

## IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	WS. 264: Public Policies to Increase Accessibility
Date	December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Time	9:00 hrs.
Session Organizer	Federal Telecommunications Institute
Chair/Moderator	Monica Duhem, Director, Hearcolors
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Diana Gomez, Federal Telecommunications Institute
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Mignon L. Clyburn, Federal Communications Commission James Thurston, G3ict Adriana Labardini, Federal Telecommunications Institute Chandra Roy-Henriksen, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at United Nations Donal J. Rice, National Disability Authority of Ireland Shadi Abou-Zahra, W3C , Web Accessibility Initiative
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify the measures to increase the accessibility to ICTs and reduce the digital divide existing towards women and girls, people with disabilities, isolated groups and indigenous people</li> <li>- Policies focus on the adoption of accessibility requirements</li> <li>- The role of different stakeholders in order to promote the inclusion and access to information technologies</li> <li>- The main challenges that exist in the implementation of public policies that promote accessibility</li> </ul>
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	No presentations were used
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	<p>One of the main points discussed was the role of governments, especially the role of the regulator to increase the accessibility and inclusion of women and girls, people with disabilities, indigenous people, and other vulnerable groups. In this regard, the Federal Telecommunications Institute share its experience in promoting the accessibility in Mexico. For example, the Institute issued the guidelines on how the telecommunication and broadcasting services should be made available on an accessible way. Also, it was stipulated that a regulator shall ensure that broadband is accessible and affordable to everyone. To achieve this, it was highlighted the project of the United States called “Connecting Communities tour” that seeks to enclose the communications and opportunities divide.</p> <p>Another point of discussion was the market. It was said that marketplace typically addresses consumer needs by producing products and services that consumers want, but this does not always occur when it comes to devices and applications that can enhance</p>

	<p>the lives for persons with disabilities. This is a market failure that occur for many reasons like: the disability market is too small for market forces but the truth is that people with disability earn lower incomes which means less purchasing power, which makes it economically less attractive for business.</p> <p>It was highlighted the importance of the accessibility requirements in order to avoid reduction of market for accessibility issues. In this regard, it was also recognized the importance of open standards and standards that are freely available, particularly for accessibility to allow innovation, development of low-cost and affordable assistive technologies, and production of interoperability of devices in many parts.</p> <p>In the same way, it was discussed the inclusion of indigenous people, and it was recognized that indigenous people are amongst the most marginalized all over the world, whether it's a developed country or a developing country. The indigenous people deal with more problems and obstacles to access to ICTs.</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>The panelists agreed that there is a lot of work to do regarding the smart cities and the Internet of things in order to increase accessibility between the devices. It is important to make sure that the new technologies bring people closer not the opposite.</p> <p>Also, it is important to encourage economic competition, universal service obligations, and recognize the pervasiveness of communications in it commercial transactions.</p>