



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Contacts:** Dillon Mann, Senior Communications Adviser, World Wide Web Foundation  
dillon@webfoundation.org / + 44 203 289 7261 / Twitter: @dillonmann

Gabe Trodd, Communications Adviser, World Wide Web Foundation  
gabe@webfoundation.org / + 44 7730 522980 / Skype: gabe784

### **NIGERIA AND ALLIANCE FOR AFFORDABLE INTERNET TO WORK TOGETHER TO DRIVE DOWN COST OF BROADBAND**

#### *Nigeria becomes first African country to sign MOU with A4AI*

**Abuja, Nigeria and Cape Town, South Africa.** The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI – a4ai.org) has today announced that Nigeria has become the first African country to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the newly-launched Alliance. A4AI will now work closely with a range of stakeholders in Nigeria to identify policy and regulatory barriers to internet affordability in the country and help to put in place a plan to address these. Initial meetings have already taken place, and a dedicated workplan is now being developed.

Launched last week by the World Wide Web Foundation, A4AI is a coalition of more than 30 private sector, public sector, and civil society organizations who have come together to advance the shared aim of affordable access to both mobile and fixed-line Internet in developing countries. The Alliance's primary focus is to reach the UN Broadband Commission Broadband Target of entry-level broadband services priced at less than 5% of average monthly income. In Nigeria, fixed broadband currently costs 39% of average monthly income, with a 500MB pre-paid mobile broadband plan averaging 13%.

Sonia Jorge, Executive Director of the Alliance for Affordable Internet said:

*“Nigeria is Africa’s most populous country, and so we hope to be able to make an impact here and deliver benefits that can be replicated across the continent and around the world. The Ministry of Communications Technology is fast developing a reputation for innovation, and so we are pleased to be working closely with Honorable Minister Omobola Johnson and her team to support the implementation of policy with strong research evidence. We’re looking forward to getting started!”*

Other country members of the Alliance for Affordable Internet are the USA, the UK and Sweden. A4AI has committed to be working with at least three developing countries before the end of 2013, and so further announcements will be made within the coming weeks. Other high-profile members include Consumers International, Research ICT Africa, Cisco, Ericsson, Google, Main One and Omidyar Network. Interest in the Alliance has been high around the globe since its official launch, and further membership announcements are expected soon.



### Full List of Alliance Members

Global Sponsors*	Private Sector	Public Sector and Academia	Civil Society and Foundations
Google Inc	Alcatel-Lucent	Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation	Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
Omidyar Network	Cisco	Center for Technology and Society of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (CTS/FGV)	Cherie Blair Foundation for Women
UK Department for International Development	Digicel	Dialogo Regional sobre Sociedad de la Informacion (DIRSI)	Consumers International
USAID	Ericsson	Government of Nigeria	Ford Foundation
	Facebook	Government of Sweden	Global Partners
	Intel Corporation	US State Department	Grameen Foundation
	Main One		Internet Society
	Microsoft Corp.		Inveneo
	Yahoo!		IREX/Beyond Access
			New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute (OTI)
			Research ICT Africa
			Software & Information Industries Association
			The Centre for Internet & Society
			Women in Global Science and Technology
			World Wide Web Foundation

*\*Global Sponsors are founder members of A4AI who contribute significant financial and practical support.*



## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

The Alliance for Affordable Internet ([www.a4ai.org](http://www.a4ai.org)) is a global coalition committed to driving down the cost of internet access in less developed countries.

A4AI focuses on creating the conditions for open, efficient and competitive broadband markets via policy and regulatory reform. Through a combination of advocacy, research and knowledge-sharing, the Alliance aims to facilitate the achievement of the UN Broadband Commission target of entry-level broadband services priced at less than 5% of average monthly income. In doing so, A4AI will help to connect the two-thirds of people in developing countries who cannot access the internet.

A4AI members are drawn from both developed and less developed countries and include public, private and not-for-profit organizations. The World Wide Web Foundation, founded by Web inventor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, initiated the Alliance. Global sponsors are Google, Omidyar Network, USAID and the UK DFID and the Alliance has more than 30 members.

For more, please visit: [www.a4ai.org](http://www.a4ai.org).