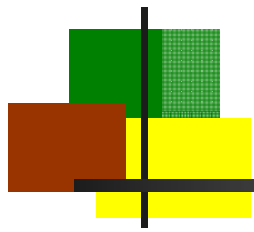


First West African Conference On EMF Exposure and Health: "HARMONIZING EMF RISK COMMUNICATION AND EMF POLICY IN WEST AFRICA" Lagos, Nigeria 27-28 June 2012



EMF POLICY SURVEY IN THE ECOWAS REGION

Dr RAPHAEL KOFFI
ECOWAS COMMISSION





OUTLINE

- ECOWAS at Glance
- Objective
- Background of ECOWAS and GSMA Cooperation
- International Policies on EMF
- Questionnaire for the Survey
- EMF Policy Survey Results
- Conclusion and Outlook





ECOWAS AT GLANCE

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS):

- **Date of Creation** : 28 May 1975
- **Location** : West Africa
- **Membership** : 15 Member States
(8 Francophones, 5 Anglophones, 2 Lusophones)
- **Population** : 280 M
- **Area** : 6,1 millions de Km²



French: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

English: The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone

Portuguese: Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau





Global Objective

- Establishment of a single liberalized Telecoms/ICT market in West Africa that facilitate the deployment of Telecoms/ICT for reliable and affordable communication services for community citizens, including Internet and roaming
- To achieve this objective, 2 major programmes are undertaken by the ECOWAS Commission:
 - Implementation of an interconnected regional broadband infrastructure in the ECOWAS region (investment)
 - Harmonization of the Telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory framework to set up the ECOWAS Telecom/ICT common market (cooperation).

ICT as a tool to achieve ECOWAS Vision 2020: ECOWAS of People





ECOWAS-GSMA Cooperation

- **ECOWAS and GSMA** had a bilateral meeting during the annual Ministerial Programme that took place from 27-29 February in Barcelona, Spain in the framework of 2011 Mobile World Congress
- **ECOWAS and GSMA** identified few Possible Activities including EMF exposure issue
- It was agreed to conduct a survey on “Base Station Planning Policy”





International Policies on EMF

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) recommend the adoption of limits based on the guidelines of the International Commission for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)
- The WHO has developed model legislation for EMF protection to establish internationally recognized limits of human exposure developed by the ICNIRP
- *Based on WHO various reports there is:*
 - *no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use*
 - *no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects*





International Policies on EMF

ITU Recommendations

- The ITU-T recommends that where EMF safety limits do not exist, or if they do not cover the frequencies of interest, then ICNIRP limits should be used
- For infrastructure the ITU-T recommends a process to achieve compliance
- For mobile phones the ITU-T recommends applying the measurement procedures for specific absorption rate (SAR)
- EMF exposure issue is also one of the activities of the SG5 Regional Group for Africa (SG5 RG-AFR)





Questionnaire

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Country: | | |
| RF exposure guidelines: | | |
| RF Licensing Authority: | | |
| Planning Permission Requirements | | |
| Planning Authority: | | |
| Exempt Developments: | | |
| Planning Timescales (Days) | | |
| Planning Timescales (Days) | Legal | |
| | Typical | |
| | Worst case | |
| Processes and Procedures | | |
| Appeals process: | | |
| Public consultation: | | |
| Notes: | | |





Questionnaire (*Cont.*)

■ Explanatory Notes

■ Country

- Name of the country or state (if not national) where the rules are applied.

■ RF exposure guidelines

- Are radiofrequency (RF) human exposure standards applied?
- What is the name of the regulation?
- If not based on the ITU recommendation to adopt the ICNIRP guidelines, please provide the exposure values relevant to mobile communication base stations?
- Please provide a copy of the regulation or URL if available.

■ RF Licensing Authority:

- Is there a requirement for each base station to receive an RF approval?
- What department provides that approval?

■ Planning Authority

- What organization approves building permits? Is it the municipality? The environment agency? Another government department?
- What documentation must be submitted?

■ Exempt Developments:

- Are there exemptions or simplified procedures for small antennas?
- Are there exemptions or simplified procedures for changes to existing sites?

■ Planning Timescales (Days)

- Is there a legal requirement that a decision is made with a specified period?
- What is the typical period to receive approval to build a site?
- What is the worst case length of time to get approval to build a site?

■ Appeals process:

- In this case of disputed decisions is there a right of appeal?
- What authority deals with the appeal?
- Who has the right to lodge an appeal?
- How long do appeals take?

■ Public consultation:

- Are there mandatory or voluntary procedures for public consultation or notification?
- Who undertakes the consultation or notification – the operator or authority?
- Is consultation or notification required for all sites?

■ Notes:

- Further explanatory information including links to national policies.

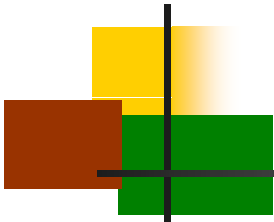




EMF POLICY SURVEY RESULTS

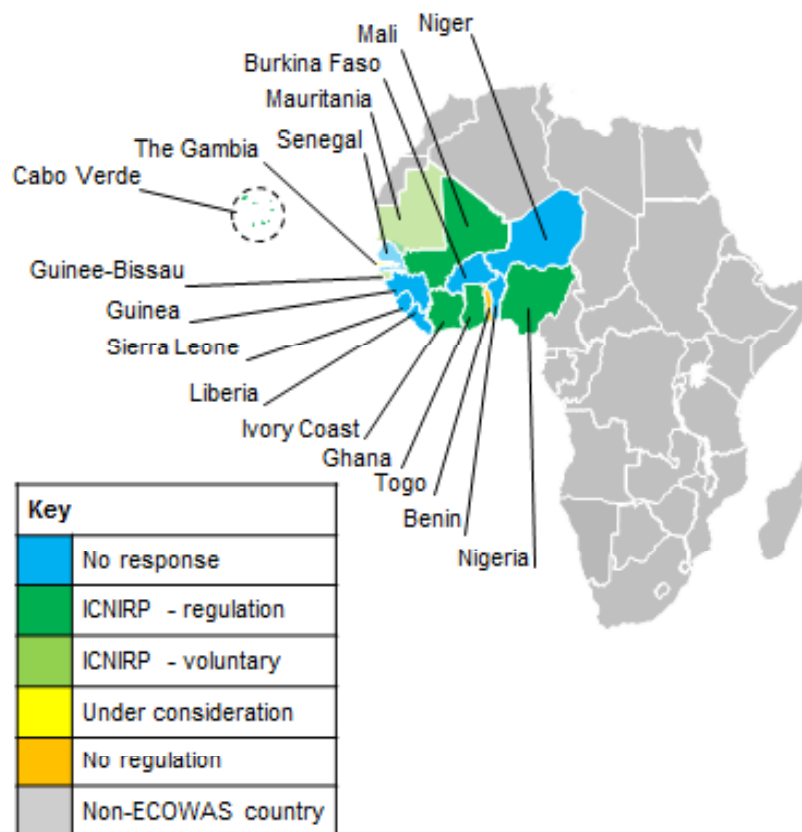
- The aim of the questionnaire is to gather information on any EMF exposure guidelines or regulation, appeal and public consultation processes
- 9 of the 15 ECOWAS Member States responded to the survey questionnaire: Cabo Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo
- The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (member of WATRA) also responded to the survey questionnaire





EMF POLICY SURVEY RESULTS *(cont.)*

Map summarizes responses from MS



EMF POLICY SURVEY RESULTS *(cont.)*

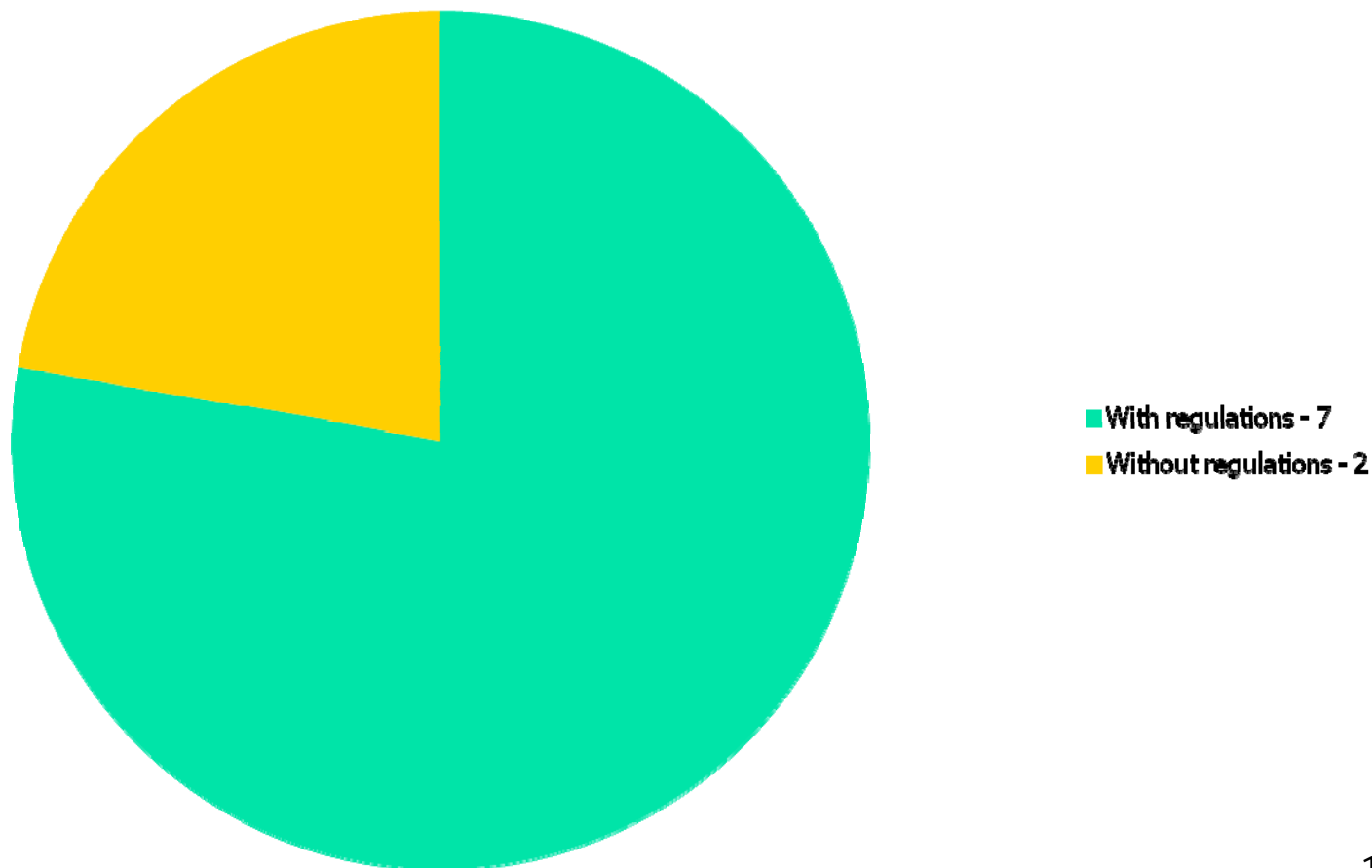
- All respondent countries with policies have based their exposure limits on the International Commission for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines
- The Radio Frequency (RF) licensing authority is most often the telecommunication regulator but may also involve radiation protection authorities.
- Typical planning approval timescales range from sixteen working days (Mali) to 180 working days (Senegal)
- However, few countries have set good practice targets.
- Most countries have an appeals process.
- There are few requirements for public consultation





EMF POLICY SURVEY RESULTS *(cont.)*

Countries with & without regulations/standards





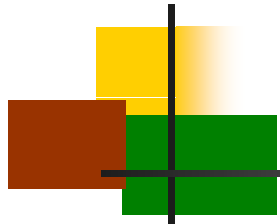
Conclusion and Outlook

The Survey demonstrates that:

- Most ECOWAS MS with EMF policies have based their exposure limits on the ICNIRP guidelines as recommended by the WHO and the ITU.
- Several MS have not yet adopted formal policies
- ECOWAS to develop a good practice recommendation in regard to EMF exposures from mobile networks and wireless devices.
- ECOWAS to collaborate with GSMA, ITU and WHO for harmonised EMF policies in ECOWAS region
- ECOWAS is requesting a support from Partners for a sensitization and awareness campaign of the stakeholders on EMF exposures from mobile networks and wireless devices

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THANK YOU

OBRIGADO

MERCI





Contact:

Dr Raphael KOFFI

HOD Telecommunication Division

Transport and Telecom Directorate

Email: rkoffi@ecowas.int

Tel: +234 805 5833 880

ECOWAS Commission

Abuja – NIGERIA

URL: www.ecowas.int

