



A4AI ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE INTERNET

GHANA COALITION

Workshop on Infrastructure Sharing Policy and Regulation & A4AI-Ghana Coalition Meeting

Tuesday, 5 July 2016, 08h30 to 15h30

Kofi Annan ICT Centre of Excellence, Accra, Ghana

About the A4AI-Ghana Coalition

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from the private sector, public sector, and civil society to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus in addressing the shared goal of open, affordable access to the Internet in the developing world. The Alliance aims to increase the affordability of both mobile and fixed-line Internet access dramatically, with a focus on achieving a goal of “1 for 2”—no more than 2% of monthly income per capita for 1GB broadband connection.

At the start of its work in Ghana, A4AI held a successful first A4AI-Ghana Forum in which a number of priority issues were identified. These priority issues have the potential to undermine efforts to increase Internet access and affordability to broadband in Ghana. The priority issues identified in Ghana are:

- Taxation
- Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access
- Research and Data Collection
- Consumer Awareness and Pricing Transparency

The Coalition members have formed four working groups that are working on each priority issue. These working groups developed work plans and started developing policy and regulatory outputs (e.g. draft proposals and recommendations) designed to resolve the key challenges.

Objectives and Outline of the Expert Workshop and A4AI-Ghana Coalition Meeting

Workshop on Infrastructure Sharing in Partnership with Vieira de Almeida

Stakeholders in Ghana identified the need to develop human and institutional capacity for infrastructure sharing and open access as critical. In light of this need, the forthcoming meeting will see A4AI and its partners, Vieira de Almeida (VdA), facilitate a capacity building workshop on the subject during the morning Tuesday, July 5th 2016. VdA is a Portuguese independent law firm with over 300 staff and 19 practices with a global Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) team, headed by award-winning and internationally acknowledged lawyers. Its work has been acknowledged, amongst others, by the “Financial Times 2015 Game Changing Law Firm in Continental Europe (Non UK)” and “Financial Times Innovative Lawyer 2013 in Continental Europe (Non UK)” awards.

A4AI-Ghana Coalition Meeting

The A4AI-Ghana Coalition Meeting in the afternoon of Wednesday July 6th is open to all stakeholders interested in increasing broadband access and affordability in Ghana. Ms Onica Makwakwa, A4AI’s Africa Regional Coordinator, will open the meeting with a lightning talk on recent research by A4AI on the impact of mobile data services in developing countries. Following the research presentation, each of the four working groups will share the challenges to affordability they are addressing, and report on key accomplishments to date and expected outcomes in the near future. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for all participants to discuss the work of each working group.



AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Kwaku Oforu-Adarkwa, National Coordinator, A4AI-Ghana• Ms. Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, A4AI
09:15 - 09:30	Opening Keynote Honourable Minister of Communication, Government of Ghana, Dr Edward Omane Boamah (TBC)
09:30 – 10:45	Session I: Good practice in the regulation of infrastructure sharing – Legal approach / regulatory policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of the policy and legal frameworks across the regions, special focus on Africa• Q&A Ms Isabel Ornelas, Telecom Legal Expert, Vieira de Almeida Ms Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, A4AI
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Session II: Overview of legislative and regulatory framework in Ghana <i>“The Implementation of the Guidelines for Mast Building and Sharing in Ghana: Lessons, Challenges and Issues to Consider As we Move to Develop a Regulatory Framework for Open Access and Infrastructure Sharing.”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NCA Representative, (TBC)
11:30 – 12:45	Session III: Legal Framework for Infrastructure Sharing in Ghana <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of the current Ghanaian legal and regulatory framework• Options to incentivize and optimise infrastructure sharing• Challenges to the sharing of infrastructure• Q&A Ms. Isabel Ornelas, Telecom Legal Expert, Vieira de Almeida
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 14:00	Lightning Talk on A4AI Mobile Data Services Research <i>Exploring User Experiences & Perceived Benefits (View report)</i> Ms. Onica N. Makwakwa, A4AI Africa Regional Coordinator
14:00 - 15:15	Reports by A4AI-Ghana Coalition Working Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access working group, including Reporting & Feedback on Infrastructure Sharing Workshop• Taxation working group• Research and Data Collection working group• Consumer Awareness and Pricing Transparency working group Open Discussion: Focus on upcoming outputs
15:15 –15:30	Wrap-up and next steps