**Open Forum “Island surrounded by land and sea: The road to full connectivity for LLDC’s, LDC’s and SIDS’s”**

**Moderator: First Secretary Miguel Candia Ibarra,**

2017 IGF MAG Member; First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.

Venue : Room XXII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Date : 21st of December 2017.

Time : 12:00 to 13:30 Hours.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The objective of this Open Forum is to bring together various experts and representatives from the Digital environment, to deepen the understanding of and widen the debate on the implicances of the ICT’s in enabling ways to develop critical infrastructure in developing countries, such as the LLCD’s, LDC’s and SIDS’s.

It is widely comprehended that developing countries face several challenges in their policy environment to enhance its capabilities, and to improve connectivity. Some of these challenges are:

1. Most developing countries do not have the means to invest in high – tech critical infrastructure without foreign investment, technical know – how and cooperation for the development of national content and data management.
2. Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States face particular challenges, including higher broadband costs due to geographical constraints;
3. Large platforms do not usually provide equative access to all countries and often place different policies on trade and commercial transactions and services.

**Invited Panelists:**

1. Jovan Kurbalija, DiploFoundation.
2. Maritza Delgado, ITU.
3. Jane Coffin, ISOC.
4. Office of the UNGA High Representative for the LDC’s, LLDC’s and SID’s.