



A4AI-GHANA COALITION 28 NOVEMBER 2018

MEETING NOTES

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



1. Remarks
 - Ministry of Communications
 - National Communications Authority
 - A4AI - 5 Year Anniversary
2. 2018 Affordability Report
3. Discussion
4. Coalition Expansion

Remarks: Ministry of Communications

- Embrace **efficient use of technology** in Ghana
 - A pending digital policy that is expected to address this aim. Currently experiencing slow pace of progress with development of policy however there's great commitment and anticipation.
 - Digital policy is expected to center around gender-mainstreaming to advance inclusion in the sector.
- New Communication **Service Tax**.
 - There are new and contested developments in the taxation of services within the sector, from the 17.5% (VAT) to the 6% communications service tax, there is an overall need to ensure greater understanding of the breakdown for clarity of to all the stakeholders.



Remarks: National Communications Authority

- Promotion of competition remains important
- All Ghana's spectrum is licensed except 2.4 and 5.8 GHz typically given to ISPs for last-mile solutions.
- Provided spectrum within the 2GHz range to promote broadband adoption
 - Not used within cities
- Mobile number portability is an option for consumers for flexibility
- 4-5 companies contracted to run fibre connectivity - national backbone
- ***How can NCA/GIFEC complement advocacy efforts on serving the underserved?***
- ***How can District Assemblies/local communities demand connection to the national fibre backbone?***



A4AI @ 5 Ghana Highlights

- The Affordability Report was first launched in 2014 and has shaped conversations on access and affordability.
- Established '**1 for 2**' affordability target as global standard
 - Ghana was the first country to endorse
 - Followed by endorsement from ECOWAS and ultimately the UN Broadband Commission.
- Ghana coalition was inaugurated in March 2014
- Smart taxation policies (Ghana, Moz) spearheaded initial A4AI fiscal reports
 - ongoing work on taxation also in Nigeria and pending A4AI paper on Taxation

2018 Affordability Report (Ghana Highlights)



DISCUSSION

- Internet affordability is strongly linked to global competitiveness
- Taxation policies vs affordability
 - OTT Taxation - driven by need for revenues; assessment of potential benefits vs adverse effects on affordability.
- ISP Competitiveness vs MNOs dominance
- Follow up on MoC Digital Development strategy
 - still at RfP stage
 - government, meanwhile, forced to proceed with adoption of ICTs.
- USF use beyond infrastructure investment?

HIGHLIGHTS

continued . . .

- How to make policies more robust so that new ones don't undermine progress eg?
- Gender and inclusion
- getting women to advocate for what will work for them.
 - **think of incentives for coalition members to bring along their female peers?**
 - **tracking of public foras' representation of women.**
- Rural connectivity - connectivity beyond Accra
- **Broaden thematic areas in 2019, to include this?**
 - policy on co-location of sites
 - dig once policy proposed
 - review of progress for improving affordability/quality of access?

Discussion

- Need for revision of broadband policy, to accommodate more than fibre provision.
- Much needed focus on Content service strategies, post universal access?
 - to drive user-generated, relevant content.

Emerging themes

- There are overwhelming **Quality of Services (QoS)** issues
- Taxation needs further study to unpack recent changes and reach common understanding of the impact on affordability.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Advocated for increased consumer protection
- Ghana has successfully engaged the regulator on CP issues - data balances, roll over, pricing transparency.
 - Work on implementation and continuous monitoring continues.
- Taking a lead on gender inclusion!
 - Ghana has been host for the two ASWGTs!
 - Improving women's engagement and attendance into the Ghana coalition meetings.

Potential Coalition Partners

2019 Outreach



Government

Min of Finance

Min of Education

National Youth Authority*

Private Sector

Mobile Web Ghana

Developers in Vogue

Lucy Quist

Civil society groups

Rights and Responsibilities Initiative,
Ghana

Abantu for Development

Soronko Solutions, other coding
initiatives.

CoP (Esther Awo'o)

NetRights

MFWA

Impact Hub

Tech and Business Hub Network

Next Steps

- The **Taxation working group** will be focusing on a review of taxes particularly those on handheld devices and services. This includes the new VAT, NHIL taxes imposed by the government in October .
- The **Consumer working group** will be engaging the NCA on metrics to tackle quality of service of broadband while
- **Infrastructure and Open Access working group** is working with the regulator as well as other infrastructure stakeholders to advance the adoption of the recommendations from the infrastructure sharing research released in 2017.



Thank you!



A4AI team