



Consultation Paper on the Review of the Internet Code of Practice 2019

July 2025

Consultation Guidance

This Consultation Paper is a preliminary engagement of key stakeholders before the activation of the rule-making process of the Commission under Section 71 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003. The outcome of this Consultation Process will provide the clarity and consensus that will support reviews and possible changes to the Internet Code of Practice 2019. The Commission will take into account all comments and recommendations as part of its participatory approach to the attainment of the objectives of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003.

Content

Introduction.....	4
Background.....	4
Regulatory Proposals.....	5
Consultation Process.....	8
Submission and Feedback Process.....	8
Conclusion.....	8

Schedule- Consultation Feedback and Comments Response Template

1. Introduction

The Internet has provided a platform that came with unquantifiable and enormous benefits to the Nigerian public as a source of information, education, research, commerce, communication, and entertainment. The Internet has remained a key driver for innovation and technological advancement in different aspects of our lives as well as different sectors of the Nigerian economy. It is also clear that the same Internet also includes content that some users might find objectionable and would not want themselves, their children, or even society at large, exposed to. While an Open Internet is key for successfully driving innovation, there are several factors to be considered in its promotion, such as privacy and data protection, child online protection, objectionable content, unsolicited communications, and traffic management practices that are considered necessary in order to maintain network efficiency.

Consequently, the Nigerian Communications Commission, in accordance with its sole and exclusive mandate to regulate the communications sector in Nigeria as expressed in the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, published the Internet Code of Practice in 2019 (Code) to govern the rights and obligations of Internet Access Service Providers with regard to the issues stated above. The establishment and enforcement of the Code is envisioned as a co-regulatory effort between the Commission and every stakeholder in the ecosystem. Thus, the development of the 2019 Code was preceded by wide consultation by the Commission and this Consultation is building on that approach.

2. Background

The Code applies to all licensees of the Commission that provide internet access services in Nigeria and that scope aligns with the expectations of the expansive statutory and regulatory Framework set by Sections 1 and 2 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003. The main objective of the Code is to protect the right of Internet users to an Open Internet as a necessary fodder to unfettered access as well as, a well outlined governance principle in that regard. The Code is also intended to provide clear guidelines to Internet Access Service Providers on the use of traffic management practices to foster and deepen net neutrality principles in Nigeria, as both a governance and traffic management requirement. Additionally, the Code also outlines the obligations of Internet Access Service Providers in relation to the protection of consumers' personal data and transactional data that can be harvested from their use of the internet.

One of the key objectives of the Code is its governance outline of the obligations of Internet Access Service Providers in the handling of offensive and potentially harmful content. This protection shield is clearly focused on the protection of minors and vulnerable audiences online and places an obligation on licensees to ensure adequate safeguards are put in place against unsolicited Internet communications. This is an important matter and the soft governance outlines can provide adequate criteria that will build an approach that will create safe and protective access to the internet for all Nigerians.

3. Regulatory Proposals

These proposals form the baseline for the review and potential changes to the existing Internet Code of Practice 2019 and provide both the context and regulatory purpose for these changes. The Commission puts forward seven (7) regulatory proposals and the basis for each of them. These regulatory proposals provides a broad outline of the proposed review and shows the foundational basis for the regulatory thought process. Therefore, comments from stakeholders will help shape the specific changes and amendments that the Commission will put forward when it activates the rule making process in Q3 2025.

Regulatory Proposal	Basis for Proposal
Further outlining the offensive and misleading internet content governance principles to include deep fakes, misinformation and incitement.	This regulatory proposal is tailored to provide clear governance guidelines on content moderation, particularly concerning hate speech, misinformation, and harmful content. It will provide a baseline for establishing a framework for reporting and addressing such issues, leading to a safer online environment. The proposal focuses on updating provisions related to child online protection including measures to prevent child exploitation and abuse. It will also focus on the harmful use of technological tools for distortion, coordinated misinformation and incitement

	to violence through internet access points and platforms.
Provide clarity and set governance principles for Online Platforms that mimic traditional communications services. It will also set out parameters for international cooperation and information sharing from related jurisdictions, in relation to these Online Platforms.	This regulatory proposal will outline soft governance principles for online platforms that have communications attributes or capabilities. Secondly, it will provide a roadmap for the co-existential relationship between such online platforms with licensees of the Commission that are statutorily enabled to provide similar or related services. These principles will ensure that consumer rights are safeguarded, with harmful content properly managed and effective competition management in the Nigerian Communications Sector.
Set governance principles for reliance and utilisation of emerging technologies. This will focus on reliance on emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence mechanisms and tools for traffic management and content integration on the internet.	This regulatory proposal will set governance outlines for use of emerging technologies for traffic management, content detection and creation of fake and harmful content on the internet. This proposed review will also provide clarity on net neutrality practices of licensees, as well as set criteria for evaluating activity, behaviour and compliance levels of individual licensees.
Deepen data protection and provide safeguards for internet access and privacy of transactional and activity data of users of the internet.	This regulatory proposal is an important approach as it will set governance guidelines for big data, data analytics and uncharted harvesting of behavioural and trend data from internet use. It will also set benchmark principles for access, commercialising and marketing of such datasets without any form of oversight.

<p>Review and provide clarity on net neutrality governance principles</p>	<p>This regulatory proposal is intended to clarify Net Neutrality provisions in the Code and review terms such as "reasonable network management". This clarity, to be provided by clear definitions and limitations, will outline clear governance principles for net neutrality in Nigeria. More so, it will prevent potential abuse of this exception and ensure stronger protection for net neutrality principles. The review will evaluate zero-rating practices to ensure they do not negatively impact competition or consumer choice in Nigeria.</p>
<p>Enhancement of the cyber security principles outlined in 2019 Code.</p>	<p>The main aim of this review proposal is to align the Code with current cybersecurity standards and frameworks such as the NIST Cybersecurity Framework or ISO 27001. It will also help in establishing a set of base level minimum cybersecurity requirements for ISPs, like real-time threat intelligence solutions and establish rapid-response mechanisms to detect, analyse, and mitigate cyber threats before any impact on customers and internet users in Nigeria.</p>
<p>Regulatory clarity and governance certainty for utilisation of vital resources such as Internet Protocols (IPs) by licensees of the Commission.</p>	<p>The main aim of this regulatory proposal is to implement DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions), which will help secure DNS communications by preventing domain spoofing, cache poisoning, and other attacks that could compromise user data and system integrity. This will also align the Code with global internet infrastructure advancements, by ensuring widespread adoption and deployment of IPv6, which is</p>

	<p>critical for enhancing network performance and improving security. This will also help in addressing the limitations of IPv4, particularly in terms of address exhaustion. It is important to note that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) encourages member states to adopt IPv6 in line with Resolution 180.</p>
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4. Consultation Process

This Consultation process is for thirty (30) days from the date of its publication on the website of the Commission. The expected comments/feedbacks will guide the Commission in determining the specific areas for review and changes when it commences its rule making process as outlined by Section 71 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003. The Process is open to licensees in the Nigerian Communications Sector, consumers, agencies of government, international agencies and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

5. Submission and Feedback Process

All feedbacks and comments on this Consultation Paper should be sent on or before **Friday August 29, 2025** via email to stakeholders@ncc.gov.ng.

The feedback and comments can be contained in the Feedback and Comment Template in the Schedule to this Consultation Paper and additional comments or supporting documentations can be sent as attachments to the mail. The subject of the mail should contain the specific name of the Consultation Paper.

6. Conclusion

The Commission has created a consultation layer in its rule making process to open it up for more participation and engagement. This is also intended to help the Commission feel the pulse of the Nigerian Communications Sector in its review

procedure. Clearly, this approach will enhance the rule making process, build cross-sectoral consensus and ease the bottlenecks in the legislative process. The Commission looks forward to robust feedback from all stakeholders, within and outside Nigeria.

Dated.....July, 2025

Dr. Aminu Maida
EVC/CEO
Nigerian Communications Commission

Schedule



Feedback & Comments Response Template

Please complete this form in full and return to stakeholders@ncc.gov.ng

Consultation Paper	
Name	
Mobile Number/Contact Number	
Representation (If on behalf of any Organisation or entity)	
Name of Organisation/Company/Licensee	
Nature of Industry/Business/Licence	
Website & Email Address	

Confidentiality & Restrictions

Do you want all your comments/responses published?	Yes/No
Do you want all your comments/responses kept confidential?	Yes/No
Do you want some of your comments/responses kept confidential? Please specify below	Yes/No
Please specify Questions to be kept Confidential	

1. Specific Responses

Question	Response/Comment
Question 1: Do you agree with the Commission setting governance principles for internet content, particularly on misinformation, deep fakes and incitement?	
Question 2: Do you agree with the Commission setting governance principles for Online Platforms that offer services that fall under Communications Services as outlined in the Nigerian Communications Act 2003?	
Question 3: Do you agree with the Commission setting governance principles and standards for the use of emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence tools, in content integration, billing, consumer engagements and traffic management within the Nigerian Communications Sector?	
Question 4: Do you agree with the Commission strengthening data privacy and data access protocols for static and transactional data on the Communications Networks in Nigeria?	
Question 5: Should the Commission further entrench Net Neutrality Principles within the Nigerian Communications Sector?	
Question 6: Should the Commission further entrench Cyber Security protocols and standards within the Nigerian Communications Sector?	
Question 7: Do you agree with the Commission providing clarity on accessing and utilising Internet Protocol (IP) addresses on the Nigerian Communications Networks and also	

set out clear roadmap for regional and global engagements on electronic addressing as it relates to Nigeria?	
Question 8: Do you agree with the Commission's proposed review of the Internet Code of Practice and possible changes that will enhance its governance oversight?	
Question 9: Do you agree with the Commission's proposed review of the Internet Code of Practice to enable it set out parameters for international cooperation and information sharing across different jurisdictions?	

2. General Comments/Additional Responses

General Comments/Additional Responses

Please complete this form in full and return to stakeholders@ncc.gov.ng