



## Coalition Meeting

**Theme: *Bridging the Broadband Access Gap in Nigeria to support a Digital Economy***

**Thursday ,12th December 2019**

**8.30-14.00,**

**Sheraton, Abuja**

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from government, the private sector, civil society and development sectors to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus in addressing the shared goal of open, affordable and equal access to the internet in the developing world. A4AI aims to make the internet universally affordable for all who want to use it.

Since 2014, A4AI-Nigeria has been working on priority issues that must be addressed to unlock the potential for affordable, universal and equal access in Nigeria:

- Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access – How to increase limited sharing of some infrastructure.
- Spectrum - concerns over spectrum policy, including innovative and efficient use of spectrum.
- Consumer Awareness and Pricing Transparency – limited consumer awareness and information about the benefits and cost of internet services, including, but not limited to, taxation and fiscal concerns that affect cost borne by consumers.

The overarching theme for this meeting is ***Bridging the Broadband Access gap in Nigeria to support a digital Economy***. The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy recently released its draft strategy for the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy for a Digital Nigeria, at the E- Nigeria week, it sets the vision from moving Nigeria towards a vibrant digital economy around key pillars such as regulation, infrastructure, Online services, content, digital skills amongst others. However large gaps in digital equality and inclusion in Nigeria could threaten this vision. This coalition meeting is open to all people interested in increasing broadband access and affordability in Nigeria, with a view to discussing key considerations including policy, regulation and innovation needed to achieve the vision of a digital future for Nigeria. Nigeria adopted the “**1 for 2**” **affordability target**, committing to ensuring that Nigerians can afford at least 1G of data per month at an average of no more than 2% of average monthly GNI. Despite reaching the international standard for affordability (1GB of data is about 1.7% of GNI in 2019) [income inequality and extreme poverty](#) means that a basic mobile broadband plan remains unaffordable for millions who in turn lose out on the opportunities of being connected. Furthermore much needed broadband Infrastructure is often inadequate and unevenly spread.

The coalition remains resolute in supporting the development of suitable policy and regulatory reforms to meet the goal of closing Nigeria’s access and affordability gap. Having successfully [completed a review](#) of the expired Nigeria Broadband Plan, we will look at the current proposals of the new Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy and focus on key updates and targets needed to ensure more Nigerians are connected to take advantage of the digital future. We aim to ensure that this meeting offers an opportunity to engage a variety of stakeholders to participate in a dialogue towards an effective broadband and digital economy policy.



## AGENDA

### *Bridging the Broadband Access Gap in Nigeria to support a Digital Economy*

8:30 - 9:00	<b>Arrival &amp; Registration</b>
9:00 - 9:20	Chair, Onica N. Makwakwa, Head of Africa Region, A4AI  <b>Welcome Message</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eleanor Sarpong, A4AI Deputy Director</li><li>• Olusola Teniola, A4AI-Nigeria National Coordinator</li></ul> <b>Recognition of Service - Gratitude to Dr. Ernest Ndukwe</b>
9:20 - 9:40	<b>Opening Remarks by Guest of Honour</b>  <i>The Road to a Digital Economy - The Vision and Digital Strategy of E- Nigeria - Key Highlights</i> <b>Dr. Isa Ali Pantami</b> , Honourable Minister of Communications and the Digital Economy ( <b>invited</b> )
9:40-10:10	<b>Presentations &amp; Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>2019 Affordability Report - A Closer Look from global to national</i> <b>Onica N. Makwakwa</b>, Head of Africa Region, A4AI</li></ul> <b>Q &amp;A - Olusola Teniola</b>
10.10-10:40	What are the key elements of Nigeria's digital economy, its targets and what is the expected role of various stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Olufemi Daniels, Esq.</b>, Senior Legal Officer, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)</li><li>• <b>Jane Egerton-Idehen</b>, Country Manager , Avanti Communications</li><li>• <b>Olusola Teniola</b>, A4AI-Nigeria National Coordinator</li></ul> Moderator - <b>Eleanor Sarpong, Deputy Director, A4AI &amp; Policy Lead</b>
10.40-11.00	<b>Group Picture &amp; Refreshments Break</b>
11:00 - 11:15	<b>Lightning talk</b> <i>Impact of Taxation on Consumers and overall Digital Inclusion: From sim cards to social media and communications service tax.</i> <b>Oyebisi Babatunde Oluseyi</b> , Consumer Advocacy & Pricing Transparency Working Group Champion



<b>11:15 - 12:00</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <b>Topic:</b> Emerging Laws & Regulations - From Taxation to Social Media Bill, how do these impact consumers and Nigeria's efforts to close the access gap and develop a thriving digital economy. What are the good practices that can be recommended and what's the role of government, private sector and civil society in ensuring a healthy and vibrant digital Nigeria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>Busayo Obisakin</i>, Women Inspiration Development Center</li><li>● <i>Olufemi Daniels, Esq.</i>, Senior Legal Officer, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)</li><li>● <i>Prince Henry Iseghohi</i>, CEO Broadbased Communications</li></ul> <b>Open Comments Session</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Oluweseun Akinola, SplashFM
<b>12:00 - 12:45</b>	<b>Discussions and Recommendations (Working Group Breakout Sessions planning for 2020)</b> Recommendations/ proposed targets for closing the Access Gap and supporting the digital economy <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Consumer Awareness</i> - Recommendations to bring more Nigerians online . Demand side initiatives , from relevant content, digital literacy ,affordable broadband packages to effective consumer protection</li><li>2. <i>Infrastructure, Open Access &amp; Spectrum</i> - Recommendations for bridging the infrastructure gaps and connecting the unconnected - Roadmap for success</li><li>3. <i>Investment and fiscal</i>- Recommendations to tackle CST and other emerging consumer facing taxation and promote investment in digital economy</li><li>4. <i>Legislative and regulatory framework</i> - Supporting policies, regulations, laws, National/ Federal level to speed to close the access gap, support digital content and entrepreneurship</li></ol>
<b>12 .45 -13:00</b>	<b>Report back &amp; Next Step</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> Onica N. Makwakwa & Olusola Teniola
<b>13:00- 14:00</b>	<b>Networking Lunch</b>