



National Communications Authority

- Press Release

Ghana Endowed with Opportunities to Empower Least Developed Countries Through Information And Communication Technologies – Head of International Affairs, MoCD

Accra, 25th May, 2023: The Head of International Relations at the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, Mr. Kwame Baah-Acheamfuor, has urged Ghana to empower Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the African sub-region through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The call was made during the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) forum under the theme "Public-Private Partnership to Enhance Connectivity."



Mr. Kwame Baah-Acheamfuor speaking at the forum

Mr. Baah-Acheamfuor, who was delivering a presentation under the theme "Public-Private Partnership to Enhance Connectivity and Bridge the Digital Divide in Ghana," stated that based on Ghana's achievements in the telecommunications industry, the country is not within the Least Developed Countries category. As a result, Ghana should take advantage of its accomplishments and capitalise on opportunities to empower these countries by extending international broadband connectivity to them.

He further advocated that in order to empower these countries, various measures could be taken, such as expanding international broadband connectivity, offering data hosting services, fostering collaborative creation of digital solutions and content, and showcasing Ghana's telecommunication and ICT initiatives for benchmarking studies and internships.

In order to foster digital inclusivity, he stated that Ghana must continue its efforts, such as supporting initiatives that encourage girls' participation in ICT, promoting locally developed

applications and services, and promoting locally produced or assembled equipment and devices. Additionally, he stated that as part of measures to bridge the digital divide, Ghana has an existing agreement with Smart Africa that enables young entrepreneurs and individuals with technical and vocational skills to promote their products and services through dedicated social media handles. He also stated that Ghana has partnered with Amazon Web Services to train 10,000 Ghanaians in various ICT roles, such as Junior Developer Solution Architect, in order to assure their industry readiness.

Partnership Opportunities

Mr. Baah-Acheamfuor highlighted that there exist partnership opportunities in the realm of private-public collaboration. These opportunities, he said, encompass various areas such as the transition from 3G to 4G subscriptions, the expansion of fixed broadband services to homes and offices, the support and promotion of locally developed applications and services to achieve unicorn status, and the development of digital competencies. These initiatives hold the potential to foster innovation, enhance connectivity, and strengthen the overall digital landscape.

Policy Recommendations on Universal Connectivity

To establish a strong foundation for a digital economy, he indicated that it is crucial to ensure extensive and reliable access to electricity as this serves as the backbone for a thriving digital ecosystem. He added that supporting investments in the national infrastructure is essential to bridge any gaps in the existing network. He further stated that there should be a provision for regulatory guidelines that facilitate the consolidation and sharing of network infrastructure among service providers. “In order to foster the growth of the digital economy, it is important to define minimum threshold speeds for broadband services that align with international standards”, he said.

Also in his presentation, Mr. Baah-Acheamfuor highlighted several connectivity programmes being implemented by the government, including:

- a. Provision of broadband access to all senior high schools, colleges of education, and tertiary institutions.
- b. Implementation of 2016 Rural Sites.
- c. Introduction of national and ECOWAS roaming services to improve connectivity.
- d. Planning to establish connectivity in 275 police stations, 193 post offices, 483 health centers, and other public facilities.
- e. Offering digital skills development programmes for policy and decision makers, experts in cybersecurity and emerging technologies, entrepreneurs, youth, students, children, and girls.



Cross-section of participants at the event

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Baah-Acheamfuo advocated that Ghana should prioritise universal connectivity and access to affordable digital services, as well as the development of digital skills and literacy, to enable advanced capabilities in the digital world. In addition, he emphasised the significance of promoting digital entrepreneurship by fostering innovation and facilitating access to markets, as well as the need for a digital government that includes human capacity, policies and regulations, and a robust digital infrastructure.

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About NCA

The National Communications Authority, (NCA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 524 in December 1996, which has been repealed and replaced by the National Communications Authority Act, 2008 (Act 769). The Authority is the statutory body mandated to license and to regulate electronic communication activities and services in the country.