



National Communications Authority

Press Release

**GHANA PUSHES FOR SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOWAS ROAMING REGULATION
AMONG MEMBER STATES**

Accra, 2nd November, 2023: Ghana has reiterated the need for urgency in pursuing persistent collaboration among Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to facilitate efficient and rapid implementation of the ECOWAS Roaming Regulation through bilateral agreements on Roaming for users of Mobile Communication services within the ECOWAS countries.

The Head of Delegation and Focal Point on the Implementation of the ECOWAS Regulation Committee, Mr. Yaw Boamah Baafi, made the call at the 12th Meeting of the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) Focal Points on the Implementation of the ECOWAS Roaming Regulation held in Abuja, Nigeria last month. Mr. Baafi who is also a Deputy Director at the National Communications Authority (NCA) and Deputy Chairperson for Ghana's ECOWAS Roaming Implementation Committee reiterated Ghana's commitment towards the implementation of the Regulation and commended Member States for the progress made towards its implementation .



A cross-section of participants at the Meeting

The meeting was organised by the ECOWAS Commission on the sidelines of a training workshop on International Roaming facilitated by SMART Africa. Its purpose was to determine the status of the ECOWAS Roaming implementation within the ECOWAS region, discuss tariffs, and address anti-fraud issues that have been affecting the implementation among member countries. Additionally, the meeting aimed to gather information regarding the challenges inhibiting the progress of the implementation. Twelve member states from various NRAs in the ECOWAS region, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo, as well as representatives of the West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly (WATRA), attended the meeting.

Mr. Mawuli Amoa, the Programme Officer for Telecommunications & Networks at the ECOWAS Commission, also encouraged all Member States present to emulate the example and success of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in implementing the Roaming initiative for telecom users of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Mr. Amoa further urged Member States to find innovative approaches to address any challenges affecting the implementation to ensure a full rollout of the Roaming Regulation in the ECOWAS region.



Participants in a group picture

ECOWAS Member States applauded Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire for the successful implementation of the Roaming Initiative between the two countries, while reaffirming the approach adopted by Member States to work collaboratively through bilateral engagements as a significant milestone in driving the implementation of the ECOWAS Regulation.

At the end of the Meeting, Members States made the following key recommendations to ECOWAS and WATRA:

1. Adopt the regional anti-fraud monitoring framework proposed by the anti-fraud committee
2. Explore the possibility of establishing a hub or single carrier solution involving all Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) in the sub-region
3. Explore possible solution of sharing a Single Direct Link between MNOs within two countries for the purpose of exchanging intercommunity roaming traffic
4. Commence the review process for the ECOWAS Regulation
5. Maintain a repository of all existing bilateral Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) within the framework of the Regulation's implementation.
6. Develop guidelines for NRAs to facilitate a speedy implementation of the Regulation.

The meeting further recommended that Ghana establish a contact list of fraud monitoring focal points in each NRA to address identified fraud issues.

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Date: 2nd November, 2023

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.