

GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)

ICT POLICY STATEMENT

This ICT Policy Statement is designed to guide the process of deployment and exploitation of ICTs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in support of its organisational activities and operations within the framework of the national ICT4AD vision.

VISION STATEMENT

Effective co-ordination between the Ministry and its overseas Missions on one hand; and between the Ministry and other stakeholders, including the seat of Government, other MDAs and the resident foreign Diplomatic Missions in Ghana on the other, in the effort to promote Ghana's interests abroad.

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the interests of Ghana and her citizens abroad; enhance Ghana's security and economic prosperity through mutually beneficial political and economic interactions with other members of the international community; and to contribute to the promotion of international peace and security in furtherance of her own stability and economic development.

STRATEGIES FOR ATTAINING THE STATED MISSION

The Ministry is committed to the implementation of the following strategies towards the attainment of its mission and vision:

- Promotion of friendly relations with all countries that have democratic governments and respect human rights and the rule of law, on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and co-operation for mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence;
- Promotion of economic co-operation between Ghana and other countries through intensified efforts to;
 - gain market access abroad for Ghana's non-traditional export products;
 - attract more foreign direct investment for Ghana and
 - maximise the inflow of development assistance from both bilateral and multilateral sources;
- Provision of economic, political and security information and advice to Government;
- Provision of prompt and courteous consular services and maintenance of constant dialogue with Ghanaian abroad;
- Provision of prompt and reliable information to Ghanaian nationals abroad to encourage them to participate in Ghana's economic development;
- Collaborating with Ghanaian nationals abroad and encouraging them to assist in identifying potential foreign investors to invest in Ghana;
- Playing a positive and creative role as a member of the UN, the AU, NAM, the Commonwealth, ECOWAS and other international organisations to which Ghana belongs;
- Working towards the realisation of the objectives of the African Union, NEPAD and ECOWAS;
- Upholding the rule of law in international affairs and seeking the establishment of a just and equitable international order;
- Maintaining constant dialogue with Parliament and other stakeholders on foreign policy matters;
- Provision of supportive services to relevant MDAs and non-state actors, including the private sector;

- Assisting diplomatic missions, international organisations and foreign non-state actors in the discharge of their duties in Ghana.

THE ICT DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION POLICY GOALS

- Improve the management of information systems of the Ministry and its overseas Missions;
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of management in the discharge of the administrative functions of the Ministry and its mission abroad through the deployment and exploitation of ICTs;
- Provide training on computer usage to staff at all levels to improve computer literacy and enhance efficiency at both the Ministry and missions abroad;
- Deploy and utilise ICTs to collect, collate, process, analyse and disseminate information on developments across the world, and on Ghana's trade, investment and tourism potentials, as well as her rich cultural heritage.

ICT DEPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION COMMITMENTS

The Ministry in implementing its stated ICT strategy will seek to:

- Modernise its library by the introduction of ICTs to enhance its usefulness as a Foreign Affairs Research Library;
- Strengthen the Policy Planning and Research Bureau of the Ministry by ensuring that all officers in the Bureau are computer literate and equipped with individual computers linked to the internet as well as extranet
- Establish database to ensure efficient storage and retrieval of data on foreign policy and trade, investment and tourism;
- Update and enhance the Ministry's website on a regular basis;
- Create a platform for dialogue with all stakeholders and end-users of the Ministry's services;
- Equip and network each of Ghana's Diplomatic Missions abroad;
- Ensure that each of the Missions abroad establishes a website and database for the promotion of Ghana's vital interests abroad.

FOCUS OF THE ICT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The focus of Ministry's ICT policy goals is the development of ICT infrastructure that would facilitate the development of the appropriate institutional framework necessary for the attainment of its goals. In particular, such infrastructure would enhance the Ministry's capacity to play its expected role of supporting the private sector of Ghana and serving as a catalyst for national development.

The Ministry is also committed to train its staff to be resourceful and competent in the usage of ICT facilities to support the country's economic goals and development aspirations.