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**6<sup>th</sup> SG13 Regional Workshop for Africa on  
“Standardization of future networks: What  
opportunities for Africa”**

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**The Importance of Engaging In-country  
Local Stakeholders Towards the Success of  
SG13-AFR – in The Gambia**

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# Agenda;

- Background
- Need for Engagement
- Low Stakeholder Engagement / Interaction
- Gambian Stakeholder Community
- Engagements in Gambia
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

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# Background

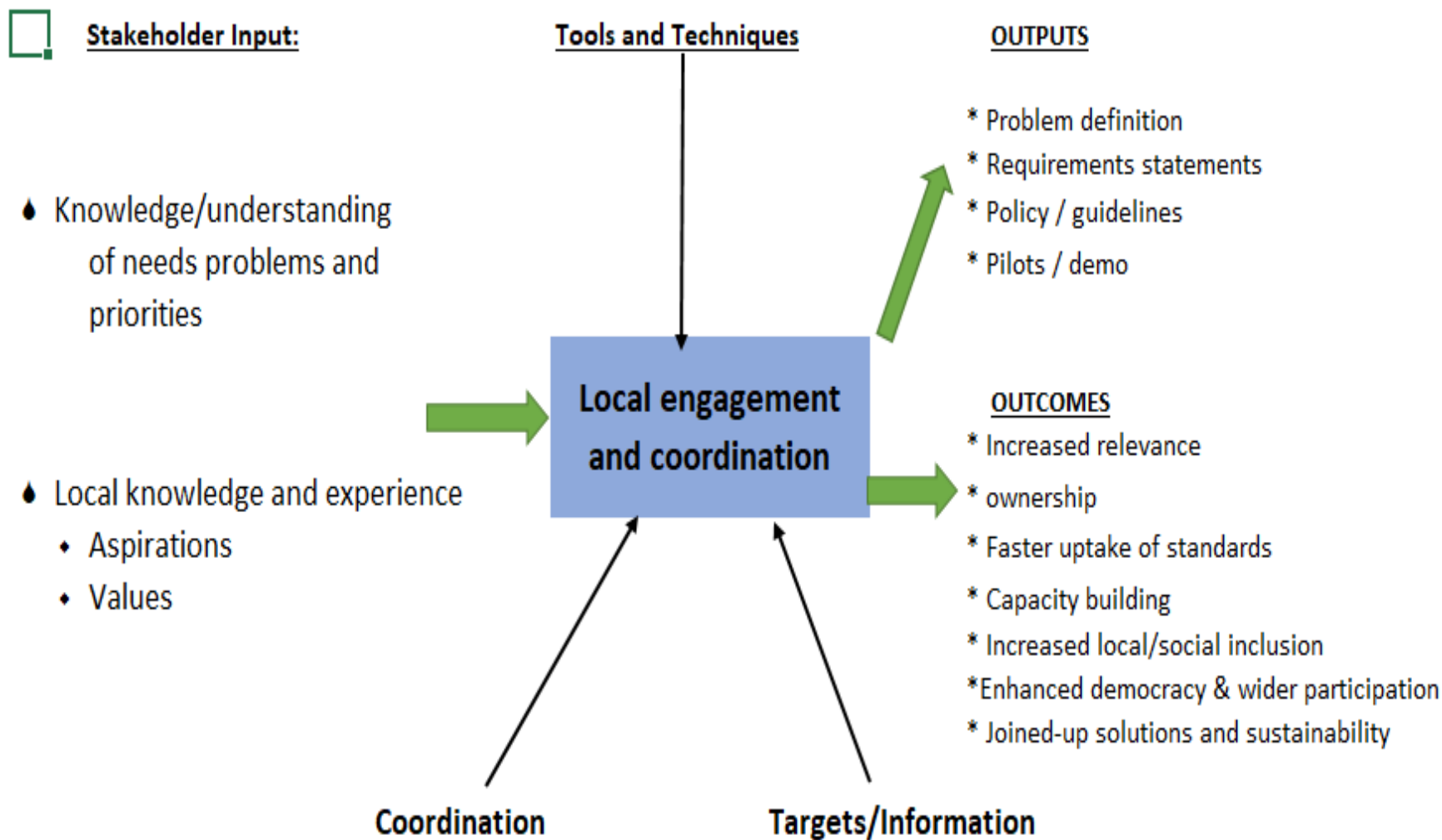
- Ministry of Information and Regulator have been vastly responsible for ICT strategies and standards development, implementation and regulation.
- Trends indicate that private sector, academia, standards bodies, civil society and experts MUST participate actively.
- The newer direction: Multi-sector participatory contributions and engagements to produce better and inclusive standards and suggestions for SG13 RG-AFR
- Enforceable standards will reduce interference and resistance to regulations

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# Background (cont).

- Examples-need for ICT stakeholder engagement
  - Type Approval
  - Masts & Towers
  - MNO Network Standards (IMT etc)
  - QoE & Provider SLA Standards
  - Frequency Spectrum and Broadcasting
  - ...many more

# Need for Stakeholder Engagement



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# Need for Stakeholder Engagement

- Getting all parties to embrace standards and accept application and enforcement is an uphill task.
- Stakeholders must therefore be onboard to take ownership and provide input from:
  - Requirements specifications
  - Problem identification
  - Proposed solutions
- The process results overwhelmingly in stakeholders taking ownership and accepting the outcome of standardization activities.

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# Main Gambian Stakeholders

- Ministry of Information (MOICI)
- Regulator (PURA)
- Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB)
- Academia and NGOs
- Operators (MNOs and ISPs) & Utility Services
- ISOC & ITAG
- Civil Society Consumer Associations
- Regional Administrations & Public Authorities
- Multilateral and International orgs (e.g., ITU)
- ....among others



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# Engagements in Gambia

- Getting all parties to embrace standards and accept application and enforcement is an uphill task.
- Stakeholders being brought onboard to take ownership and provide input from:
  - Requirements specifications
  - Problem identification
  - Proposed solutions
- The process results overwhelmingly in stakeholders taking ownership and accepting the outcome of standardization activities.

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# Conclusion - Gambia

- Stakeholders play a key role in any local standardization endeavor, to contribute to wider (e.g., ITU) guidelines, acceptance and enforcement.
- Without more and active engagements in-country, to feed into SG13 RG-AFR, countries will be:
  - Passive
  - Left to await and utilize standards more befitting to other regions/countries, when local input would have mattered greatly, and been welcomed by ITU
  - Problems in applying standards due to lack of knowledge, resistance, regulatory strong-handedness etc.
- Proper in-country stakeholder engagement would empower partners to provide better input and accept proffered standards.

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# Recommendations.

- SG13 RG-AFR

- Select one in-country Champion for SG13 from representatives
  - Provide adequate administrative support and mentoring
  - This “champion” would be tasked with:
    - Identifying and engaging stakeholders in their country
    - Initiating and carrying out engagement activities / meetings etc.
    - Coordinating input and disseminating information in a local repository.
    - Reporting back periodically to the Chairman RG-AFR and update at meetings.
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# Recommendations...contd...

- While the engagement process is implemented it should be ensured that:
  - All relevant and interested stakeholders and parties are invited, encouraged and heard.
  - Relevant information is shared among all stakeholders in a transparent manner.
  - Contributions should be collated and forwarded to the RG-AFR group for review and possible adoption in TDs.

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**THE END**

**THANK YOU**