



PRESS RELEASE

GHANA HOSTS AFRICA FOR WTSA-28 PREPARATORY MEETING AND RELATED MEETINGS

Accra, 13th April, 2026: The National Communications Authority (NCA), under the auspices of the Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI), is hosting the First African Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly 2028 (WTSA-28) in Accra.

The meeting, being held in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) from 13th to 17th April 2026 at the Palms by Eagles Hotel, is taking place alongside the Joint ITU-ATU Workshops on Over-the-Top (OTT) services and the implementation of a Common Emergency Number in Africa, as well as the Meetings of ITU-T Study Groups 2 and 3 Regional Groups for Africa.



- ***The Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI), Hon. Samuel Nartey George, delivering his keynote address***

Highlighting Africa's growing influence in global ICT standardisation, the Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI), Hon. Samuel Nartey George, underscored the importance of unity and coordinated action as the continent prepares for WTSA-28. He recalled that during WTSA-24, Africa submitted thirty-seven (37) Common Proposals, of

which thirty-four (34) were adopted, including new resolutions on Artificial Intelligence, the Metaverse, and ITU Strategic Planning.

The Minister further noted that Africa secured twenty-nine (29) leadership positions across ITU structures, with experts from thirteen (13) countries serving as Chairs, Vice Chairs, and TSAG Vice Chairs, marking a significant milestone in the continent's participation in global standard-setting.

He emphasised that the current preparatory meeting presents a critical opportunity for Africa to align positions, strengthen regional cooperation, and build consensus. "Our main technical priorities are bridging the digital divide through rural broadband, enhancing cybersecurity via robust frameworks, promoting affordable connectivity with infrastructure sharing, and fostering safe, inclusive advancement of AI and IoT. We must ensure standardisation supports innovation and remains flexible. It should be guided by technology neutrality, inclusivity, and sustainability", he said.



- ***'NCA remains committed to advancing standardisation as a key pillar for driving interoperability, innovation, and trust in the digital ecosystem' - Rev. Ing. Edmund Y. Fianko***

In his welcome address, the Director-General of the NCA, Rev. Ing. Edmund Y. Fianko, welcomed delegates from across Africa and beyond, noting that the gathering is particularly significant as it coincides with the Authority's 30th anniversary. He stated that the milestone reflects three decades of regulatory leadership and deepening collaboration within the continent and with global partners.

He went on to say that the NCA remains committed to advancing standardisation as a key pillar for driving interoperability, innovation, and trust in the digital ecosystem. Highlighting Ghana's growing role, Rev. Ing. Fianko noted the establishment of the Type Approval and Conformance Laboratories and the Authority's continued partnership with the ITU in building capacity across Africa. He reaffirmed Ghana's readiness to support regional cooperation and contribute meaningfully to global standard-setting efforts.

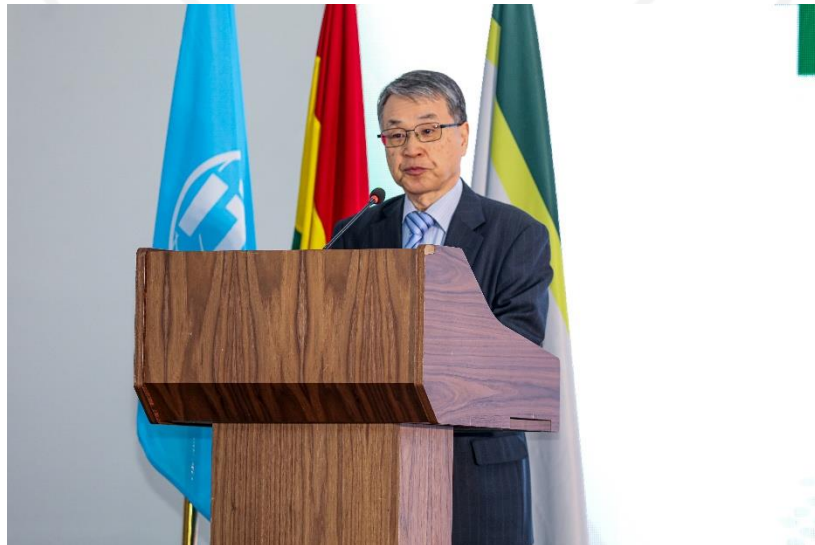


- ***'The discussions are timely and critical, as they directly impact the economics of network' - The Secretary-General of the ATU, Mr. John Omo***

The Secretary-General of the African Telecommunications Union, Mr. John Omo, in his remarks, emphasised that while mobile ownership in Africa continues to grow, it has not yet translated into meaningful connectivity for many citizens. He noted that although 66% of individuals aged 10 and above owned mobile phones in 2024, active mobile broadband usage remains significantly lower, highlighting persistent gaps in affordability, quality of service, and digital inclusion.

Citing data from the GSMA and the ITU, he pointed out that while the coverage gap has narrowed, a substantial usage gap remains, with hundreds of millions still offline. He further stressed that affordability continues to be a major barrier, with mobile broadband costs in many African countries exceeding global targets.

Mr. Omo underscored that the discussions in Accra, particularly on Over-the-Top (OTT) services, are timely and critical, as they directly impact the economics of network investment and the continent's ability to deliver more accessible, reliable, and affordable digital services.



- ***Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director of the TSB at the ITU, delivering his statement***

In a statement, the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union, Mr. Seizo Onoe, emphasised the importance of ensuring that global

standards and capacity-building efforts lay a solid foundation for the digital future. He noted that the outcomes of the last World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) demonstrated the ITU community's strong commitment to developing impactful and widely adopted standards, supported by active industry participation and sustained support for developing countries. Emphasizing the ITU's long-standing culture of collaboration and consensus, he urged stakeholders to ensure that the outcomes of WTSA-28 reflect the priorities and needs of all member states.



- *A group photograph of delegates from Member states, dignitaries and Hon. Samuel N. George at the event*

The week-long engagement will feature the Joint ITU/ATU Workshop on the Economic Impact of Over-the-Top (OTT) services, discussions on the implementation of a Common Emergency Number in Africa, as well as meetings of the ITU-T Study Group 2 Regional Group for Africa (SG2RG-AFR) and the ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Group for Africa (SG3RG-AFR), bringing together policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, and technical experts from across the continent.

First African Preparatory Meeting for WTSA-28 (APM-1)

The **First African Preparatory Meeting (APM-1)** is a regional coordination forum where African countries begin discussions and develop common positions ahead of the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly 2028 (WTSA-28). It enables regulators, policymakers, and technical experts to align priorities, share perspectives, and strengthen Africa's collective voice in global telecommunications standardization processes.

Joint ITU-ATU Workshops on OTTs and the Implementation of a Common Emergency Number in Africa

These workshops, jointly organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), focus on key emerging issues in the communications sector. They address the regulation and impact of Over-the-Top (OTT) services (such as messaging

and streaming platforms), as well as efforts to establish a unified emergency number across Africa to improve access to emergency services and enhance public safety.

Meetings of ITU-T Study Groups 2 and 3 Regional Groups for Africa

These are technical meetings of regional groups under the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), where African experts contribute to the development of international telecommunications standards. Study Group 2 focuses on operational aspects of telecom networks, including numbering and service provision, while Study Group 3 addresses economic and policy issues such as tariffs, costing, and interconnection, ensuring Africa's input is reflected in global standard-setting.

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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.

