



Relevant ICC policy positions on connecting the next billion

The table below notes the structure of the ‘Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion’ compilation as included on the IGF website [here](#). The colour blue captures where there is relevant International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) policy material for input on the topic. All relevant ICC policy input is compiled on the following pages.

<p>I) Issues related to Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Physical (Undersea Fiber Cables, Broadband, Spectrum, Mobile, etc.) b. Universal Service Fund Applications c. IXPs / Interconnection layer d. IPv6
<p>II) Issues related to usability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Content b. Applications c. Services d. Local content, multilingualism e. Accessibility f. IPR
<p>III) Issues related to enabling individuals online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Human rights b. Inclusiveness (gender, youth) c. User literacy d. Digital citizenship e. Entrepreneurship
<p>IV) Issues related to affordability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Digital divide b. Costs of access per capita
<p>V) Policy options for creating an enabling environment for access and connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Government, regulatory authorities and IGO frameworks (laws and regulations) b. Private Sector led Initiatives (market strategies) c. Non-Profit and other initiatives



Infrastructure

Broadband deployment

A pro-competitive broadband policy that ensures the right market conditions for infrastructure investment and innovation is essential to the on-going deployment of broadband. This pro-competitive framework must be technology neutral and market-led. Otherwise, the potential for broadband deployment may easily be stifled. Several policy challenges need to be resolved to create the right market conditions to promote broadband deployment such as: promoting a culture of security, combating cybercrime, ensuring effective intellectual property protection.

[ICC policy statement on broadband deployment \(2002\)](#)

Deployment of IPv6

The deployment of IPv6 requires a significant planning and awareness-raising effort by business and governments in the medium term. ICC encourages business and governments to maximize and coordinate their efforts so that all Internet users will benefit from the increased efficiency and opportunities IPv6 offers.

[ICC policy statement on deploying the next generation Internet: ICC statement on the introduction of IPv6 \(2004\)](#)

Mobile broadband spectrum

There are considerable economic benefits of taking action now to ensure that sufficient spectrum is available to support the increasing demands following current and expected data traffic trends. Within this discussion paper, ICC recognises that there are many important uses of spectrum, including for both broadcast and mobile broadband.

[ICC Discussion paper on mobile broadband spectrum \(2012\)](#)

ICT's impact on job creation and growth

Businesses from all sectors make important contributions to economic growth, jobs and prosperity. The Internet and information communication technologies (ICTs) play a positive role in promoting job creation and economic growth. ICC recommends policymakers seize opportunities to realise growth.

[ICC policy briefing tool on ICTs' and the Internet's impact on job creation and economic growth \(2012\)](#)

Usability

Environmental sustainability

Innovative ICT solutions can help organizations map out their priorities, informing decisions as to funding, staffing and resource allocation to improve sustainability and profitability, further driving growth and innovation. In all of these efforts, modern high speed broadband networks will be the



crucial enabler for almost all industries and essential for leading the way to a low carbon society. Without a modern telecommunication infrastructure of high speed networks, society cannot reap the whole potential of possible CO₂ emission reduction that green ICT solutions can provide.

[ICC discussion paper on ICTs and environmental sustainability \(2010\)](#)

Promote development of locally-relevant content, resources and tools

Policies that promote the continued creation of locally relevant content should be encouraged, including protections for the freedom of expression, the press, privacy and intellectual property, the development of e-commerce infrastructure, consumer protections, and trusted online payment systems. Such policies should be market-driven and based on voluntary commercial arrangements, avoiding schemes that unduly burden any one sector over another such as mandatory must-carry regimes.

[ICC BASIS WSIS written submission for the non-paper \(2015\)](#)

Enabling individuals online

Freedom of expression and free flow of information

For many years, ICC has been demonstrating its strong support of human rights. ICC was closely involved in the development of the UN “Protect Respect and Remedy” Framework, whose underlying philosophy clearly differentiates the State duty to protect human rights and the corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

Business strongly supports the freedom of expression and free flow of information in a manner that respects the rights of others and the rule of law. ICC strongly recommends that governments adopt the principle that the offline laws and rules apply online and on the Internet.

The freedom of expression to be fully exercised requires the free flow of information, also over the Internet.

Limitations to the right to free expression should only be for legitimate public policy objectives, such as protecting the rights of others and the rule of law consistent with international treaties, and should be tailored to meet such objectives, and decisions on Internet governance and policy issues on all levels should be consistent with international human rights.

[ICC policy statement on the freedom of expression and the free flow of information on the Internet \(2012\)](#)

Build inclusive information societies

People with disabilities experience a variety of barriers to fully participate in the information society, including inaccessible web sites, mobile phones, personal computers, tablets, as well as many other digital interfaces in public and private spaces such as electronic kiosks, banking machines, or



electronic voting machines. If ICT accessibility requirements are not adequately addressed, people with disabilities and senior citizens with sensorial, physical or cognitive impairments are excluded from mainstream information sources and services, reducing their ability to participate in information societies, and thus minimizing their potential contributions.

[ICC BASIS WSIS written submissions for the non-paper \(2015\)](#)

Affordability

Encouraging investment in broadband development

Strategies proven to promote broadband deployment and, in turn, fuel the growth of the Internet include:

- (1) open and competitive markets with fair, investment-friendly and comparable regulatory intervention for all actors active in the digital value chain;
- (2) a strong reliance on voluntary commercial arrangements;
- (3) policies that promote efficiency through engineering-driven design, such as the creation of IXPs; and
- (4) policies that promote the growth of the products and services delivered over broadband.

[ICC BASIS WSIS written submission for the non-paper \(2015\)](#)

Examples of private Sector led initiatives for creating an enabling environment for access and connectivity

Yes, I can! Initiative, Deutsche Telekom AG.

This initiative aims at the acquisition of personal skills by children and young people. Skills include, among others, media competence, conflict resolution and, more generally, an improvement of the technological and social skills of children and young people from disadvantaged environments. To date, this initiative has reached over 30,000 children and young people through 140 projects.

[ICC BASIS input to WSIS stocktaking \(2012\)](#)

Kidsmart Guide to Early Learning and Technology, IBM

The initiative involves partnerships with early learning organizations and Ministries of Education to establish learning centres consisting of IBM computer hardware and educational software available to 3-6 year old children from low income families in the US, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The goal is to address social needs and reduce the digital divide between children and their peers with greater opportunities, provide high quality training for teachers and involve parents.

[ICC BASIS input to WSIS stocktaking \(2012\)](#)

Orange “Community phone”

Over 1,700 villages and 3 million people are currently benefiting from the Orange “Community phone” solution - in Mali, Niger, the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire and the Central African Republic, community



phones encourage micro-entrepreneurship, since a person equipped with an antenna, a mobile phone and a solar battery charger can become the operator for an entire village where traditional technical solution are too expensive for the volume of traffic. A “Community Internet” solution developed by Orange is currently being tested in Uganda.

[ICC BASIS input to the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development \(CSTD\) report for its 16th session, 3-7 June 2013 \(2013\)](#)

Ericsson, Millennium Villages

Mobile connectivity is a key enabler in helping to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals. More than 500,000 people throughout 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa benefit from mobile connectivity as a result of the Millennium Villages Project.

[ICC BASIS input to WSIS stocktaking \(2012\)](#)

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