



**Policy Option for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion – Phase II:
Call for Public Input
11 July 2016**

Introduction

In 2015, over 70 [submissions](#), including 22 from national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs), contributed to the development of a set of [Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion](#) that were presented at IGF 2015 in João Pessoa, Brazil, in November 2015.

The first phase of the IGF intersessional Project *Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion* (2015) focused on developing a set of policy options aiming at the creation of enabling environments, including deploying infrastructure, increasing usability, enabling users and ensuring affordability.

In April 2016, the MAG decided to explore further developing the IGF “*Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion*”.

Phase II (2016): Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion

The UN Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies information and communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Internet as horizontal enablers for development. Paragraph 9-c. sets an important goal for the international community, namely to:

“Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020”

Given ICTs and the Internet are so important to development, it is critical that policy options and strategies be tailored to local needs and specificities. In 2016, it is proposed to further develop the 2015 *Policy Options* by emphasizing local and regional specificities and by demonstrating how *Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion* contributes to reaching the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Learn more about this initiative

Read the full outline framework document, including a more detailed description, explanation of modalities, and timeline, [here](#).

Guidelines for background contributions

All stakeholders are invited to submit contributions on the theme “*Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion*”. Contributions from NRIs, best practice forums (BPFs) dynamic coalitions (DCs) and IGF workshops are particularly welcome.

What format should my feedback be in?

Contributions are preferred in Microsoft Word, but should as far as possible be supported by links to studies, reports, references, statistics, etc. and are expected to be of reasonable length in order to maximize readability. Additional templates may be developed to aid contributions if this is deemed helpful.

What will happen to my contribution?

All contributions will be published on the IGF's website and will be analysed and incorporated into the outcome document for *Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion*, as far as is deemed possible and relevant by the editorial group of volunteers. All contributors' details will be credited in the outcome document, and contributions may be published on the IGF's website.

What is the deadline for contributions?

While we would appreciate input by 31 July 2016, we will continue to receive contributions on a rolling basis until 31 August for the first draft.

To facilitate the participation of national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs) that might only host their respective events later this year, no deadline has been prescribed for NRIs.

Who do I send my feedback to?

Email contributions should be sent to Anri van der Spuy (avanderspuy@unog.ch) and Brian Gutterman (gutterman@un.org).

What if I have more questions?

For further queries, or for more information, please contact Constance Bommelaer (bommelaer@isoc.org), the coordinator of this initiative.

Proposed questions to guide your response:

While inputs of any format will be considered for incorporation, a suggested format could include bullet points addressing some or all of the following questions:

1. How would you define, or how do you understand, the theme "Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion"?
Answer: It is about the possibility to connect and enabling the next billion of people that do not have access to the Internet around the world. There is an estimative that shows there is an average of 1 billion people that do not have access to the Internet, and so there are efforts and initiatives to connect these people and enabling the next billion.
2. The first phase of Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion (2015) identified a set of policy options aimed at the creation of enabling environments, including deploying infrastructure, increasing usability, enabling users, and ensuring

affordability. What are the factors to consider when adopting these policy options at local levels (e.g. the state of a country's market development, the available infrastructure, level of capacity-building, etc.).

Answer: Here in Brazil the main point it is about the price (unfortunately there are people which can not pay to get access to the Internet, beyond the price change for some areas) and difficult geolocalizations areas to lead the Internet, for exemple, the Brazilian Army are responsible to implant optical fiber in áreas that are difficult to lead it as some Amazonas county
<http://www2.planalto.gov.br/acompanhe-planalto/noticias/2016/07/acao-do-exercito-leva-fibra-optica-a-municipios-no-amazonas>

3. Are you aware of any specificities around connectivity at a local or regional level? (In other words, do you know of factors that impact connectivity in, for instance, rural areas but less so at an urban level? Or factors that affect connectivity at regional or larger scale, but not as noticeably at local or smaller scale?)

Answer: As the answer above, there are difficult geolocalizations areas to lead the Internet, mainly rural areas such as Amazonas forest and surround areas, some small isolated towns and more.

4. Data shows that the growth of Internet adoption is slowing down in some areas, especially as broadband services extend to more remote, less densely populated areas (facing challenges beyond affordability and availability).

What are some of the barriers or limitations preventing people who *do* have Internet access from being enabled or empowered through such connectivity?

Answer: Price, the fact that do not know what is Internet for, simply do not want to use it, as I listened in the X Internet Governance Forum in João Pessoa – Brazil, in one of the phases of the *Deliberative Poll at the 2015 Internet Governance Forum: Access for the Next Billion Users* into my group a researcher from Africa continent explained that most africans simply do not want to get connected, so I consider this fact as a barrier. The final draft can be get in <http://cdd.stanford.edu/2016/piloting-the-use-of-deliberative-polling-for-multistakeholder-internet-governance/> and the explanation of the project in <http://cddr.l.fsi.stanford.edu/libtech/research/deliberative-poll-internet-governance-forum-2015>

5. What does meaningful access mean?

Answer: The possibility to establish a connection to the Internet compared to the mainstream Internet cultures, for instance, to have the same Internet access that the United States of America have.

6. How can connectivity contribute to reaching the new SDGs?

Answer: A good vision to answer and justify how connectivity contribute to reaching the new SDGs is to think in a world without Internet, how would be? And the phrase: who has information has power.

7. Do you examples of stories where using ICTs to support development has not worked, and why?

Answer: Yes, I have a historical one. May be not a good one, but a historical one, and it is about the second war when the german encryption machine Enigma and

their messages were intercepted and broken... that period the ICTs was used to destruct a nation, unfortunately.

8. Can you think of ways in which ICTs or Internet connectivity could be used to help reach the SDGs?

Answer: Both ICTs and Internet in certain way are connected, so them could be used to help reach the SDGs certainly providing knowledge, because knowledge is the basis for the future and to build things daily.

9. Do you know of examples of success stories that can illustrate how Internet access can help to address real-world problems (in either developed or developing countries)? For example, do you have stories or experiences to share regarding some or all of the following SDG-related question:

•How can connecting and enabling users help to **reduce poverty** in its various forms? (SDG 1)

Answer: If people get access to information throught the Internet, connecting and enabling users can help to reduce poverty in mid-term, we can use as a illustrate people that use the Internet to learn how improve their knowledge in planting techniques in rural areas, climate conditions and more.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to **end hunger, achieve food security and support improved nutrition**? (SDG 2)

Answer: For exemple, use the Internet to communicate local systems and check needy areas and so communicate to local government systems which is responsible to provide food support.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to **promote sustainable agriculture**? (SDG 2)

Answer: As well as answer to question 9 (SDG 1), mainly in knowledge and get access to information to learn new agriculture techniques, best practices, monitor the local climate and more.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to ensure **health lives** and to promote **well-being** at all ages? (SDG 3)

Answer: There are a lot of content on the Internet which may provide well-being at all ages, for example some entertainment content such as some website/app that provide streaming videos. Too, in the same way of contente, websites/apps that provide tips to live a health life.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to ensure inclusive and equitable, quality **education**? (SDG 4)

Answer: There is a report called *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression Frank La Rue* of UN through its OHCHR agency (Office of the High Comissioner for Human Rights) the institution points out that disconnecting people from the Internet it is considered a crime and violation of the Human Rights (OHCHR, 2011,

page 21-

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27_e

[n.pdf](#)). So connecting and enabling users and so provide equal opportunities to access information on the Internet sure helps to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to promote lifelong **learning opportunities**? (SDG 4)

Answer: It is more or less in the same way of the answer above, for example, provide a online library.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to achieve **gender equality**? (SDG 5)

Answer: It is more or less in the same way of the answer above, for example, provide access to websites that have gender equality contents.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to **empower women and girls**? (SDG 5)

Answer: It is more or less in the same way of the answer above, for example, provide access to websites that have women and girls equality contentes, specific forums to make them get connected with each other.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to ensure the availability and sustainable management of **water and sanitation**? (SDG 6)

Answer: Connecting systems and unifying the control. Here in Brazil we have the embedded systems that controls the water and sanitations management and some distributed systems that change information through Internet. Here we can check some information about the *National Information Management of Solid Waste System* (in portuguese *Sistemas Nacional de Informações Sobre a Gestão dos Resíduos Sólidos – SINIR*) <http://sinir.gov.br/> and *Water National Agency* (in português *Agência Nacional de Águas – ANA*) <http://www2.ana.gov.br/Paginas/default.aspx>.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern **energy**? (SDG 7)

Answer: Connecting systems and unifying the control or indicators. Here in Brazil we have the embedded systems that controls the energy distributions and some distributed systems that change informations through Internet. Here we can check some information about the *National Operator of the Electrical Systems* (in português *Operador Nacional do Sistema Elétrico*) <http://www.ons.org.br/home/>.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable **economic growth**? (SDG 8)

Answer: With the use of tools to provide more productivity in nacional strategies for instance.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to promote full and **productive employment**? (SDG 8)

Answer: With the use of some Internet based apps/systems to manage employment productive.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to ensure **decent work**? (SDG 8)

Answer: Using the Internet to search a decent work. There are a lot of Internet based websites that provide services to help people to search decent work.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to build resilient **infrastructure**, promote inclusive and sustainable **industrialization** and foster **innovation**? (SDG 9)

Answer: Mainly providing knowledge and sharing opportunities in websites.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to **reduce inequality** within and among countries? (SDG 10)

Answer: Using the Internet to provide financial support for example. In 2015 Nepal suffered an earthquake, and so some Nonprofit Organizations got some donations through Internet to help Nepal.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to make **cities** and human **settlements** inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable? (SDG 11)

Answer: Disclosing opportunities in websites and local government programs which shows opportunities in his own website about social programs.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to ensure sustainable **consumption and production** patterns? (SDG 12)

Answer: Providing behavior studies about data collected of the users Internet using and so creating better using experience for users based in these data collected.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to combat **climate change** and its impacts? (SDG 13)

Answer: Providing information about them in websites' climate change observers based.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to conserve and sustainably use the **oceans, seas** and **marine resources** for sustainable development? (SDG 14)

Answer: Providing information about them in websites' best practices in the nature and marine resources importance.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of **terrestrial ecosystems**, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss? (SDG 15)

Answer: As well as the answer above, so providing information in websites about them.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to **promote peaceful and inclusive societies** for sustainable development? (SDG 16)

Answer: With the possibility to these people to learn and get cultural knowledge.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to provide access to **justice** for all? (SDG 16)

Answer: With the possibility to these people learning about their rights and duties in local county and government so.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to build effective, accountable and inclusive **institutions** at all levels? (SDG 16)

Answer: The more people get knowledge the more able to be inclusive they get.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to strengthen the means of **implementation** (SDG 17)

Answer: Every person who happens to be connected is a small step closer to the goal of connecting the next billion.

•How can connecting and enabling users help to revitalize the **global partnership** for sustainable development? (SDG 17)

Answer: To make these people get Internet using included.