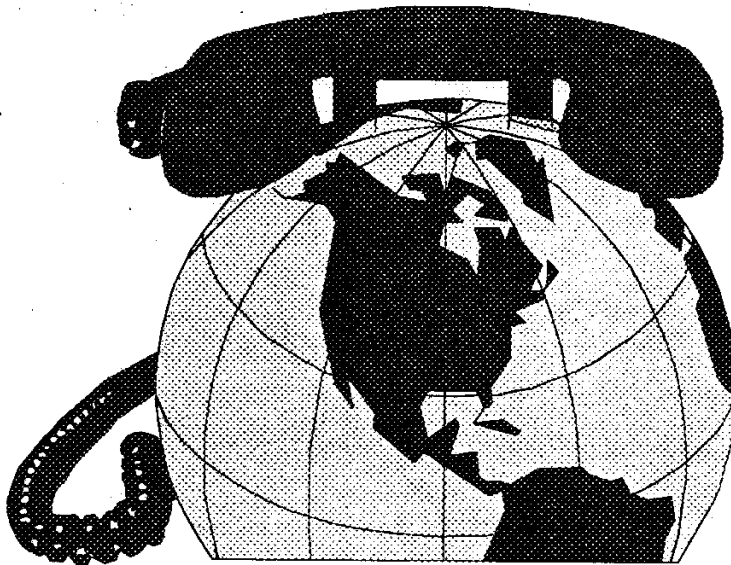




**UNITED STATES AND GHANA REGULATOR
CONSULTATIONS
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR JAN 2000 TO JAN 2001**

21 JANUARY 2000



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Introduction

The United States of America Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Ghana National Communications Authority (GNCA), recognizing the significant efforts that are required of GNCA during its formative stages, have discussed mutual cooperative activities aimed at helping GNCA to fulfill its mandate. To this end, the two organizations have developed the following Work Program to be accomplished during the twelve-month period.

Work Program

Rulemaking procedures and the Public Process

The year will see GNCA becoming fully engaged in a public process in the making of various regulations. This is an extremely important process, and the FCC has much experience in this area. GNCA wishes to benefit from this experience as the public process unfolds.

The FCC will assist GNCA on numerous aspects of the administrative process throughout this period, including internal agency structure, the rulemaking process, the proper role of GNCA staff, issues relating to the processing of applications, delegations of authority issues and conflict of interest management. The Work Plan envisions continuous contact throughout the year between FCC and GNCA staff. These contacts will include continuous consultations on these and other related issues.

Universal Access

Throughout the year, the FCC will be available to provide GNCA with policy and technical advice as requested, regarding the expansion of universal access to telecommunications throughout Ghana, focusing on strategies to attract investment, foster competition and choice for the public, ensure open access to the network, and provide for appropriate and flexible regulation. The two agencies will discuss applications to education, health, the environment, and the interconnection of libraries through telecommunications.

Competition and Interconnection

Throughout the year the FCC will be available to provide advice to GNCA, as requested, on methods of promoting competition and choice for the public through interconnection regulatory policy, numbering plans and other regulatory structures and processes. These discussions will include consultations on specific GNCA proposals related to these topics.

Telecommunications Licensing

In pursuit of government policy to introduce in the telecommunications sector greater choice to the Ghanaian public, GNCA has embarked on a program to provide for additional telecommunication licensing. The FCC and GNCA will engage in ongoing consultation in this area.

Spectrum Management and Monitoring

The use of spectrum is increasing exponentially as Ghana begins the process of delivering on the promise of fostering telephony for the vast majority of her population who have no access to telecommunications. The users of the spectrum will need unencumbered, interference-free use of the spectrum. GNCA has initiated a project to determine the status of its preparedness to serve the public interest in this regard, and to supplement its resources, both human and infrastructure. The long record of experience that the FCC has in these matters will be used to assist GNCA in this effort in the form of ongoing advice and consultations during the course of the Work Program period.

Information Technology Infrastructure Development

The sensitivity and confidentiality of certain of the various databases, information and other data necessary for the proper functioning of an independent regulatory agency cannot be over emphasized. Accordingly, GNCA wishes to take advantage of the advanced expertise available within the FCC with respect to its handling of sensitive data and information.

Telecommunications Training

The FCC has certain staff training capabilities from which GNCA can benefit. Therefore, during the period for the Work Program GNCA and the FCC will cooperate on training in telecommunications topics, particularly, and as a first stage, concerning measurements, standardization and certification, signal analysis and propagation measurement techniques.

Other Exchanges

Throughout the year, the FCC and GNCA plan to exchange information on other regulatory issues relating to telecommunications, trends in technology, satellite licensing issues, and operational aspects of communications services, including experimental authorizations and new services. This Work Program is subject to the resources constraints of both organizations and may be modified as necessary by mutual agreement.

Roderick K. Porter, FCC International Bureau Deputy Chief is the FCC representative responsible for overall implementation of this work program. Mr. J.K. Gyimah Ag. Director General, is the GNCA representative responsible for such implementation.



William E. Kennard
Chairman, FCC
Date:



J. K. Gyimah
Ag. Director General, GNCA
Date: 14th January 2000.
Ag. DIRECTOR GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
ACCRA