



National Communications Authority

- Press Release

GHANA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE HOLD BILATERAL COORDINATION MEETING ON SPECTRUM INTERFERENCE AT RESPECTIVE BORDERS

Abidjan, La Côte D'ivoire, 1st August, 2023: The National Communications Authority (NCA) of Ghana and the Agence Ivoirienne de Gestion des Frequences radioelectriques (AIGF) in Cote d'Ivoire have held a three-day bilateral coordination meeting in Abidjan to discuss results of a fact finding monitoring exercise conducted by both countries at their respective borders. The meeting was held from Wednesday, 26th July to Friday, 28th July, 2023.

Both NCA and AIGF had received various complaints from consumers about network interferences when consumers access communications services. The meeting was consequently organised to discuss observations made after the monitoring exercise and to agree on the parameters, the coordinates as well as the zones to be monitored among others and the enforcement of compliance by the two parties after bilateral agreements have been signed.

Mr. Isaac Kofi Boateng, a Deputy Director at the Regulatory Administration Division of the NCA who led Ghana's delegation thanked the AIGF on behalf of the Minister for Communications and Digitalisation, the Director General and the Board of the NCA and the Mobile Network Operators in Ghana for making the meeting possible. He mentioned that as members of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire consider such bilateral discussions to be essential in relation to the management of frequencies, spectrum and radio bands in ensuring that consumers can access communication services without interferences in both countries.

He stated that, the advancement in technology, expansion of settlements, and economic activities along the two borders, have necessitated an upgrade of the previous draft

agreement and discussions, which have been ongoing for the past ten (10) years between the two countries. He stressed that the parameters outlined in the previous agreement were not fit for the purpose in current times. Therefore, the essential objective of the meeting was to enable the two countries to have an extensive agreement going forward, by reviewing the 2010 parameters vis-a-vis the recent measurements taken by the two countries in May/June, this year in respect of the coordination zones and penetration levels at each side of the border.

Mr. Boateng further stated that the meeting would serve as a kick-off to fashion out an agreement, which would be formally signed at a subsequent meeting. He stated that the signed copies would be submitted to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in fulfilment of the border coordination regulations.



- ***Mr. Isaac Boateng, Deputy Director, Regulatory Administration of the NCA, delivering his speech at the opening of the bilateral meeting.***

On his part, the Director General of the AIGF, Dr. Yacouba Coulibaly, thanked the Ghanaian delegation on behalf of the Ivorian Ministry of Digital Communications. He assured the meeting of his firm commitment to support the efforts of Mobile Operators to respect the technical parameters outlined in the coordination agreement in order to mitigate unintended interference at the borders.

He added that it was important to have such an agreement, especially when the two countries share about 668km of territory along the border and further indicated that the coordination of frequencies is of paramount necessity to ensure quality of services to the populations living in the border areas and commuters who access the area for economic purposes.



- ***Dr. Yacouba Coulibaly, the Director General of the AIGF delivering his speech at the opening of the bilateral coordination meeting.***

The three days bilateral coordination meeting ended with a presentation of the draft methodology for measuring the penetration rates of network signals from Mobile Telephony Operators of Neighboring Country in the border area between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. This

would be signed at the next meeting after the two Administrations have accented to it. A proposed Cooperation Agreement in relation to the exchange of information and capacity building among others between AIGF and the NCA was also presented for review by the two Administrations and signing at the next meeting.



- *Group picture of the participants at the meeting*

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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.