

Advancing Access to Affordable Broadband in Ghana



A global
coalition
working to
make
broadband
affordable
for all



23 November 2017
Meeting Notes

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Welcome & Opening Remarks

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Presentations



- Message from President & CEO of the World Wide Web Foundation, Adrian Lovett*
- Welcome remarks by National Coordinator, Kwaku Ofosu-Adarkwa (PhD)*
- Remarks made on behalf of the Ministry of Communications, read by Director of ITC, Mr. Joseph Tetteh*

*Full Statements available online





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Lighting Talks & Discussion

Advancing Access to Affordable Broadband in Ghana



- *Broadband Policy & Regulation for an Inclusive Economy*
Mr. Ken Ashigbey CEO, Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications
- *Broadband Policy & Regulation for an Inclusive Economy*
Mr Ernest Brown, CEO, GISPA and member of Broadband Council , Ghana
- *Mainstreaming Women in ICT for an Inclusive Digital Economy**
Ms. Felicia Anthonio, Programme Officer, Freedom of Expression Program, Media Foundation for West Africa

*Presentation available online

Recommendations from Talks & Open Discussion



- Explore availability of Ghana Infrastructure Fund to telecoms for **expanding infrastructure**
- Ensure effective use of Ghana Investment Fund to **drive adoption** of affordable broadband
- Position Universal Access at the “**1 for 2**” **Affordability Target**
- Recommend a **Champion for Local Content** (National Incubation Policy Resuscitation)
- **Update 2012 Broadband Policy and Plan document** -- first draft of recommendations by end of 1st quarter

Recommendations from Panel & Open Discussion



- Provide inputs for reviewing of the 2003 Ghana's ICT Policy4D and in the process **ensure gender mainstreaming** as well
- **Investigate Taxation on devices** – review previous recommendations submitted by A4AI-Ghana, revise and re-submit as needed.
- Skills development – Democratize skills development

Recommendations from Panel & Open Discussion



- Ensure availability of Infrastructure/Bandwidth
- Schools and education sector – practical education, advocate for **transformed teaching kills**
- Articulate the **value proposition for using the Internet**
- Encourage and support **cross-sector collaboration**



Working Groups

Consumer Advocacy & Pricing Transparency



- Internet as an essential utility
- Identified a need to support a consumer group for the country that advocates for Internet only
- Greater emphasis still needed on: Pricing, and availability of information for pricing transparency
- Consumer Literacy - need to educate consumers on data bundles so they will better understand the cost of data.



Data Collection & Research



- Focused on deepening relations with GIFEC, NCA
- Identified and Mapped relevant research stakeholders (see infographic)

2018-2019

Need to connect focus to SDG 9c and collaborate closely with statistical service in upcoming population census

- At least 4 ICT questions into the national census – use social media to collect maximum of 7 questions
- Support other working groups: Taxation (direct correlation to acquisition), Consumer (map of coverage)



Infrastructure Sharing & Open Access



- Improved understanding of opportunities related to coverage, cost, lack of regulation/guidelines around shared infrastructure and open access,
- Presented research findings to the Ministry and NCA



2018-2019

- Galvanize private sector & other key stakeholders to focus on advocacy for adoption and implementation of study recommendations
- Partner with Telecom Chamber and other similar stakeholders to maximize engagement of Service Providers on the outcome of the Infrastructure Sharing & Open Access Research study.

Concerned that ICTs are taxed at similar level as alcohol and tobacco and therefore need to raise awareness and develop advocacy to address the impact of excessive taxation on access to affordable internet.

2018-2019

- Conduct a review of all the taxes in the sector and understanding of their impact on the 2018 budget.
- Develop infographic on extent of taxation in ICT sector in Ghana
- ICT is being taxed similar to alcohol and tobacco
- Produce Fiscal Paper on Taxation – due by end of 2018