

IGF 2016 Workshop Report

Session Title	Initiatives Connecting the Unconnected: Where's the Data?
Date	6th December, 2016
Time	12:00-1:30 p.m.
Session Organizer	Hernan Galperin, Christopher Yoo and Sharada Srinivasan
Chair/Moderator	Alexandre Barbosa
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Sharada Srinivasan
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Hernan Galperin, USC Helani Galpaya, LIRNEAsia Allison Gillwald, Research ICT Africa María Elena Estavillo Flores, IFT, Mexican Telecom Regulatory and Competition Authority Rajan Mathews, COAI Moctar Yedaly, African Union Commission
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lack of systematic demand-side ICT statistics collection through representative household surveys at regular intervals b) Lack of funding for large scale representative sample surveys c) Influence of data on policy-making in different jurisdictions and the challenges thereof
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	The Mexican Telecom Regulatory and Competition Authority's Elena Estavillo made a presentation on the collection and use of data by the Mexican telecom regulator to analyze trends to inform policy decisions
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	<p>The lively 90-minute discussion engaged several key aspects relating to the availability, use and gathering of data.</p> <p>Alison Gillwald shed light on the lack of availability of public administrative data at a large scale in the realm of ICT statistics, both on the demand as well as the supply side. Hernan Galperin provided perspectives from Latin America, where the challenges are primarily on the demand-side with over 200 million people not using the Internet despite having access. He also said that there was a need to make the right datasets visible, and avoid the use of unrepresentative sample sizes where possible as it could influence policy adversely. Helani Galpaya spoke to the opportunities that can be seized by adopting a data-driven approach to policymaking to connect the unconnected, and spoke of the lack of funding for the collection of data through large scale representative sample surveys of households, especially for researchers from the developing world.</p> <p>Rajan Mathews provided a business perspective to the debate,</p>

	<p>speaking to the privacy concerns surrounding data disclosure. He admitted that while there was a vast trove of data with operators, one must be cautious about the use of such data. Further, he argued that data-driven approaches to policy making are key, and said that regulatory capacity to process and utilize this data meaningfully must be inculcated in the relevant circles.</p> <p>Moctar Yedaly spoke from the perspective of a policy maker, and said that timely transmission of data to the right sources is of importance and that the form of transmission of this data in an easily digestible manner is key. Elena Estavillo from the Mexican telecom regulator further highlighted the ways in which the Mexican regulator was using data and analyzing trends in the market to inform policy decisions.</p> <p>The discussion included a note on methodology and its importance, as well as an emphasis on the relevance of the representative nature of datasets.</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is a dire need for open, publicly available large scale administrative data sets b) Visibility of available data to inform policy is of utmost importance, as bad data or unrepresentative datasets can often skew policy decisions c) Data needs to be made accessible to policy makers at the right time and in the right form, for it to be effective in its utilization.