



Spectrum Working Group

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Spectrum WG Mandate



The A4AI-Nigeria Coalition forum identified a number of priority issues one of which is Spectrum policy and regulation. These priority issues are aimed at ***“Making Spectrum more widely available, especially to entrepreneurs for innovation and provision of affordable access solutions in unserved and underserved areas”***.

Work in Progress

- Comprehensive policy recommendation to government to address the following items
 - Recommendations on improving Spectrum Assignment
 - Active Infrastructure sharing guidelines in development by NCC
 - Policy on revising national coverage obligations vis-à-vis operating costs of spectrum licenses
 - Spectrum trading framework and guideline recommendations
 - TV Whitespace regulation wish list
- New Policy and Regulatory Support to facilitate the ability of small enterprises to make use of unlicensed Spectrum. (Identifying incentives for small enterprises).



NIGERIA COALITION
**ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE INTERNET**

Priority Areas for Spectrum

- 70/80Ghz (E-Band) benefits awareness
- Proposed TV White Space Regulations
- Spectrum sharing
- Spectrum trading
- Spectrum Re-farming

Other Areas

- Spectrum WORKING GROUP actively participated at the stakeholders forums that discussed the Spectrum Plan and the licensing option for successful auctioning of the following spectrum;
- 70/80 GHz otherwise called E-band , for high speed point-point wireless LAN and Broadband internet access(last mile) in March 2015
- 2.6GHz for Broadband services,
- 38 & 42 GHz and re-planning/re-channelisation of 23GHz, for short range point-to-point connection. May 2016.

Achievements To Date

- Remaining 2 slots in 5.4Ghz for Lagos zone for Broadband/wireless local loop services. November, 2016.
- Spectrum WORKING GROUP also participated and monitored inputs from stakeholders at the consultative forum organized by NCC that discussed the proposed draft framework for **SPECTRUM TRADING** in Nigeria. This is to ensure that meaningful contributions from stakeholders are integrated into the final framework.

Achievements To Date

- SWG has successfully launched its social media platforms for knowledge sharing and information dissemination.
 - facebook/spectrum working group a4ai
 - Twitter@SWG a4ai
 - WhatsApp/ Spectrum working grp a4ai
- SWG is constantly monitoring the Progress of the TV white space (TVWS) Trial Deployment in Nigeria.
- Other initiatives to further license more bands for Broadband are closely being monitored by members of the Spectrum Working Group.

Achievements To Date

- SWG is also monitoring the development regarding the deadline set for digital switchover from analogue transmission being carried out gradually and geographically by the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC) as this will free more spectrum for mobile broadband deployment.
- SWG is proposing engaging its members periodically for deliberations on topical issues regarding the spectrum management planning on its social media platforms.

Challenges

- Delay in the implementation of the digital switchover to free more frequencies for mobile broadband deployment.
- Poor participation of some of our members with only few members actively driving the processes.
- Spectrum stakeholders being on the same page on issues such as Spectrum Refarming etc..

Recommendations

- Nigeria has been a pioneer in making spectrum licences available, policymakers could do more to ensure that policy and regulation keep pace with technological change.
- To encourage creative use of spectrum such as WiFi and Television White Spaces as this will make it easier for smaller and new operators to enter the market.
- Start-ups deploying new technologies can inexpensively use WiFi Spectrum to provide broadband coverage by which it will greatly expand access, particularly in rural areas where large operators do not provide coverage because of its non-viability in terms of profitability for them to do so.

Recommendations

- Develop a study/briefing looking at how much it costs to operate an unlicensed spectrum business in the provision of affordable access and the impact on local development.
- Support the establishment of a network of unlicensed Spectrum Service providers to develop and present a sound business strategy to the Federal Ministry of Communications (FMC) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) this could be done through the existing registration process/tool that the NCC has to get people to register to know who is providing services

Conclusions

- To increase access - a pilot programme has been considered as a critical step towards making affordable wireless connectivity available to rural communities across the country especially the unserved and underserved areas with Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) driving the process.
- Creating hotspots for internet access in the rural communities will no doubt help in achieving the affordability target in Nigeria.
- Join us in our social media platforms to share knowledge that will help in driving spectrum policies.

**Be part of A4AI-Nigeria Coalition
Spectrum Working Group by
providing inputs in the
implementation of our work plan.**

Thank you!

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