



National Communications Authority

- Press Release

GHANA APPLAUDED FOR THE FORMATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH ITU GROUP (CIG)

Bucharest, Romania, September 30, 2022: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, has applauded Ghana for the formation of the Commonwealth ITU Group (CIG) and its support to the Group over the years.

Mr. Johnson made the commendation during the Networking Breakfast Meeting at the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference on Thursday, 29th September, 2022 Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, Romania. The event's main purpose was for members to interact with each other in a bid to build relationships, strengthen existing ones and discuss issues of mutual concern.



- ***Mr. Malcolm Johnson addressing the participants***

Mr. Johnson threw more light on how the creation of the CIG has proved to be very effective, both in helping Commonwealth countries achieve their objectives as well as in assisting ITU conferences reach consensus more quickly. He said Commonwealth countries usually influence

their respective regions to submit proposals to the conference in line with the Commonwealth Common Objectives agreed upon by the group.

This, he explained, was possible largely because of the role Ghana played in the establishment of the Group. He also recounted that Ghana quickly run with the idea and got member countries on board to have the group formed.

The Minister for Communications and Digitalisation, Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, acting as the Chair of the Commonwealth ITU Group (CIG), assured the Group that the leadership of the CIG will not relent on the development of democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all the people of the Commonwealth.



- *Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful giving her remarks*

She encouraged member countries to help promote the Commonwealth Agenda by supporting candidatures from Commonwealth countries that is if members were not competing amongst themselves to emerge winners.

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About the CIG

The Commonwealth ITU Group (CIG) addresses the concerns of member States in all aspects of telecommunications development and policy implementation.

The Commonwealth ITU Group (CIG) was established in September 2012 during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in which the 54 Commonwealth member countries sought to organise themselves in supporting the appointment to key positions for the various ITU elected officials including the 5 elected officers, members of the Radio Regulation Board (RRB) and representation on the ITU Council.

Since then, the CIG has had senior Government officials and Regulators meet on a regular basis to establish a common set of objectives to be achieved at various conferences and meetings of the ITU on International Telecom Regulation, Policy, Radio Spectrum and related matters, as well as type approval, standardisation, typically addressing the concerns of member states in all aspects of telecommunications development and implementation.

After a decade of CIG activities and geographically covering Commonwealth member States stretching from Canada /Caribbean to Europe/Africa to Asia and the South Pacific, CIG has become an important single large group (of 54 Countries) to influence matters on all aspects of ITU work. Given this role, CIG members work alongside the operators and equipment suppliers etc in order to ensure a more versatile, widely used, compliant and an effective deployment of network and services for the benefit of all concerned. The CIG has a good record of achieving most of its objectives over the years. It has done so at various WTSA, ITU Plenipotentiary, WTDC and WRC conferences in the last 10 years.