

## **FORWARD**

The Scan-ICT project for the Gambia marks another milestone in the development of the ICT sector, measuring access, usage and exploitation of ICTs in the Country.

This study was coordinated by The Department of State for Finance and Economic Affairs, The Department of State for Communications and Information and Technology and The Gambia Bureau of Statistics. Henceforth the exercise will be integrated in the regular data collection mechanism of the Statistical Bureau.

The study provides useful data and information for policy formulation and planning in the ICT sector in the Gambia. It is gratifying to note that fixed lines combined with mobile phones constitute total penetration rate 18.35% in 2005 and increased to 21.6% in 2006. This remarkable achievement will further increase with the services of a third mobile operator (COMIUM) which started operations in May 2007.

Conforming with Government's liberalisation policy, Gamtel has been transformed to a partnership corporate entity with a private company. These developments, coupled with the process of formulating a Telecomms Act, constitute key achievements in the ICT sector.

I would like to congratulate the National Technical Committee under the chairmanship of the Statistician General for producing this report under the regional Scan-ICT program of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and through ECA, thank the Government of Finland for providing the resources to ECA to support nine African Countries including The Gambia to undertake Scan-ICT studies.

I look forward to the continued exercise of measuring ICT indicators in the Gambia, which is consistent with the African Information Society Initiative, the Action Plan of World Summit on the Information Society and the Africa Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy.

**Hon. Neneh Macdouall-Gaye**  
**Secretary of State for Communications and Information Technology**