

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Nigeria Renews Commitment to Achieving Affordable Internet Access**

**25 April 2017.** Nigeria has renewed its membership in the Alliance for Affordable Internet ([A4AI](#)) — a global coalition dedicated to reducing the cost of internet access. In a meeting today at the Internet Freedom Forum in Lagos, Nigeria’s Honourable Minister of Communication Technology, Barrister Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu, signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the [World Wide Web Foundation](#), which hosts the secretariat of A4AI. The MoU, which covers a three-year period, signals Nigeria’s continued commitment to advance the policy and regulatory reforms needed to reduce the cost to connect and enable affordable internet access for all Nigerians.

A4AI is the world’s broadest technology sector coalition, with more than 80 members from across the private, public and not-for-profit sectors, including Google, the US Agency for International Development, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Launched in 2013 by the World Wide Web Foundation, A4AI is currently working in six countries — Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, and the Dominican Republic — to drive down the cost of broadband internet through locally driven policy and regulatory change.

Nigeria has been a member of A4AI since 2013, and was the first African country to join the Alliance. In the three-year period covered by the [initial MoU](#), over 100 stakeholders have come together to form the [A4AI-Nigeria Coalition](#), which is working to tackle policy and regulatory barriers to affordable internet access in the country. Recent coalition advocacy efforts have resulted in the Nigerian government’s [endorsement](#) of a new, ambitious “[1 for 2](#)” [affordability target](#) — 1GB of mobile broadband access priced at 2% or less of average monthly income — which, if achieved, will enable millions more Nigerians to afford to come online.

Commenting on today’s signing, A4AI Deputy Director Eleanor Sarpong noted:

*“We congratulate Nigeria for its renewed commitment to ensuring affordable internet access for its people. The inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach of the A4AI-Nigeria Coalition has shone a clear light on the barriers to affordable access in Nigeria, and the practical solutions developed by the Coalition have started to produce great results. A4AI is delighted to have the opportunity to continue to work toward achieving the policy change necessary to make online access a reality for all.”*

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