NARRATIVE REPORT

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON
THE INITIATIVE ON
BUILDING COMMUNITY BROADCASTING
IN NIGERIA

10 – 11 NOVEMBER, 2003
LAGOS AIRPORT HOTEL,
IKEJA, LAGOS, NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION

Three civil society organizations the Panos Institute West Africa (PIWA), the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Africa Region (AMARC-Africa) and the Institute for Media and Society (IMS), Nigeria, are collaborating on the Project, Building Community Broadcasting in Nigeria.

A component of the program, Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa, CATIA, the project aims to support the development of democratic, plural and pro-

poor broadcast environments and help build positive policy environment for broadcasting.

The partners have constituted a Steering Committee comprising eminent Nigerians as well as their representatives to facilitate the implementation strategy of the project.

The committee held its inaugural meeting in Lagos, Nigeria, on November 10 and 11, 2003. Ten members participated in the meeting. The list is attached at the end of the report as Appendix 1.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

DAY 1: November 10, 2003

OPENING

The meeting started at 9.40am. Akin Akingbulu, Executive Director of the Institute for Media and Society (IMS) announced Mr. Dapo Olorunyomi as Chair of the day's proceedings. Thereafter, members introduced themselves.

In his introductory statement, Akingbulu welcomed participants and commended their sense of commitment already demonstrated in their readiness to work in the Committee and their ability to attend the inaugural meeting at very short notice.

Tracing the fairly long history of discussions between the three collaborating partners, he said his organization was very delighted that the historic project was taking off at this time.

Akingbulu said that among the key work areas of IMS is a Community Media Program, which deals with issues such as democratization of communication processes and institutions as well as access of disadvantaged and under-served sections of the society to media and communication, while projecting pluralism as central and crucial to the development of media and the society at large.

Statement by Johan Deflander

In his welcome statement, Johan Deflander of Panos Institute West Africa, (PIWA), thanked members for attending the meeting despite their tight schedules.

He said PIWA, established about 15 years ago, is an international/regional non-governmental organization working in West Africa with a strong level of specialism in media pluralism and editorial issues.

According to him, the Panos family has other autonomous offices in Lusaka (Zambia), Kampala (Uganda), Kinshasa (DRC) and outside Africa in London, Paris, Washington and Ontario (Canada).

Listing the three main programs of PIWA as media pluralism, prevention and reconciliation of conflicts, and strategies for civil society, he said in the past four years, the institute had engaged in a program of communicating a culture of peace, under which a new program is now being launched to strengthen the communication capacities of civil society organizations.

He revealed that PIWA is new in Nigeria, although it has developed some drama programs for use on Nigerian radio stations and a study on communication practices of civil society organizations, adding that Panos is more known in Nigeria through the program of the Washington office, coordinated by Dapo Olorunyomi, incidentally the chair of the day's meeting.

Deflander said PIWA was glad to be developing a program of Community Radio in Nigeria not only with its partners but also national Stakeholders.

He explained that the project is part of a bigger initiative launched by DFID, called Catalyzing Access to ICTs in Africa, CATIA, a Pan-African Project to get rural-based, grassroots organizations access to communication.

He said the key countries for this particular component are Sierra Leone, Cote D'Ivoire and Nigeria, adding that the work in Nigeria is to implement a two-year advocacy project for community.

Deflander informed the meeting that the partners had developed a draft concept paper as a discussion document to help the fulfillment of the committee's mandate.

Statement by George Christensen

Welcoming the members, George Christensen of the World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC), said CATIA has many components on which work was progressing.

He told the meeting that AMARC – Africa was an international, member-based non-governmental organisation whose programs include: a communication program reinforcing linkage between members, publication of newsletters, management of a Website, discussion on round-table basis, a solidarity network which links members for joint responses during crisis periods (alert mechanism), radio campaigns on thematic issues like AIDs, conflicts, etc; a strong women's program, the Women International Network; exchange programs and advocacy campaigns.

He noted that the work to be done was basically "Nigerians' show", saying that the overall success of the project depended on the Nigerian members of the steering committee who, he believed, would put in their best.

SESSION 1

PRESENTATIONS

After the introductory speeches, the meeting proper began with Olorunyomi, the chair, setting the ground rules. He urged participants to keep to time, in view of the heavy work schedule before the committee.

Role of the Steering Committee: by Alymana Bathily

Alymana Bathily of PIWA made the first presentation on "The Role of the Steering Committee". He said the setting up of the Steering Committee was in furtherance of the desire of the partners to have a proper implementation of the community radio project in Nigeria. He noted that the partners had carefully selected and brought together a group of committed and experienced Nigerians from diverse backgrounds considered useful for the project.

Bathily highlighted the roles of the Committee as:

(a) helping the partners understand the radio broadcasting sector in Nigeria.

(b) helping to build an acceptable <u>definition</u> and <u>concept</u> of community radio in the Nigerian context, especially in the light of Windhoek + 10

(c) defining/developing a strategy of implementing the project.

Bathily said that in going about its assignment, the committee would need to critique the existing policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, profer new ones, and the methodology of realizing them within the country's realities.

He said the implementation strategy would, among other things, define CR stakeholders and their appropriate roles and develop an action plan which situates components like awareness seminars and advocacy activities.

<u>Discussion</u>

Opening the floor for discussion of Bathily's presentation, Olorunyomi observed that in the West African sub-region, three Countries – Nigeria, Guinea (Conakry) and Mauratania – have not encouraged the existence community radio; and that in many who have, what actually obtains is <u>decentralized</u> state radio broadcasting.

Edetean Ojo wanted to know if the participants present were the only members of the committee. He noted that it would facilitate cohesion and better interaction if members had more information about one another, with regards to skills, location among other details.

Reacting to Ojo's question and observation, Akingbulu said the steering committee has six Nigerian members, who come from diverse fields and different parts of the country. He said the only member not present was Tunde Adegbola, a broadcast and ICT Engineer, who went for an assignment elsewhere. He noted Ojo's observation regarding the circulation of details of members.

He said that members would exchange addresses, especially e-mails, at the end of the meeting, so that they could communicate effectively among themselves from time to time. He said the organizers decided to keep the membership of the committee to a manageable number in consideration of cost and other factors. He said they believed this would not impact negatively on the Committee's role, considering the variety of skills and experience of those who have been selected.

Complementing Akingbulu's explanation, another representative of the organizers noted that the committee was made up of tested people with varied skills and competencies, across the geographical zones of the country.

Christensen added that the committee could be strengthened with ad hoc members if such became necessary.

Reacting to another question by Ojo, Deflander said the project time-frame was partly determined by donor requirements and the project objectives. He however, noted that the reactions of the awareness seminars would largely determine the length of time for the work.

Christensen added that the committee, especially its Nigerian members, also had responsibility to help critique the time frame, given their better understanding of the Nigerian environment.

Akingbulu advised that participants should wait till the second day of the meeting for more explanation on that area when a paper would be presented on it.

There was also a discussion on the regularity of meetings of the steering committee. The partners said the volume of work and overall strategy designed by the committee would determine the frequency of its meetings.

In the discussion which followed, the following points were raised by participants:

- ownership structure is crucial in determining community radio

- while it is agreed that community could be <u>geographical</u> or <u>interest</u>, the application of the latter is problematic.

- Strong regulatory mechanism can help control problems arising from radio stations catering to "Community of interest"

- But "sanctions mechanism" can be counter – productive and should be kept out of our proposal.
  It is important that we get our definitions right before we engage the NBC.

- The NBC says it is willing to licence community radio but has no clear guidelines to do so.   Civil society organizations who requested for guidelines or volunteered to help NBC develop same have not received any response.

- NBC, in the present situation, can be engaged to work with definitions guidelines developed by the Steering Committee if we get our acts right.

- Strategies for constructively engaging the NBC could include:

    - having a meeting that allows us share experiences from different West African Countries – to help clarify fears on, for example, "community of interest". This should, however, be carefully handled because of the arrogance of Nigerian government officials.
    - Impressing it on the NBC that since the African Union has already accepted the charter on Broadcasting, it (NBC) should also accept.
    - While it is important to engage the NBC, its involvement in our work will inhibit our freedom.   Besides, the present leadership of the NBC, being reactionary and all-powerful, is unlikely to allow its staff to participate in initiatives of this nature.

- The Steering Committee could draft guidelines for presentation to the NBC. But the SC should first subject the draft guidelines to a larger forum of stakeholders, like the awareness seminars.

Closing the discussion, Olorunyomi, highlighted three key issues:

- the need to evolve a document that will anticipate and take care of fears of the state

- Careful handling of bringing external success stories in CR to help engage the NBC

- The need for the SC to test its documents on larger stakeholders' forums – these documents would include draft guidelines – before presentation to the NBC.

SESSION TWO

Reflecting On the Draft Concept for Community Radio Introduced by Johan Deflander (PIWA) and George Christensen (AMARC).

Draft concept for Community Radio in Nigeria by Johan Deflander.

Deflander's paper on the concept for community radio was an incursion into the historical development of radio broadcasting. The emergence of community radio according to him was an outcome of several efforts made to "de-monopolise" radio and radio frequencies which had been monopolized since Marconi invented the instrument about one hundred years ago.

"Monopolisation of radio frequencies has characterized the last one century. The airwave is monopolized and there are widespread complaints of scarcity of frequencies", he said.

Deflander further said that the centralized nature of radio reduced access to the medium and made it difficult for people to freely express themselves.

He remarked that the scenario led some people to pioneer the establishment of independent radio between the 40s and 50s. Labour unions in Latin America decided to set up their own frequencies and radio stations, believing that they had their own ways of communicating and wanted a means to communicate with their members. Thus began the emergence of independent radio.

However, a landmark development took place in Canada in the 1970s when the idea of the concept of community radio was formalized in the Francophone area of the nation.

Deflander said that the concept of modern community radio stations was developed on the concept and it was dominated by northern vision during its early years.

He noted that the concept was introduced in Africa at the beginning of the 1990s, but that it has since not been properly articulated.   He stated that the concept on which community radio in Nigeria would be defined was based on the African Charter on Broadcasting produced in year 2001 and later adopted by the African Union (AU).

The Charter defines community broadcasting as "broadcasting which is owned by, for and about the community, which is representative of their community, pursues a social development agenda, and is not-for-profit."

Deflander noted some differences between community radio and the ones that have been existing earlier. For instance, apart from being highly centralized, earlier radios are operated by the government for the people. He said the so-called independent radios have not been able to address the plurality of sources of information which, at inception, they thought they would address. One problem with independent radio is that they are highly commercialized, thereby denying access to many people. Apart from that, as in the case of government-owned radios, independent radios are located mainly in the urban areas, far from the rural communities.

He explained two key elements in the definition of community radio, "for" and "about". For indicates that the communication must be for a target audience, the people. The information must be about the people, otherwise they would not receive it.

He emphasized that existing radios are highly centralized and not operated by the people. He said Nigeria would benefit from the concept since community radio is an agent of social development.

Summing up his presentation Deflander highlighted four characteristics that should give us the concept of community radio in Nigeria:

(i) It must be for and about the people: All radios have target audience. If you broadcast a message not about the community, they will not listen to your message. How is the level of access and participation of the people? This is one of the vital questions that would be addressed in the Nigerian Community radio concept.

(ii) Ownership structure: Generally community radio belongs to the community. Community could be Civil Society organisations, non-governmental organizations, or the people.

(iii) Social Development: Community radio is not only for entertainment but also for the general development of the people. We would want to look at development and the perspective of the people about development. Special recognition must be taken of the fact that people should be involved in a development process if they are to benefit from that development effort.

(iv) The community radio as a non-for-profit issue: This should be clearly marked out. Commercial radio in Nigeria are highly commercialized and heavily charged by the government. The meeting would want to look into issue of licensing, management and other factors as regards their effects on the non- for-profit nature of community radio.

Contribution by George Christensen.

Christensen agreed with Deflander's presentation but and added that there exists a misconception in some quarters which equates "decentralized state broadcasting" with community radio and use it to deny the latter. This, he said, is wrong.

SESSION THREE

A Radio Policy Framework for Nigeria – by Akin Akingbulu

Making his presentation on a "Radio Policy Framework for Nigeria", Akin Akingbulu described the policy situation in Nigeria as "a very funny

terrain". To him, "there is no radio policy in Nigeria". He said that what existed was a National Mass Communication Policy formulated in 1990 which said nothing about community radio and which indeed spoke again private involvement in the broadcast sector.

Noting that the document had become obsolete because liberalization was introduced into the broadcast sector despite it and virtually all of its other recommendations have been implemented, he said the document has little to offer today's broadcast environment.

Akingbulu observed that because of this "policy void", regulatory activities in the sector are subject to the whims and caprices of State officials. He pointed out that there was total absence of transparency in the insurance of broadcast licenses, such that in recent times radio licenses were given to officials of the ruling political party or friends of high-ranking state officials.

He contended that the absence of an up-to-date policy would lead to bad legislations since, according to him, "policy should be the mother of legislation".

According to him, instead of the government to encourage the establishment of genuine community radio, they have embarked on the decentralization of state radio stations, a situation that has not brought about the much – desired pluralism in radio broadcasting.

Concluding, he recommended the making of an all-encompassing, new, up-to-date National Mass Communication Policy, which will, among other things, make precise forward-looking positions of community radio.

Discussions

In the discussion which followed, members descried the absence of an up-to-date policy, noting that it is the strategy of many governments across the African Continent to ignore policies so that they could have room for manipulations.

The following recommendations were made:

(a) in the interim, some of the provisions of the old policy could be exploited to canvass for community radio in Nigeria

(b) the committee should make recommendation to government on making a new national mass communication policy.

(c) Provisions of the policy should include the establishment of an independently managed CR Trust Fund to which various donors, including government, should contribute

(d) There should be advocacy to sensitize government for this policy review.

SESSION FOUR

Legislative and Regulatory Framework – Edetaen Ojo

Edetaen Ojo, of Media Rights Agenda (MRA) introduced the presentation on Legislative and Regulatory Framework for Community Radio in Nigeria.

According to him, the federal Constitution which is the supreme framework, contains provisions which restricts ownership of broadcast stations to government. or persons authorized by the President of the country. To operate 6 station; on applicant must also fulfill the provisions of the NBC Act of 1992 and its 1999 amendment, which in reality limits the powers of the NBC to mere application processing body, while the ultimate power rests with the President.

Ojo said the Act neither makes reference to Community radio nor recognize community radio as a tier of broadcasting.

He noted that the Act indeed militates against the emergence of community radio in Nigeria, citing some reasons: it requires an applicant to be a limited liability company, whereas for community radio, a trusteeship is required; the licence fees of the NBC range from $75,000 to $150,000, clearly not the kind of money community radio ownership can pay; no account is taken of transmitter power or small size of radio in an urban setting; licence is for 5 years and renewal depends on fulfillment of harsh conditions like payment of 2.5% of annual turnover, presentation of financial statement, among others.

He proposed a <u>long-term</u> and <u>short-term</u> strategies to redress the situation. The short-term strategy involved enlightenment programs targeted at the regulatory body and community/civil society groups. Another is advocacy to get the NBC slash its licence fees. The long-term strategy involved amendment or replacement of the present Legislation, with another that clearly defines each tier of radio broadcasting.

<u>Discussion</u>

In discussing the presentation, participants generally agreed that the legislative and regulatory framework was very unfavourable to the emergence of community radio.

Various options were considered to address the situation. One was <u>strategic litigation</u>. But it was felt that in an environment like Nigeria where litigation breeds enmity, the way strategic litigation would be productive is if it could be done in a way that brings the NBC on our side e.g. by litigating on the side of NBC on its controversy with the local governments on who collects radio / TV licence fees.

A member also suggested the use of "a high-profile champion". i.e a public figure, usually female, involved in generous causes, to help push this issue with the regulatory agency. Members felt this was possible.

Citing the examples of some earlier unlicensed radio initiatives – in different parts of the country, some members suggested the establishment of some stations without recourse to NBC. But again, members generally felt that this was fraught with dangers in the very intolerant Nigerian political environment.

At the end, members agreed on what appeared to be a popular entry strategy. This involved identifying key issues/themes with strong emotional appeals in "four different parts of the country, and asking the NBC for special pilot licenses in these locations.

<u>SESSION FIVE</u>

PROPOSALS FOR A NIGERIAN COMMUNITY RADIO FRAMEWORK
–Dapo Olorunyomi.

Opening the discussions on the proposals for a Community radio framework in Nigeria, the chair, Olorunyomi highlighted some issues for which he said would help a structured and better engagement of the presentations already made. These were:

(a) Technology: Community radio always seems to be built around Low-power technology usually from 500 watts to 1 to Kilowatts. What should be the technology configuration for CR in Nigeria?

(b) Funding: What should be the appropriate funding methods for CR, which is generally considered as non-profit? Should there be room for advertising? Should it continue to be donor – driven?

(c) Manpower and Training: The different kinds of personnel, the use of volunteers. What areas and levels of training are necessary to ensure adequate and thoroughly professional personnel?

(d) Management: Poverty of management is prevalent in West African media today. A major criticism of the state broadcast sector in Nigeria in its poor management culture which has been carried into private commercial broadcasting. What management strategies should be recommended for sustainable CR sector in Nigeria?

Discussion

Speaking on technology, a member said the level of equipment used by a CR station should determine mainly by the size of the Community it serves.

He said that from experience, CR stations in West Africa face a lot of technical problems, including frequent break-down of equipment, without local capacity to maintain them. He added that all CR equipment in the sub-region is imported by business groups and sold exorbitantly to stations without provision for local capacity for maintenance.

He suggested the use of joint or central purchase systems and local arrangements to assemble equipment.

Another participant suggested that for government to be receptive, the committee should recommend the limiting of the range, or radios of coverage of CR stations. A participant clarified that spectrum allocation would take care of this.

On the issue of personnel and training, members generally felt that whether volunteers or not, CR personnel should be adequately trained and have a high level of professionalism.

It was noted that training institutions in the country have nothing on CR in their curricula and that this would mean a need for training initiatives. It was also felt that formal trainings for CR personnel would be complemented by on-the-job learning and attachment to existing stations under exchange programs. There must also be professional codes for them to observe as is done in mainstream broadcasting.

On funding and sustainability, participants raised a variety of suggestions:

- building long-term mechanisms of ensuring that resources get to CR.

- duty waivers and tax holidays on equipment. For example, CR should benefit from the provisions of the UNESCO Florence Treaty to which Nigeria is a signatory. The treaty provides for tax holidays for cultural products, especially non-profit. ECOWAS also has a zero-rating on tax/duty on IT products, under which CR equipment will fall and from which it should benefit.

- Donor round-table – to generate resources

- Networking to some adverts and sharing the proceeds, as in South Africa.

- Allocation of advert air-time percentage to CR

- Linking local community to diaspora community as in Senegal.

The meeting also discussed key thematic issues that could have strong emotional attachment so that the location of pilot CR stations in different

parts of the country could be built around them. The following tentative list was generated:

North-West Zone   -   The Almajiris (street kids)
North-East Zone   -   Desertification/Environment
North-Central Zone - HIV/AIDs
South-East Zone   - Erosion
South-South Zone   - Conflict Resolution
South-West Zone   - Refuse

DAY 2
NOVEMBER 11, 2003

On the second day of the meeting, Alymana Bathily and Dapo Olorunyomi alternated the chairing of the meeting. As in the previous day, activities started at about 9.20am. Bathily reviewed the previous day's events and went through the items for the day. He then gave the floor to Johan Deflander.

SESSION ONE

What Strategy To Implement Community Radio in Nigeria? Johan Deflander

In his presentation on the strategy to implement community radio in Nigeria, Deflander explained that the implementation of community radio should have phases each with its time-frame and actors. Using a diagrammatic representation on a flip chart, Deflander identified the following phases as draft for discussion of the strategy:

The first phase is the setting up of the steering committee. He said the phase of activities of the steering committee is an on-going one. The second phase, he said, was the phase of sensitization and discussions with the broader community. He said the stage is intended to discuss the concept with the people so that they could find out whether the people are interested in the concept. He said the seminars would enable the steering committee

know the methodology or model for the pilot projects. This phase will last for four months.

The third phase is the level of advocacy work. He said it would involve broad support from local organisations. However he was not sure whether a community radio network or federation should be created. He noted that with or without a network, advocacy should be done.

The last phase or phase four of the strategy is the pilot stage, which involves setting up a few community radio stations, as test cases in some select locations.

Discussion of Johan's Strategy

Discussion

Participants discussed the Deflander's presentation, made amendments, fixed time-frames to the activities and adopted the document.

Key among the amendments were:

(a) the inclusion of a National Validation Seminar after the zonal awareness seminars

(b) acceptance of the need for pilot projects.

(c) The need for pre-pilot research to determine thematic issues and suitability of locations as well as post-pilot survey to determine success of the stations

(d) Network or federation will emerge after the national validation seminar. In anticipation that the demand for a network may emerge at the zonal seminars, the meeting urged the project partners to skillful keep such demand in abeyance.

SESSION TWO

STAKEHOLDERS AND OPPONENTS OF COMMUNITY RADIO IN NIGERIA: EDETEAN OJO

Edet Ojo began his presentation by remarking that everybody has an interest in community radio, whether as opponent or supporter, would be considered a stakeholder. He listed stakeholders as follows:

Supporters:

(a) The communities: most of them do not have access to radio and, therefore would want a radio they can call their own.
(b) Community leaders e.g. traditional rulers, Councilors and Chairman of local government, who are opinion moulders in the community.
(c) Media NGOs involved in community radio initiatives
(d) Other community based organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Opponents:

(a) Political authority at the national level, who may see the introduction of community radio as a "media explosion"
(b) Governments at the state level who might think the community radios are out to criticize them.
(c) Existing radios (state-run and private) would bring to the sector.
(d) The Ministry of information (agent of the government charged with information control at the national and state levels) may not like the idea.

The speaker recommended a well thought out advocacy work to counter whatever opposition the project might encounter from any of these identified opponents. Such advocacy work will involve lobbying through the following agents:

- The National Assembly: This law-making arm of government may want a radio they can call their own.

- The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC). The idea should be sold to   the regulatory body by emphasizing the social development agenda of community radio.

- The Broadcasting Organisation of Nigeria (BON)- the administrative and ceremonial leaderships are on different sides of the divide. The former could be constructively engaged.

- The Independent Broadcasters Association some of the members may support the cause of community radio

- Media generally – They are very helpful in the area of awareness, especially the print media.

- The advocacy strategy should emphasize that CR is complementing other tiers of radio

- The advocacy should target local and international constituencies.

- For the purpose of local advocacy, Local SC members should reflect on possible choices as "Champions".

- Participation in the seminars should be sufficiently broadened to include representatives of bodies like media professional organizations, local government councils, religious organizations, executive and legislative organs of state and federal governments.

SESSION THREE

How To Work With Representative Media Organizations and Media-Related NGO-Modibbo Kawu

In his presentation, Modibbo Kawu said media organizations and media – related NGOs would be crucial to the success of the project.

He said media organizations should be strategically used through engagement of not only top management / editorial staff but also middle-level personnel such as producers and presenters.

He also said media NGOs would be very useful if fully informed and carried along in all the stages of the project.

How To Work With Information Ministry and the NBC – Miriam Menkiti

Menkiti said the committee has to develop a comprehensive concept of CR which it would carefully market to enable the Information Ministry and NBC understand and accept community radio.

She said that locating CR stations outside the state capitals was advisable, while issues to be used in marketing CR should be carefully identified and packaged.

Discussion

The three presentations – by Ojo, Kawu and Menkiti – were discussed together. Participants endorsed the suggestions in the presentations.

It was also agreed that the awareness seminars would help discuss and make input into determining the locations of the pilot CR projects. The project partners were, however, requested to neglect on this and help the discussions at the Seminars.

THE STEPS AHEAD

On returning from lunch, the meeting decided to develop two documents – An Action Plan and a Statement. In furtherance of this, it set up a four – member committee to distill its discussions and recommendations and later presented drafts to the house.

This was done, the meeting discussed and ratified the two drafts, the final documents of which are attached as Appendices 3 and 4 at the end of this report.

Closing

Giving the closing remarks on behalf of the partners. Akingbulu commended the members of the Committee for the huge volume of work during the two days of the meeting. Saying that the committee was just beginning to "roll the steering committed into its hands", he urged members to continue the assignment with the same tempo, gusto and enthusiasm.

He said the committee had begun a historic process of interaction, which would expand and help it stay alert to its mandate so it could take the project to the desired goal.

He expressed gratitude to Olorunyomi and Bathily who chaired and skillfully directed the proceeding; the members of the Statement and Action Plan drafting team for a great job, the project partners for cooperating so well to realise the meeting; and all the IMS Staff who ensured the smooth local logistics of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.35p.m.

Appendix 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Mr. Ishaq Modibbo Kawu - Daily Trust Newspapers

2. Mrs. Miriam Menkiti - Radio Nigeria

3. Dr. Umaru Pate - University of Maiduguri

4. Mr. George Christensen –World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)

5. Mr. Jiti Ogunye - Jiti Ogunye Chambers/Lawyers League for Human Rights

6. Mr. Dapo Olorunyomi - Media Consultant

7. Mr. Edetaen Ojo - Media Rights Agenda (MRA)

8. Mr. Akin Akingbulu - Institute For Media and Society (IMS)

9. Mr. Alymana Bathily - Panos Institute West Africa (PIWA)

10. Mr. Johan Deflander - Panos Institute West Africa (PIWA)

Apologies:
1.   Mr. Tunde Adegbola - Tiwa Systems & Technologies.

APPENDIX II:

A DIAGRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY RADIO IN NIGERIA

Phase 1 : Steering Committee – Concept of Community radio
                                         Recommendation
                                         Legislation   -   on going

                                         Regulation
                                         Pilot

Phase (ii): Regional Seminars: OUTPUT   -TIME FRAMEWORK

                                                                    Dec.- March

- CSO, CBO, Grassroots   - 1) FINAL CONCEPT
- Media org., media related org.   – 2) GUILDLINES FOR
- NBC + Policy   - 3) PILOT PROJECT MODELS

NATIONAL VALIDATION SEMINAR
Phase (iii): Advocacy work
             ? Create a Community radio network/Fed ?   - April

National - Personal contacts + share concepts/Guidelines
    -         Print Documentation
    -         Develop academic Research   - May - September
    -         Focus on public awareness

Broad support from local organisation on advocacy
    - Develop local capacity   -   May
    - Training grassroots organisations

Set up pilots to proof that the Concept is working

Pilot (Phase iv)?
- Identification?
- Training + Technical   - May -
  September

- Operational Phase - 1 yr monitoring - October – September
  2005

Appendix (iii)

The Lagos Statement on Community Radio Broadcasting in Nigeria

We, members of the Steering Committee on the initiative for Building Community Radio in Nigeria, at our inaugural meeting at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, on November 10 and 11, 2003 recognise the desirability of pluralistic sources of information, especially at community levels and therefore commit ourselves to a process of bringing about the emergence and development of community radio in Nigeria and accordingly:

We call on the Nigerian authorities to endorse and adopt the African charter on Broadcasting, a document agreed to by stakeholders at the 10th Anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration on Freedom of the Press held in Windhoek, Namibia in May 2001 and endorsed by the African Union at its summit in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003.

Urge the Nigerian authorities to undertake a comprehensive review of the National Mass communication Policy leading to the emergence of a new Policy which recognises a pluralist radio sector, that includes the public, private commercial and community sectors, each with its mandate responding to the specific needs of the people it serves.

Furthermore, within the framework of the definition of Community Broadcasting as contained in the African Charter on Broadcasting, we recommend:

- That the Nigerian authorities should draw up a frequency allocation plan that ensures equitable access for all tiers of broadcasters to frequencies in urban and in rural areas.

- That the principles and procedures for frequency allocation to community radio should be publicly stated, and implemented in an open and transparent manner.

In accordance with the principles enunciated in the UNESCO Florence Treaty, Nigerian authorities should introduce and implement a waiver of tariffs and duties on equipment and consumables for community radios being non-profit ventures.

Regarding it public service mission and its not-for-profit status, community radio should be exempted from the payment of licensing fees.

To ensure financial viability and sustainability of community radio, we recommend that the Nigerian government contribute substantially to an independent community radio fund.

The National Mass Media Policy should recognise and support the specific training needs of community radios, especially as regards management, programming and maintenance.

We recommend that a review of the existing legal framework for broadcasting in Nigeria be undertaken with a view to recognizing and providing for its licensing and establishment of community radios. In particular, we strongly urge that the National Broadcasting commission Act No. 38 of 1992 and its amendment, Act No. 55 of 1999, be further amended to reflect these changes.

In line with the spirit of Article 9 of the African Charter on Human Rights, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 of the International covenant on Civil and Political Rights, we call on the National Assembly, to speedily pass into law the freedom of information Bill, which has been pending since 1999.

Dated this 11th Day of November, 2003 at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja.

Appendix IV

We, members of the Steering Committee on the initiative for Community Radio in Nigeria, at our inaugural meeting at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, on November 10 and 11, 2003, hereby commit ourselves to a four phase plan of action as follows:

Phase One

The inauguration of the Steering Committee and the drafting of the Statement on Community Radio.
Development of a Concept Paper on community radio in Nigeria, which proposes a review of existing policy and reform of existing legislation and regulations.
Explore the feasibility of establishing pilot community radios in the six geo-political zones of the country, as an advocacy tool.
The timeline for these activities to be implemented will be six months.

Phase Two

The holding of four regional Awareness Seminars, to be attended by Civil Society Organisations, Community Based Organisations, grassroots organisations, media-related and media organisations, officials of the National Broadcasting Commission, policy-makers, including some state

commissioners for information and the chair persons of the committees on information in some state Houses of Assembly.

The regional seminars will be organised by the partners with assistance from members of the Steering Committee. The seminars will be organised within a period of four months, beginning from December 2003. The expected output from the awareness seminars shall be the emergence of a final Community Radio concept Paper as well as Guidelines for policy reform, legislation and regulation. These documents will be validated at a National Validation Seminar which will take place at the beginning of May 2004. The National Validation Seminar will be organised by the partners with assistance from members of the Steering Committee.

Following the conclusion of the regional awareness seminars in March 2004, advocacy documents will be drafted and produced during the month of April 2004.

Phase Three

This phase of the project will involve three levels of advocacy work – international, national and local.

At the international level, the international partners in the project – Panos Institute West Africa (PIWA) and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) will mobilize support for the case of community radio in Nigeria.

At the national level, the Nigerian partner, Institute for Media and Society (IMS), working with members of the Steering Committee, will undertake a series of advocacy activities, including personal contacts with key advocacy targets, dissemination of advocacy materials, initiating academic research projects to support advocacy work, organisation of public awareness campaigns, etc.

At the local level, the partners, working with members of the Steering Committee, will organise training workshops to develop the capacity of local organisations to undertake advocacy in favour of community radio.

The phase of the project will take a period of five months.

Phase Four

If thought feasible, the partners, working with members of the Steering Committee, will embark on the establishment of pilot community radio stations in the six geo-political zones of the country. This phase of the project will involve the identification of locations for the pilot stations, training and technical support to the management and personnel of the community radios and an operational phase of the stations which will be for a period of about 12 months. The pilot stations will be monitored throughout this period and evaluated afterwards.

The identification state of this phase will begin in May 2004. The training and technical support stage will take place between May and September 2004, while the initial monitoring of the pilot stations will take place from October 2004.

Dated this 11th Day of November 2003 at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja.