



Coalition Meeting Notes

GHANA

Date - March 28, 2017

Coalition Meeting Notes

Review & Planning

Accomplishments, Challenges & Opportunities

GHANA

Date - March 28, 2017

Key Messages: Guests of Honor & Partners



Honourable Mrs. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Ghana Minister of Communications

- **Endorsed 1 for 2 Affordability Target**
- **Committed to collaboration with A4AI to push access and affordability across rural -urban and gender divides so “everyone is given a chance to get online”.**

Key Messages: Guests of Honor & Partners



Honorable Kofi Asante, Chief Administrator, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC)

- **GIFEC commitment to partnering with A4AI on research and driving affordability**
- **Interest in studying possibility of subsidizing handheld devices to achieve access and affordability**
- **Interested in pursuing infrastructure sharing across multiple-sectors to boost access to unserved areas**

Nana Dufie, Head of Corporate & Consumer Affairs, Ghana National Communications Authority

- **NCA continuing commitment to ensuring pricing transparency in protection of consumers' rights**

2017 Affordability Report

[CLICK HERE FOR PRESENTATION](#)

Erica Penfold, Research Analyst, A4AI

**Onica N. Makwakwa, Africa Regional Coordinator,
A4AI**



Working Group Reports ***Highlights & Accomplishments***



A4AI-Ghana Presenters

A4AI-Ghana Coordinators

- **National Coordinator - Dr. Kwaku Ofosu Adarkwa**
- **Deputy National Coordinator - Ms. Clara Pinkrah-Sam**

A4AI-Ghana Working Group Champions

- **Consumer Advocacy & Pricing Transparency - Clara Pinkrah-Sam, Acting Managing Director, Accra Digital Centre**
- **Data Collection & Research - Kafui Prebbie, CEO TECHAiDE**
- **Infrastructure Sharing & Open Access - Estelle Akofio-Sowah, Country Manager, Google Ghana**
- **Taxation - Kwaku Sakyi-Addo, CEO Ghana Telecom Chamber**

Consumer Advocacy & Pricing Transparency Working Group

Following the Consumer Baseline Study and the subsequent onward submission of the report by A4AI to the NCA, the Group has been engaging both the NCA and the service providers to ensure improved pricing transparency in data. So far we have more transparency in data pricing from all the service providers though the issue of automatic roll-over for prepaid customers is still being pursued. In addition, the group is;

- 1. Actively/consciously work towards having more women to represent the Group**
- 2. Investigating the issue of bonus credit/data provided by operators**
- 3. Investigating why consumers are not notified quickly when data bundle gets used up**
- 4. Investigating hidden clauses behind various data subscriptions**
- 5. Advocating for real time updates on data usage.**

Data Collection & Research Working Group

- **Improve Group Dynamics & Membership**

Held 2 core group meetings and 1 general group meeting at GIFEC offices. Met with new GIFEC Administrator, Hon Kofi Asante. Collaboration being discussed

Develop Matrix & Infographic

The initial output of our data collection process will lead to a completed matrix to be used to develop an infographic of institutions in Ghana collecting ICT / Internet data and the types of data collected.

Organise 2 Regional Events - Accra & Kumasi

Accra: May 16 - 18, 2017 & Kumasi: June 5 - 7, 2017

Hold 2 events to showcase the infographic - the matrix output, and host a speaker of a collaborating institution to share their work or a relevant topic related to internet and affordability.



Infrastructure Sharing & Open Access Working Group

- **Q1 2017 Plan:**
 1. Core group meeting to plan half year activities; drive activity in the group [end of January]
 2. organise session with key stakeholders to review final Shared Infrastructure Report
 3. consider how to engage the broader community on the importance & impact of shared infrastructure
 4. meet with NCA & new Minister of Comm to ensure alignment
- Q2: largely be driven by the agreed priority recommendations from the study.
- **Success:** ★ ★ ★ InfraStudy completed & published.
- **Opportunities:**
 - ❖ energy boost into group - call out for new champions & improved participation by key InfraOwners - MNOs, NITA, GRIDCO
 - ❖ re-engagement with MoC & NCA
 - ❖ review & implementation of relevant recommendations from study which includes convening all infraowners across sector for dialogue

Taxation Working Grp (TWG)



Our Goal, Vision, Mission

Seeking sector-specific tax reforms to increase affordability & connectivity using policy & regulatory dialogue

Impact of Over Taxation

- Reduce ROI for Service Providers
- Raise final price of services for users
- Lower incentives to invest in network rollout & upgrades in uneconomic areas

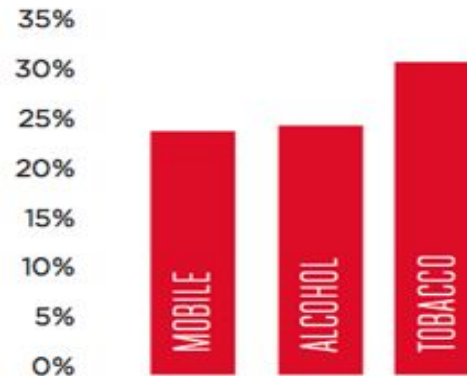
Stakeholders:

MoF, NCA, MoC, MNOs, BoG, EPA, Media etc.

Achievements:

- Removal of 20% Import Duties on Mobile Devices
- Suspending indefinitely VAT on Mobile Money
 - *Even in 2017, further dialogues to exempt from Budget*
- Forestall fine on Towers in excess of a \$1m (daily)
- Deepening goodwill amongst stakeholders to enhance further dialogue

Taxation as a proportion of usage costs



Source: Deloitte analysis

- About 40% of MNO revenues captured as taxes
- About 10% of Govt income is from the sector
- **Rebalancing mobile taxes drives inclusion**

WayForward

- Urgent need to re-strategize group focus to improve appeal to new members. Focus on fiscal and financial planning in addition to taxation . Group to be renamed



A4AI ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE INTERNET
GHANA COALITION



2017 Policy & Regulatory Goals

Group Reports 2017 Plans

Infrastructure Sharing & Open Access

- Need for better coordination between NCA and service providers
- Coordination of roads building initiatives with laying down of internet infrastructure
- Look at a model whereby government creates an enabling environment, as an investor through GIFEC, and private sector managing and implementing
- Adjusting GIFEC's legal framework to establish their sole mandate as funding infrastructure initiatives instead of building and running infrastructure.
- Mandating infrastructure sharing between NITA and other entities



Group Reports

2017 Goals, Objectives & Activities

Infrastructure Sharing & Open Access (continue)

- Focus on implementation of recommendations in the InfraStudy report
- Ghana Institute of Engineers – a group that hasn't been engaged but should be.
- More dialogue among the stakeholder to support implementation of the study



Group Reports

2017 Goals, Objectives & Activities

Data Collection & Infrastructure Sharing

- Two upcoming events in Accra & Kumasi; taking advocacy out of Accra to engage others in Kumasi.
- Develop infograph to map data being collected and available
- On ICT Indicators: 2010 Census – Informal works well to add indicators; Ghana Statistical Service monitoring



Group Reports

2017 Goals, Objectives & Activities

Consumer Advocacy & Pricing Transparency

- Rollover of data
- Data subscription issues – terms and conditions of bundles subscribed to
- Instant notification when data is running out
- Pricing in poorer locations
- Consumer Rights Act is being developed – review for gaps and address of consumer pricing issues.
- REGULATOR Input – review code on unsolicited electronic communication. Option of consumer to list you on do not call list.



Group Reports

2017 Goals, Objectives & Activities

Taxation

- *SIIT – Surcharge International Inter Tax
- *NFSL
- *Import Duty on Mobile Devices

Activities

- *TWG Meetings with expanded focus
- *Connect Activities

Incentives

- *Ad Valorem Taxation
- *Local Manufacturing – assembly and tax breaks
- *Last Mile: GIFEC, NITA, ISPs, Role of custom duties, Revenue & Equipment Duties

General Inputs

1. Disability – recommendation to look at movement to make internet free for disabled persons
2. Provide Remote Participation for Coalition Meetings via online platform
3. Taxation – Be cognizant of quality of devices that could potentially flood the market following due to tax incentives. NCA must enforce standards
4. Engage government on the reduction of taxes where there is a reluctant for complete elimination.



Interested in making a contribution to a working group?

If you wish to engage further in these discussions please contact the national coordinators:

- Kwaku Ofosu-Adarkwa
(kofosuadarkwa@gmail.com) or
- Clara Pinkrah-Sam
(clarapinkrah.sam@gmail.com)

You may also visit the [Ghana coalition webpage at A4AI.org](http://A4AI.org) to join the coalition and indicate working group of interest.

THANK YOU!

WWW.A4AI.ORG