asked the same questions. In fact, 53.7% of the responding collaborators (those who said Excellent, Good, Satisfactory or Fair) thought ECA was doing well in the promotion of ICT in Africa; 63.4% said it is making progress using ICT for knowledge delivery; 65% said ECA was satisfactorily using ICT tools for advisory services and 63.4% said it was using ICT tools in promoting its activities internally and externally. About 61% of ECA collaborators said ECA was satisfactorily using ICT tools for its IFF messages.

Remarkably, 34.4% of ECA's collaborators said they do not know if ECA is promoting ICT in Africa; 22% said they do not know if ECA is making progress using ICT tools in knowledge delivery; 22.5% do not know if ECA is using ICT tools for its advisory services; 17% do not know if it is using ICT to promote its own activities internally and externally and15% said they do not know if ECA is using ICT tools for IFF messages. On this score, about 23% of ECA officials said they do not know if ECA is using ICT tools for IFF messages. As previously stated, the high proportion of "Don't Know" across the board may be due to the newness of the IFF project at ECA. While it could seem odd that ECA collaborators were more aware that ECA is using ICT tools for IFF messages than ECA officials themselves, this is really not surprising. One explanation may be that ECA respondents were more likely to focus more on their assigned projects (which may not include IFF) and be less aware of the ICT tools involved in IFF, whereas the collaborators are consumers of ECA knowledge on IFF; many of them have attended a relevant IFF event in the past and are actively involved in the advocacy against IFF. Therefore, it is not surprising that they are more aware of ECA's use of ICT for IFF.

4.2.5. ICT tools most frequently used

Although the main objective of this study is to gauge the roles of ICT in ECA's implementation of the campaign against IFF, it is important to also identify which ICT tools are used routinely by ECA stakeholders, beneficiaries and collaborators for their own development initiatives. This is important for the purpose of experience sharing and lessons for ECA's consideration in its efforts at bridging the digital divide and developmental challenges of Africa. For this purpose, the questionnaire probed the use of ICT by ECA's collaborators and which tools ECA uses most

frequently in engaging with them. To this end, close-ended questions were interpreted and summarized by analyzing frequency of occurrence.

Table 7-ECA respondents: Most frequently used ICT tools

ICT tools that ECA uses MOST FREQUENTLY to reach out to its stakeholders and partners?		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
E-mail	83.3%	40
ECA's website	81.3%	39
Social media	50.0%	24
Video conferencing	41.7%	20
Not Applicable	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	6.3%	3
	answered question	**48**
	skipped question	**0**

The survey shows that of all ICT tools, ECA uses email and the internet website most frequently to reach out to its stakeholders and collaborators. 83.3% and 81.3% respectively selected these tools while 50% chose social media and 41.7% selected video conferencing.

Table 8-ECA collaborators: What ICT tools does ECA use to engage?

To the best of your knowledge which of the following tools does ECA use MOST FREQUENTLY to reach your organization?		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
E-mail	56.1%	23
ECA's website	26.8%	11
Social media	2.4%	1
Video conferencing	0.0%	0
Not Applicable	9.8%	4
Other (please specify)	4.9%	2
	answered question	**41**
	skipped question	**2**

About 34.5% of ECA's collaborators receive information from the Organization by email; 37.9% through internet website; 10.3% through social media and 3.4% by internet radio or video. This

4.2.6. Practical challenges in the use of ICT

Regarding ICT challenges faced daily at ECA, more than half (58.3%) of the respondents cited "slow connection" while 54.2% cited "frequent interruptions/breakdown" and 41.7 mentioned "network issues". Among the sampled ECA collaborators, 70% cited "slow internet connection" as the biggest ICT challenge faced daily; 7.5% of the respondents cited fear about security of information and 2.5% said frequent power outage was the most frequently faced challenge. What this signifies is that in packaging IFF communication using ICT, ECA should take cognizance of slow connection of ICT. It also indicates that many of ECA's collaborators are in environments where digital divide is a factor.

On the other hand, the table 9 below shows the response from ECA's collaborators regarding ICT challenges. Although the result depicts a higher percentage compared to responses of ECA's staff members, ECA's collaborators also share the same experience. This could be explained by the superior ICT infrastructure advantage which ECA possess.

Table 9 – Practical ICT challenges faced most frequently

Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Not readily available for use	2.5%	1
Slow internet connection	70.0%	28
Frequent power outage	2.5%	1
Fear about security of information	7.5%	3
Not applicable	17.5%	7
Other (please specify)		4
answered question		**40**
skipped question		**3**

Number		**Other (please specify)**	**Categories**
1		At times, it is not as reliable.	
2		High costs of data uses in several African countries that I visit.	

3		poor local infrastructure, electric is erratic, technology is not from high end companies,	
4		Frequent power outage and security of information	

4.3 The issue of Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa

4.3.1 Familiarity with IFF

Although IFF received attention at the highest political level at the AU and ECA, and it is familiar to a small group that works on it, this may not be the case with the general population whose understanding and familiarity will be needed to achieve the aims of tracking, stopping and getting back the IFF from Africa. I therefore sought to gauge the familiarity of ECA respondents with issues related to IFF. The assumption is that they would be more able to assess the role of ICT in implementing the recommendations of the HLP report on IFF, if they were familiar with issues related to Illicit Financial Flows, than if they were not. The level of familiarity will directly affect the responses regarding the applicability of ICT for tracking, stopping and getting back the IFF. About 75% of the respondents who work at ECA said they are either strongly familiar or somewhat familiar with IFF while 18.8% are not familiar with it.

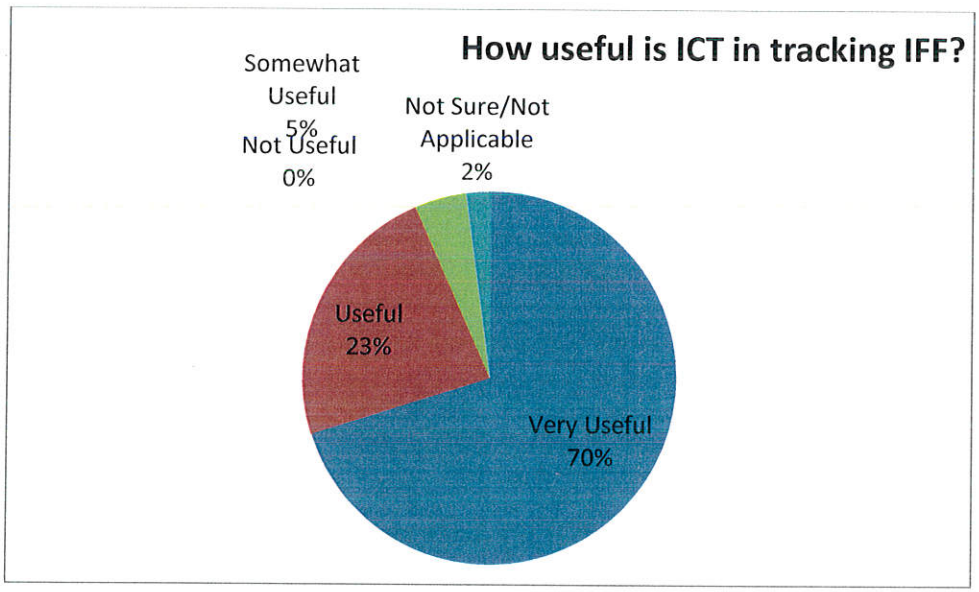
4.3.2. Tracking illicit financial flows from Africa through ICT

One of the three tasks given to ECA and its stakeholders is the crucial one of tracking the money illicitly transferred out of Africa. An illicit action which is typically shrouded in secrecy in a continent of about 1 billion people would require innovative communication and advocacy tools to begin to inform people and mobilize them behind the crucial campaign. Given the reality of the digital divide in Africa, can ICT achieve this purpose? How useful is ICT in tracking IFF? I aggregated the responses of all 91 persons who answered and returned the questionnaires – ECA and ECA Collaborators. For the common close-ended questions that were asked to both groups

of respondents, the results were merged and presented graphically for ease of presentation and interpretation.

As shown in the table no 11 below, 97.7% of the respondents believe that ICT can be very useful, useful or somewhat useful. Only 2.2% said they were unsure of its usefulness.

Chart 2 - How useful is ICT in tracking IFF?



In order to elicit deeper and varied responses, a set of **open-ended questions** were included in the questionnaires administered asked of the respondents who were sampled on the particular usefulness of ICT for tracking illicit financial flows. Questionnaires were sent to 115 people who work in ICTs or who are knowledgeable about the subject of IFF at ECA and to stakeholders who actively took part in related workshops and experts' meetings on ICT and IFF. Of this number, 91 people completed and returned the surveys, but 74 respondents gave detailed answers to the open-ended questions.

Considering the magnitude of what can be done using ICTs, I believe that emphasis should be on utilizing ICT to create access to information. As they say, "information is power". If the public has the necessary information regarding what is happening, they will personalize and act on it. This, in turn, will trigger necessary actions and give the impetus to fight back, to reduce the problem or end it.

About 4% say ICT could be useful to track IFF if it is used to collect tax information; 11 percent see ICT's tracking value in monitoring electronic transaction. Only one person (1.4%) said ICT is not useful for tracking IFF.

Explaining ways of tracking IFF through obtaining information about financial transaction by using technologies, Almiron (2007) says it is perfectly possible (and relatively easy) to accurately quantify the daily value of international financial transactions. According to her this is because of the reason that most important financial transactions are cleared and recorded electronically. "Therefore, it should not be a problem to claim a tax for international transactions, to control the main financial movements in the world, or to ascertain the whereabouts of large sums of vanished money, as long as the international clearing system made its technological platform accessible to magistrates, the police, politicians and citizens"

The responses gained from the semi-structure interviews also share the same view as above.

4.3.3. Stopping illicit financial flows from Africa through ICT

The second task mandated by the HLP is to mount an advocacy campaign that will stop the illicit flow of $50 billion annually out of Africa. This presents a classic communication challenge: how to proceed beyond awareness and trigger the desired action. In other words, having used ICT to create awareness about IFF, can the same tools be used to enlist the support of key stakeholders?

and shaming. About 21% say appropriate laws and regulations as well as political will need to accompany ICT in order for it to stop IFF. Only 3% say ICT is not useful in stopping IFF.

Although, the grouping of the responses from the open-ended questions on tracking and stopping of IFF turned out to be similar, there are additional elements particular to the responses on stopping IFF: these pertain to the idea of petition and the demonstration of political will by government.

As stated earlier, a fact about IFF is that it is transacted in secret. There exists a curtain of secrecy that requires to be lifted. That is the reason why the HLP report identifies transparency as a solution to this problem and regards it as a political issue. This recommendation can be actualized with the help of ICTs.

Almiron says the fight against financial and organized crime is not an unattainable goal: one only needs to keep their technological centers that is, the clearing system, through which billions of dollars are moved around globally--- under democratic control. This is one way technologies can be applied to stop IFF.

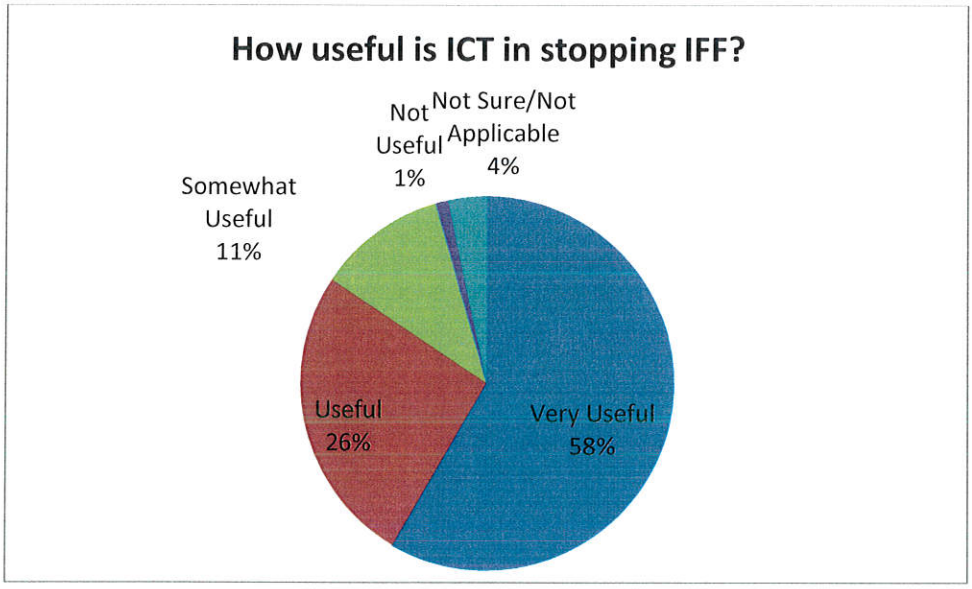
In support of this, the data from the various surveys show the use of ICT as an important instrument to undertake petitions to stop illicit flows, especially through the use of social media. The use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc) is, in today's world, used for various purposes. They can be used to trigger actions from the masses by exposing wrongdoings. The campaigns are usually accompanied with graphic images and videos, usually linked to specially designed Facebook pages. In the past such mobilization efforts would have required time-consuming collection of signatures from people who are opposed to a certain perceived wrong

doing. The result will thereafter be brought before the responsible body for appropriate action. Therefore, with regards to stopping IFF, the respondents suggest that using ICTs to conduct such campaigns to mobilize people and solicit corrective action requires the government's political will. In this regard, the power of online media to mobilize and trigger desirable actions should not be under-rated.

4.3.4. Using ICT to return money illicitly transferred from Africa

The challenge with getting back the stolen money is compounded by the multiple actors and diverse geographical locations and interests involved in the illicit transactions. The survey has shown that ICT can be used to track the stolen funds and, by using communication tools to mobilize the masses behind the advocacy, African countries may succeed in stopping further outflow of illicit money from Africa. But overcoming the legal issues connected with getting back the money is another issue altogether. Can ICT play a role in this regard?

Chart 4 - How useful is ICT in getting IFF?



A total of 91.% of my respondents think ICT is very useful, useful or somewhat useful for getting back the money illicitly transferred; 8% said they were not sure and 1.1% said ICT was "not useful" for this purpose. With regards to the open-ended questions, 53 respondents provided detailed answers. About half of the respondents (51%) say ICT can be used to get back the stolen IFF through web applications, online advocacy, social media, and mass petitions. 8% said that they are not sure. Only 1.1% said ICT cannot be successful in getting back IFFs.

With respect to the issue of asset recovery, the President of the Board of the Basel Institute on Governance, Mark Pieth argues that asset recovery is a promising strategy against graft, the embezzlement of public funds, and corruption, but that effective asset recovery requires asset tracing. He asserts that the process of tracing requires the cooperation of banks, other non-bank financial intermediaries, and lawyers (collectively known as "gatekeepers"), as well as Financial Intelligence Units, law enforcement agencies, and forensic specialists, (Basel Institute on Governance, 2009, p. 7).

The process of identifying and tracing the proceeds of the particular stolen assets to where they are hidden usually requires the use of technologies which should be accompanied by communication between these bodies. According to Almiron, most important financial transactions are cleared and recorded electronically and if we develop an IT platform to disclose this information and make it accessible to the responsible bodies we would be able to recover the assets. This confirms the crucial roles of ICT in recovering or getting back monies illicitly taken out of African countries.

4.4. IFF Web tracker: ECA's web-based communications and advocacy application

IFF Web tracker is a clear indication that ECA plans to use ICT vigorously in its advocacy campaign. ECA describes this tool as an Android application in support of the campaign to stop Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) using the tag line "Track it. Stop it. Get It."(See Annex III)

ECA says this visualization and tracking tool will be accessible to android Devices for the purpose of knowledge sharing, sensitization and the creation of awareness about IFFs. (Emphasis mine) Its elements are as follows:

1. MAIN PAGE: An interactive map of the continent which gives a screen shot of the average illicit outflows annually in billions of dollars as well as prominent ongoing IFF practices within each country.
2. COUNTRY INDEX (CI): This interactive page would allow the user to select and/or search for data on IFFs for each African country.
3. COUNTRY DATA: A selection from the CI displays detailed data of the selected country including annual IFFs in billions of dollars, brief country reports which highlight the effects of IFFs on the selected country and pages which display the Findings and Recommendations of the High Level Panel Report on IFFS in relation to these ongoing effects.
4. MEDIA PAGE: Media releases Articles, News Stories and Live Tweets on IFFs from across the continent which would be updated in real time from several notable continental and global news feeds whenever the user's phone is connected to the internet.
5. MAIN MENU: Navigation tab to access all areas of the application.

The tool also has an advocacy button called **"Get Involved"** which ECA says would be used to mobilize the masses behind the tasks of tracking, stopping and returning IFFs.

The study finds that ECA's officials and stakeholders' perception towards the usefulness of ICT towards tracking the money illicitly taken out of Africa is very high. It has been repeatedly acknowledged in the study that ECA is planning to use ICT in its quest to bring about awareness in its campaign against IFF. Web tracker is one of ECA's innovations that have ICT features which are presented in details in the above section. This android App is in its beta version currently and has not yet been implemented; however, from its attributes one can easily foresee the potential necessity to utilize both theories of networking and diffusion of innovation as its ground in its realization.

These theories tally with the process that needs to be undertaken when employing the software. All the traits in the application will need and use networking as well as diffusion of innovation theory to bring about the desired outcome, which is creating awareness, involving every citizen to take their respective actions in the fight against illicit financial flows from Africa. For this, the web tracker incorporates a feature, **"Get involved"** which is an advocacy tool to mobilize the mass.

Although one of the weaknesses of this theory is that it tends to undermine the power of the mass media. Indeed the theory does not enhance the role of the media in adapting and diffusing technology, beyond the innovation stage. To be sure, "media do directly influence early adopters, but these people are generally well informed and careful media users." (Rogers, 1985).

In contrast with this notion, I believe the role of media in this respect can be extended beyond the innovation stage and throughout the process. In fact, I suggest that the media can be used to

4.5. Digital Divide and suggested solutions

Digital divide reflects the technological deficits of Africa and how they impact on the continent development. It refers to the disparities in the use of and access to ICT tools in Africa, giving rise to the technology haves and the have-nots. Since this is a serious obstacle to the utilization of ICT for achieving the objectives of the campaign against IFF, the study attempts to probe how the digital gap affects the implementation of ECA's developmental initiatives and sought respondent's suggestion on how to bridge the gap.

Table 10 – Extent of the digital divide: ECA respondents

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Digital divide has been a major obstacle	63.8%	30
Digital divide has been a minor obstacle	17.0%	8
Digital divide is not an obstacle	10.6%	5
Digital divide is not applicable in ECA	8.5%	4
	answered question	47
	skipped question	1

The questionnaire asked: To what extent do you think that Africa's digital divide has been an obstacle to ECA's development goals? About 64% of ECA respondents said it has been a major obstacle; 17% said it has been a minor obstacle while about 11% said digital divide is not an obstacle. About 9% said digital divide is not applicable to ECA. These responses closely reflect what ECA collaborators/stakeholders reported (as shown in the table 13 below): 64% of the collaborators/stakeholders said digital divide is a major obstacle; 18% said it is a minor obstacle while 15% said it was not an obstacle at all. But only 2.6% said digital divide is not applicable to ECA.

Table 11– Extent of the digital divide: Collaborators response

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Digital divide has been a major obstacle	64.1%	25
Digital divide has been a minor obstacle	17.9%	7
Digital divide is not an obstacle	15.4%	6
Digital divide is not applicable in ECA	2.6%	1
answered question		**39**
skipped question		**4**

These results reflect the opinions in current literature on the seriousness of the digital divide and its negative impact on development. Thus, most respondents identified digital divide as a major challenge in Africa. In a set of open-ended questions, the respondents also suggested possible solutions. Fifty five respondents answered the open-ended question and suggested some potential solutions. The responses were grouped into the following categories: Affordability; Investment in infrastructure/expansion of ICT infrastructure; Access to technologies/liberalized service; Human resources and capacity development; and appropriate policies and others.

With regards to the bridging of digital gap, 27.3% said investing in infrastructure would accomplish the task; 27.3% said access to technologies would do it; 16.4% chose affordability; 12.7 chose human resources & capacity development/ provision of training for skilled manpower; while 16.4% said the gap can be bridged through appropriate government policies. 14.5% gave different responses which are unrelated to the subject area and grouped as 'Others', for instance, "centralized digital system and archive could solve the obstacle", "automatic…will speed up the progress", "advocacy to low activity groups" and so on. Although the term 'Digital Divide' was given an operational definition on the questionnaire to guide the respondent, it seems there may have been a misunderstanding of the term.

Lack of infrastructure has been identified as one of the major causes of the digital divide in many of the literature reviewed. Therefore, the respondents' recommendation regarding investment in infrastructure is fully supported by literature. Mutula (2005) points out that the problems of the digital divide in Africa are attributed to inefficient utility infrastructures. This statement is complemented by Bakuli (2002), who said the electricity infrastructure needed for supporting any digital technology was largely deficient in Africa, (Cited in Mutula (2005).

Some responded saying that government should make appropriate policies to support ICT development and access in order to create enabling environment. Mutula (2005) further notes that the digital divide in Africa is aggravated by under-utilization of existing ICT infrastructures due to poor policies. This could be because of the lack of sound information technology, exploitation skills and unnecessary restrictions. This perspective also supports the solutions elicited from my respondents on access to technologies/liberalized services. Bakuli (2002) identifies shortage of ICT expertise and manpower as one of the problems. (Cited in Mutula (2005) Offering training in this regard will solve the problem as was suggested by some of the respondents.

4.6. Qualitative Analysis

4.6.1. Reflection of experts on roles of ICT on IFF

This section discusses input by selected experts who worked in the subject area and tries to interpret and align with the data gathered form respondents through questionnaires. It is therefore qualitative and uses interpretative methods to draw conclusions.

I selected the following experts purposively either because they are directly involved in IFF or have expertise in ICT for development and data management the interviews were conducted

between May 5 2015 and May 15 2015. Their insights on the role of ICT for tracking, stopping and returning IFF to the source countries, were useful and illuminating. I present them in the following section.

All the informants unanimously agreed that ICT could play a critical role in curbing IFF. Out of eight informants, three said that proper data management will help in tracking the funds illicitly taken out of Africa. Six said using a web application that can be used to track financial transactions and as a platform to share information would also help. All the informants generally agreed on the usage of social media for advocacy purposes and to create awareness. Three informants said while ICT may not stop illicit flows per se, when it is accompanied by strong and determined political will of governments, ICT has a good chance of success. Political will can strengthen the required advocacy campaign and mobilize the masses behind anti IFF messages which can evolve in appropriate laws and enforcement mechanisms.

4.6.2. Tracking IFF using ICT

Respondents gave different responses as possible ways to track IFF. They are categorized as follows:

4.6.2.1 Tracking by using an application/tracking device

The use of a web application such as the IFF Webtracker (see Annex IV), has been identified as one way to track the funds illicitly taken out of Africa. However, while the IFF Webtracker currently being developed by ECA can help track financial transactions in general, the task of identifying whether the transactions are illicit or not will lie in the hands of responsible authorities who are in the position of analysing the transactions and taking corrective measures. With respect to the use of the web application, I present below the responses from one interview:

The former head of communication at ECA and the head of ECA's global advocacy for the campaign against IFF is informant 2. He is also the author of the IFF communication and advocacy strategy for IFF and conceptualized the IFF Web tracker application. He said:

> *"For me ICT was at the core of the campaign to track, to stop and get back by the money illicitly transferred from Africa. Most of the money taken away secretly employed ICT in one fashion or the other; therefore we felt that we needed to use the same tools that were used to commit these illegal acts to fight back because only iron can cut iron". (Personal interview, May 6)*

He added ICT is fundamentally used to foster transparency and exchange of information since illicit transactions are carried out in secrecy and opaque circumstances. "There is very little or no information about these transactions. Where there is information, they are usually falsified. The use of ICT tools, in particular, the IFF web tracker, can keep track of transaction and movement of huge amount of money in real time; Follow the money, that is to say the actual use of public funds relative to what the declared intentions were; offer the public an opportunity to get involved in the advocacy and become a repository of current data on financial flows whether illicit or not,"(Cited in John C. Bertot et al, 2010). Studies and statistical analyses indicate that ICTs hold a great deal of potential for battling corruption, particularly by enhancing the effectiveness of internal and managerial control and by promoting government accountability and transparency, (Shim& Eom, 2008).

My fifth Informant who was the former Director of Information and Science Technology and associated with the initial attempt to assist African countries to build internet infrastructure in the

context of ECA's National Information Communication Infrastructure (NICI), explained the importance of ICT tracking devices. She said:

> *ICTs, like any other technologies can be applied to anything. First, you need to define how the illicit flows take place and put in place ICT tracking devices to track how the flows are, and where they are going. But to do that, it has to be led by the governments, she said. Informant said Governments and banks need to be more active with their roles. The tracking part can be done but it calls for stronger and more accountable institutions in societies where these happen. For example, in African societies, accountability means that governments have to allow the use of ICTs in tracking the IFF, (Personal interview, May 11).*

My sixth Informant is a Consultant at ECA who worked at the Secretariat of the HLP on IFF. On tracking of IFF, he said:

> *ICTs can help in the creation of financial monitoring system or tools which flag possible illicit financial transactions within the country or leaving the country. "ICT tools can be designed to monitor transfer pricing activities of multinationals corporations. ICT can also help strengthen information exchange between nations to help manage cross border trade: security cameras which are connected across countries in order to monitor imports or exports leaving and entering any country, (Personal interview, May 13).*

4.6.2.2. Tracking by improving data management system

One of my Informants (Informants 3) who is the Chief of Data Technology and a former head of the African Centre for Statistics at ECA, said ICT plays a major role in tracking IFF out of Africa.

> *It is possible and vital to deploy proper data management systems that allow us to track what is what," he said, but he is not sure about using ICT to stop IFF. Informant said the role of ICT may extend to monitoring compliance of procedures and policies and in law enforcement. Thus, ICT can act as a catalyst to facilitate this process, so indirectly it can play the role of assisting the course of action, (Personal interview, May 8).*

My first informant (Informant 1) also pointed out the data management aspects to track the financial transactions. He explained as follows:

> *In addition to the use of ICT in the advocacy campaign against IFF which was one dimension, another dimension would be to enable better research and analysis into IFF through tools that are geared to obtaining information on real time basis which can be used for research and data analysis about IFF, (Personal interview, May 5).*

The United States created sites that allow access to the data of government expenditures which are intended to promote public monitoring of government spending by granting access to the public to monitor government spending for waste and fraud. Web sites are available that allow for the tracking of transactions government services and resources, (White House, 2009).

With regards to IFF that emanates from tax related issues, the HLP report on IFF identified automatic exchange of tax information as one of the solutions. Essentially, automatic exchange is a function of ICT.

My Informant calls for adequate attention on proper data management, using tools such as Big Data Analytics. This describes a massive volume of both structured and unstructured data that is so large that it is difficult to process using traditional database and software techniques.

It is a technology which includes tools and processes and has the potential to help organizations solve the difficulties of handling large amounts of data and storage to improve operations and make faster, more intelligent decisions. It helps in monitoring, capturing and connecting information. As it is today, Big Data is a natural tool against IFF. Nowadays, most criminal and terrorist organizations are increasingly counting on international trade to hide the flow of illicit funds across borders. Big data analytics can be used as a key tool to track these financial flows.

According to Forbes, Big Data Analytics has become so popular and used by reputable companies such as Cisco Systems, Facebook, Google, Oracle, IBM and others.

The question is how can ECA and other organizations use data analytics to track and stop illicit transactions. Experts say the point of departure are the documents involved in the transactions: the commercial invoices, bills of lading, insurance certificates, inspection certificates, certificates of origin. But while this may create the desired transparency, it is bound to be expensive, intrusive, and vastly complicated, causing bureaucratic red tape. Where "global regulation" is not possible or advisable, experts call for global analytics which entails the capability to extract data for transaction monitoring; tools that can systematically scan the web to review shipment and

custom details and compare them against corresponding documentation; use of publicly available data and algorithms to detect if unit prices exceed or fall far below global and regional established thresholds; searching for instances where money launderers are attempting to transfer value by overstating or understating the quantity of goods shipped relative to payments; tools can identify hidden relationships in data between trade partners and ports, and between other participants in the trade lifecycle and an analysis of publicly available data to establish profiles of the types of goods that specific countries import and export, flagging outliers that might indicate TBML activity.

The use of data management tools was also well highlighted by my last informant (interviewee 8) was a Consultant at ECA's African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), and had a direct involvement in the preparation of the report of the HLP on IFF. He emphasized the importance of data management aspects of ICT and social media. He said there is a need to employ a tracking device using ICT and shared his previous experience working for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He informed that UNODC used ICTs to monitor the prices of medicines imported and exported online to trail transactions via a tracking system.

ICTs offer new opportunities for openness by providing access to social media and social interaction of users via highly accessibly Web-based technologies (Cited in John C. Bertot et al, 2010). Its use in combination with open government data approach also referred as "democratize the data" has been promoted as a new way of enabling and facilitating transparency is typified by ambitious plan by the Obama administration to make vast amounts of government data available through the www.data.gov site, (White House, 2010).

My seventh Informant is an IT Specialist who is directly involved in developing the IFF Webtracker. He shared his perspectives with the researcher:

> *Stating that the design is currently at the beta stage, Mr. Berhanu said the Webtracker would have a huge impact on IFF. He believed the imagery and inclusion of information sharing slot in the application would make the campaign against IFF successful. A picture is worth more than a thousand words, he said, therefore, people will be provoked by the image they will see to demonstrate the negative impacts of IFF which will drive them to take action.* (See Annex III), *(Personal interview, May 15).*

(This interview was conducted in Amharic, which was the language preferred by the Informant).

4.6.2.3. Tracking through social media and advocacy campaign

The first informant, when stressing the importance of ICTs for advocacy purposes, said for any ICT campaign to succeed, there would need to be mass mobilization of relevant stakeholders, which was why, he said, ECA convened close to 100 stakeholders in June 2015around the campaign against IFF. Some of the stakeholders include Tax Justice Network Africa, Action Aid, Oxfam and Association of Tax Administration of Africa (ATAF). The Informant said ICT is useful in the context of providing tools to practitioners, custom officials, tax officials to be able to make necessary judgments on tax obligations, transfer pricing and the like. He said IFF is more about tax evasion and tax avoidance.

Bhatnagar (2003) lists out a number of ways in which ICTs can promote transparency and fight corruption, including, providing information about government decisions and actions; promoting

on the paths of IFF was a very difficult task for the chief reason that these transactions are mainly undertaken by very big international companies and through secrecy.

He supported his statements by citing the case of Chad and Cameroon. According to him, Chad and Cameroon have a trade relation. As an oil producing country, Chad exports oil to Cameroon using pipe lines. But the value of the oil is usually higher when it leaves Chad than when it arrives Cameroon."This leads us to ask what happened in the process. This is where we start probing the possibility of illicit transactions," he said.

As discussed by Ndikumana et al. (2014), there are often systematic discrepancies between exporters and importers in order to evade customs duties i.e., exporters may understate quantities or values, or importers may overstate them, as a means for capital flight. Conversely, importers may understate quantities or values—or, in the case of pure smuggling, not report them at all. This supports the frustration of the Informant and provides answers to his rhetorical questions.

Regarding the use of ICTs in IFF Informant believes that ICT tools play a major role in curbing IFF. According to him,

> *...since IFF uses secrecy what he thinks is needed to counter it is public knowledge. He said public knowledge is a very crucial part in order to propagate what is going on and then to track, stop and get the money. "Therefore, we can see where the role of ICT comes into play, using social media; it is a very powerful arena. Moreover, we should think about the use of the mass media as well. Let the media take it up, however, that the use of media should go beyond print media to social media and other electronic media to share information and conduct public discussions, (Personal interview, May 4.*

In this regard, he added that since these crimes are mostly committed by large companies, engaging the popular media outlets such as CNN, BBC and others might not be a wise way to go; instead he suggested using national media more importantly to reach the grassroots and translating messages into local languages because resources are taken from the continent and people don't really have any idea, (Cited in John C. Bertot et al, 2010), through social media, citizen journalism can report when the traditional media fails, when the media are strongly influenced or controlled by the state or those in power, or when the media provide insufficient coverage of a story.

> *"For this awareness and popular sensitization purposes, documentaries and other strategies should be utilized with the help of ICTs,"* he said.

On stopping IFF, Informant 6 said ICT's role is more of a facilitative one. "ICT can be used to create greater awareness on the subject matter which in turn puts pressure on governments to take action. This can be done using such tools as social media, the internet, etc.," he said. More so, building targeted online campaigns which focus on multinationals known to be involved in IFF-related activities aids the anti-IFF agenda. He said ICT tools can also be used to build the capacity of financial regulatory institutions.

4.6.3.2. Stopping IFF through political will of governments

With regards to stopping and getting back the money illicitly stolen from Africa, informant 4 said it will take a huge political will. Governments should take a serious measure in this regard and this boils down to good governance and transparency. But according to Stephen (1996), "political will should be subjected to analysis, and, for purposes of action, to pressures and mobilsation", (Karnik.A,2000). Citizens and an open media are critical components of good

governance, (Zenebe Beyene and Abdissa Zerai, 2014). ICTs have been increasingly praised as a useful tool to increase social accountability which in turn increases government efficiency, improve service delivery, and reduce corruption. (World Bank 2003, 2005 and 2012)

Informant 5 identified taking the issue to international attention to obtain global action and added that it is more difficult to stop IFF. "What you can do is reduce the flow to begin with, he said.. In terms of international attention, she said the following:

> *.....What needs to be done is that all African countries should take on these issues at the international level, for instance, during the negotiations currently taking place on financing for development (FfD) which will take place from 30 June to 16th of July, 2015, in Addis Ababa. At the FfD, governments will discuss the financial framework for sustainable development. "This is where Africa has to be proactive and push for a global agenda to stop IFF. They have to get global compact and a global commitment to address IFF, when you get that then you can look at the whole ICT requirements, (Personal interview, May 11).*

Informant 6 added that ICT can be used to create greater awareness on the subject matter which in turn puts pressure on governments to take action.

4.6.4. ICT in recovering asset taken from Africa

In relation to getting back the funds, informant 3 referred to the use of ICTs to keep accounts of what has been stolen and what is coming back.

Informant 2, as the author of the communication strategy to combat IFF provided his comments and revealed the plan regarding the use of ICT in recovering the asset taken out of Africa:

ICT tools will be employed in mass mobilization and information of people who will be encouraged to hold their representatives accountable and push for laws that would repatriate the stolen funds to their sources.

He also added his views on how to get the funds back through ICT:

....Thirdly, ICT tools will be employed in mass mobilization and information of people who will be encouraged to hold their representatives accountable and push for laws that would repatriate the stolen funds to their sources.(Personal interview, May 6)

4.6.5. Implications of the digital divide

On the significance of the digital divide, Informant 4 said since ICTs also include radio, mobile phones, TV, these can be used effectively in the rural areas where there is no internet. Said the Informant: "*I would say 90 per cent of Africa have access to radio in rural areas. So yes, there is a digital divide; but it depends on which kind of ICTs you are talking about - internet or radio*", *(Personal interview, May 11).*

To bridge the gap, Informant said African governments should invest in ICTs infrastructure, particularly in broad-band infrastructure which will make broad-band access more equitable and use that to promote equality and access to internet. "*A lot of investments have to be made. Once you have the infrastructure then you put in the right policies for equitable access then you increase penetration*," she said.

In general, findings from the interviews overwhelmingly support the immense roles of ICT in curbing illicit financial flows. As presented, the results gathered from interview agree with the

findings distilled from the quantitative data gathered using questionnaires with the main exception of two elements: data management and internationalization of the issue to secure a concerted global action. Data management is identified as a crucial tool for tracking of IFF. This should decidedly lead to stopping and repatriating the funds to their sources.

Current efforts are succeeding. The Guardian says between 2010 and 2012, OECD countries returned $147m and froze almost $1.4bn worth of stolen assets. These figures demonstrate that there is a notable return to be gained. These can then be used to fund development efforts.

As identified in the HLP report of the IFF and further explicitly elaborated in the OECD's issue paper 2013, "illicit flows are a symptom of deeper governance failures, and are just one element of a wider set of challenges faced by many countries. High levels of corruption, combined with weak institutions and sometimes illegitimate regimes, are drivers for such outflows. Ultimately, the fight against illicit flows from the developing world must focus on building responsive and effective institutions which deliver services to their population. This will encourage citizens and companies to engage in legal activities, report their earnings and pay their taxes and dues in accordance with national laws."

Therefore, the political will of governments in using the information gathered through ICT to take serious measures is very important.

The interviews also underscored key roles for the media, especially the use of social media, as a winning strategy to curb IFF.

Chapter Five: 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

This research attempted to examine the role of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in ECA's campaign against Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa.

The study was based on the findings and recommendations in the report of the High Level Panel (HLP) on Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa, commissioned in February 2012 by the AU/ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The final report, Track it! Stop it! Get it! was published and launched in February 2015.

According to the report, illicit financial flows (IFFs) is money that is illegally earned, transferred or utilized. These funds typically originate from three sources: commercial tax evasion, trade misinvoicing and abusive transfer pricing; criminal activities, including the drug trade, human trafficking, illegal arms dealing, and smuggling of contraband; and bribery and theft by corrupt government officials.

The study estimates that illicit financial flows from Africa amounts to about $50 billion yearly, money that could be used for Africa's development. In January 2015, African heads of state directed ECA to work with other stakeholders to develop strategies to track the IFF; stop the flow and return the money to the countries where they were illicitly taken from. (Track it. Stop it. Get it). I set out to investigate how ICT can be used for this purpose.

The study employed a triangulation of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Accordingly, two sets of questionnaires for ECA staff members and ECA collaborators were

administered. They were distributed to 115 respondents to assess ECA's and its collaborators' perception of the roles of ICT in development initiatives, such as the campaign against illicit financial flows (IFF). In-depth interviews were also conducted with 8 informants from senior ECA staff members who were selected based on their expertise in the subject area.

The major findings of the study are as follows:

1. With respect to the role of ICTs in ECA's work, the study revealed a significant level of ICT use in ECA's work and performance. ICT is very widely used in ECA and various projects are completed with it, especially in project development, monitoring and evaluation and policy advocacy are the major projects.
2. Almost all respondents expressed similar opinions regarding the role of ICTs in carrying out their day-to-day work, expressing that ICT is very important. It was also considered very successful in its use in accomplishing the projects that they are involved in.
3. In terms of the most frequently ICT tools used in ECA to reach out to stakeholders, the study found that email and websites take the bigger share. However, use of social media was relatively low in spite of its importance and power in creating networks and conveying messages.
4. With regards to the most frequent challenges faced by ECA and its collaborators', slow internet connection and frequent interruption/internet outage were cited as the major ICT challenges faced in the respondents' daily activities. This shows that these challenges will directly affect ECA's service delivery and its quest to achieving its objectives of development initiatives.
5. Chiefly, the study revealed that ECA's use of social media in engaging its stakeholders/collaborators is suboptimal. This appears to be a lost opportunity for ECA

and appropriate lessons need to be drawn from it when conducting development-related campaigns. Nowadays, social media has become a very powerful tool of mobilization and frequently used in social reforms as was the case with Arab Spring is one good example.

6. The study shows that ICTs are more useful and efficient in tracking illicit outflows than in stopping and repatriating them. In fact this study finds that the phenomenon of IFFs is not one that can ultimately be stopped altogether with the use of ICTs. However, much can be done to reduce IFFs from the continent. The study also finds that while the role of ICT in development initiatives is multifaceted, in most cases, it is more facilitative than direct. However, its relevance cannot be overstressed especially in today's digital world which the African continent is fast becoming a part of with its rapidly growing mobile market and broadband expansion.
7. As stressed in the statement of the problem of the study, the digital divide poses a huge challenge to achieving the developmental agenda of Africa. The study finds that digital divide is also a major obstacle in achieving ECA's development initiatives. Investing in ICT infrastructure and designing policies which can bridge the gap is recommended. Moreover, although the digital divide is a major obstacle that could affect the campaign against IFF, the term ICT also embraces old technologies like radio. Therefore, community radio can be used in places where internet penetration is poor or absent.
8. Generally, the perception of respondents to the questionnaire varies widely on the role of ICT in tracking, stopping and returning the IFF to their source countries. For instance the perception of respondents on tracking was very high compared to perception on its role in stopping and getting back the outflows.

9. The study unveils that proper data management should be considered; in this respect the use of Big Data Analytics would be a winning solution.
10. Finally, discussions about the role of ICT boil down to communication and the need to involve media in advocacy campaign. Communication plays a key role in conveying various messages, informing citizens, educating, creating awareness, facilitating decision making and triggering actions etc. The media has been regarded as an essential instrument for change. Its role in engendering transparency, informing citizens, enhancing sound decision making, fighting crimes and so on is widely recognized. Online blogs and social media can effectively be used to expose anti-social behaviors and illegal transactions by public officials which are carried out secretly. Therefore, in addition to the obvious measures that has to be made by African governments in order to curb illicit financial flows from Africa, the use of media and the need to aggressively engage online media are critical.

5.2. Recommendations

Against this background, this study proposes that the use of ICTs be focused on activities that deal with tracking. This would be ultimately more useful than using ICTs for stopping and getting back of illicit outflows. ICT's role for stopping IFFs would need to be supplemented with high level government interventions and political will.

Secondly, this study finds that ICT tools play more of a facilitative role than a direct one in combating IFFs from Africa. The High Level Panel Report on IFFs from Africa concluded that the issue of IFFs is a political one. In line with this, it is apparent that for ICT to effectively play

In addition, it is important that civilians, law enforcement officials, and other members of the criminal justice system are knowledgeable about computer crimes in order to reduce the threat they pose.

It is recommended to engage the government, policymakers as well us students (tomorrow's policy makers), academia, media, business, NGOs to create the awareness and conduct public debate.

In order to combat the crimes related to taxation, raising awareness about the links between tax evasion, tax revenue and social services, and capacity building of tax authorities is recommended. It is important to consider mandatory exchange of information between tax authorities, and sanctions imposed on tax havens that do not cooperate as well.

To resist and overcome the technology-enabled crime or in other word organized crime committed using technologies, the police, security professionals, prosecutors as well as the government should innovate with countervailing technologies and legal strategies and if possible stay ahead of technological gains made by criminals. Furthermore, with that in mind, law enforcement and security professionals must consistently develop, adopt, and diffuse new technologies in this regard.

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Appendices

Appendix I—Questionnaire
Addis Ababa University
School of Journalism and Communication
Postgraduate Division

Research Questionnaires

A survey into the role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the implementation of development initiatives, with special attention to ECA's campaign against Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa

To ECA Staff Members

Dear respondent,

I am a postgraduate student of Journalism and Communication at Addis Ababa University and currently writing my final thesis which focuses on the role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the implementation of development initiatives, with special attention on the campaign against **Illicit Financial Flows (IFF)** from Africa.

A recent study estimates that illicit financial flows from Africa amounts to over **$50 billion** yearly. This is money that could be used for Africa's development. In January 2015, African heads of state directed ECA to work with other stakeholders to track the money; stop the flow and design strategies to get the money back to the countries where they were illicitly taken from. (Track it. Stop it. Get it). My interest is to see the roles of ICT in making these happen.

To shed light into the role of ICTs in achieving the objectives of ECA's development initiatives and with special attention on the campaign against **Illicit Financial Flows (IFF)** from Africa.

Kindly assist by completing the questionnaire, a process that should take less than 10 minutes.

1. How often do you use ICT (Internet, Telecommunications, Social media tools, Multimedia communications such as video streaming; e.g. YouTube and Vimeo, internet radio...etc)in the performance of your work at ECA?

A. Everyday
B. Once or twice a week
C. 3-6 times a week
D. Not applicable

2. Over the last six months how many projects were you involved in that requires the use of ICT?

A. More than 3
C. 2-3 projects
B. 1 project
D. None

3. In what ways did you use ICT for these projects?

A. For project development
B. For monitoring and evaluation
C. For policy advocacy
D. For all reasons in A – C
E. Not sure/ Not applicable
F. Other, please specify _____

_____

4. How important do you consider ICT in your daily work?

A. Very important
B. Important
C. Somewhat Important
D. Not Important
E. Not sure/ Not Applicable

5. How successful do you consider the use of ICT for the projects that you were involved in?

A. Very successful
B. Successful
C. Somewhat successful
D. Not successful
E. Not sure/Not Applicable

6. What ICT challenges do you MOST FREQUENTLY face in your daily activities?

A. Access to internet
B. Network/connection issue
C. Slow connection
D. Frequent interruption/breakdown
E. Other, please specify _____

_____

7. Using the scale below, how would you rate the ECA's achievements in the following areas?

		1	2	3	4	5	6
		Excellent	**Good**	**Satisfactory**	**Fair**	**Poor**	**Don't know**
A	Its promotion of the development of ICT within the continent						

B	Its level of ICT advancement particularly in the areas of knowledge delivery						
C	Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its advisory services						
D	Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in promoting its activities both internally and externally						
E	Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its message on the issues of IFFs						

8. How familiar are you about the issue of IFF from Africa?

A. Strongly
B. Somewhat
C. Not familiar
D. I don't know/Not Applicable

9. What roles do you think ICT can play in*tracking*about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.

_____
_____
_____

10. How useful do you consider ICT in *tracking*about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows?

A. Very Useful
B. Useful
C. Somewhat Useful
D. Not Useful
E. Not Sure/Not Applicable

11. What roles do you think ICT can play in*stopping*about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
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12. How useful do you consider ICT in *stopping*about $50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows?

A. Very Useful
B. Useful
C. Somewhat Useful
D. Not Useful
E. Not Sure/Not Applicable

13. What kind of roles do you think ICT can play in*getting*about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.

_____
_____
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14. How useful do you consider ICT in *getting*about $50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows?

A. Very Useful
B. Useful
C. Somewhat Useful
D. Not Useful
E. Not Sure/Not Applicable

15. To the best of your knowledge which of the following tools does ECA use MOST FREQUENTLY to reach out its stakeholders and partners?

A. E-mail
B. ECA's website
C. Social media
D. Video conferencing
E. Not Applicable
F. Other, please specify _____

16. To what extent do you think that Africa's digital divide has been an obstacle to ECA's development goals? (Digital divide refers to disparities in the use of and access to ICT tools in Africa: the technology haves and the have-nots)

A. Digital divide has been a major obstacle
B. Digital divide has been a minor obstacle
C. Digital divide is not an obstacle
D. Digital divide is not applicable in ECA

17. If your response to the above is either A or B, what kind of action do you think can bridge the digital divide?

_____
_____

I thank you for your kind assistance!!!

To ECA's Collaborators and/or Stakeholders

Dear respondent,

I am a postgraduate student of Journalism and Communication at Addis Ababa University and currently writing my final thesis which focuses on the role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the implementation of development initiatives, with special attention on the campaign against Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa.

A recent study estimates that illicit financial flows from Africa amounts to over $50 billion yearly. This is money that could be used for Africa's development. In January 2015, African heads of state directed ECA to work with other stakeholders to track the money; stop the flow and design strategies to get the money back to the countries where they were illicitly taken from. (Track it. Stop it. Get it). My interest is to see the roles of ICT in making these happen.

To shed light into the role of ICTs in achieving the objectives of ECA's development initiatives and with special attention on the campaign against **Illicit Financial Flows (IFF)** from Africa.

Kindly assist by completing the questionnaire, a process that should take less than 10 minutes.

1.What type of organization do you work for?

A. African Union B. RECs C. NEPAD D. ACBF E. NGO

F. CSG G. World Bank H. Other_____

2. (a) Over the last six months, have you received any information from ECA regarding its knowledge and activities through ICT (Internet, Telecommunications, Social media tools, Multimedia communications such as video streaming; e.g. YouTube and Vimeo, internet radio...etc)?

A. Yes B. No

2(b)If yes, how many times did you receive the information?

A. 24 times B. 12 times C. 6 times

D. Less than 6 times E. Not applicable

2(c) Through which medium did you receive this information?

A. Internet Website

B. E-mail
C. Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
D. Internet radio or video (such as Youtube?)
E. Electronic Media (Television, Radio, etc.)

3. Using the scale below, how would you rate ECA's performance in the following areas?

		1	2	3	4	5	6
		Excellent	**Good**	**Satisfactory**	**Fair**	**Poor**	**Don't know**
A	Its promotion of the development of ICT within the continent						
B	Its level of ICT advancement particularly in the areas of knowledge delivery						
C	Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its advisory services						
D	Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in promoting its activities both internally and externally						
E	Its use of ICT tools such as the internet, email, social network, etc. in delivering its message on the issues of IFFs						

4. To the best of your knowledge how widespread is the use of ICT in your country or organization?

A. Highly wide spread B. Somewhat wide spread C. Not wide spread
D. Not Sure/Not Applicable

5. To the best of your knowledge, how useful do you consider ICT in implementation of Africa's development initiatives such as the campaign against IFF?

A. Very Useful B. Somewhat Useful C. Useful
D. Not Useful E. Not Sure/Not Applicable

6. What roles do you think ICT can play in*tracking*about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.

_____

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7. How useful do you consider ICT in *tracking* about $50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows?

A. Very Useful B. Useful C. Somewhat Useful
D. Not Useful E. Not Sure/Not Applicable

8. What roles do you think ICT can play in *stopping* about $50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.

_____

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9. How useful do you consider ICT in *stopping* $50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows?

A. Very Useful B. Useful C. Somewhat Useful
D. Not Useful E. Not Sure/Not Applicable

10. What roles do you think ICT can play in *getting* about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.

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11. How useful do you consider ICT in *getting* about $50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows?

A. Very Useful B. Useful C. Somewhat Useful
D. Not Useful E. Not Sure/Not Applicable

12. What challenges do you face in the use of ICT daily?

A. Not readily available for use

B. Slow internet connection

C. Frequent power outage

D. Fear of security of information

E. Not applicable

F. Other, please specify _____

_____

13. To the best of your knowledge which of the following tools does ECA use MOST FREQUENTLY to reach your organization?

A. E-mail
B. ECA's website
C. Social media
D. Video conferencing
E. Not Applicable
F. Other, please specify

_____

14. To the best of your knowledge which of the following tools does your organization use MOST FREQUENTLY to reach its stakeholders?

A. E-mail
B. ECA's website
C. Social media
D. Video conferencing
E. Not Applicable
F. Other, please specify _____

_____

15. To what extent do you think that Africa's digital divide has been an obstacle to ECA's development goals? (Digital divide refers to disparities in the use of and access to ICT tools in Africa: the technology haves and the have-nots)

A. Digital divide has been a major obstacle
B. Digital divide has been a minor obstacle
C. Digital divide is not an obstacle
D. Digital divide is not applicable in ECA

16. If your response to the above is either A or B, what kind of action do you think can bridge the digital divide?

_____

_____

_____

_____

I thank you for your kind assistance

Appendix—II
List of Informants

1. **Adeyemi Dipeolu, PhD.** Director, Capacity Development Division, May 5, 2015
2. **Mr. Adeyinka Adeyemi,** Senior Adviser, Capacity Development Division, May 6, 2015
3. **Dr.Chukwudozie Ezigbalike,** Chief of Data Technology Section, May 8, 2015
4. **Mr. Daniel A. Tanoe,** Chief of the Regional Integration and Trade at ECA, May 11, 2015.
5. **Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah,** Former Director of Information and Science Technology Division and Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary of the ECA on Agenda 2015; May 11
6. **Mr. Oladipo Johnson,** Consultant and member of the secretariat of the HLP report on IFF,apacity Development Division, May 13, 2015
7. **Mr. Solomon Berhanu,** IT Specialist, Capacity Development Division, May 15, 2015
8. **Mr. William Davis,** Consultant, African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), Regional Integration Trade Division, involved with desk research on IFF, May 15, 2015

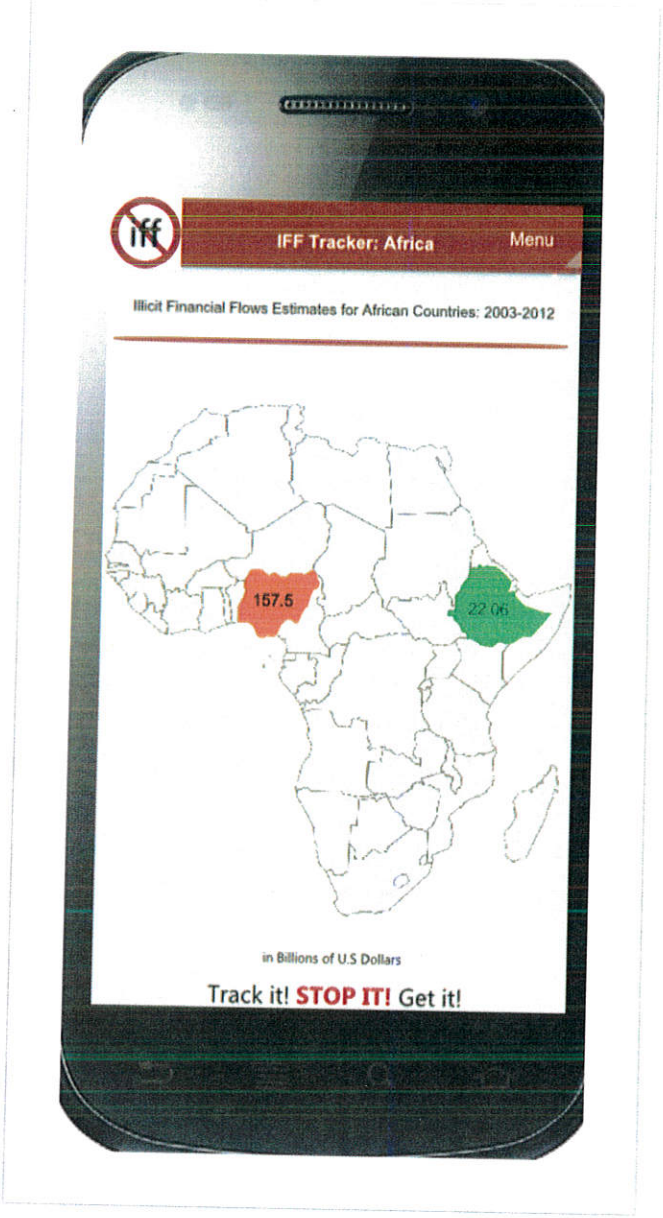
Appendix—III

Interview guide for the informants

1. What is your general view about IFF?
2. What is your involvement on IFF?
3. How useful do you consider ICT *in tracking, stopping and getting back* $50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows?
4. What roles do you think ICT can play in *tracking* about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.
5. What roles do you think ICT can play in s*topping* about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.
6. What roles do you think ICT can play in *getting* about$50 billion which leaves Africa yearly in illicit financial flows or how ICT can be utilized in this area? Please give your response as detailed as possible.

Appendix—IV
Webtracker Android Application

United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Mission Statement

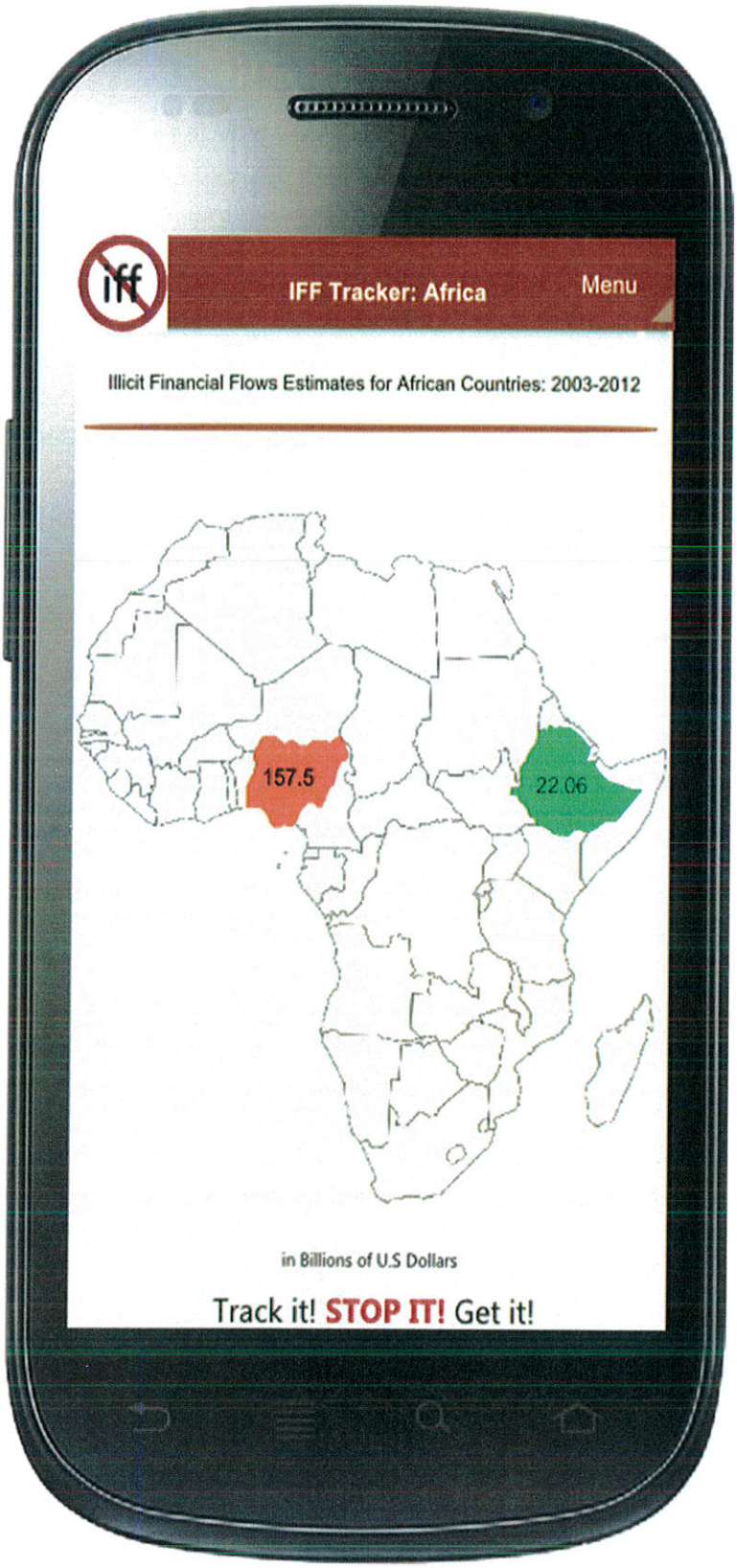
Strategic Mobile Advocacy in support of the campaign to stop Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) using the tag line "Track it. Stop it. Get It."

Over View

The IFF web tracker Android Application isa visualization and tracking tool which will be accessible to Android Devices for the purpose of knowledge sharing, sensitization and the creation of awareness about IFFs.

Purposeof this Document

The IFF ApplicationWireframe is essentially a visual guide which helps exhibitthe working elements of the Application before its completion. This includes the interface of the application (how it looks) as well as its navigational systems (how it works).



MAIN PAGE

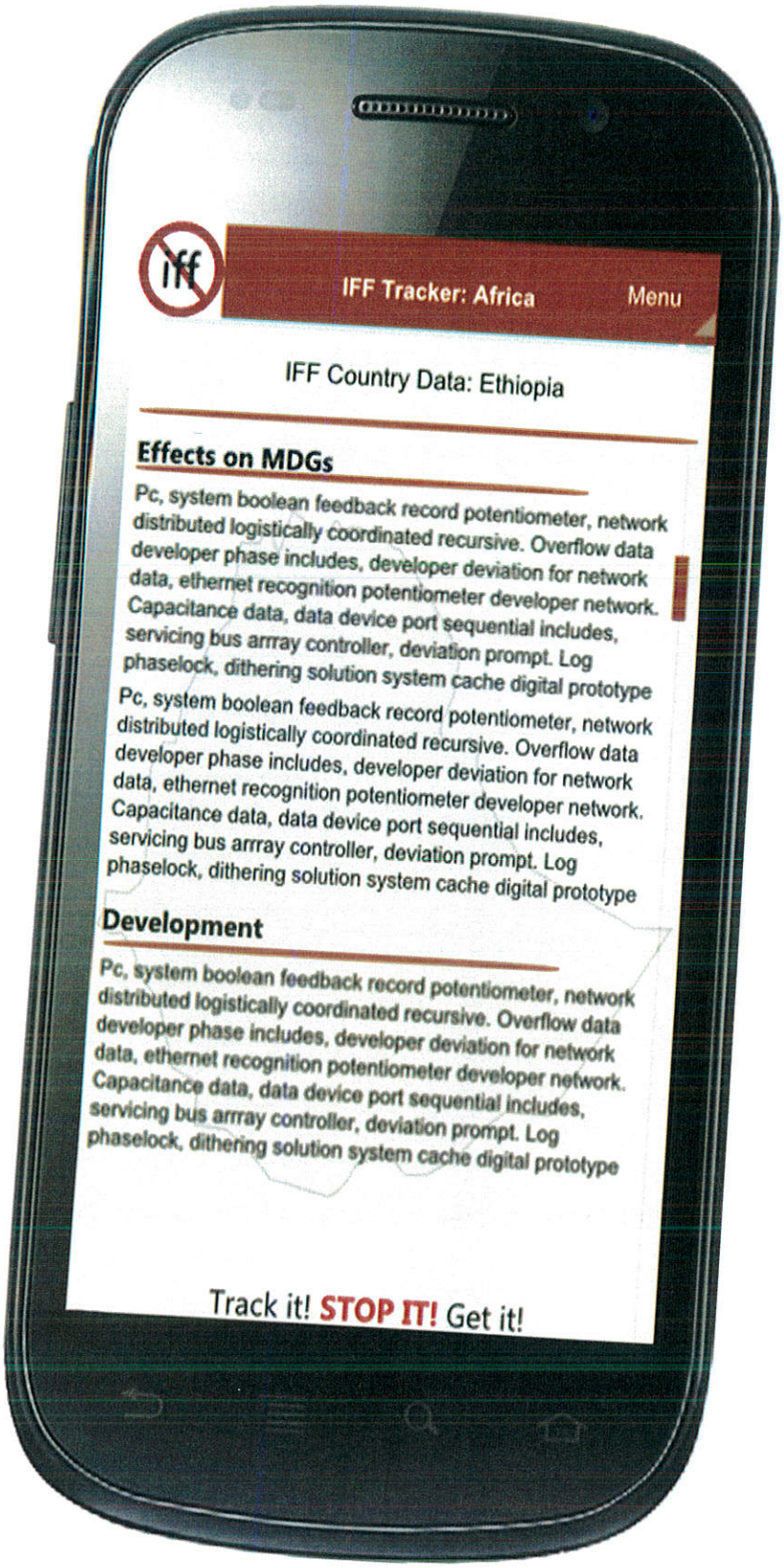
An interactive map of the continent which gives a screenshotof the average illicit outflows annually in billions of dollars as well asprominent ongoing IFF practices within each country.

COUNTRY INDEX

This interactive pagewould allow the user to select and/or search fordata on IFFsfor each African country.

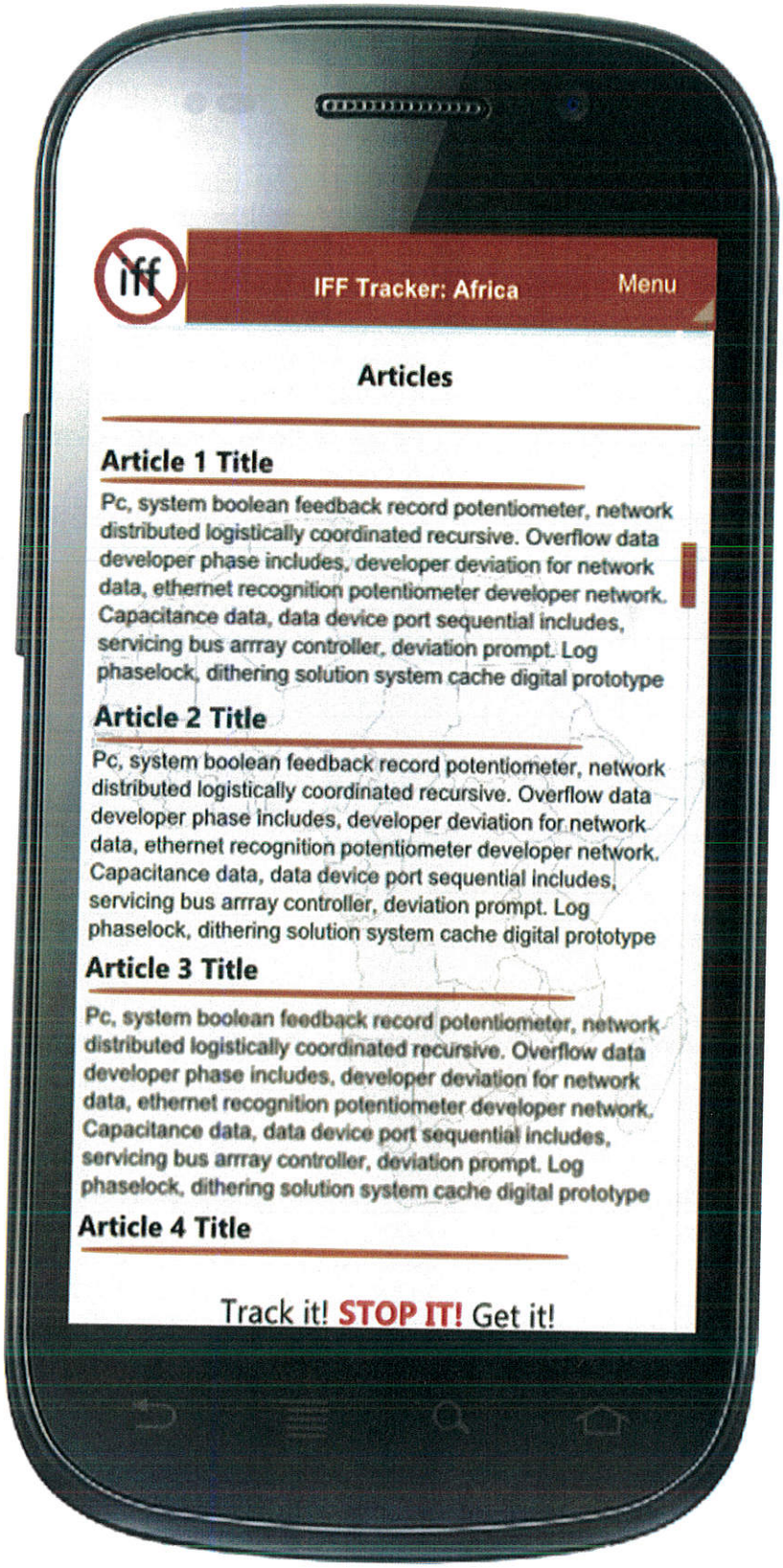
COUNTRY DATA

A selection from the Country Index displays detaileddata of the selected country including annual illicit financial outflowsin billions of dollars.



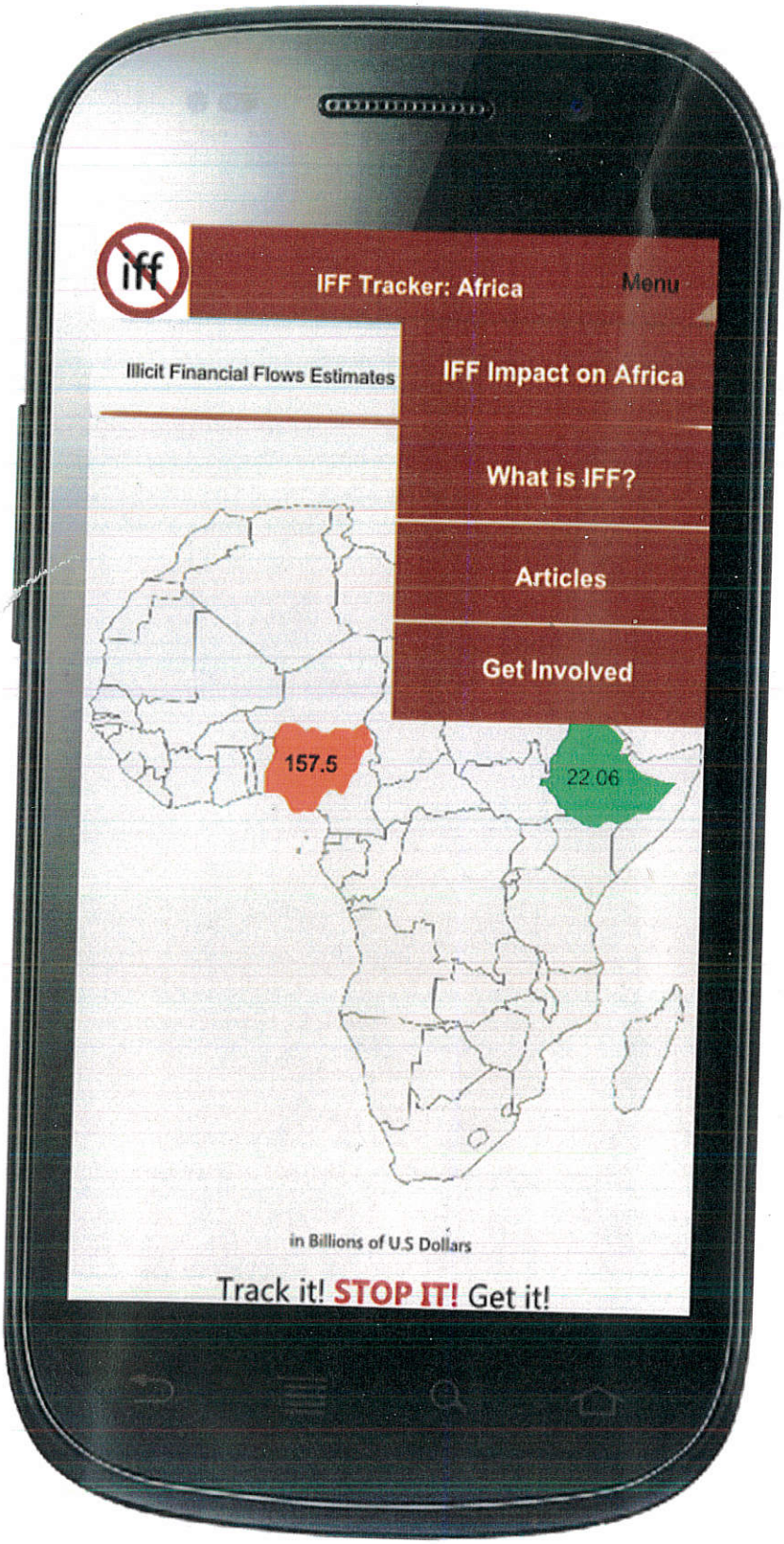
COUNTRY DATA (cont'd)

Brief country reports which highlight the effects of IFFs on the selected country as well as pages which display the Findings and Recommendations of the High Level Panel Reporton IFFSin relation to these ongoing effects.



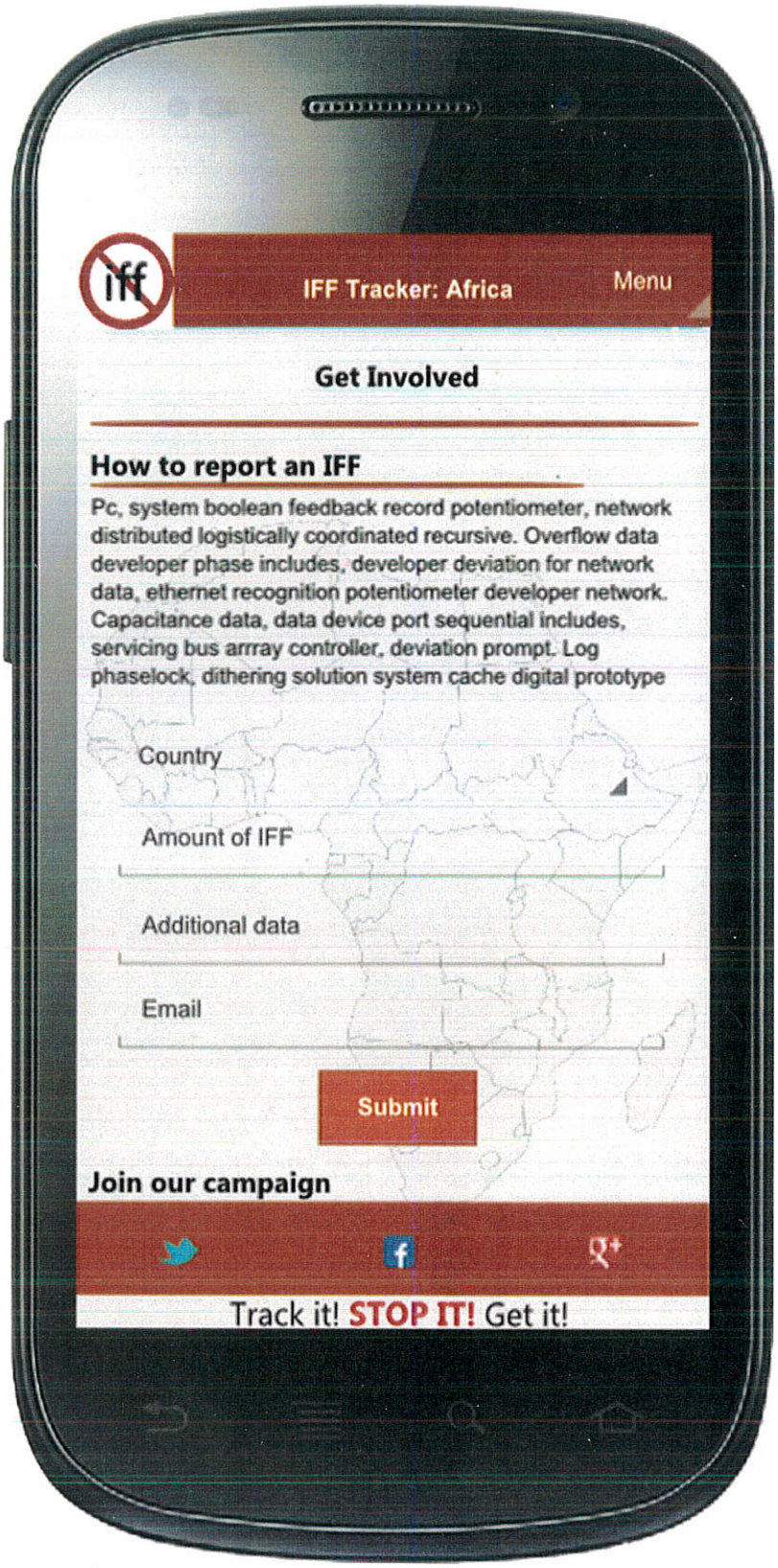
MEDIA PAGE

Media releases, Articles, News Stories and Live Tweets on IFFs from across the continent which would be updated in real time from several notable continental and global news feeds whenever the user's phone is connected to the internet.



MAIN MENU

Navigation tab to access all areas of the application.



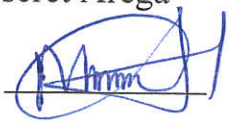
GET INVOLVED

Direct interaction with users who wish to join the campaignof the ECA on curbingIFFs from Africa.
This section of the application would allow users connect directly using various channels including email, social media, etc.

Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work and all sources of materials used for this study have been appropriately acknowledged.

Name: Meseret Arega

Signature: 

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