# IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

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| Session Title | Community Connectivity: Empowering the Unconnected |
| Date | 7 Dec 2016 |
| Time | 15:00 – 16:30 |
| Session Organizer | Luca Belli and Nicolas Echaniz |
| Chair/Moderator | Raoul Plommer |
| Rapporteur/Notetaker | Maureen Hernandez |
| List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations | <ul><li>Jane Coffin, ISOC</li><li>Mike Jensen, APC</li><li>Lee Hibbard, Council of Europe</li><li>Osama Manzar, Digital Empowerment Foundation</li><li>Leandro Navarro, guifi.net / Technical University of Catalonia</li><li>Carlos Rey-Moreno, University of the Western Cape</li><li>Nicolás Echániz, Altermundi</li><li>Luca Belli, Center for Technology & Society at FGV</li></ul> |
| Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue): | Community connectivity as a connection no to the communities from outter agents but to let the community connect themselves, do not be the victim or the recipient of other people's strategy but being the transformers of their reality. Related to open access and capacity development.<br><br>Differents use cases of recent examples of community networks, related to development, digital divide.<br><br>Discussion about the book "Building connectivity from scratch" to review report and declaration on community connectivity, this book was edited by Luca Belli from the Center from Technology and Society, related to capacity development. |
| If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation | **Ruth (Rhizomatica)** talked about their work in the region where they succeed at deploying an indigenous community telecommunications network (2G) with an experimental concession from the Federal Government in Oaxaca, Mexico. The network covers 20 communities with cellular communications.<br><br>She highlighted that every user that joins the network isn't a client but a partner, there is no owner around it, because this is not a company but a civil society, therefore they do local meetings when engaging new users and trains the manager of each node. |
| Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs) | **John Dada** spoke about the first encounter with regulatory authorities showing that in his personal experience this authorities does not understand the necessities of communities, he spoke about how worried the authorities were because they were transmitting without a license and asked him 5000$ for a license, a price that was too high for the organization but eventually the Universal |

| | Service Provide fund (USP) helped him and the community with a 5 years license to operate, then **Ritu Srivastava (Digital Empowerment Foundation)** said how important community networks are in India to produce local content and they could experienced the desire of the communities to build the infrastructure themselves, in that way one community after another has joined and right now they have more than 150 centers across the country . Also **Tony Okwonga (Bosco Uganda)** said when his country was in war, villages were being bombed and there was a necessity of inform people, in this goals there was an extra issue that was literacy so they translated into local language to ease the learning curve, then the deploy community networks was aimed to preserve culture (using that slogan) |
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| | **Lee Hibbard (Council of Europe)** coming from a different angle,the theme of enabling inclusive and sustainable growth, inclusive and sustainable, that resonates with Community Network straight away. He comes a simple human rights standpoint, access to information, Community Networks, it's a vacant area, and it unlocks the potential for the exercise of the freedoms we all have under the universal declaration of human rights. He also remember the audience this year on the 27th of June, in the United Nations, there was a human rights Council meeting which they adopted a resolution on the protection and promotion of human rights on the Internet. |
| | **Osama Manzar (Digital Empowerment Foundation)** said that the private sector is unable to understand the needs and the realities because they are seeking only return of investment and governments also fail because they don't understand, and we (as community networks) should use whatever medium we need to deploy them. |
| | **Nicolas Echaniz (Altermundi)** spoke about the desire of small companies (ISP) joining forces with the community, and Roger Baid supported this, showing that guifi.net has created more than 100 jobs and involving all the community. |
| Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs) | **John Dada** said that community networks sometimes we operate in ignorance of the law, or ahead of the regulation, the regulation hasn't caught up with the paradigm of community networks, but that can't stop us from the work we need to do |
| | **Luca Belli (Fundação Getulio Vargas Law School)** emphasize this was not a fight against the private sector but about building a complementary model, Nicolas Echaniz and several members also pointed this. |
| | **Roger Baig (Guifi.net)** said there are three points that need specific consideration in order to build the ecosystem that is required that will allow them to develop this infrastructure, this are: knowledge transfer, funding, and institutional acknowledgement and also said |

| | that they have different commercial licenses for example a community use license, so that way for every fee you have to pay, you only pay half the price, so in this topic many member agree that it should be different licenses in order to address community networks which are not commercial institutions |
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| | **Mahabir Pun (Nepal Wireless)** said the most important thing is to involve people, letting themselves take the ownership to actually empower them. To empower them -he said-  they need help, at the beginning, they need a lot of training because most of these unconnected people are poor and they're less educated, so they need training on the technical issues and training on maintenance, without that, they cannot be empowered. |