

**ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE INTERNET**



**A4AI-Nigeria
ABUJA**

23 JANUARY 2017



Looking Forward

Consumer Advocacy & Pricing Transparency



Plans for 2017

- Conduct research to better understand consumer experience - pricing comparison, quality of service, etc. (Note: Lessons from Ghana & Interact with A4AI Research Manager)
- Produce a Quality of service/ experience (QoS/E) consumer report comparing service providers and areas
- Awareness creation : strengthen awareness on consumer rights and of the relevance of internet to consumers
- Advocate for elimination of taxes on smartphones



Infrastructure Sharing & Open Access



Plans for 2017



- Re-convene operators and regulator to discuss actual enforcement of infrastructure sharing regulation
- Re-engage with the Broadband Council of Nigeria on progress
- Infrastructure Sharing Workshop with operators
- Capture data to ascertain level of sharing that's actually happening via independent research
- Focus on active infrastructure: tower sharing, fiber, etc. including Infracos
- Explore models for community service networks

Spectrum

Plans for 2017

- Advocate for a one-stop shop on issues regarding spectrum
- Share recommendations and good practices on spectrum management eg trading, refarming, sharing.
- Digital switchover (which has been delayed) is an opportunity to learn from other countries and provide recommendations
- Recommendations to policy makers on TV White Spaces
- Advocate for new unlicensed spectrum and share good practices
- Working closely with MOC, NCC, NDC to make positive influence.



Gender Presentation Highlights



- Pricing of terminal equipment makes connecting difficult. What is government doing about removing duty on handheld devices.
- Encourage women to go online, safely and securely.
- ADB, ECOWAS, EAC, COMESA – 50 million women speak initiative is to – get mobile financial services to 50 million women.
- Recommendations to look at usage of USF

Gender Presentation – Discussion/Comments



- Digital Literacy Council started by ministry – members to include other parastatals, private sector and civil society.
- ICT in education policy to supplement for lack of digital literacy position in national ICT plan.
- Ministry is working on mainstreaming gender in ICT. Begun work on developing gender in ICT policy to be completed by end of year.
- Smart women initiative, Smart Women Nigeria – pilot done and about to expand
- She Mobile App – a mobile network for reaching women; working with experts to develop relevant content like health, legal rights, etc.
- How do we drive innovation? There isn't a lack of good policies but rather lack of coordination
- Work more with civil society
- Affordable hardware is just as important

General



- Permanent Secretary of MOC announced that the Broadband Council has been reconstituted and consideration for A4AI representation will be made.
- Local **content** is very important for moving use of the internet
- Emphasis on the importance of digital literacy
- Digital switchover was pushed to June 2017 by ECOWAS due to many member states not being ready, therefore Nigeria is still within that timeframe.
- Development of New Broadband Plan (current is through 2018), is an opportunity to ensure affordability is central.
- Energy – renewable energy – recommendations to encourage this through tax incentives as it affects delivery of broadband service. E.g., Reduced tariffs for things like solar panels, etc.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add a new Working Group on Taxation and Financing to focus on tax issues as well as funding for innovative solutions to connect the unconnected including, but not limited to, Universal Service Funds.
- Develop a work stream that focuses on Tariffs on handheld devices AND the actual cost of handsets
- Continue to stay abreast of the proposed Communications Service Tax
- Raise awareness on Open data
- Expand scope of Consumer group to include dedicated focus on digital literacy.