Liberia ICT Policy 2017-2021
Report on initial stakeholders consultation held in Monrovia on November 23rd 2016

Project Lead: Eleanor Sarpong
Head of Policy and Advocacy

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a4ai.org
Goals of consultation

❖ To convene under the auspices of the GoL (MoPT), a half day consultation meeting of public and private sector stakeholders to build upon the framework of draft ICT policy for 2017-2021

❖ To incorporate emerging ICT needs since last public engagement into draft policy and close identified gaps

❖ To support the policy framework to ensure improved affordability and access to broadband infrastructure and related services to all citizens

❖ Consensus for action, policy commitment, co-investment in shared infrastructure
## Key thematic areas addressed

### Supply-side: Access & availability
- Spectrum management
- Infrastructure sharing
- National universal access programme (including Fund)
- Priority infrastructure plan (e.g., National Fiber Terrestrial Backbone, Metro Rings, Fiber Ring for Monrovia, National Data Centre)

### Demand-side: Growth
- Governance and supply of public services
- E-Commerce/ Education/ Health Services
- Content development
- Digital skills and digital literacy programmes

### Legal and regulatory framework
- Institutional reforms, objectives and targets across various sectors

### Data & Consumer protection. Cybersecurity
- National identification system
- Data protection and privacy
- Cybersecurity policies and mandates
- Quality of service

### Affordability
- Gender-responsive policies w/ targeted interventions for marginalized/poor
- Set affordability target at “1 for 2” (1 GB < 2% monthly p.c. income)

### Measuring progress
- Research and development policy
- Results-based systems for M&E
Working groups during consultation

- Group 1: Supply-side: Access and availability
- Group 2: Data, consumer protection & public awareness
- Group 3: Demand-side growth
- Group 4: Legal and regulatory Framework
- Group 5: Affordability and Measuring Progress

**Group activity included the following:**
- Use Leading questions to guide discussions per group
- Select a leader to facilitate group and report back to everyone
- Select a recorder to take notes and submit to workshop facilitators
- Review Goal, Objectives and Strategies: Record input, suggestions for modification
- Prepare summary of recommendations to present
Consultation process

Objectives:

1. Identify policy gaps
2. Develop new ideas to shape policy
3. Stakeholder feedback
Discussion Outcomes and Recommendations


Legal and regulatory framework

Policy should:

❖ have a clearly defined governance structure to ensure coordination.
❖ consider restructuring the current Ministry to embrace current and future ICT needs of Liberia, e.g., consider a Ministry of ICT to ensure full ownership and clear oversight of all digital and ICT policy issues (ACTION: Research and identify good case studies in Africa)
❖ incorporate clear E-legislation that will engender trust in the legal and regulatory bodies
  ● be clear on rules on Cybercrime- Currently no laws on E- transactions. (Liberia is looking to pass the E- transactions Act. It will be falling on parts of the Act from ECOWAS.)
❖ harmonise existing legislation and regulatory framework especially addressing sectoral overlaps, e.g., Banking and Telecoms, Cyber Issues and Citizens Identity, convergence of Media Telecommunications and technology
  ● Factor in new rules for competition, convergence (media/broadcasting), IT, telecommunications & finance. (It should be clear on which ministry should have oversight and which regulatory authority)
❖ have a clearly defined role for Libtelco. Consideration should be given for a possible overhaul or restructuring, e.g., should it be a government ISP, Infrastructure company or be a state IT company. Reforms needed to ensure clear mandate.
Supply-side: Access and availability

Policy should:

❖ ensure Spectrum alignment is paramount
❖ push for infrastructure sharing to enable competition
❖ address issues of pricing and affordability
❖ access to spectrum for rural access should be prominent
❖ there should be direct interventionist incentives to encourage rural investment
❖ factor in strategic targets to be achieved eg on last mile connectivity, from subsea ACE cable, metro fibre to national backbone to connect redundancy to the borders of Liberia to (e.g., Côte D’ivoire, Guinea) boost regional competition
   ● As short term measure Liberia needs redundant links to the CCL in ACE cable route e.g., consider redundant links to Cote D’ivoire.
   ● link Fibre deployment to Major routes development across Liberia to light up communities
❖ encourage a multisectoral approach to strategic development with greater collaboration between roads, finance, power and MoPT ministries in infrastructure roll out.
   ● On infrastructure roll out have a dig once policy and streamlined process to stimulate interest
❖ incorporate a tower security strategy - engineering standards for towers and ducts, compliance assessment monitoring, enforcement strategy, emergency preparedness
Demand-side growth

Policy should:

❖ have interventions that encourage local content development
❖ set out use of Universal service funds to stimulate demand
❖ encourage E- governance and supply of public services
❖ encourage E- Commerce/ Education/ Health Services / Agriculture and other industries
❖ encourage Content development
❖ stimulate digital skills and digital literacy programme
❖ provide incentives to encourage funding for accelerated programs at universities and vocational institutions
Data, consumer protection & public awareness

Policy should:

❖ have very strong Cybersecurity policies and mandates. Clear ownership on cybersecurity (e.g., police, Liberia should sign up to the CERT Africa immediately as a short term measure to curb current attacks on its ICT networks

❖ set clear standards for Quality of service.

❖ provide guidance for emergency preparedness: Touch on emergency response policy / disaster recovery and business continuity
  * National security implications may need to be discussed further
  * Who should be developing cybersecurity Policy for Liberia?

❖ encourage an efficient National identification system to boost digital services

❖ incorporate clear direction for data protection and privacy
Affordability & Measuring Progress

Policy should:

❖ remove barriers to access and affordability of ICT services eg Taxation on handsets, duties on imported equipment. Encourage a multisectoral approach
❖ encourage the use of new low cost technologies and innovations especially in rural areas eg pop up base stations, alternative energy technologies
❖ encourage the development of a Research and development policy
❖ have SMART clear deliverables, responsibility and timelines (that was a shortcoming of the 2010 policy)
❖ have an implementations strategy
❖ have results-based systems for measuring success and evaluation
Next Steps

- Initial recommendations will be used to guide the development of a comprehensive ICT policy draft framework (considering current draft policy)
- Update project work plan to reflect suggestions from stakeholders and GoL based on initial conversations
- Draft ICT policy document and prepare consultation document based on draft policy (to include key consultation questions and items to reach consensus); this will be done in coordination with Drafting Working Group
  - Drafting process will include a number of tasks, from research and case study development to interviews with ICTD experts and industry leaders experience in similar policy developments
- Share Draft ICT Policy with Review Working Group for initial stakeholder feedback and inputs to the consultation process
- Organize and conduct public consultations on the new draft policy in separate locations in Liberia to ensure full participation across all sectors
- Develop Final draft policy by integrating inputs and insights from public consultations
- Organize and conduct Final public consultation to present Final Draft Policy and collect final input
- Submit Final Draft Policy to the GoL for review and approval
Event Gallery

Group discussions
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Sector</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Frederick Norkeh</td>
<td>Ministry of Post and Telecommunications</td>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zotawon Titus</td>
<td>Ministry of Post and Telecommunications</td>
<td>Deputy Minister</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Browne</td>
<td>LIPA</td>
<td>IT Director</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<td>Victor Neeplo</td>
<td>MFDP</td>
<td>Data Centre Manager</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<td>Nyemoh Waylee</td>
<td>Moways</td>
<td>Manager</td>
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<td>Darren Wilkins</td>
<td>Libtelco</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<td>D Nalon Kaine</td>
<td>MOPT</td>
<td>Chief Information Officer (CIO)</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<td>Peter King Quaye</td>
<td>Youth IGF</td>
<td>Ambassador- Advocacy &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Civil Society</td>
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<td>Emmanuel D. Nyemah</td>
<td>MIA</td>
<td>ICT Technician</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morris S. McGee</td>
<td>NOCAL</td>
<td>IT Specialist</td>
<td>Public</td>
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<td>Babatunde Osho</td>
<td>Lonestar MTN</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louis Roberts</td>
<td>Lonestar MTN</td>
<td>Deputy CEO</td>
<td>Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bliidi Elliott</td>
<td>Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)</td>
<td>Director of Administration (DoA)</td>
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<td>Malcolm Joseph</td>
<td>CEMESP</td>
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<td>Abdullai Kamane</td>
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<td>Soukarlay J.Y. Weamie</td>
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<td>Steve Song</td>
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<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Civil Society</td>
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<td>Eleanor Sarpong</td>
<td>A4AI</td>
<td>Policy Advocacy Manager</td>
<td>NGO</td>
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Thank you!

Eleanor Sarpong
Head of Policy and Advocacy
Eleanor.sarpong@webfoundation.org
@ellasarpong
a4ai.org