**IGF2021**

**Draft Preparatory Session Agenda: Universal Access & Meaningful Connectivity**

**November 1, 2021, 12h00 UTC** (TBC)

**Zoom**

Issue area: Universal Access & Meaningful Connectivity

Brief description that can be used in promotional materials and in the schedule (also to be added to the issues wiki):

This preparatory session will offer attendees an introduction to the policy issue area of Universal Access & Meaningful Connectivity (UAMC), one of two Main Focus areas of the IGF2021, as well as a preview of related IGF programming. The session will feature discussion on developing meaningful access to Internet infrastructure where there is none, for example through innovative business models and the creation and maintenance of community networks, as well as key topics relating to accessibility and use of the Internet, such as Universal Acceptance, content in one’s own language, and digital skill-building. All interested are welcome, and organizers and speakers in UAMC sessions planned for IGF2021 are particularly encouraged to attend, in order to foster early connections and exchange in preparation for the hybrid event in December.

Moderators: (one for chat and at least one that moderates verbal inputs and discussion)

TBD

Speakers:

* Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) - Web Foundation
* Edmon Chung, .asia
* Carlos Francisco Baca Feldman, Rhizomatica / CITSAC
* Fatema Kothari, Head of Operations for Microsoft’s Airband Initiative

Please note that we are still looking for speakers on the topics of:

* Local content and languages
* Digital skill-building, and
* Spectrum

(see the draft agenda, below)

Rapporteur:

TBD

**Agenda**

**Introduction** *2 minutes*

A MAG member will provide a brief orientation of the session – its purpose, the agenda, etc. – and introduce the keynote speaker.

Speaker: TBD

**Scene-Setting Remarks** *8 minutes*

The keynote speaker should be a subject matter expert; remarks should address the first two of the six policy questions developed by the MAG:

***1.******Defining universal and meaningful access:*** *What are the key elements that constitute universal and meaningful Internet access? How can it be measured? How is the concept evolving in time and what does this evolution mean for policy?*

***2.******Barriers to universal and meaningful access:*** *What are the main challenges that people face in obtaining and making full use of Internet access? To what extent are these the result of social, economic and cultural factors, and to what extent do they result from aspects of the digital environment? How can we use the responses to these questions to better understand the intersection between digital policies and other policy areas? Can this understanding help us to develop and implement more realistic Internet-related policy goals?*

Speaker: Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) - Web Foundation

*1.*     **Universal Access to Infrastructure** *35 minutes*

This part of the preparatory session will cover policy issues related to providing Internet infrastructure and access. Relevant IGF2021 Sessions should be highlighted here, and speakers – whether from the planned sessions or other, can address two of the /many/ topics in this area.

* Topic 1 - *Business models that address access barriers*
  + Speaker: Fatema Kothari, Head of Operations for Microsoft’s Airband
  + Discussion
* Topic 2 - *Community networks and capacity building*
  + Speaker: Carlos Francisco Baca Feldman, Rhizomatica / CITSAC
  + Discussion
* Topic 3 – *Spectrum Allocation (TBC)*
  + Speaker
  + Discussion

*2.*     **Accessibility / Use***35 minutes*

This part of the preparatory session will cover policy issues related to enabling Internet users to make meaningful use of Internet connectivity once they have it. Relevant Workshop/Open Forum/NRI/BPF/DC Sessions should be featured here, and speakers – whether from the planned sessions or other, can speak to these issues.

* Topic 1 - *Universal Acceptance; Content in one’s own language*
  + Speaker: Edmon Chung, .asia
  + Speaker:
* Topic 2 - *Digital Skills*
  + Speaker: TBD
  + Discussion

**Conclusion** *5 minutes*

Needs for tech or other forms of logistical support: Zoom meeting host; Secretariat outreach to relevant UAMC session organizers and speakers.