

PRESENTATION BY ARMSTRONG ADUKU IDACHABA ,PhD.
(Associate Professor of Mass Communication)
Director-Director General's Office of National Broadcasting Commission
Nigeria

- I was told at Harvard that the principal role of the regulator is to protect the public from harm. i.e including harm from the media.
- According to Salmon of the Commonwealth Broadcast Association(2008)The main purpose of regulation is in the fact that the broadcast media can affect people's thinking and behavior to a remarkable extent, both for the good and for bad..
- I therefore believe that my thought process here will be to first ask the question – does ‘Dynamic Spectrum Alliance ‘by its objective and goals , pose an inherent and obvious danger to society?
- But Salmon also states that the overriding rationale, for regulating broadcasting as distinct from other media, say newspapers and magazines, by government is that broadcasting uses spectrum, and spectrum is a public resource, allocated to nations in accordance with complex international agreements.

- -As such, it is a scarce resource: there is only so much spectrum available for broadcasting use in each country. And therefore, because it is a scarce resource, it is valuable
- Any one who has followed the flow of thought here at this conference, will concede without difficulty that the whole notion of spectrum usage and spectrum 'maximization' is generally for the good of society
- Though some will argue that the whole intention is 'capitalist'
- Among the beautiful advantages of spectrum usage which we all have followed so attentively are—like many speakers have alluded to—are access to information with the sociological, political cum democratic opportunities, financial dividends and business opportunities attached to it.
- I have the impression that the TV white space which is like a sub-theme here is viewed by some as some sort of spectrum 'bonus' (so it appears for now) especially in Africa where many countries including Nigeria and Ghana if I heard the head of the spectrum regulatory agency in Ghana well in his paper of yesterday are yet to fully appreciate and exploit for the good of citizens.
- It is therefore disturbing to me that Africa is fully yet to articulate policies in this regard.

- Nigeria is in region 1 of the ITU.
- Spectrum Frequency is in custody of a frequency management council.
- The policy imperative of spectrum is to enable access to vast majority of Africans
- We were told here that there are over 3 billion people mostly in Africa without access to broadband, as the most populous country in Africa with population figure of 170 Million, Nigeria is certainly in need for spectrum usage.

.Countries in Africa including Nigeria set what is called the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) as an African Union vision and initiative for the development of Africa in this millennium .

.This vision has now been re-focused to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) goals ,however delivering on the full range of amenities which underpin the agenda, including, inter alia, environmental protection, the containment of health epidemics, mitigating climate change, requires access to a range of appropriate technologies.

- The CEO of Ghana's regulator made a very valid position yesterday about the experimentation of using the white –space spectrum for educational institutions in Ghana
- This is very key to Africa –Information and education remain critical to the development of Africa-
- Like the campus which is a microsm of the African community the TV white space must be used for the development of the African communities –rural and urban.
- What is the African challenge-illiteracy, poverty, Disease, ignorance – whereas this could be said to be a global problem, it is perhaps statistically correct to say that the challenge is more in Africa.

- The UN System Study Team(2015) in a well-researched study titled **A post-2015 agenda for development: Ensuring equitable and inclusive globalization** , notes that debates on how best to promote sustainable and inclusive development are incomplete without a full consideration of issues of science, technology and innovation (STI).
- -Access to new and appropriate technologies promote steady improvements in living conditions, which can be lifesaving for the most vulnerable populations, and drive productivity gains which ensure rising incomes.
- According to the report there are two essential STI issues that need to be tackled simultaneously in the post-2015 development agenda.
- -Firstly, innovation driven growth is no longer the prerogative of high income countries alone, some developing countries have achieved significant economic growth through the creation and deployment of STI capacity. But, this has not been the case for all countries. –

- Secondly, STI policy has often been pursued independently of the broader developmental agenda; they recommend that it is important that STI be integrated into public policy goals, giving particular focus to the nexus between STI, culture, education and development.
- The report notes that much of the required technology is already available in the public domain but accessing and linking them to the required knowledge and skills within countries is neither automatic nor costless.
- Further more it calls for investments in dynamic capabilities, particularly those that shape the ability of national stakeholders to uptake and absorb technologies and make improvements in line with local circumstances.
- - This is not a one-way process. Some level of technological capabilities in countries is critical to ensure the provision of these amenities to all. At the same time, the critical importance of such amenities spans beyond individual countries or regions. In such a case, the international community as such, has a collective responsibility to ensure the provision of these goods,

- Like the examples we have seen in several African countries on the deployment of community radio-which is helping in curbing inter ethnic conflicts and diseases ,deploying the TV white space and facilitating dynamic spectrum alliance can be a key vista for the growth of Africa.
- But I see a ‘worry’ with the deployment of technologies in Africa- Technology is rapidly changing in Europe and America-Should Africa always try to understand and then attempt to catch up.
- We are yet to hit 20 percent internet penetration we are told-yet only yesterday we were driven to the future –the future of citizen broadband radio service and private LTE Networks
- Among the critical challenges to the deployment of Dynamic spectrum usage include –the question of affordability, access, and reliability of technology-we in African cannot afford the luxury of versions, editions, series and the like which are signs of rapid changes in taste and technology-we are a bunch of traditional(conservative)people.

- I think that the world view of the African is key to understanding even the need for deployment of technology-we remain still highly rural and community based.
- The African believes in the philosophy of sharing-communalism which appears to be a core value proposition of the DSA, this is good for the vision of the DSA in Africa.
- There is the critical issue of legacy-many Africans –including policy makers, who may be out of ignorance think that the ‘west’ is out to exploit Africa-afterall walter Rodney in his ‘How Europe Underdeveloped Africa’ hinted about how the colonialist had the bible in one hand and exploited the African with the other.
- What then is the ultimate objective of Microsoft-”Missionary” or business-many don’t believe it is ‘father Christmas’

- I find the contributions of Ms Peg Molloy of VistalifeSciences Inc. very relevant to the question of development in Africa.
- Molloy advocates especially that Dynamic spectrum management can be used to meet the health and other challenges facing Africa and other developing nations in a most articulate and productive matter.
- Her proposal properly focuses on the developmental challenges captured in the MDG and SDG goals and aspirations of Africa.

- I will like to know how the budgetary spending of the telcos, the world bank and others involved in the use of spectrum on the issue question of advocacy in Africa.
- I am aware that some efforts by certain groups to engage Government and get government buy in has been met with frustration. Government buy in is very critical in this crusade .
- The parliaments , I must observe are often not in the picture though these initiatives are naturally supposed to be driven by them.
- My experience with Nigeria's Digital transition underscores this point.
- What is the level of engagement with the African union?
- The digital imperative I believe is an African 'emergency' because of its capacity to transform Africa.
- That is why in Nigeria , we are aggressively committed to the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting. Already the roll-out is done two states and our initial target date is June 2017
- Significantly, mobile Company MTN was offered National License to offer broad band services across Nigeria

- We must therefore undertake a strategy of advocacy to educate, persuade, enlighten and inform our people about the broad objectives of this 'new' technology .
- Countries will therefore evolve an approach that will deliberately infuse and promote local technology, that will meet the special needs and challenges confronting African societies.
- This is a huge opportunity and a responsibility -opportunity to grow business, grow technology but a human imperative to reduce the digital divide which I believe is a collective responsibility for all of us
- I am excited about the quantum of data that this technology can provide for Africa's development challenge. Information they say is power.

- I therefore find the proposition of low power networks which can address local community needs very useful.
- Finally, I believe that Africa really has no alternative to the adoption of dynamic spectrum driven technology-including the use of white spaces or broadband for creative innovations if we are to achieve our developmental goals.

Thats it.

