![Universal Service Provision Fund logo]

FOCUSED INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

Creating the Partnership for Inclusive Access

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Outline

- Background
- What has changed in our Process?
- Digital Inclusion
- The Need for Partnership
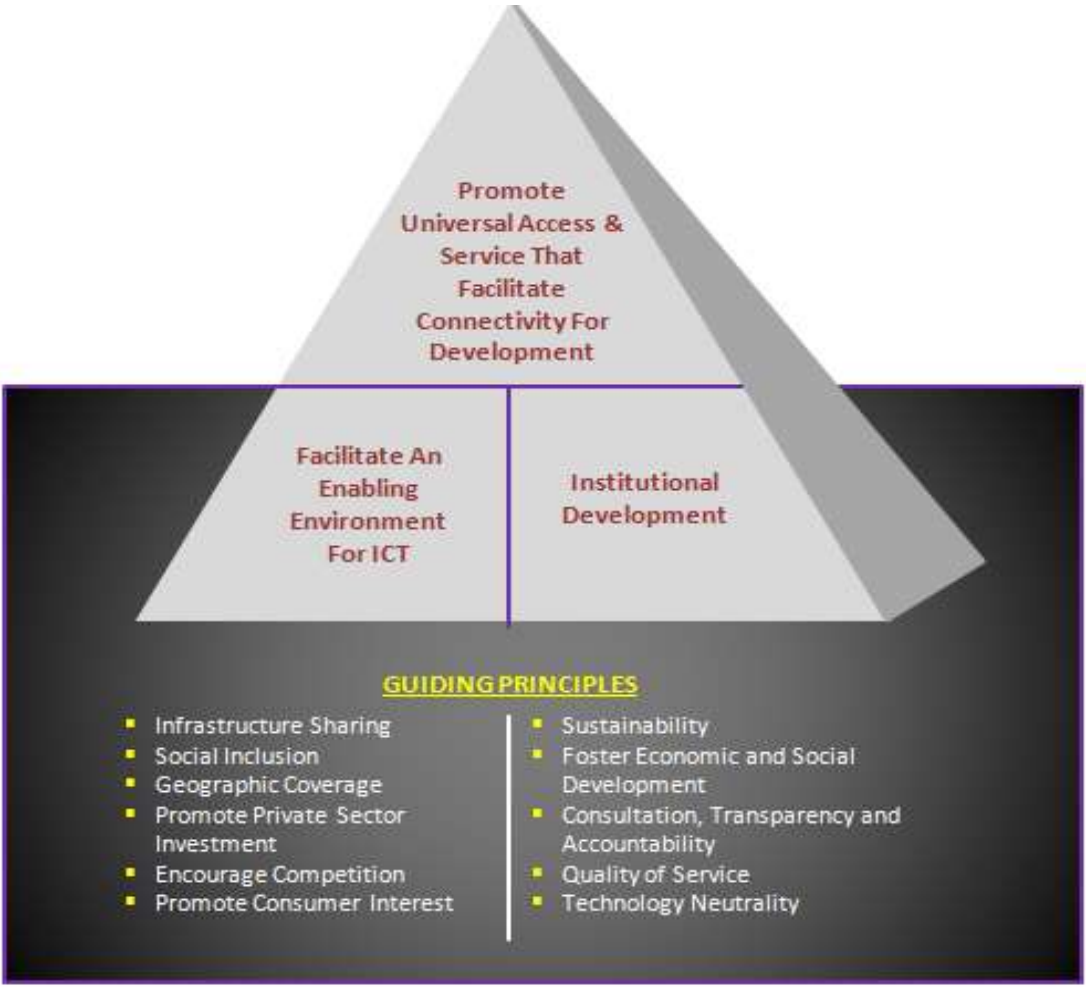- Let's do it together

Background

Universal Service Fund (USF) creates the opportunity for every National Government to extend the benefits of the Information Society to all communities.

- Nigeria's Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) derives its mandate from Sections 112 of NCA 2003 as follows:

  - Promote the widespread availability and usage of network services and applications services throughout Nigeria by providing funding through subsidies and grants for the provision of network facilities and network services and application services to **rural, unserved and underserved areas or to underserved groups within an institution or a community.**

Outlook of Strategic Management Plan 2013 - 2017

Vision
Equitable ICT Access for All

Mission
To facilitate the achievement of universal access to ICT and universal service, through market-based investment, which stimulate development in rural, un-served and underserved communities.

Core Values
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Team Spirit
- Transparency
- Innovation
- Professionalism
- Service Excellence

Promote Universal Access & Service That Facilitate Connectivity For Development

Facilitate An Enabling Environment For ICT

Institutional Development

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Infrastructure Sharing
- Social Inclusion
- Geographic Coverage
- Promote Private Sector Investment
- Encourage Competition
- Promote Consumer Interest

- Sustainability
- Foster Economic and Social Development
- Consultation, Transparency and Accountability
- Quality of Service
- Technology Neutrality

A full version of the SMP 2013 – 2017 can be downloaded from www.uspf.gov.ng
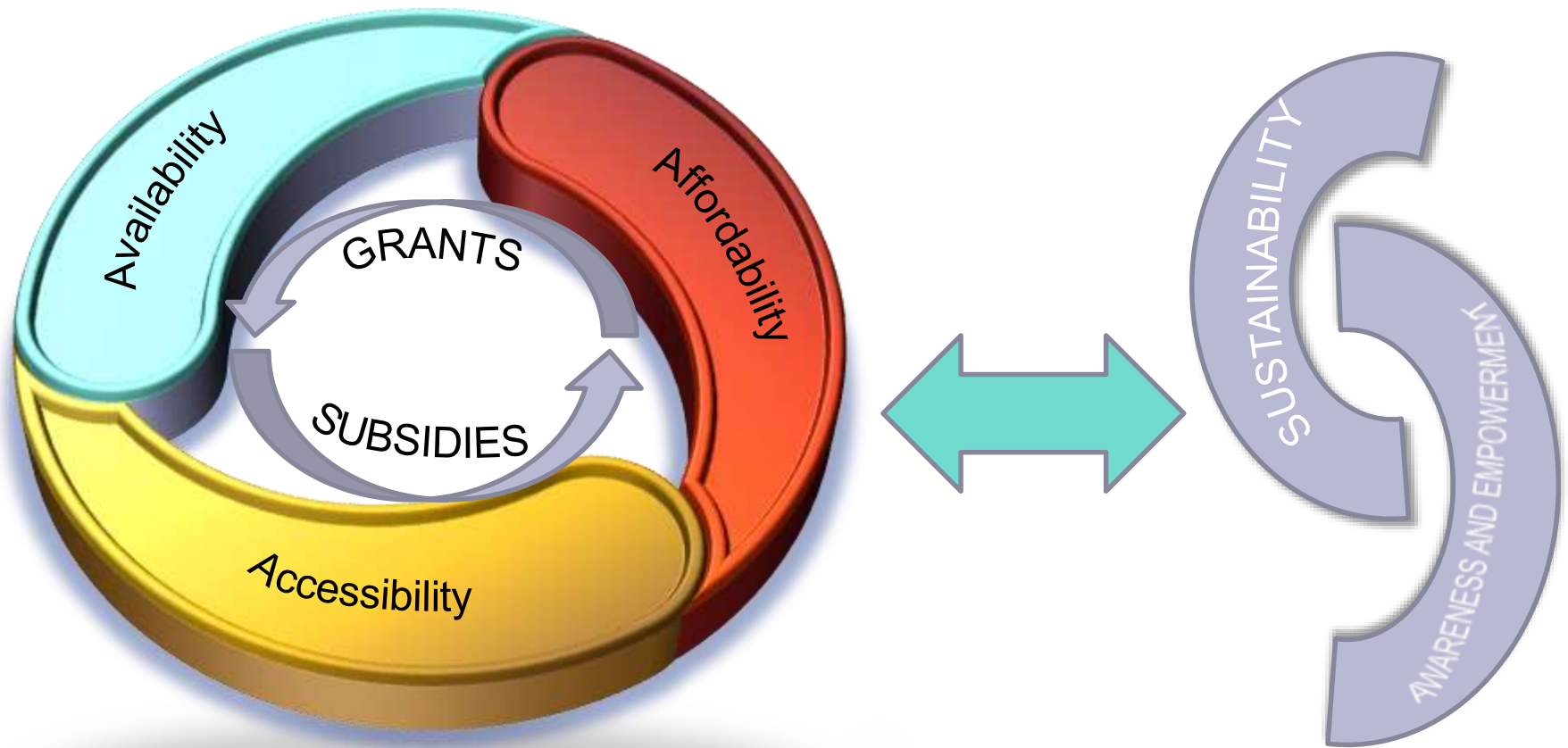
Strategies for implementing USPF projects:

* **Grants**
* **Subsidies**

We adopted the Public-Private-Peoples Partnerships (PPPP) model in the design and implementation of programmes and projects to achieve:

❑ **ACCESSIBILITY**: The geographic distribution of ICT services points of presence should be as close as possible to the consumers, including persons living with disabilities.

❑ **AVAILABILITY**: ICT services should be accessed by consumers every time (24×7), even if it is public access.

❑ **AFFORDABILITY**: Prices of ICT services (within a universal service programme) should be such that a greater part of the population can pay

Availability

Affordability

GRANTS

SUBSIDIES

Accessibility

SUSTAINABILITY

AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT

DELIVERY MODEL:
PUBLIC-PRIVATE-PEOPLE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPP)

The two broad programmes of the USPF are designed to complement each other in facilitating universal access and service:

Connectivity

- ❑ **Mostly subsidy provision**

- ❑ **Lowering the entry level in rural areas**

- ❑ **Increase availability of services**

Access

- ❑ **Mostly grant provision**

- ❑ **Create demand**

- ❑ **Result in viability of projects**

- ❑ **Sustainability of projects through digital inclusion**

What has changed? Response to Stakeholder Dynamics

COLLABORATION – ONE OF OUR CORE VALUES

The issues identified as inhibiting collaborations with industry stakeholders, based on previous consultations included:

- Inadequate project Information – target communities
- Project design – scale of implementation was low
- Subsidy disbursements
- Bulky bidding documents and lack of clarity on requirements/expectations

We have responded to these barriers to optimal implementation of our projects and sustainable partnerships with stakeholders. Examples:

- Access Gap Clusters were created to provide information on target communities and assist us to implement need-specific projects
- The USPF explores a mix of financial and non-financial subsidy for operational costs for connectivity projects e.g. BTS, OFC, etc
- As for the Request for Proposal format, USPF being a public Agency has to, at all times, carry out its procurement activities using standard bidding documents in line with the Public Procurement Act 2007.

This shows that we are committed to working with you, to extend ICT access to every part of the country.

Digital Inclusion…..

We can achieve it…

- We define digital inclusion in terms of unserved and underserved communities and groups including persons living with disabilities.

- Digital divide is changing from only access to ICT to include adoption and utilisation of ICT for social and economic development

- The current trends in the industry indicate the feasibility of digital inclusion
  - Expansion of mobile access (including mobile internet)
  - Deployment of more broadband networks
  - Growth in mobile applications
  - User-generated content (social media)

- World Bank statistics put rural population of Nigeria as at 2014 at 53% and USPF Access Gap report indicates 22.5% of the population of Nigeria is still unserved

We can achieve it….

- The WSIS states that "**everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate and no one should be excluded from the benefits the Information Society offers**"

- The current focus of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration on job creation and poverty reduction can be achieved faster with emphasis on inclusive access

- The rate of ICT adoption can only increase if we are able to deepen the penetration

- Mainstreaming ICT in everyday life (education, health, agriculture, SMEs, etc) is an immense opportunity

- USPF will continue to focus on connectivity and access projects to ensure that underserved/unserved communities benefit from the opportunities that ICT brings – creating jobs and reducing poverty

WHAT WE SEEK……

Sustainable Partnership

- Industry Operators and Service Providers as Implementing Partners

- Increased participation of Industry Operators/Service Providers in universal access projects to accelerate coverage of unserved and underserved areas.

- The Clusters of ICT Gap published on our website serves as a tool for all stakeholders to plan their service offerings to the areas.

- We are committed to deepening penetration and would be focusing on active collaborations to achieve the targets

- Support for start-ups who are already creating solutions that hold the potential to facilitate universal access in Nigeria

LET'S DO IT TOGETHER

Your comments/Inputs**…**