

# Outlining the Business case for Regional Interconnection

Ghana's Regional Interconnection Policy

Patrick Laryea

Chief Manager

NCA



# Presentation Outline

- Definition
- Reasons
- Regional Policies
- Ghana's Interconnection Policy
- Policy initiatives for ISPs
- Some Policies Implemented
- Conclusion

# Definition

- Interconnection is the connection of two or more autonomous networks by agreement for the purpose of exchanging communications traffic
- This definition is applicable to both voice and data networks

# Reasons/Why

- Keep national traffic local
  - Shorter route therefore better user experience
  - lower cost
- Redundancy
  - Alternative route ensures availability and reliability
- Control over traffic flow
  - Choose what traffic goes where

# ICT Regional Policies

- Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 2007, ECOWAS Heads of States in Ouagadougou adopted six texts on ICT
- The ECOWAS Supplementary Acts
  - Two policy text
  - Four technical text

# Policy Text

1. Supplementary Act A/SA.1/01/07 on the Harmonization of Policies and the Regulatory Framework for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector
2. Supplementary Act A/SA.1/03/07 on the Legal Regime applicable to Network Operators and Service Providers

# Technical Text

1. Supplementary Act A/SA.1/02/07 on Access and Interconnection in Respect of ICT Sector Networks and Services
  2. Supplementary Act A/SA.1/04/07 on Numbering Plan Management
  3. Supplementary Act A/SA.1/05/07 on the Management of the Radio-Frequency Spectrum
- Supplementary Act A/SA.1/06/07 on Universal Access/Service

# ICT Regional Policies

- These Supplementary Acts are binding on Member States in accordance with Article 9(3) of the Revised Treaty
- As at March 2011, 4 of the 15 Member States have completed the transposition process and had it passed into law at national level
  - Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso & Gambia
- All other Member States are at various stages in the transposition process



# Ghana's Interconnection Policy (EC Act 2008 (Act 775))

- Mandatory for Communications Network
- Respond to written request within 14 days
- Interconnection may only be refused on reasonable technical or financial grounds which must be stated in writing
- The Authority shall promptly decide an interconnection dispute referred to it within 14 days after the referral
- Provided on a non-discriminatory basis

## Policy Initiatives for ISP's (NTP-05)

- There shall be no limitations on entry & operation of Internet Services Providers.
- ISPs shall require authorization via class licenses only, subject to minimal obligations & regulatory oversight.
- There shall be no regulation of ISP pricing to customers.
- ISP authorizations may include obligations for ISPs to contribute to Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC).
- Public Internet access points, such as Internet “cafés” and tele-centres, must register with the NCA for a class authorisation.

# Some Policies Implemented

- Five (5) Operators have been licenced to land fiber optic cable in Ghana
  - All five landed
  - Three operational
  - One to begin before end of year & the last next year
- Three (3) Operators have been licenced to provide communications Tower services in the country

# Conclusion

- Interconnection is a very important aspect of communications
- The level of interconnection within regional bodies can be compared to their level of integration



*Thank You*