Ghana’s Ambitious New Open Government Commitment

Technology & Innovation: The e-Transform Program

**Background**

Ghana’s Ministry of Communications was established in 2002 to champion the use of ICT in government and as an enabler for economic growth. In 2003, Ghana adopted ICT4AD policy with 14 pillars addressing all sectors with respect to adoption of ICT for efficiency, job creation and economic development. Between 2005 and 2007, the e-Ghana program was designed and preparation for legislative instruments and enabling environment for the takeoff of the program. In 2008, four legislative instruments were passed by the Parliament of Ghana: the National Communications Authority ACT (769), the National IT Agency ACT (771), Electronic Transactions ACT (772),) and the Electronic Communications ACT (ACT 775). Spurred by the legal and enabling environment created with the passage of the legal instruments into law, Ghana started the rollout of the e-Ghana Program with the support of the World Bank. Four years down the line, Ghana has achieved some remarkable success. A robust government network infrastructure spanning across the country and data centres have been built. Ten new e-Services have also been rolled out with a payment gateway to facilitate payment for government eServices. An Open Data Initiative was also started in January 2012 and will be launched in December 2013.

**The E-Transform Program Commitment**

Ghana commits to implement a new initiative to transform the way government administrators work and empower citizens for feedback on governance. The E-Transform program is a sequel to the e-Ghana program which ends in December 2013.

Under the e-transform Program, Government commits to:

* Empower Citizen for feedback through Open Data
* Make linked data increasingly available for evidence-based decision making and impact access through innovation Laboratories
* Empower Public Administrators to improve administrative efficiency and policy making through open and linked data
* Improve Citizen access to government services through e-services
* Enhance citizen digital Identity and support protection of data privacy