MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

GHANA'S MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION INAUGURATES GHANA NETWORK OPERATORS' GROUP

Cape Coast, 3rd August, 2009 –The Honorable Haruna Idrissu, Minister of Communication has challenged the Ghana Network Operators' Group (ghNOG) to complement Government's efforts and provide practical and meaningful measures that can also help control cyber fraud, which has become a menace in the society. These were the Minister's remarks in a speech read on his behalf by Mr. Gideon Quarcoo, Deputy Communication Minister, at the inauguration of ghNOG on Friday, July 31 2009. The Ghana Network Operators' Group is a forum for sharing technical information amongst technical operators of Internet services.

The Minister acknowledged ghNOG as key partners in the ministry's programme to address cyber security threats in the country. He said, "*I am presenting ghNOG a copy of the operational e-Security policy document for study and guidance in its operations.*" The Minister also pledged the Communication's Ministry's support to ghNOG's activities,

The Minister said the mission to harness ICT for socio-economic development was a new form of liberation struggle and that ICT professionals were, "the vanguard of soldiers engaged in the struggle". He also said the struggle was a 'multi-stakeholder struggle,' which required the involvement of all and sundry.

The inauguration was attended by ICT specialists, who also made presentations on how ICT could be used in national development. On his part, Prof. Nii Narku Quaynor, the convener of the Africa Network Operators' Group (AfNOG) who spoke on, **IGF: A Multi-stakeholder Process** said, "ghNOG was a specialized community, which would play the role of sustaining the deployment of the Internet. He said that since AfNOG celebrated its 10th anniversary in Cairo in May 2009, the role of Network Operator Groups (NOGs) has become even more apparent and important. The growth of the Internet network simply demands more technical capacity of operators, who have to coordinate and communicate better. "Maintaining this singular Internet requires coordination among

operators thus communities of operators and technical professionals cooperating in support of their mutual success had become essential." He said.

Other speakers at the ghNOG inauguration included the Mr. Daniel Obuobi, President of ISOC Ghana Chapter and Head of the IT and Computer Science Department at the University of Cape. Mr. Obuobi said the University of Cape Coast was privileged to have hosted the first AfNOG Track E0 Localization' Workshop.

Mr. Issah Yahaya, Director of Policy Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation spoke on New ICT initiative for Accelerated Development, while Mr. Ezer Boateng, of Discovery Tel, representing the Ghana Internet Service Providers' Association (GISPA) spoke on the prospects and challenges of an improved national Internet infrastructure. Also making a presentation was Mr. Eric Akumiah, General Manager of Africa Top Level Domain Organization (AfTLD) who spoke on ccTLDs as the backbone to the Information Society. Mr. Michuki Mwangi, Senior Education Manager of Internet Society also spoke on the role of Internet Society in capacity building.

The inauguration of the ghNOG came off immediately after the Internet Society Ghana Chapter (ISOC Ghana) in partnership with **Internet Society, Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC) and Africa Network Operators' Group (AfNOG)** organised the first 'AfNOG Track E0 Localization' Unix Systems Administration Workshop at the University of in Cape Coast in Ghana. The workshop was targeted at Information Technology (IT) personnel working in industry, government, tertiary institutions and non-profit organizations. According to Michuki Mwangi who was also one of Workshop facilitators, the Workshop was so far one of the best organized AfNOG 'E0' Localization Workshops. In all 24 participants from industry, academia and non-governmental organizations attended the Workshop, with facilitators from industry.

The Internet Society, Ghana Chapter facilitated the first workshop, but subsequent workshops would be facilitated and organised by ghNOG. Part of ghNOG's role would be to harmonise the activities of network operators locally with the aim of improving their work and ICT in general. The initiative to localize 'AfNOG E0' in African countries is being spearheaded by the Internet Society. 'E0 Localization' workshops will be organized twice yearly in July and December/January in Ghana.

The workshop and meeting was made possible by the support of Internet Society, Network Startup Resource Centre (NSRC), AfNOG and the University of Cape Coast.