vIGF 2020 Inclusion Main Session Proposal

1. **Definitive and Committed Actions for Connecting and Enabling the Remaining Billions.**
   Alternative option: Meaningful connectivity for all

2. **November X, 2020**

3. **90 minutes session**

4. **Associated Programme Theme: INCLUSION**

5. **Brief Description/Objective**

   The recently published Report of the Secretary-General Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has presented eight key areas for action. The very first one: "***ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY BY 2030***", is summarized as: "***Half of the world's population currently does not have access to the Internet. By 2030, every person should have safe and affordable access to the Internet, including meaningful use of digitally enabled services in line with the Sustainable Development Goals***".

   The solutions proposed over the last years have been based on national policies and strategies severely challenged by the rapid advancement of the demand-driven Internet in terms of mobile broadband services, forcing local telecom operators to constantly develop infrastructures, aiming to increase the coverage and serve those who are not connected.

   According to ITU's 2019 report, based on the country's reports, "***93 per cent of the world's population live within physical reach of mobile broadband or Internet services***". Indeed those policies succeeded with growing Mobile Internet infrastructure, but also proved to be ineffective when providing affordable Internet connectivities. Because the same source indicates that "***only 53.6 per cent of the world's population now use the Internet, leaving an estimated 3.6 billion without access***".

   We needed to face a global pandemic, to remind us the FUNDAMENTAL ROLE THAT INTERNET HAS IN OUR LIVES, but at the same time, how important is to achieve the UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY as fast as we can, because if we don't overcome this situation, in the coming months and years, near half of the world's children and also university students, will not be able to follow online classes, billions will not able to

work from their homes, and many others will remain completely isolated without any contact with friends or family when we enter in this so-called "new normal".

Two main factors determine affordable Internet Service: access to international Internet backbones and lack of fixed (wired) connectivity within low and middle-income countries. For sure both must be tackled with **new and creative policies**, with telecom operators, but also involving more actors in the private sector, those that traditionally were not involved with infrastructure, but lately is noticeable that are leading connectivity projects.

Access to meaningful Internet Services for **REMAINING billion(s)** is one of the main challenges to effectively overcome the digital divide. In developing and least developing countries, having their people with low and middle incomes, the current prices and/or business models for Internet Services condemn those communities to continue living in a world without the Internet and where people have to choose between being connected and food, health, teaching kids, ...

This session aims to bring together the different stakeholders, to discuss the concrete actions that can be taken from each of the perspectives of their sector, taking into account that only together we will be able to overcome one of the biggest crises that all of humanity has had to face in the last century.

Similarly, through a highly participatory session, we will be able to learn about the actions that have been conducted over recent months and learn from the good experiences that have been exposed in different countries in all regions of the world.

These inputs will make it possible to map out a set of recommendations for carrying out public policies that may be applied in the different countries, which may also be part of the actions recommended in the Report of the Secretary-General Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

As a final result, it is intended to establish an intersessional work that will develop its activities beyond this IGF and that can be adapted to the new structures that will surely be included as part of the new IGF+ model, which so far, has the greatest acceptance and consensus.

6. **Policy Questions**

What have been the obstacles to achieving affordable and meaningful access to the Internet in recent years, despite the significant expansion of mobile infrastructure deployed around the world?

How to create an enabling environment for all stakeholders to deploy innovative and inclusive connectivity solutions in different regions of the world that guarantee existence and a well balanced Internet?

What principles, approaches or incentives should be central to telecommunication regulatory frameworks in order to spur investment in and drive better affordability of Internet access in developing countries?

What is the role of stakeholders in bringing about this increased investment and affordable access?

Are there particular telecommunications business models in fixed and mobile broadband Internet services, that have been shown to be particularly effective at expanding affordable access to the Internet"?

What other coordinated actions should developing and least developed countries take to accelerate Internet penetration in their regions?

7. **Session Agenda**

1. Presentation and Introduction by Co-chair Karim Attoumani Mohamed, Private Sector MAG Member
   [2 minutes]

2. Presentation of the Panelists [host]
   [1 minutes]

3. Thematic panel introduction by Moderator Roberto Zambrana Flores, Technical Community MAG Member
   [2 minutes]
4. Deliberation on policy questions
   Round 1 [5 minutes each, 25 minutes total]
   Round 2 [4 minutes each, 20 minutes total]

5. General Conclusions by Moderator and invitation to participation using speaking que
    [5 minutes]

6. Participants intervention in speaking que
    [25 minutes]

7. Read written messages in chat by Remote Moderator
    [5 minutes]

8. Final remarks and conclusions
    [5 minutes]

8. Chair(s) and/or Moderator(s)

Co-Chairs:
- Karim Attoumani Mohamed
- Roberto Zambrana Flores

Moderator:
Roberto Zambrana Flores

9. Speakers

Speaker 1
Christian O'Flaherty
Regional Vice President - Latin America and The Caribbean
Internet Society
Technical Community

Speaker 2
Sonia Jorge
Executive Director
Alliance for Affordable Internet
Civil Society

Speaker 3
Moctar Yedaly,
Head Information Society Division

Commented [1]: We need to ensure diversity and relevance of speakers, wonder if we can get a youth speaker from a developing country and maybe someone from the Broadband Commission / or ITU (Doreen Bogdan-Martin - https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/bdt-director/Pages/default.aspx ??). Sonja is a good speaker on access and affordability from a civil society perspective.. Good to have a government speaker, would this be Moctar Yedaly, viewed his profile looks good.. Not sure that we would need two speakers from the technical community (Christian and Sylvia).

Commented [2]: Since we are talking about investment in innovation and connectivity, wondering whether we could invite both representatives of tech and telco companies to share their views, experience, case studies. A couple of quick thoughts: the GSMA has a wealth of information on this in their annual reports. Orange, Telefonica (Internet Para Todos), Microsoft (AirBand), Amazon (Kuiper), Google (Loon) are some of the companies with great projects across the world, and there are many more.

Commented [3]: I definitely agree to think about a panelist representing telco companies.

Commented [4]: Good points Paul and Timea.
Yes Roberto, having Telco views would be interessant. I even think that we may start create this link between private sectors stakeholders over the world. Most of telco (may be in south) are focused on the telco stuff and less on IG.

Commented [5]: I suggest getting a speaker from the OECD which has agreed a number of policy recommendations relevant to this discussion, initially in the OECD Broadband Policy Toolkit for Latin America and the Caribbean (https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/broadband-policies-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_5jm41nxkhwwk.pdf?itemId=%2Fcontent%2Fpublication%2F9789264251823-en&mimeType=pdf) and then within a 2017 report to the G20 on Key Issues for Digital Transformation (https://www.oecd.org/g20/key-issues-for-digital-transformation-in-the-g20.pdf) which includes sections on mechanisms to foster investment in digital infrastructures (in Chapter 2) and on Financing Digital Infrastructures and New Business Models (in Chapter 3). I would suggest Lorrayne Porciuncula (female, GRULAC, https://www.linkedin.com/in/lorrayneporciuncula/) as a speaker and could provide contact details.

African Union Commission
Intergovernmental Organization

Speaker 4
Sylvia Cadena
Head of Programs / ISIF Asia coordinator
APNIC Foundation
Technical Community

Speaker 5
Vinton Cerf
Vicepresident & Internet Evangelist
Google
Private Sector

10. **Plan for in-room participant engagement/interaction (will be online)**

As mentioned in 7, all interactions will be online following the described actions.

11. **Remote moderator(s)**

Karim Attoumani Mohamed (in charge of messages arriving by chat)

12. **Plan for online interaction (covered in 10)**

13. **Desired results/output. Possible next steps for the work**

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the actions recommended in the Report of the Secretary-General Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

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14.Annex Documents and Sources

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KDucDahuQjeBiBqFVpYNao4uuBwDk2vHsisJub2omV8/edit

15.Links to SDGs

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
GOAL 4: Quality Education
GOAL 5: Gender Equality
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
GOAL 10: Reduced Inequalities
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
GOAL 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals