A4AI-Ghana
Multi-stakeholder Coalition

Break-out Groups Discussion questions and themes

Break-out Groups

- A4AI has published a set of policy and regulatory best practices recommendations for achieving affordable access.

- Each group (of about 8 people) will be assigned a set of best practices and will discuss how Ghana's policy and regulatory framework reflects these practices. You are welcome to raise additional key issues for Ghana and it's reality.

Break-out Groups

- Each group has about 30-40 min. for the discussion

- Please assign someone to be the group rapporteur and provide a summary of the group's discussion

- In the poster paper provided, write the answers to the following questions:
  - How does Ghana's policy and regulatory framework reflect the best practices recommendations you discussed?
  - What are the current challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that best practices are implemented?
  - How would you prioritize issues identified?

Group 1

➤ **Nurture healthy market competition**
- Streamlined licensing process with no legal barriers to market entry
- Ensure a competitive market structure, with limited or no national government ownership of end user service providers
- Available access at reasonable market rates to international gateway or cable
- Transparent disclosure of pricing and service options to end users
- Permit pre-paid and tiered pricing models
- Remove barriers to crossing national borders with network infrastructure and traffic

Left chart

NURTURE HEALTHY MARKET COMP?

(a)
- Streamlined licensing process w/ no legal barriers
  - on ICT licensing → yes
  - on general business reg. → no
    ↳ poor transition to online
  - priority: clarity & awareness on what Reg. Gen & NITA aim to deliver

- limited or no national Govt. ownership
  - Policy is fine but concern over 2 Instits
    ① NITA's role
    → ② NCBC

- Reasonable market rates to Int. cable
  - yes cost has come down
    eg $12,500/mth/2meg → $1,200
  - But national transit rates high & no policy to drive shared fibre infrastructure investment

- Transparent pricing to end user
  - no policy regulation
  ? what drove transparency around SMS & Calls

Right chart

- Permit pre-paid & tiered pricing model
  ↳ concerns over capping & limited usage
  ↳ whose role is it to lobby?
  - Consumer Protection? → lack of support

- Barriers to crossing national borders
  ↳ handled by Ecowas

(d) NO LUXURY TAXATION/EXCESSIVE CUSTOMS ON TELECOM / INTERNET SERVICES
  - CST & tax on handsets
  - lack of clarity around VOIP?

Group 2

➢ **Streamlined processes for infrastructure deployment and sharing**

- Efficient and effective access to public rights of way and tower zoning
- Coordinated with other infrastructure projects (fiber or duct laid during road works)
- Facilitate sharing of backbone, ducting, right of way, and cell tower passive infrastructure
- Target public infrastructure investment to market failures, through consultation with market players and other stakeholders. Ensure that subsidized infrastructure is competitively and transparently procured and offers access or capacity to all market players in a non-discriminatory way, so as to achieve end user affordability.

TEL. INFRASTRACTURE

① PPP required to lead the effort for mapping of country infrastructure

② Establish an efficient ONE-STOP SHOP for collaboration & magt. of colocation

③ Develop guidelines for the duct and right of way

Group 2

② Infrastructure sharing
challenge
→ How do we ensure that new Legislative Instruments (L·I) for ~~Tower~~ ~~Telcom~~ ~~mast~~, address old Telcom sites which does not conform to infrastructure sharing guidelines

– There should be dialogue with operators so that decommissioned ~~sites~~ masts can be mounted at areas where the masts are needed.

Group 3

➢ **Effective spectrum management**

- Ensure sufficient broadband-capable spectrum is made available and used efficiently

- Open, transparent, and fair allocation and licensing mechanism

- Harmonization of spectrum to global standards

- Technology and service neutral licensing allowing flexible use

➢ **Enable innovative usage through unlicensed spectrum and opportunistic reuse within rules that avoid harmful interference (e.g. harmful interference with spectrum assigned to mobile operators). Established local and/or regional internet exchange point (IXP)**

- Transparent and fair rules for participation

- Support for local data caching

Group 4

➢ **No luxury taxation or excessive customs/tariffs on telecom goods and services required for internet access**

- Including handsets, set-top boxes, data/voice service, and infrastructure equipment
- Tax rate at comparable level to basic goods and services rather than luxury goods

TAXES

' U CAN'T AVOID TAXES & DEATH

(1) Govt should :reduce :remove taxes on
terminal (handset) acquisition

(2) Govt to reduce taxes to
permit pe-investment.

Group 5

➢ **Effective Universal Service Fund Administration (if one exists)**

- Non-discrimination (fair collection and distribution of funds, including non-carriers)
- Transparent and consultative processes, incorporating stakeholder inputs and priorities
- Clear target goals and monitoring of effectiveness and impact of USF programmes and projects
- Prioritize one-time infrastructure and other expenditures to enable access
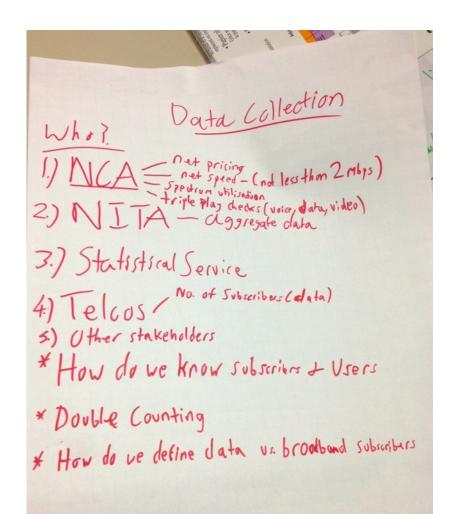- Target any ongoing subsidies to individuals rather than providers

Group 2

① USF Best Practice
① Ghana USF adjudged ~~the~~ in 2013 as the best ~~in~~ model in the world. ~~so~~

— There is need to broaden the base for collection through transparent coordination with NCA

— Prioritize projects through consultations with Telcos, Communities and Opinion Leaders

USF

Communities and Opinion Leaders

USF

— USF must have the capacity to evaluate the projects they ~~pr~~ prioritize

— USF provides for persons with disability and the marginalized in Society

Group 6

> **Reasonable effort to systematize data collection of key indicators to measure effectiveness**

– Pricing, speed, adoption rates, spectrum utilization, peering

– Encourage participation in the ITU Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

– Collection and disaggregation (such as by gender) of usage statistics to identify gaps and opportunities

Data Collection

Who?

1.) NCA — net pricing
   net speed — (not less than 2 mbps)
   spectrum utilisation
   triple play checks (voice, data, video)

2.) NITA — aggregate data

3.) Statistical Service

4.) Telcos — No. of Subscribers (data)

5.) Other stakeholders

* How do we know subscribers & Users

* Double Counting

* How do we define data vs. broadband subscribers

HOW?

In line with

1.) Adopt ITU definitions & guidelines

2.) Ensure data is reported reliably

3.) Ensure a multistakeholder coalition to audit.

4.) Enhance NCA mandate on collaborative R&D

5.) Build capacity to report data from various stakeholders

6.) Annual Stakeholder Meetings. with research & data reporting officers.

REPORT BACK

ACTION PLAN

Priority themes

For each theme, the coalition will delegate a subcommittee to take responsibility for developing the related work.

- Data collection/research to develop solid evidence for policy decision making — this area of engagement will include research on the following items:
  - USF sustainability and assessment of Fund effectiveness
  - Mapping of Ghana's infrastructure
  - Be inclusive and consider different groups of population and perspectives (gender analysis; people with disabilities; rural populations)
- Taxation
- Infrastructure sharing (in the context of an open access model)
- Pricing transparency; user awareness of services

Schedule of Activities

- Quarterly Face to Face meetings
- Policy proposals development
- Planned thematic workshops/seminars throughout the year
- Regional events

Coalition work tools/methods

- Moderated email discussion group for national stakeholders
- Smaller "drafting committees" to address specific policy and regulatory proposals
- Face 2 Face meetings for group discussions and decision making
- Other?

Thank you!

Join the Alliance!

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