

**Roundtable Meeting in conjunction
with the A4AI Infrastructure and Open Access Working Group**

**THEME: ADVANCING EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE ROLL OUT TO BOOST AFFORDABLE
BROADBAND ACCESS**
Progress and Opportunities

**Friday , 24 August 2018,
8.30am-12.00noon
Labadi Beach Hotel
La, Accra, Ghana**

About the A4AI-Ghana Coalition

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from the private sector, public sector, and civil society to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus in addressing the shared goal of open, affordable access to the Internet in the developing world. The Alliance aims to increase the affordability of both mobile and fixed-line Internet access dramatically, with a focus on achieving a goal of “1 for 2”—no more than 2% of monthly income per capita for 1GB broadband connection.

At the start of its work in Ghana, A4AI held a successful first A4AI-Ghana Forum in which a number of priority issues were identified. These priority issues have the potential to undermine efforts to increase Internet access and affordability to broadband in Ghana. The priority issues identified in Ghana were:

- Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access
- Research and Data Collection
- Consumer Awareness and Pricing Transparency
- Taxation

Coalition members formed working groups that have been working on each priority issue. The Infrastructure and Open Access Working Group like the others has since produced work plans, supported raising awareness on hurdles to deployment of infrastructure and continues to help develop policy and regulatory outputs (e.g. draft proposals and recommendations) designed to resolve the key challenges.

Background to the Infrastructure study

The [Ghana Infrastructure Study](#) concluded in 2017 was one such output of the Infrastructure Working Group. It was conducted by external consultants but heavily drew on inputs and consultations with stakeholders within the ICT sectors, government , academia, consumers and civil society in Ghana . Recommendations from the research was shared with all stakeholders with a plan to move these forward to achieve to expand connectivity.

The A4AI Roundtable Meeting on **Friday 24th August** under the theme, **Advancing Efficient Infrastructure Roll Out to Boost Affordable Broadband Access** is one important follow up step. Opened to a select group, mainly private sector and government stakeholders in broadband infrastructure, we aim to discuss key considerations including policy, regulation, cost savings , investment and innovation for infrastructure sharing needed to rapidly advance affordable broadband access . Participants have been carefully selected to include decision makers and experts who can adequately contribute to discussions and move recommendations forward.



AGENDA

- 08:30 - 9:00** **Registration & Networking**
- 09:00 - 09:15** **Welcome Messages**
Africa Lead, A4AI - Onica N. Makwakwa
National Coordinator, A4AI Ghana - Dr. Kwaku Ofosu-Adarkwa
- 09:15 - 09:30** **Ghana Infrastructure Study: Highlights & Recommendations**
*Deputy Director, Policy Lead (A4AI) - Eleanor Sarpong,
Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access Champion - Estelle Akofio-Sowah,
Q&A*
- 9:35 - 10:15** **Moving from Recommendations to Implementation: Global and best practices**
Mavis Ampah (Consultant and expert on ICT policy and Infrastructure, CEO Stinsad Consult. Formerly of the World Bank)
 - *Implementable regulatory and policy recommendations to support and encourage sharing*
 - *Practical steps to implement infrastructure sharing while maintaining Quality of Service (QoS)*
 - *Innovative ways to support more efficient network coverage and expansion particularly into rural and underserved areas*Q&A
- 10:15 - 10:35** **Refreshment Break & Group Photo**
- 10:35 - 11:30** **Breakout Group Discussions- The 5 solution challenge**
Discussion points
*Implementable regulatory and policy recommendations to boost infrastructure sharing and affordable access (short and long term)
Practical steps and Innovative ways to support more efficient network coverage and expansion*
- 11:30 - 12:00** **Wrap Up and Next Steps**
 - Working Document, summary of Key resolutions to follow on with timelines. Targets & Commitments