

**ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE INTERNET**



NIGERIA COALITION
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COALITION MEETING REPORT

**LAGOS, NIGERIA
31 OCTOBER 2018**

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WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Infrastructure & Spectrum Working Group



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- Completed development of workplan through consultative process with members including a webinar.
- Broadband Infrastructure Forum was a key output for 2018 and was successfully hosted on October 30th
- Right of Way (RoW) policy - the group will take on the task of developing a position paper for uniform cost to guide policy and regulatory developments in this area.
- Policy recommendation/guidelines for active infrastructure sharing will be developed to also contribute to the updated the broadband plan.

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- Proposed conducting policy briefing for advocates to promote active infrastructure sharing
- Invited to submit a position paper to NCC on best practices for management of universal service funds (USPF)
- Updating the Nigeria Broadband Plan - group will develop and present recommendations for consideration in the extension of the plan's lifespan

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Policy & Research Opportunities: New and Emerging Areas

- Identified a challenge in **access to reliable data** and thus need for the mapping of existing infrastructure - ownership & location.
- What are the best practices in **community networks** and what could be the role of USPF in enabling these?
- Review the alignment and/or impact related to the introduction of the secondary market **spectrum trading**.

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- Explore and facilitating the potential use of TV White Space for efficient advancement of broadband. Requires engagement of the key government stakeholders, NBC and NCC.
- Improving the group's understanding and awareness of the role of USPF as it relates to the broadband plan

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Summary of Broadband forum outcomes

1. Revised broadband policy to be ambitious
2. Importance of demand side issues
3. Broaden scope of infra sharing to include utilities, roads, railroads, etc.
4. Change in constitution - to mitigate impact of federal vs local actors which impede rollout of broadband infrastructure
5. Advocate for a Chief Champion at office of presidency to ensure policy support
6. Open and transparent access to data on infrastructure

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Broadband Forum and Feedback (continued)

8. Open data - Nigeria already committed to pen data principles implementation needed.
9. Explore already existing committee
10. Advisory Group on Technology and Creativity under office of the VP (Nigeria Industrial Policy & Advisory Council) - share views, assist with policy implementation & planning a stakeholder forum (upcoming)

Consumer Advocacy Working Group



- Focusing on the unconnected through a campaign working with WISE through a radio program on the benefits of the Internet. This builds on the **Benefits of the Internet infographic** previously developed by the group. Continuing to reach out to other CSOs.
- Contributed to the **50/50 moment stories** - feature on 3 market women now selling pepper through whatsapp and an informal retailer of oranges now supplying to a hotel
- Seeking engagement with CPC and NCC on investigation regarding consumer experiences
- Proposed 9% Communications Service Tax remains dormant although has not been withdrawn.
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Consumer Advocacy Working Group



Comments/Feedback to Working Group

- Still need to seek understanding of unit cost of data and educate consumers .
- Data cost is still considered high and disappearing data continues to be a common complaint. **Resolved to submit disappearing data issues for review by the joint Consumer Protection Commission and the Nigerian Communications Commission panel.**
- Net Neutrality is also an important consumer protection issue - particularly with regards to pay prioritization & traffic monitoring practices. Some members will participate in an upcoming stakeholder gathering on internet industry code (nov 2nd)

Consumer Advocacy Working Group



Continued . . . Comments/Feedback to Working Group

- Taxation of social media - Nigeria's ALTON has raised issue of government's intent to tax social media and OTTs in general.
- Upcoming A4AI research on OTTs and taxation issues should include advocacy toolkits to help educate public and government on this matter.
- Taxation on handheld devices; GSMA is also conducting research on this topic and report will be shared with coalition for consideration.

NEXT STEPS (WORKING GROUPS)

IMPLEMENTATION of Next Steps

1. Prepare draft recommendations for Broadband Plan by 15 December
2. Incorporate above discussions in 2019 work plans and identify specific areas of focus for the new broadband plan.

RESEARCH FEEDBACK



Improving Affordability

1. **Increasing income.** Challenge to also focus on increasing income. What lessons can be shared,
2. How access can help improve income.
3. **Lowering Cost of Access.** Review economy of scale impact on landline telephone experience in Nigeria. Look at public access and community networks

RESEARCH FEEDBACK



4. Important Question - How many people have access. Continue to push for expansion of service and insist on the regulator to ensure quality of service is consistent.

Feedback will be factored into future research questions particularly upcoming country engagement reports.

Thank you!

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