



5th Annual Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum

21st July 2018, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Theme: The Power of the Internet for Economic Development: Infrastructure, Accessibility, Affordability

SLIGF 2018 Communiqué

We, the participants at the 5th Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum (SLIGF), organized by the Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum Secretariat and the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Government of Sierra Leone, held at the Hill Valley Hotel Conference Hall, Freetown, Sierra Leone on the 21st July 2018

- **Recalling** that this is the Fifth session of the Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum;
- **Recalling** that previous Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forums had concluded that good Internet governance is critical for sustainable ICT development and social-economic impact;
- **Recalling** that the first, second, third and fourth Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forums discussed issues such as access, security, critical Internet resources, privacy, cloud computing, and openness in Sierra Leone;
- **Recalling** the continued commitment and support given by the Ministry of Information and Communication, AFRICELL, SALCAB, AFCOM, DIAKEM, CD Investments for the success of the SLIGF 2018, and participation by national stakeholders in the forum;
- **Recalling** that the SLIGF supports the multi-stakeholder model/approach in governing the Internet in Sierra Leone, the sub-region and globally.

The forum agrees and makes the following recommendations:

1. On Infrastructure:

- Operators should invest in the upgrade of their network equipment for full 3G or 4g capability.
- Government should encourage the upgrade of network equipment by providing incentives
- Government and/or private sector should create redundancy for the international gateway.
- NATCOM to provide access to frequency resources at affordable cost to ISPs
- All stakeholders to work towards a reduction in infrastructure costs by encouraging colocation and other cost saving options.
- Enforce the contribution and utilization of the Universal Access Fund for the building of infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities.

2. On Accessibility:

- ICT literacy from basic to higher education should be mandatory
- Government and other stakeholders to extend facilities in the provinces
- SALCAB operators to enhance and extend the national Fibre infrastructure for Last-Mile solutions
- National awareness campaign on the importance of the Internet
- Competitions for the creation of applications that make it easy for illiterate or partly illiterate users to access the Internet
- Creation of ICT policies that will improve access in unserved and underserved areas

3. On Affordability:

- Recommends that the key drivers: Government of Sierra Leone, NATCOM, SALCAB and the Service Providers should work towards a reduction of the cost of data.
- Low or no duty on entry level smartphones and other internet devices.
- NATCOM should utilise its regulatory powers in curtailing uncompetitive data market practices.
- Operators to provide more unlimited data packages based on time periods rather than volume
- Government should provide incentives for alternate energy sources as well as reduce fuel energy costs.

4. **WE THANK** The Government of Sierra Leone, Ministry of Information and Communications (SL), SALCAB, AFRICEL, DIAKEM, CEE INVESTMENTS, AYV MEDIA, STAR MEDIA ONE, Radio Democracy 98.1 and all participants for their support.

Freetown, Sierra Leone
Saturday, 21ST July, 2018