

September 16, 2014

**By E-Mail**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554.**

**Dear FCC,**

**Re: IBCA Comments to the FCC proposals on Net Neutrality laws**

The Internet Business Council for Africa (IBCA) opposes the proposed rules on Net Neutrality.

Net neutrality is the fundamental principle for the enabling of a level platform for everyone in the use of the internet service. It is the First Amendment that was established by the FCC in the 2010 Open Internet Order, it ensures that the internet remains free, accessible and sustains a thriving environment where openness is treasured.

We understand that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is indeed evaluating and [considering a set of new regulations](#) that would allow some Internet service providers to allow faster access to some websites who can afford to pay for the premium services or perhaps redirect users from one website to a competing website. This is unacceptable and it needs not happen.

The Internet Business Council for Africa (IBCA) is joining other users of the internet to fight and defend Net Neutrality as currently constituted. We strongly believe that all internet Service providers ought to treat all data that flows through their systems and networks equally under the same conditions without any preferential treatment nor blockages.

We understand that the change of rules would provide a detrimental precedence and give a bad example to the developing nations such as Africa where our constituents are situated. We believe that accepting there rules as written will allow ISPs to discriminate websites that cannot pay higher premiums for preferential treatment; this indeed undermines business especially for startups that are growing from all over the continent and shunt their growth.

Net Neutrality provides the e-democracy that prevents the big corporations from selective provision of what can be seen or not seen in the internet. The internet must remain free, open and

available to all, access to information is key to knowledge and content development and we intend to protect and maintain the status quo.

We also believe that Net neutrality ensures privacy and access to privacy protection mechanisms that allows for encrypted traffic; this will also prevent censorship from any repressive governments and or private organization from censorship. Therefore this needs not be taken away by changing rules.

Sincerely

The Secretariat,

The Internet Business Council for Africa (IBCA)

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