

Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion – Phase IV CENB IV

I – Co-Coordiators

Raquel Gatto and Wisdom Donkor (MAG members)

Constance Bommelaer, ISOC and Christopher Yoo, Penn University (invited by the MAG)

(open to interested participants)

II - Background

In 2015, the IGF MAG decided to develop the intersessional work under the topic “Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion” (CNB track), starting a new methodology to build the policy recommendations based on broad consultations, bottom up crowdsourcing and cross-engaging the work of NRIs, DCs and BPFs. The discussions were focused on infrastructure, increasing usability, enabling users, entering affordability and enabling environments. The final output document is [here](#).

Given the successful results of this trend, the IGF MAG has continued a second phase of the intersessional work for Connecting the Next Billion, focused narrowly on how ICTs can help reach United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the lens on local and regional specificities. Phase II built on the policy options developed in 2015 during the first phase, which aimed at supporting the creation of enabling environments, including deploying infrastructure, increasing usability, enabling users, and ensuring affordability. The final report is [here](#).

Building on the previous year’s results, the IGF MAG has approved a third phase to focus on a limited number of SDGs, namely SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender) and SDG 9 (Infrastructure) that are impacted by ICTs and to do a deep dive in collecting and analyzing case studies worldwide. This approach has completed phase I and II with concrete local experiences. The final output document can be found [here](#).

In the past three years, the CENB track has received nearly 200 submissions, including many from national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs), that contributed to the development of comprehensive sets of Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions, and demonstrate through case studies how ICTs can enable SDGs 4, 5 or 9.

III - Description of the work for 2018

Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion towards fulfilling the SDGs

These Policy Options and concrete examples are already serving as tangible and useful resources for policymakers and other stakeholders, but also symbolize the IGF community’s conviction that the need for multistakeholder collaboration towards expanding meaningful Internet access is a shared goal that remains at the core of Internet governance.

The objective for this year CENB IV is to collect concrete stories showcasing how connecting the next billion(s) helps achieve broader Sustainable Development Goals such as:

- SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (particular linkage with Internet access)
- SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

We would continue to rely on community inputs, including NRIs experiences, but also looking for a closer collaboration with other BPFs and DCs (for example, DC3, Youth-DC etc).

IV - Outreach plan and multistakeholder engagement in the work Rough Guidelines

- All stakeholders are invited to submit contributions.
- We will continue to encourage community inputs that are already engaging with the IGF -- from NRIs, BPFs, DCs, but also encouraging inputs from external resources, such as organizations like WEF, Intergovernmental organizations, such as the ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNDP, ISOC, IEEE, and others who are contributing to affecting connectivity initiatives. This will require more effective outreach to such entities to publicize the call for contributions.
- Rounds of online public consultations will be conducted, following the previous years' experience for an open and bottom-up process.
- Contributions must be supported by studies, reports, references, statistics etc
- All formats are welcome but contributions are expected to be of reasonable length in order to maximize readability. A template will be developed to support further contributions.
- Multilinguism is important and will be considered in this work. However given the language skills limitation within the working team, automatic translation tools will be necessary.
- Outreach and engagement through various online platforms as strategically needed (e.g., survey, twitter conversations, webinars)
- The final output document will be shared in other fora (WSIS-related, G20 etc)

V - Tentative Timeline

March/April – fine tune proposal and approval in the MAG

May/June – launch Call for Contributions (close mid-June)

July/August – launch first draft for comments (close mid-August to merge comments)

September – launch second draft for comments (close end of September)

Early November – launch final draft output for discussions during IGF

November/December – discussions during IGF

Post-IGF: Final Document published, incorporating multiple comments.

