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**Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion**

**Phase IV**

**Call for Public Input**

**3 September 2018**

1. **Introduction**

The IGF’s **Multistakehold**er Advisory Group (MAG) recently decided to further develop the IGF’s intersessional work, “*Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s)*”.

This will therefore be Phase IV (CENB IV). This year’s work on *Policy Options* will build on the IGF community’s past three years of important work on the theme of promoting meaningful access.

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](http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/connecting-and-enabling-the-next-billion-phase-i).

Given the successful results of this trend, the IGF MAG 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](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/3416/549).

In 2017, Phase III focused on SDGs 4, 5, and 9 that are impacted by ICTs and dived into collecting and analyzing case studies worldwide to complete phase I and II with concrete local experiences and community-level projects.

In the past three years, over 200 [submissions](http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/policy-options-for-connection-the-next-billion/classified-list-of-contributions), including many from national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs), contributed to the development of comprehensive sets of Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions in [Phase I](http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/policy-options/654-igf-policy-options-for-connecting-the-next-billion-compilation/file), [Phase II](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/3416/549), and [Phase III](http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3416/1071).

These Policy Options are already serving as tangible and useful resources for policymakers and other stakeholders, but also symbolise 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.

1. **Phase IV (2018): Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s)**

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**

IGF 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).

1. **Guidelines for background contributions**

All stakeholders are invited to submit contributions on the theme “*Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s) – Phase IV*”.

Contributions from NRIs, best practice forums (BPFs), dynamic coalitions (DCs), and IGF workshops are particularly welcome.

* 1. **What format should my feedback be in?**

Contributions are expected to:

* demonstrate through case studies how ICTs can enable SDGs 7, 8, 9 or 17. They can come in various formats: links to publications, reports, references, statistics, stories, etc.
* be of reasonable length in order to maximize readability.

Note that various projects already explore the link between ICTs and SDGs (e.g. ITU). The IGF’s added value will be to complement other existing efforts by collecting information in the field, in a bottom-up fashion, the validate existing theories and assumptions.

Contributions are preferred to be in English and to use of an editable file, compatible or readable with Microsoft Word. Documents in other languages will be translated using an automate system which might reduce accuracy.

Additional templates may be developed to aid contributions if this is deemed helpful.

* 1. **What will happen to my contribution?**

All contributions will be published publicly with contributors’ names on the IGF’s website. As an example, see submissions from previous years [here](http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/policy-options-for-connecting-and-enabling-the-next-billions-phase-ii).

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

* 1. **What is the deadline for contributions?**

All submissions should be made by 30 September 2018.

* 1. **Who do I send my feedback to?**

Email contributions should be sent to cenb@intgovforum.org.

* 1. **What if I have more questions?**

For further queries, or for more information, please contact Radhika Radhakrishnan at radhika.radhakrishnan5@gmail.com or drop a mail at cenb@intgovforum.org.

* 1. **Proposed questions to guide your response:**

The first phase (2015) and the second phase (2016) of *Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion* have identified a set of policy options aimed at the creation of enabling environments, and investigated the ways in which meaningful Internet access can support and contribute to realising the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The third phase(2017) gathered concrete examples of how these policy options have been implemented in relations to SDGs 4, 5 and 9. The fourth phase (2018) aims to collect concrete stories showcasing how connecting the next billion(s) helps achieve SDGs 7, 8, 9, and 17.

Please support your contributions by studies, reports, references, statistics etc. While inputs of any format will be considered for incorporation, the following suggestions that you can tackle in your contribution:

* Give examples of how local or regional policies have helped connect and enable users, giving them access to information and communications technology and providing universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries.
* Share a story from any region about how connecting people to the Internet has increased access to information regarding affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.
* Give concrete examples showing how access to the Internet has promoted decent work and economic growth, especially in least developed and developing countries, and small island states.
* Share concrete examples and stories in which the use of ICTs has promoted development in industry, innovation and infrastructure. Explain how specific policies or legislation might have helped promote this at a local level.
1. **Important dates:**

**3 September** - Call for inputs is open to receive any contributions.

**3 September - 30 September** - Editorial work to compile version 1.0 of the document based on all contributions received by the IGF Secretariat.

**30 September** - Close contributions

**15 October** - Launch of the first draft and open for comments and second round of contributions

**31 October** - Close comments and inputs

**7 November** - Issue of the final draft that will be delivered in the IGF Paris 2018 (12-14 Nov)