

IGF 2020 Main Session Proposal

- 1. Definitive/Committed Actions for Connecting and Enabling the Remaining Billions**
- 2. June 18th, 2020**
- 3. 90 minutes session**
- 4. Associated Programme Theme: INTERNET GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY / 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 countries information, ***“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 world’s children and also

university students, will not be able to follow on line classes, billions will not be 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 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?

What are the conditions that allow some private actors, who are not traditional telecommunication operators, to deploy telecommunication infrastructures in different regions of the world?

What are the incentives that should be incorporated into existing regulatory frameworks in the telecommunications sector and how can different stakeholders work together to spur investment in and drive better affordability of Internet access in developing countries?

Is it possible to adjust traditional business models for mobile Internet service, to make them more similar to those of the fixed Internet service?

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

[5 minutes]

2. Presentation of the Panelists [host]

[2 minutes]

3. Thematic panel introduction by Moderator Roberto Zambrana Flores, Technical Community MAG Member

[5 minutes]

4. Round of general interventions

[4 minutes each, 20 minutes total]

5. Round of focused questions and answers made by moderator

[4 minutes each, 20 minutes total]

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

7. Participants intervention in speaking que
[25 minutes]

8. Read written messages in chat by Remote Moderator
[3 minutes]

9. 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
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

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.

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