

A4AI-Nigeria
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 8-10 people) will be assigned a set of best practices and will discuss how Nigeria's policy and regulatory framework reflects these practices. You are welcome to raise additional key issues for Nigeria and its 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 Nigeria'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

GROUP 1: Market Competition

- GATS: General Agreement template by WB
- 2.3GHz BID FOLLOWED TRANSPARENT PROCESS
- NOT AS COMPETITIVE AS IT SHOULD BE:
 - NITEL STATE GOVT. OWNED STILL
 - GBB ALSO GOVT. OWNED
 - COMPETITION STILL DOESN'T LEAD TO FAIR PRICING & DEEP PENETRATION
 - NIGCOMSAT ALSO GOVT. OWNED
- ACCESS TO INT'L GATEWAY STILL LTD
- NO TRANSPARENT PRICING!
LTD CLARITY OF SERVICE OPTIONS
- PRE-PAID & TIERED MODELS EXIST
- PARTIAL SUCCESS IN REMOVING ROAMING BARRIERS

Q&NS

- FRAMEWORK DOES REFLECT BEST PRACT.
- CHALLENGE IS IMPLEMENTATION
 - ENFORCEMENT
 - PRICING TRANSPARENCY
- END USER EDUCATION & TRANSPARENCY

Q&NS CTD...

Princ. Transparency.

- PRIORITY FROM CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE
- PUBLISH PRICE COMPARISON SITES
- PUBLISH ALSO FOR NETWORK SERV. PROVIDERS
- MAKE EASY TO REPORT ANY PRICE DISCRIMINATION
- OPEN ACCESS TO PRIMARY INFRASTRUCTURE (TRANSPORT LAYER) / INSIST ON ACCESS FOR & INTERCONNECT FOR ALL.

open access in least showing.

GROUP 2: MARKET COMP.

- Streamlined Licensing process with no legal barriers to Market entry

- Does Not Reflect Much Due to

- Gov Bureaucracy
- Cost of acquiring Licenced frequency

On the Scale of 1-10, we Score them 3

Recommendation

- ~~should Government~~ Regulations need to Make licenced frequencies affordable for businesses that are qualified and capable to provide services instead of Auctioning for high prices
- A fast and Robust process needs to be put in place for entry of Market to be easier.
- Open up More frequencies (Spectrums)

- Ensure a Competitive Market Structure, with limited or no national government ownership of end user service providers.
 - The regulations of the Competitive Market Structure based on end user service providers is fair and government ownership is low 6 out 10

Recommendation and other funding bodies

- encourage WPF to support more ISP

- Available access at reasonable Market rates to International gateway or Cable
 - we rate it 3 out 10

Recommendations

- taxation should be reduced

● No transpe

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.

GRP 4

Q1

- Regulation WIP
- New Regulation Should include LL, Leased Line & Backhauls
- Awareness - (State & local)
- Challenges:
 - High Cost of ROW
 - Govt at all levels needs to look Long-term benefits (Revenue, Job Creation, GDP \uparrow)
- P=1 (High)

Q2 :- Legislation on paper / not enforced

- New Legislation should include all Stakeholder agencies (Works, Comm Tech, Operators)
- P=1 (High)

Q3 - Work In Progress, Stronger drive / enforcement needed

- Existing N/w are built for private use
- Challenges
 - Poor Eng, documentation, Coordination among Stakeholders

Q4

GRP 4

- No evidence that this is happening today
- Infraco model might solve this IF successful
- How do we ~~subsidize~~ Infrastructure?

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

GROUP 6: TAXATION

*QN 1: Current Policy & Regulation

- Implementation
- Harmonisation of taxes across different government tiers/agencies
- Inadequacy of existing policies.
- Duty Waivers/Exemptions on Telecoms equipment & Infrastructure + Devices.

*QN 2: Current Challenges

- Excessive / Multiple Taxation
- Enabling Legislation
- Implementation of existing Legislation (ALGON).
- Community Exploitation / Area Boys.

*QN 3: Prioritisation of Issues:

- ① Harmonisation & Rationalisation of taxes - Exemptions / Waivers.
- ② Favourable ^{Policy &} legislative framework.
- ③ Community Engagement & Awareness.

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 7: USF

BEST PRACTICE

- (1) IT IS ESTABLISHED BY LAW
↳ NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS ACT (2003)
- (2) PROCUREMENT DONE IN LINE WITH NATIONAL FIRM FRAMEWORK
↳ ADVERTISEMENTS PLACED IN PAPERS
↳ TIME GIVEN TO RESPOND
↳ EVALUATION CRITERIA KNOWN
- (3) HAS A GOVERNING BOARD
- (4) HAS A PUBLISHED STRATEGIC MGMT PLAN
- (5) PROJECT TYPES ARE "TOP-DOWN" AS WELL AS "BOTTOM-UP"
- (6) FIXED TENURE FOR LEADERSHIP (I.E EXECUTIVE SECRETARY)

CHALLENGES

- (1) PROCUREMENT PROCESS DISCRIMINATES AGAINST SMALLER PLAYERS
- (2) LACK OF COLLABORATION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS
- (3) LACK OF OWNERSHIP OF PROGRAMMES → -VE IMPACT ON SUSTAINABILITY OF PROGRAMMES
- (4) POOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs)
- (5) INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE SCALE OF PROBLEM
↳ EXACERBATED BY:
 - INEFFECTIVE / INEFFICIENT USE OF FUNDS
 - GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY
- (6) INADEQUATE MONITORING + EVALUATION
↳ LOW CAPACITY: SKILLS, MANPOWER
- (7) POOR ENGAGEMENT WITH PUBLIC

- ★ LACK OF COLLABORATION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS (1ST)
- ★ INADEQUATE MONITORING + EVALUATION (1ST)
↳ LOW CAPACITY: SKILLS, MANPOWER
- POOR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC (3RD)
- INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM (4TH)
- ▲ LACK OF OWNERSHIP OF PROGRAMMES (5TH)
- ▲ POOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN MDAs (5TH)
- ✓ PROCUREMENT PROCESS DISCRIMINATES AGAINST SMALLER PLAYERS (7TH)

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

GROUP 8: DATA COLLECTION + INDICATORS

- A**
- A. ICT4D - ITU Recommendation - Nitda.
(Encourage participation ITU)
- B. Policy - NCC - Cable Pricing - Cost Speed - No standard to define diff Speed segments (Nitda - set 3 feasibility -)
A Voice-call drop rates. No adoption (ITU Spectrum Utilization - Utilization benchmark is min 70% ITU Regulate pricing - No thing.
- B - Nitda (ICT4D)
- NCC attends meeting & manages forum in Nigeria - ITU
- National Conf on ICT for Education Awareness programmes
- C. Nitda - (CAN ICT)
Availability of good services
National ICT Policy for education (Nitda) ^{curriculum} needs
- D
a. Local content development, Culture, business personal needs to gender differentiation.
c. ~~Adopt~~ New tools & policies to manage curriculum
d. No services programme targeted at gender issues.

B

- A. How does Nigerian Policy Framework / Regulatory Framework affect reflect best practice recommendation.
- Our policy are in compliance with global standards eg. ITU.
- The agencies are working on policies eg tax reduction. (WIP)
- B. What Are the Current Challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that best practices are implemented.
- ~~Get~~ More collaboration with overseas agencies
- Awareness (Lack)
- Capability underdevelopment.
- ~~Low~~ content which is local, which invariably affects adoption.
- C. How would you prioritize issues identified
1. Tax reduction.
2. Awareness
3. Capability development
4. Local content development.



REPORT BACK



ACTION PLAN



Priority themes

As per Group's discussion:

- Pricing transparency
 - Safeguards for anti-competitive behavior
- Open access framework and infrastructure sharing
 - Infrastructure investment
- Harmonization and rationalization of taxes across local, state and national levels.
 - Community issues & concerns
- Spectrum policy: focus on the need for more spectrum, fair allocation and innovative uses, availability of free/unlicensed spectrum
- Data collection and indicators (M&E) – across areas, systematic natl. level effort
- USF efficiency and collaboration among stakeholders



Schedule of Activities

- Quarterly Face to Face meetings
- Policy proposals development by sub-groups
- 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 (quarterly and during workshops/ seminars organized)
- Other?



Thank you!

Join the Alliance!

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