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Open Consultations on Financial Mechanisms for Meeting the Challenges of ICT for Development

The views presented here are the participants’ and do not necessarily reflect the views and the position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Introduction

The Open Consultations of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) on Financing Mechanisms for Meeting the Challenges of ICT for Development were held at Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland on 8-9 October 2009. The meeting was hosted by the ITU and jointly organized by the UNGIS Chair and Vice-Chairs, i.e. ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNECA and UNDP. The meeting was open to all WSIS stakeholders. There were 147 participants, representing Governments (49), International Organizations (41), Civil Society (41), Private Sector (11), and others (5).

The meeting had been convened in response to the ECOSOC Resolution 2008/3, which recommended that the UNGIS organizes focused, open-ended multi-stakeholder consultations on the implementation of Para 3 to 28 of the Tunis Agenda (part B), concerning financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of information and communication technologies for development. In this context, its main objective was to create an opportunity to review progress, share views and discuss new approaches at the national, regional and international level to the financing of ICTs for development. It was also intended to develop a better understanding on needs for future actions to respond to the part B of the Tunis Agenda.

In response to the call for contributions, more than 40 documents had been submitted to the UNGIS Secretariat and reflected on the UNGIS web site (www.ungis.org). All these materials constituted the basis for the establishment of a global repository of electronic materials related to the ongoing debate on the financial mechanisms for meeting challenges of ICT for development. This repository will be hosted by UNGIS on its website.
The meeting was organized around the main areas in which financing is needed, i.e. backbone infrastructure (national, regional, international) and universal access to ICTs; applications and content; capacity-building; and other issues at stake.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the meeting comprised contributions of six honorable representatives of the international organizations, governments and the private sector.

The ITU Secretary-General, Dr Hamadoun Touré, started his intervention by highlighting that this was the first time UNGIS held Open Consultations to address financial mechanisms targeted to WSIS stakeholders. He mentioned that the venue of this meeting was not selected by chance; rather it was important that the Open Consultations take place during Telecom World 2009 in order to draw attention to global trends in ICT. He also stressed that the ICT industry is fast moving and resilient, and that ITU against that background was working towards opening opportunities for all by helping to create jobs and further developments the field.

Dr Touré stressed that ITU is committed to the “Connect the World” initiative. He referred to the Connect Africa Summit, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda in 2007, where USD 55 billion was committed towards infrastructure projects and technical assistance in Africa. A key challenge from a financing perspective was to fund ICT-related activities that were not profit-making.

Dr Touré further emphasized that 2015 was rapidly approaching. Consequently, all stakeholders needed to act to ensure that the MDGs are achieved successfully. The Open Consultations offered a unique opportunity to explore solutions and concrete actions. Concluding his speech, he expressed confidence that the meeting would provide positive contributions.

Mr Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD, in his speech reminded the group that the meeting was held at the request of ECOSOC and that its outcomes would be reported in the WSIS follow-up, notably at the Inter-Sessional Panel of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) in Geneva 9-11 November 2009. He highlighted some of the positive trends related to ICTs and their impacts on society. At the same time, he emphasized that there was still a long way to go to achieve an all inclusive Information Economy. In this context, he emphasized the importance of evaluating how existing as well as new financial mechanisms can support greater deployment, access and use of ICTs in developing countries, as well as assess the benefits from such use.

Mr Draganov encouraged participants to use the meeting to discuss the most appropriate financial mechanisms needed to continue the rollout of backbone infrastructure, ensure universal service access, develop local content and provide capacity building. To this end, Mr Draganov invited all stakeholders to join forces in order to help achieve the WSIS targets and MDGs.
H.E. Mr Basem Rousan, Minister of Information and Communication Technology from Jordan, started his intervention by stating that previously in his country telecom services were only provided by the government and ICTs were not a top priority. In 1993 the telecom field was opened up to competition and this has had a positive effect on the economy. The free market approach in Jordan had since then been marked by an improvement in the quality of services.

H.E. Dr Hoda Baraka, First Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt, started her intervention by highlighting some mechanisms employed in Egypt, in the context of the WSIS process. She stressed that significant progress had already been made, including in rural and remote areas. Some financial mechanisms that have been implemented in Egypt were mentioned, such as: ICT stimulus packages, public-private partnerships (PPPs), the universal service fund, telecom infrastructure, public-to-public, co-funding models in R&D, venture capital funds, and multiple agreements between the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) and other stakeholders for example related to debt swap arrangements. A debt swap arrangement with the Government of Italy had, for example, helped finance the development of Smart Schools and ICT Mobile Units.

H.E. Mr Montassar Ouali, CEO of Tunisie Telecom, in his intervention mentioned that financing ICT remains a challenge in many countries. In this context he pledged to strengthen further the bases of international solidarity and to set-up an international solidarity fund. The development of local business using ICTs was seen as an important challenge. Although Tunisia is considered to be a developing country, it has managed to foster a relatively developed business sector. However, there is still a need to move forward and improve financial conditions. Mr Ouali concluded by stating that we have to find a way to include developing countries in this process, so that countries like Tunisia could be allowed to develop to their full potential in the information society.

H.E. Mr Andrzej Sados, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, delivered a speech accompanied by presentation on Polish aid programs. He underlined that as a result of the positive outcomes of transformation process, achieved with the support of donors and international financial institutions, since end of the 1990’s Poland has started to perform a double role in development policy – as recipient and donor of official aid. Further Mr Sados highlighted the areas in which Poland is providing aid to others through development projects, humanitarian assistance, development education initiatives and volunteer services.

While UNESCO participated in the meeting, the organization could not be represented on highest level, as its biennial General Conference required the presence of its leadership in Paris.

Existing Financial Mechanisms and Issues at Stake (Part One)

The session on existing financial mechanisms and issues at stake was moderated by Dr Yuri Grin, Deputy to the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau.
Mr Al Basheer Al Morshid, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau opened the discussion by addressing the importance of the debate on ICT-related financial mechanisms. Key questions included: How to raise more funds for financing ICT related projects? Are the right mechanisms available? How can they be improved?

According to Mr Al Basheer, multistakeholder involvement is important in the identification and implementation of projects, since international organizations do not have enough resources to implement projects by themselves and the demand for development oriented initiatives is very high. He mentioned the Connect Africa Summit (Kigali, 2007) as a positive step, where major commitments from development institutions, banks and private sector were received. A very good progress have been made, especially with the support of some financing institutions like African Development Bank or McCaw Foundation. In this context, Mr. Al Basheer emphasized the upcoming meeting in Minsk, Belarus, Connect CIS Summit, organized by the ITU with involvement of several financial institutions, including European Banks, World Bank, American agencies and also Islamic Development Bank. Even if the discussion will be at a regional level, the effort is global. That is why so many players were invited to attend in order to discuss this issue and to foster the investment from all over the world.

In conclusion, he highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Ms Heather Thorne, Strategy and Business Operations Manager, Grameen Foundation, opened her presentation with an overview of the Foundation, highlighting that microfinancing constitutes an important mechanism for financing ICTs and fighting poverty. She highlighted the importance of enabling the poorest to create a world without poverty.

She presented Foundation’s approach to fighting poverty, combining microfinance and technologies in the context of a sustainable business model. Mobile technology was mentioned as a particularly good platform to improve the lives of poor people as it is becoming increasingly widespread. Further growth and proper implementation of these technologies required a sustainable business model and lower prices, among other things. Sustaining local entities that could ensure ongoing innovation was mentioned as another condition to fulfill ICT’s promise to poor people.

Ms Thorne identified areas characterized by significant gaps in ICT access and use. Grameen Foundation and AppLab – a foundation for innovation — were seeking new opportunities to bridge gaps in areas such as agriculture, education, jobs, transportation and health. Ms Thorne presented several concrete projects that are underway, including in Indonesia and Uganda. In order to make projects sustainable, it was important to involve local users, local content experts and building applications that work on existing phones to ensure access and relevance for those most in need.

Mr Doyle Gallegos, Lead ICT Policy Specialist and Telecoms Practice Leader at the World Bank began his intervention by presenting the efforts of the Bank in promoting more enabling environments, financing infrastructure investments and helping to improve human capacity, playing a role in expanding networks through financing of strategic public-private partnership investments to support the development of key parts of the
infrastructure. Their focus and policy directives remain the private investment to drive most of the progress in the ICT sector.

He highlighted that he represented the global ICT group, which he represented is responsible for providing services to governments and the private sector. Some examples of ongoing interventions in African countries were mentioned, such as in Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Rwanda. These projects were intended to provide the access to ICTs to the local people, and to extend networks beyond the existing ones. Mr Gallegos specifically mentioned initiatives in Kenya aimed at providing connectivity in remote areas, using stimulus packages to provide training in ICT skills in order to generate local content. Countries like India and China were also reflected in the context of the investment in upgrading their networks to be able to provide broadband services and to increase in the number of broadband subscribers.

Finally, Mr Gallegos mentioned the Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme throughout Eastern and Southern Africa and the recently approved Central Africa Backbone project. In these programmes, the World Bank and its partners are supporting governments in overcoming key infrastructure bottlenecks.

Mr Rafael Fuentes, Rafael Fuentes, ICT Agenda Coordinator at Analysis and Programming Department, Corporacion Andina de Foment (CAF) started his contribution by presenting CAF, comprised of 20 countries and acting as a catalyst between the private and public sector. CAF’s main focus in this region is on the sustainable development and ICTs, more precisely public private partnership, regulation, application and infrastructure.

Mr Fuentes stressed the fact that large gaps still exist in Latin America in terms of ICT developments, in particular related to Internet access and ICT investments, especially in comparison with other regions like Europe and USA. The major obstacles to the diffusion of the ICT services in Latin America included lack of cooperation between stakeholders, lack of human capital, and poor infrastructure. On the other hand, many opportunities existed in terms of new investments in infrastructure, greater government participation in the region, distance learning programmes.

He presented some initiatives they have been working on within the area of sustainable development. On the supply side, for example, the effort in promoting development of satellite and fiber infrastructures in countries like Argentina and Brazil was noted. On the demand side, projects aiming at empowering communities with the intensive and inclusive use of ICTs were mentioned. Mr Fuentes raised the critical question of how to reach more people within the ICT market. CAF’s intervention could move the market frontier by creating a system of “cross subsidies” in order to offer universal access to people as well as institutions.

Mr Fuentes concluded his presentation mentioning the metaphor of the tree sap for regional development as part of a virtuous cycle. In the phase I, focus should be more on human capital. In phase II, on social and infrastructure investments should be in focus. and in the final phase III, attention should be turned towards more productive capital and sustainability as well as regional integration. He also raised the following question: How
to reach more people in rural and remote areas? One promising area to facilitate faster deployment of broadband connections was to create links between ICTs and the roll-out of roads, railroads, pipelines and other infrastructures.

**Ms Mitchell Strauss**, Special Advisor to the President, **Overseas Private Investment Corporation** (OPIC), USA, introduced OPIC’s efforts in fostering the economic development in new and emerging markets. OPIC is a corporation that helps U.S. businesses invest overseas. It complements the private sector by offering long-term financing and/or political risk insurance to help U.S. companies compete in emerging markets and developing countries and advances America’s private sector by backing projects that support American jobs and exports. Since 1971, OPIC projects had generated USD 71 billion in U.S. exports and supported more than 271,000 American jobs.

OPIC provides financing through direct loans and loan guaranties for medium and long-term private investment and loan sizes range from USD100,000 up to USD 250 million. Eligible are organizations with at least 25% U.S. equity ownership, commercially-viable businesses and limited government participation (<50%). Moreover, within OPIC’s framework US investors are insured against political violence, expropriation of assets by foreign governments and inability to convert local currencies into U.S. dollars. The U.S. citizens, U.S. businesses over 50% U.S.-owned and foreign corporations are also eligible.

Ms Strauss also addressed the question of terms and conditions of financing, that takes into account the final maturity of 3-15 years (depending on the sector), loans up to USD 250 million per project, up to 75% of total project costs for expansion and up to 50% of project costs for new projects. She also mentioned an existing group of investment funds with the role of supporting the creation of privately-owned and managed investment funds that make direct equity and equity-related investments in new, expanding, or privatizing companies. These funds have a regional or sectoral focus. As an example, she mentioned water funds, environment funds, country funds, etc, some of them being very helpful to ICTs.

She mentioned some of the advantages of their approach such as, businesses are financially sound and benefit the host country as well as fostering private initiative and competition and providing protection for children at risk. She underlined that OPIC provides insurance only to US investors, and can finance various types of ICT transactions, such as data, Internet and wireless offering investment guarantees and loans, among other things. Ms Strauss concluded by presenting a case study related to the Wananchi Group, Africa Telecommunication, Media and Technology Fund – the first competitive cable, phone and Internet service providers in East Africa under the “Zuku” brand.

**Mr Patrick Kalas**, Programme Officer at **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation** (SDC) started his intervention from presenting the SDC’s approach which assumes that ICTs are the key for development and therefore need to be addresses in all poverty programs. As for now SCD focuses mostly on the poor and marginalized who need the access the most.
Regarding formal position of the Agency on financial mechanisms, Mr, Kalas drew attention to three aspects as follows:

- It is necessary to integrate financial mechanisms meaning sustaining the country ownership in a multi-stakeholder approach;
- Swiss can offer some possibility of extending access to the rural areas, with a similar approach of the Universal Service Fund, based on solidarity approach.
- It would be helpful to focus on integrating financial mechanisms into already existing processes. In this context ITU plays an important role as a facilitator, helping to ensure that multi-stakeholder projects have to the tools necessary to succeed.

Mr Kalas highlighted three important points, i.e. policy and enabling environment; access to knowledge seen as global obligation in order to ensure that access to is guaranteed to all; and thinking beyond connectivity, taking into account the 4C’s: content, capacity development, communication, convergence

Mr Kalas concluded his contribution by raising three items for future discussion: Poor and marginalized: are we focused enough on this? Current existing financial mechanisms sufficiently take all needs into account? How can we ensure that digital divide will be bridged not only in developing countries, but also in rural areas?

**Mr Tomasz Janowski** from the United Nations University presented the outcomes of the Conversations on the World Financial and Economic Crisis, highlighting the impacts and opportunities for the ICT field and being the outcome of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Financial and Economics Crisis that took place in New York in June 2009. The purpose of the Conversations was to outline an intellectual roadmap for the issues to be discussed at the UN Conference, with the objective of introducing some of the most important intellectual and policy voices from around the globe in order to bring clarity to the key issues at the center of the economic crisis, and explain what is a possible impact and what should be done to overcome it.

Mr. Janowski shared with the group some highlights of the conversations, reflecting on understanding of the crisis, major causes of the crises, the impact in Africa and on R&D. During all of these conversations, the crisis was perceived as having clear negative effects (such as creating threats to meeting WSIS targets and lower investments in ICT sectors) and some positive impacts, such as positive structural changes in the economy and the emergence of disruptive technologies.

Concluding his contributions, he mentioned some possible responses for the crises, coming from governments, universities and International Organizations.

During the open discussion, **H.E. Mr. Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Geneva, delivered his statement in which focused on the digital divide and the need of addressing this issue at the global level. In his view private sector investment alone would not be able to take care of this problem. There was therefore a need for additional mechanisms, like for instance the Global Digital Solidarity Fund, which is an African initiative with the global aim of enabling all developing countries to access a more equitable information society built on principles of
solidarity. In this context Mr, Uhomoibji called for an *International Pledging Conference on Digital Solidarity Financing* to be held in 2010 with the objective of launching the new international organisation of the Fund, endorsing the “1% digital solidarity contribution” and the modalities for its implementation at international level.

### Existing Financial Mechanisms and Issues at Stake (Part Two)

The session on existing financial mechanisms and issues at stake (part two) was moderated by **Ms Anne Miroux**, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, **UNCTAD**.

**Mr Henry Chasia**, Executive Deputy Chairperson, **NEPAD e-Africa Commission**, started by stating that ICTs offer many profitable business opportunities for private investors. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) ICT programs consequently sees private sector investment as a crucial important issue in social progress. He noted that investments in the ICT sector in Africa had increased dramatically over the past several years, but that there were still many challenges to confront.

Mr Chasia provided an overview of the NEPAD ICT projects underway with the goal of bridging the digital divide in African countries, with an emphasis on public-private partnerships. Mr Chasia enhanced that all projects mentioned are currently in the market seeking investment Key outstanding challenges included how to better use ICTs to reduce poverty? Mr. Chassia considered poverty to be a crucial issue which NEPAD is required to address in each project; if investments will promote greater connectivity in Africa?; and if investments will ensure fair participation of Africa in the ICT field? Mr. Chassia was of the opinion that the projects should assure that benefits accrue more widely, not just geographically but also achieving a bigger range of age, gender and social class.

**Mr Bashir Patel**, Director of Programme and Business Development, **Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO)**, discussed the issue of the kind of investments in ICT and the return on those investments that are happening in the different regions globally. Mr. Patel highlighted that the growth in investment has been quite substantial in Africa since 2005 and that additional critical investments in African infrastructure is planned, with the private sector leading the way from GSM operators by 2012. In terms of return of investments in ICT, Mr. Patel is the opinion that the best continent nowadays is Africa.

Mr Patel enhanced the number of challenges regarding long term investments and high risk projects. While Africa offers a lot of opportunities, in terms of profitability, for domestic and international investors, however he admitted that the continent also needs to address several issues to make sure that more investment materializes. Corruption, foreign currency risks, political instability, repatriation of capital profits and difficulties in finding trustworthy partners were some of the most pressing ones that can undermine the confidence of investors. Other challenges in emerging markets included a lack of adequate funding, insufficient amount of experienced ICT manpower in rural areas and difficulties in acquiring land and suitable real estate in rural areas. Mr. Patel was of the opinion that Africa will overcome some of these challenges in the coming years and months.
Mr Patel outlined a variety of sources of finance, such as the public sector, bilateral agencies, commercial banks, vendor financing, venture capitalists, etc. Issues concerning current funding gaps were also raised, including funding shortages in telecom projects and lack of sufficient investment from either entrepreneurs or local telecom operators.

He went on to give some examples of comparative funds, such as the Pan African Infrastructure Fund and The Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund. Mr. Patel presented the Commonwealth Telecommunication Development Fund, which complements other financial sources, such as universal services funds. Reference was made to the role of small ICT firms incubators, which have started in some countries to nurture the growth of entrepreneurs. Mr. Patel concluded that we have numerous sources of funds and a variety of mechanism available. A key challenges is to make sure that projects have a credible business plans.

Mr Yousef Nusseir, Chief of Information and Communication Technologies Division, ESCWA began his contribution by mentioning the conference on regional follow-up to WSIS, in Damascus, in June 2009, in which the main objective was to follow-up on the progress made so far on the various WSIS Action Lines. This conference addressed strategies, applications and development. As outcomes, ESCWA produced an updated version of the Regional Plan of Action (RPoA) and approved the establishment of the GAID Regional Arab network. Mr Nusseir described the RPoA as a program defined five years ago for the creation of sustainable information society in the region. It also aimed at fulfilling the objectives of WSIS. Mr. Nusseir presented the status of the RPoA projects explaining that 40% of them could not be successfully implemented because some of the legal organizations did not find the right funds, or due to the fact that there was a lack of information related to the projects.

Mr Nusseir referred to several important financial mechanisms like foreign direct investment, bilateral agreements, official development assistance, venture capital and incubators. Despite the global financial crisis, Mr Nusseir saw a lot of opportunities in Western Asia and ICT can play a role in making more efficient operations in other sectors like education, health or construction. Mr. Nusseir encouraged involvement of governments, specially the PPPs in order to develop these sectors and put-up at least part of the finance to get them started.

**Financing Backbone Infrastructure (national, regional, international) and Universal Access to ICTs**

The session on financing backbone infrastructure and universal access to ICTs was moderated by Mr Emamgholi Behdad, Chief of Projects and Initiatives Department, ITU.

Mr Moctar Yedaly, Head of Telecommunications and Posts Division, African Union Commission (AUC) opened by explaining that the AUC is the highest continental and political body in Africa, deciding all policies and strategies for the continent. Still addressing the organization overview, it was mentioned the Conference of Ministers in
It was presented its vision of having an Africa with integrated systems making part of the the global development endeavors. Africa Union Vision mission was also presented for facilitating policies and strategies that could bring development as well as rational utilization of energy resources.

In the context of integrating infrastructure, he mentioned that we would have two objectives to achieve: objectives related to connecting Africa and bridging the digital gap. Regarding the major decisions of the second CIT conference, that took place in (Cairo 2008), it was mentioned the adoption of the reference framework for the harmonization of Telecom/ICT policies and regulation in Africa and the strategy and plan of action for the development of postal sector had been endorsed by the HoS&G Summit 2008 in Sharm El Cheikh, Egypt.

Mr Yedaly also presented some of the broad objectives of the AUC, such as developing integrated infrastructures and technology related to ICT, establish harmonized policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, develop African human resource and increase awareness to ensure active participation of Africa in the global information and knowledge-based economy, relevant and valuable applications to encourage the deployment and utilization of Telecommunication/ICT across all socio-economic sectors in Africa in order to improve efficiency and productivity and mobilize financial resources by strengthening regional cooperation and multi stakeholder partnerships and promotion of public and private partnerships.

Mr Yedaly highlighted some of the guideline principles of the reference framework, such as the principles of the WSIS, meeting the MDGs objectives and the goals of Connect Africa Summit (Kigali, Oct 2007), among others.

In addition, he introduced strategies to achieve these objectives such as: harmonization of policy and regulation, development of integrated infrastructures and access networks, development of human resources and increase of awareness and development of telecommunication/ICT applications. He went on to highlight some of the general challenges of the financial mechanisms, such as a lack of a master plan, insufficient management of time and resources and the overall extent of the need and gaps that exist in the current system. In conclusion, he clarified that the AUC is oriented towards concrete projects and is an actor in WSIS, as the coordination of all initiatives for the continent is in the AUC’s mandate.

Mr Robindhra Mangtani, Senior Director, GSM Association, started his presentation by proposing some recommendations on access in relation to USFs as following:

- Governments should regard market forces as the primary means to extend access and connections to mobile communications.
- The over US$4.4 billion that has been accrued by USFs and has not yet been disbursed should be invested in mobile coverage rollout. This should be complimented by the reduction of other barriers to mobile usage, such as taxes, as a matter of priority. He expected that such activity, together with the amounts to be
levied in the next few years, could achieve close to 100% universal coverage by mobile networks to the world’s population by 2012.

- USFs should only be used as a short to medium term policy tool and phased out over time.
- USFs should be spent on the lowest cost access technology, typically mobile networks, which have been demonstrated to be the most efficient way to extend access to telecommunications.
- Governments should make public their policies towards universal access and review progress regularly.

He addressed the issue of universal access, in particular for mobile voice, data and broadband and emphasized that 60% of the population is covered today and by 2010, is expected that 90% was expected to be covered. The question was “How can government and industry partners go even further with regards to ICT for development?”

Addressing access in rural areas and areas with low population density, he highlighted the need for inventive approach, mentioning specific problems like distance, accessibility and regulatory constraints, underling that the cost for these areas should be low. He pointed out that investment decisions balance access (taking into account increasing coverage and network sharing) and services (increasing penetration in existing areas).

The base station economics context was mentioned and he noted that operators will evaluate each project separately to assess the viability of the investments. He also pointed out that the majority of the capital costs are not directly related to the technology itself.

He went on to explain the trade off between rural and urban sites concerning costs and revenues. Rural sites were relatively costly to maintain and the distribution is difficult. Mr. Mangtani also took this opportunity to explain how USFs work and how they proceed in order to ensure the good running of the funds mentioning some best practices. He underlined the importance of clearly identified targets.

In conclusion, he stressed the important role of the government as a partner and presented a development circle, passing through regulatory and fiscal policy, mobile industry growth, mobile affordability and good governance.

Mr Hasanul Haq Inu, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh expressed his interest in promoting the digital inclusiveness, in order for all citizens to benefit as much as possible from ICT. He listed the objectives for Bangladesh, taking into consideration different Action Lines (e-governance, e-business, e-learning, e-health etc) to provide inclusive technology throughout his country. Commenting on current financial situation in Bangladesh, he highlighted some government decisions with regard to new allocations. Strategic partnerships were stressed as important in the effort to build a “digital” Bangladesh by 2021, as well as relaying on the private sector as the key engine, the support of international and regional organizations and the engagement of the civil society.

Current preparedness in the country was alluded to such as National ICT Policy 2009, WiMAX and 3G licensing and cybersecurity legislation.
He continued by explaining some efforts currently being implemented by Bangladesh such as, development of partnerships, assistance aimed at enhancing policy space and building institutional arrangements, providing support for capacity building, focusing on human resource development, and channeling additional funds through debt swap or debt relief.

**Mr David Souter** presented a paper submitted by the [Association for Progressive Communications (APC)](https://www.apc.org), entitled “Regional backbone infrastructure & broadband capacity.” The paper addressed the effort that was made by governments, the private sector, civil society and international development finance institutions to support the development of regional backbone infrastructure on the east coast of Africa.

The major challenge was mentioned as delivering ICT applications to all. He highlighted that for APC, funding is needed to address a number of activities in order to get the best value out of their investment in infrastructure development. Mr. Souter underscored the importance of involving multiple stakeholders, from business, civil society, consumer groups, and various sectors of government, in infrastructure development initiatives. Multistakeholder participation was crucial to ensure inclusiveness, transparency and relevance of the output for all stakeholders. Mr Souter furthermore called for more research on the impact of ICT use and a fresh assessment of the role of Universal Service Funds.

Concluding on the question of financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICT for Development, Mr. Souter felt that more funding is needed to address a number of 'overarching' activities in order to get the best value out of investment in infrastructure development.

**Mr John N. Kariuki**, Communications Technology Expert, Ministry of Information and Communications, Kenya, started his contribution underlining the main challenges regarding financial mechanisms issues that include, a lack of adequate resource in the ICT sector, creating incentives, fostering partnerships, and creating awareness of the benefits of ICT to the public.

He mentioned that the main Universal Access Policy Goals, such as ensuring ICT services are available throughout the country, support universal service availability and widest access to such services, as well as provide enabling environment for the private sector to play a complementary role towards achieving universal access targets.

Mr. Kariuki explained that in Kenya, universal access considerations in ICT include telecommunications, information technology, broadcasting and postal sectors. In this context, the government expects the private sector to play an important role in meeting the universal access targets through increased investments, in order to provide incentives to promote investments in rural and other areas not covered.

Mr Kariuki explained that a USF has been created in order to complement private sector initiatives towards meeting universal access targets. He stressed, however, that in order for USFs to be effective, a lot of training and clear guidelines were required. In
At the end of the session, the audience participated in the discussion, highlighting the very low level of broadband penetration in developing countries. Key questions raised included what policies are needed to reach broader goals?; how can collaboration among different stakeholders be improved?; to what extent local resources really being used in Africa?; and do national development plans properly reflect these considerations?

Financial Applications and Content

The session on financing applications and content was moderated by Mr Makane Faye, Senior Regional Advisor, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), who opened the floor by highlighting the recommendations of the “Connect Africa Summit” on “Content, Applications and Services”, the challenges in the implementation of sustainable projects and the problem of digital inclusion in developing countries. Mr Faye invited all speakers to discuss how new financial mechanisms can be developed, how existing mechanisms can be improved and to discuss shared, common objectives in order to create strategies that will be feasible and sustainable in the long term.

The first speaker, Mr Randy Ramusack, United Nations Technology Officer, Microsoft Corporation, pointed out that Microsoft has been working hard on the issue of financial mechanisms through increased understanding of their role in partnerships which will assist various citizens in achieving the goal of connectivity. By approaching government and industries, they have been trying to find creative solutions, and increasing their understanding in PPP’s for access to technology. The idea is to work with local government to understand how technology can help people’s development.

Mr. Ramusack explained that the Microsoft Partnerships for Technology Access (PTA) initiative has been developing a model for creating strategic technology alliances. He emphasized that not only technologies is needed but also access to them at schools, at home, etc.

He also drew attention to the fact that infrastructure development needs to be a primary focus. He presented a series of projects implemented by Microsoft under the PTA, demonstrating how people have become connected to the digital world in regions like South America, Asia and Africa.

Mr Maui Sanford, President, Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), presented a quick overview of PITA, a non profit organization dedicated to promote, enhance and facilitate the development of communications services within the Pacific. They have been working on different field of activities like workshops, training, CEO meetings, working groups, etc.

With 1,000 islands and 600 languages, this region faces unique challenges for connectivity and access. Mr. Sanford explained that the islands don’t have the additional resources or monetary means to deal with critical ICT development and most Pacific
Island status is either least developed or developing. Telecommunications are limited due to factors such as a lack of economies of scale and limited capacity.

Mr Sanford highlighted the approaches employed by PITA regarding ICT for development partnerships which include; promoting PPPs by intensifying close working relationship to overcome diversities in the region, cooperating between governments, operators and industry. It was necessary to reach larger volumes of consumers to reduce costs for ICT connectivity and capacity building.

Mr. Sanford mentioned some projects they have been working on, such as a roaming clearing house, the implementation of an emergency and disaster system and various multi-stakeholder workshops and training programs. In terms of financial mechanisms for projects aimed at meeting the financing challenges for ICT for development, a coordinated approach among all players was seen as a must, including among donor/partner organizations.

Ms Laura Vitoria Garcia, Directrice scientifique de la Fondation des Territoires de Demain, France discussed the fundamental collaborative work the Fondation des Territoires de Demain has conducted, including incubators and research centers and digital culture projects.

Ms Garcia addressed the incoherence of the integration between development strategies and innovation strategies. She emphasized the interactive approach of the Territoires de Demain, including operators and service providers from all sectors, especially in rural areas. It was also addressed the importance of the innovation facing the financial crisis.

It was also highlighted the major axes of Territoires de Demain actions, such as the understanding of new financial models in order to support the economic development based on knowledge and also the cooperation between the innovation centers.

She concluded her speech by highlighting the importance of joining forces in order to create new financial mechanisms. In this context, Territoires de Demain have developed a new methodology for developing innovation centers.

Representatives from Brazil and Cape Verde shared with the group some projects and experiences currently taking place in their respective countries.

**Financing for Capacity Building (skills, institutions, regulatory framework)**

The session on financing for capacity building (skills, institutions, regulatory framework) was moderated by Mr Cédric Wachholz, Coordinator for the World Summit on the Information Society follow-up, UNESCO, who opened the floor by highlighting that ensuring the centrality of the human dimension in an often technology driven field is of great importance to UNESCO, and that capacity building is one the organizations five key functions.
Mr Makhtar Fall, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment Division, ITU, presented his contribution on building capacity to address financial mechanisms.

He began highlighting the importance of capacity building within the ICT field and described ITU as a key actor in the role of helping and assisting regulatory institutions in the issue of financial mechanisms. Mr. Fall addressed the ITU commitment in the assistance regarding issues like enabling environment for the benefit of all, as well as assisting members for establishing such environments and get investments through attractive policies.

He mentioned some ITU tools, like for instance, ICT Regulation Toolkit, or COSITU, which facilitate stakeholders’ efforts in addressing the issue of the financial mechanisms. Regarding other ITU activities he mentioned regional harmonization efforts in Africa, toolkits and guidelines, bet practices, universal access programme as well as the organization of seminars and symposia aimed at bringing policy makers together.

As a conclusion, Mr Fall drew attention to the annual meeting Global Symposium of Regulators, addressing emerging regulatory challenges of the ICT sector.

Asked about the efforts made by ITU in the area of human capacity building, Mr Fall pointed to the ITU Academy, which is a new platform of the ITU aiming at provision of the training opportunities to the ICT professionals worldwide.

Mr Ilari Lindy, Advisor, Information Society for Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, presented what the Government of Finland has been doing, especially regarding its role as a bilateral donor, in supporting of capacity building in the area of ICT.

Mr Lindy mentioned some examples of the employment of the ICT4D in Finnish development policy, in order to foster achievement of MDGs, using ICT as a tool for economic and social development, to reduce poverty, enhance policy coherence and support a gradual shift from donor-recipient relation to new forms of partnership and broader cooperation.

He highlighted that Finland has been extremely active regarding various WSIS goals. He went through the operationalization of ICT4D, with regard to investments in capacity building, mentioning multistakeholders partnerships, establishment of new platforms for learning and models for cooperation and knowledge centers.

Mr Lindy addressed some challenges for bi-lateral donors such as limited efforts and investments, lack of coordination, among others.

In conclusion, he highlighted some of the most important partners of Finland’s bilateral development cooperation.

In response to an intervention from the audience, Mr Lindy addressed the measurement issue, saying that particularly for questions of “impact” this is an innovative exercise
itself. He pointed out that the impact in some areas can be seen at a regional level, but that there remain many challenges to measuring this particular type of social interaction.

**Dr Dong Ju Choi**, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC), Sookmyung Women's University, Republic of Korea, began his contribution by introducing APWINC and its diverse global and local partnerships. He then presented a brief history of APWINC’s projects, highlighting some booklets, reports and papers. He also highlighted the fact that APWINC has financial support from local government and international organizations in particular for some initiatives such as Training for Women’s IT Capacity Building in APEC Member countries in 2007, UNESCO-ROK Fellowship in Africa, Innovative Strategies for Latin American & Caribbean Women's Participation in the Digital Economy, among others.

Challenges of the public sector, International Organizations, private sector were also discussed, e.g. the best way to promote the fair distribution of funds in highly competitive environments, or companies strategies in a saturated domestic IT market, among others.

Dr Choi went on to present a case study of a public-private partnership that resulted in a pilot training in two APEC Member countries and an international Symposium on Safe and Trusted ICT/Internet use, actions against Internet misuse.

Concluding his speech, he pointed out that APWINC has expanded its target groups (including now family and women), that it is expanding to other regions and diversifying its support, now including local governments, International Organizations and the private sector.

**Dr François Ullmann**, President of "Ingenieurs du Monde" started addressing the issue of intangible policy management by giving a historical notion of intangible goods (including film, music, patents, copyright, licences, etc) and intangible competencies (including talent, human capital, know-how etc). He explained then a notion of classification, subdivision and progression of intangible assets, showing all phases of involvement of collaborators (ownership) and the process (human and immaterial resources).

As an example, he mentioned that according to a study carried out by the World Bank, 86% of the French economy is comprised of intangible goods and services. He suggested that the notion of “tangible” needs to have a new dimension. Highlighting its importance, he stressed the need for new policies for intangible capital (human capital, intangible policy management, technical capital etc) and a common standard for this matter.

In conclusion, he drew attention to the importance of the development of an action plan for intangible material, taking into account elements like common standards of the information technology resources,

**Other Dimensions of Financial Mechanisms**

The session on other dimensions of financial mechanisms was moderated by **Mr Jaroslaw Ponder**, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU.
The first speaker was Ms Valeria Jordan, Coordinator of the E-Digital Inclusion Component of ICT Projects from the Area of Innovation and Innovation and ICT of the Division of Production Productivity and Management, ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean). She began her intervention by introducing the developments taking place in ECLAC. She presented an overview of the emerging challenges for ICTD4D in Latin America and Caribbean in an attempt to identify emerging targets in the context of the region.

She continued by presenting the regional overview of the effects of diffusion of ICTs in the regions. A stagnation of fixed telephony penetration had been noticed, as well as an expansion of the mobile telephony, Internet access, fixed and mobile broadband. Ms. Jordan identified the emerging challenges faced by the region in regards to the external digital divide as, the need to increase broadband access and access to terminals and to improve the quality of the service.

She went on to mention that the real divide is not only related to access, but also to communicating capacity. Ms Jordan addressed the emerging challenges of the market co-existing with other challenges for digital inclusion. It was stressed that there is no ‘one-size fits all’ solution to this matter, rather the solution will depend on the specific context in each country. A multistakeholder approach was also discussed as an essential effort towards achieving common goals, as well as a national coordination and inter-regional cooperation. In conclusion, Ms Jordan presented a regional action plan for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean for economic development and social inclusion.

The second speaker Ms Katharina Kummer Peiry, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, in her contribution addressed the reverse side of the coin within financing ICT for development. Ms Peiry began her presentation by addressing advancements in IT and their consequences in terms of turnover of products and the increase in the quantity of obsolete ICT products.

She went on to describe some of the characteristics of the e-waste generation, specifically, premature disposal of products (replacing products that are still working in order to purchase newer and better models) and disposing rather than recycling products such as PC’s, mobile phones and many other electronic components. In this process, developing countries were being the most affected due to a lack of legislation and controlled take-back systems, informal sector dominance, illegal trafficking, lack of awareness from governments and public, among others.

The need for commitment and international action in this matter was stressed, in particular special attention needs to be paid to the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Agenda and the Basel Convention. The two sides of recycling were presented, taking into account not only the economic viability and attractiveness of the solution, but also problems related to health and the environment, the role of the informal sector and a lack of methods, among others.
In conclusion, Ms Peiry presented the efforts being made towards a win-win solution with a sustainable financing system approach that must include the cooperation of all players: producers, users and recyclers.

**Open Discussion**

The open discussion session aimed at summarizing the various discussions made by the participants over the course of the two days of sessions on Financing Mechanisms and drawing conclusions from the meeting. On the panel, representatives from the four organizations responsible for organizing the event were present.

Mr Ponder provided an overview of all the sessions moderated by ITU. Mr. Fredriksson from UNCTAD addressed the session focused on Existing Financial Mechanisms and Issues at Stake. Mr Faye from UNECA presented a short briefing from the session focused on Financing Applications and Content. Mr Wachholz then summarized the Financing for Capacity-Building session, highlighting how this issue is important for UNESCO. Finally, Mr Ponder summarized the last session which focused on other dimensions of Financial Mechanisms.

Following the briefings, Mr David Townsend, who participated in the WSIS Task Force on Financial Mechanisms and who has been actively working on the WSIS process, expressed his vision regarding financial mechanisms issues, recognizing the large digital divide in the developing countries. In this context, after quantitative studies to identify where the gaps are, he stressed the importance of opening new opportunities and developing new networks, in order to have the money flowing directly to projects with the greatest need. He also recognized the need to focus more on the backbone infrastructure, access for remote communities, capacity building, content and applications and multi-stakeholders participation. He went on to highlight some challenges regarding financial mechanisms, in particular, universal access regarding the effective implementation and management of goals and responsibilities. In conclusion, Mr. Townsend recognized that we all have much to learn in order to achieve the end goal of digital inclusion.

The session continued with contribution of Mr Hassane Makki from Swiss Administration, transmitting a message on behalf of the Chairman of the CSTD for this year. It was expressed that CSTD will take into account the main results of the Open Consultations meeting as a contribution for the Inter-sessional Panel to be held on 9-11 November 2009 in Geneva.

After opening the floor for comments and remarks, closing remarks were made by Mr Mongi Hamdi, Head of the Science, Technology and ICT Branch of UNCTAD. He highlighted the benefits of sharing views and information over the past two days of the Open Consultations sessions, and the positive collaboration between UNGIS members.

At the end of the session, Mr Ponder made some final remarks on behalf of ITU, highlighting the multi-stakeholder character of the meeting, with equal distribution between various types of institutions. He further underlined that the discussion is not over. All participants were invited and encouraged to continue to discuss the topics raised over
the course of the meeting. He concluded the session by thanking all participants for the fruitful discussions.

Main Conclusions

The main objective of these Open Consultations was to create an opportunity to review progress, share views and discuss new approaches at the national, regional and international level to the financing of ICTs for development. Another objective was to develop a better understanding on needs for future actions to respond to the part B of the Tunis Agenda. Based on the presented materials and discussions that took place during the meeting the following conclusions may be drawn:

- There was wide agreement among participants that the financing of ICT for development remains a significant challenge. While there have been very positive developments with regard to financing infrastructure and access, especially with regard to mobile telecommunications, there remain important gaps that have to be addressed in order to achieve an all-inclusive information society.

- Areas in need of particular attention include the development of local content and applications, as well as raising sufficient resources to build the required capacity in developing countries. Too often capacity development and relevant content are remain afterthoughts after heavy infrastructure and hardware investments. Financing these soft and less visible components which are key to the use of technologies, remain a particular challenge. These are areas where it has been more difficult to generate funds from the private sector, thus highlighting the importance of continuous support governments, from bilateral and multilateral donor organizations.

- Liberalization and opening up to competition has been important to generate private sector involvement, and to foster innovative business models, as well as financing solutions.

- Rural and remote areas still lag in terms of connectivity – especially with regard to Internet and broadband. It is not always possible to find sustainable business models for the investments needed, what remains as one of the challenges.

- At the same time, more open markets underlines the importance of developing the capacity of regulatory and other public authorities to monitor and regulate the markets.

- The importance of infrastructure sharing was underlined by many speakers as a way to reduce the costs involved in rolling out infrastructure.

- Controversies over the Universal Access Funds remain: Some highlight the important experiences enabling communication services in rural and/or isolated regions, others question their effectiveness. Again, financial resources need to be supplemented by human resources (capacity development). An important question is whether such funds should also address mobile, Internet and even broadband access as a priority.

- Presentations throughout the consultations emphasized the importance of continuously exploring new financing mechanisms, and to leverage the various types of competence of different stakeholders. The role of multi-stakeholder partnerships was underlined by many. Similarly, there was a need to draw on large-scale international financing sources (such as foreign direct investment or multilateral lending) as well as small-scale microfinance solutions. Each form of financial
mechanism has its benefits and disadvantages, and may serve more or less well in different situations according to the context of the region.

- Even though microfinancing remains an important financial mechanism, taking into account high innovation dynamics in ICTs it is confronted with new challenges and opportunities in areas such as agriculture, education, jobs, transportation and health.
- Long term investments and high risk projects were considered as major challenges regarding financing mechanisms for development. Investors normally seek low risks projects and investments, especially in rural and remote areas.
- The projects’ sustainability remains still a challenge for financing the ICT for development. In this context it is important to involve local users, local content experts and building applications that work on existing infrastructure to ensure access and relevance for those most in need.
- Although the financial crisis can be perceived as having negative impacts in the context of the financial mechanisms for development, it can also be seen as an opportunity to provide structural changes in the economy as well as the emergence of disruptive technologies.
- Debate on the financial mechanisms needs also to take into account new emerging issues relevant for the developing countries. As an example may be used recycling, which requires significant efforts being made at the regional and global level towards a win-win solution with a sustainable financing system approach that must include the cooperation of all players: producers, users and recyclers.

Finally it is to conclude that the financing issues remains important and there is no room for complacency. In order to meet the targets set out during WSIS by 2015, more efforts are needed to support ongoing projects and launch new ones aimed at addressing remaining gaps, developing new content and applications, and building capacity.

While the meeting did not have a mandate to propose any concrete solutions, it reaffirmed clear need for continuation of the discussion on financing mechanisms. The consultations brought representatives from all stakeholders together and offered a unique opportunity to review progress and consider future ideas.

Broad response to the call for contributions, with more than 40 documents, which had been submitted to the UNGIS Secretariat proved that there is a clear interest in continuing debate at the global level and need for central repository of materials related to this debate. In this context all materials submitted to the meeting constituted the basis for the establishment of a global repository of electronic documents related to the ongoing debate on the financial mechanisms for meeting challenges of ICT for development. This repository will be hosted by UNGIS on its website.

The Open Consultations was an important step in the process. Building upon the outcomes of the meeting, discussions will be continued during other meetings, including Inter-sessional Panel meeting of the CSTD (November 2009) and the WSIS Forum 2010 (May 2010). Moreover the UNGIS will report to the ECOSOC, responding to its Resolution 2008/3, which recommended that the UNGIS organizes focused, open-ended multi-stakeholder consultations on the implementation of Para 3 to 28 of the Tunis Agenda (part B). At the same time UNGIS will consider the possibility of holding a
parallel event during the ECOSOC in year 2010, drawing attention to the meaning and importance of debate on the mechanisms in the context of global development agenda of UN.

The exercise of the Open Consultations proved that effective collaboration among UN agencies within the framework of the UNGIS as well as efficient cooperation with all other relevant WSIS stakeholders was vital for advancing discussion on the financing mechanisms for ICTs. The UNGIS Chairs believe that the Open Consultations and subsequent discussions on this issue will help reinvigorate the public debate on how best to generate the necessary funds to create a more inclusive information society.
Annex One: Meeting Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:30</td>
<td><strong>Opening Ceremony</strong>&lt;br&gt;Link to WSIS; Issues at stake; Overview of the main existing financial mechanisms; Expected outcome of the consultations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room K</td>
<td>Dr Hamadoun Toure, ITU Secretary General</td>
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<td>Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD</td>
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<td>H.E. Basem Rousan, Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MoICT), Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</td>
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<td>H.E. Dr. Hoda Baraka, First Deputy to the Minister, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt</td>
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<td>Mr Montassar Ouaili, CEO, Tunisie Telecom, Tunisia</td>
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<td>H.E. Andrzej Sados, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td><strong>Existing Financial Mechanisms and Issues at Stake (Part One)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Current financing mechanisms; How can existing mechanisms be enhanced?; Need for new mechanisms?; Role of various stakeholders (private/public; national/regional/international)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room K</td>
<td>Address: Sami Al-Basheer Al Morshid, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau</td>
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<td>Moderator: Dr. Yuri Grin, Deputy to the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development bureau</td>
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<td>Heather Thorne, Strategy and Business Operations Manager, Grameen Foundation&lt;br&gt;<em>A Framework for Sustainability in ICT for Development Initiatives</em></td>
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<td>Doyle Gallegos, Lead ICT Policy Specialist and Telecoms Practice Leader at the World Bank Financing ICT for Development</td>
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<td>Rafael Fuentes, ICT Agenda Coordinator, Analysis and Programming Department, Corporacion Andina de Foment,</td>
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Caracas, Venezuela, CAF

Innovation in Infrastructures: A business proposal to benefit us all

Mitchell Strauss, Special Advisor to the President, OPIC, USA

OPIC’s capability, efficiency and effectiveness in promoting ICT related projects

Patrick Kalas, Programme Officer, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Swiss Position on Financing Mechanisms and the Consolidated Opinion by the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

Tomasz Janowski, United Nations University

Conversations on the World Financial and Economic Crisis - Impact and Opportunities for ICT

Open floor for comments and other contributions

Oral contribution:


Relevant written contributions

OECD/InfoDev

Draft Report from the Workshop on Policy Coherence in the Application of Information and Communication Technologies for Development

Background Paper on the Role of Competition in the Access to ICTs

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Room B

Existing Financial Mechanisms and Issues at Stake (Part Two)

Current financing mechanisms; How can existing mechanisms be enhanced?; Need for new mechanisms?; Role of various stakeholders (private/public; national/regional/international)

Moderator: Anne Miroux, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Henry Chasia, Executive Deputy Chairperson, NEPAD e-Africa Commission

Bashir Patel, Director of Programme and Business Development, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO)
### Funding Schemes in Some of Key Member Countries

**Yousef Nusseir**, Chief of Information and Communication Technologies Division, ESCWA

*Financing the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes in the ESCWA Region*

**Open floor** for comments and other contributions

**Relevant written contributions**

- **Towa Koh Michel**, Coordonnateur National ACSIS
  Cameroun, Directeur Fondateur du C.F.T.I.
  *De la Gouvernance et de la Solidarite Internationale*  
  *(fr)*

- **Rami Adel Abou Shadi**, Administrative And Finance Coordinator, Communication and Information Technology Center (CITC) - Mansoura University, Egypt
  *ICT between financial and planning strategies in developing countries*

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<td>16:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>16:30 – 18:00</td>
<td>Financing backbone infrastructure (national, regional, international) and <strong>universal access to ICTs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Room B</strong></td>
<td>Current financing mechanisms; How can existing mechanisms be enhanced?; Need for new mechanisms?; Role of various stakeholders (private/public; national/regional/international)</td>
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**Moderator:** **Emamgholi Behdad**, Chief of Projects and Initiatives Department, ITU

- **Moctar Yedaly**, Head of Telecommunications and Posts Division, African Union Commission (AUC)
  *The AU Reference Framework for Harmonization of policies and Regulations*

- **Robindhra Mangtani**, Senior Director, GSM Association
  *Universal access: Mobile voice, data, broadband for all*

- **Hasanul Haq Inu**, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh
  *The Financing challenges for development of ICT: The case of Digital Bangladesh*

- **David Souter**, on behalf of the Association for Progressive Communications
  *Regional Backbone Infrastructure & Broadband Capacity / Universal Access Funds and Universal Service Obligations*
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**Moderator:** Makane Faye, Senior Regional Advisor, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

- **Randi Ramusack**, United Nations Technology Officer, Microsoft Corporation
  *Partners for technology access: Creative financing solutions for ICT4D*

- **Maui Sanford**, President; Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA).
  *Approaches to partnerships and consolidation; overcoming the special issues of the small islands developing states*

- **Laura Garcia Vitoria**, Directrice scientifique de la Fondation des Territoires de Demain, France
  *Pour un développement basé sur l’innovation: le Living Lab des Territoires de Demain et l’invention de cadres et modèles innovants pour l’application des TIC au développement.*

**Open floor** for comments and other contributions

**Relevant written contributions**
- **Francis F. Muguet**, NET4D, Switzerland; The Global Patronage
  *A worldwide inclusive financing mechanism for Digital Works / Free Software Fund for Digital Solidarities (FSFDS)*
  *FSFDS.org*
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*Moderator: Cedric Wachholz, Coordinator for the World Summit on the Information Society, UNESCO*

- **Makhtar Fall**, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment Division, ITU
  *Building capacity to address financial mechanisms*

- **Ilari Lindy**, Advisor, Information Society for Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
  *The role of bilateral donors in supporting capacity-building in the area of ICT*

- **Dr. Dong Ju Choi**, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC), Sookmyung Women's University, Korea
  *Financing for Capacity-building -Public-Private Partnership (PPP) case of APWINC*

- **Dr. Francois Ullmann**, President of "Ingenieurs du Monde"
  *(fr) "Pour la prise en considération des biens immatériels"

*Open floor* for comments and other contributions

*Relevant written contributions*

- **Portugal**, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications
  *Fostering Information Technology for all: State investment on capacity building for younger generations and financial mechanism and associated measures to stimulate investment in NGN*

- **Md Shahid Uddin Akbar**, Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID)
  *Creating a new Financing mechanism for Capacity Building through facilitating establishment of Centre of Excellence at country level to strengthen the building of capacity, skills and institutions on ICT*

*International Taskforce for Women and ICTs (ITF), Contribution*
| 14:30 – 15:30 | Room K | Other dimensions of financial mechanisms  
Emerging challenges; New developments  

*Moderator: Jaroslaw Ponder,* Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU  

*Alawia Alhamadabi,* Head of Foreign Affairs, National Information Center of Sudan  
*Sudan National Information Society Strategy*  

*Valeria Jordan,* Coordinator of the E-Digital Inclusion Component of ICT Projects, from the Area of Innovation and ICT of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, ECLAC  
*Emerging challenges: the Latin America and the Caribbean perspective*  

*Katharina Kummer Peiry,* Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel Convention  
*Financing ICT for Development - The Reverse Side of the Coin*  

*Open floor* for comments and other contributions  

**Relevant written contributions**  
*Dr Timothy Barker,* DIYNGO  
*Searching for the Ghost in the Capitalist Machine: The Utilisation of Financial Mechanisms to Fund Information Communication Technologies for Development*  

| 15:30 – 17:00 | Room K | Open discussion  
Main conclusions; Best practices; Next steps  

*Moderator: ITU, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNECA*  

*David Townsend*  
*Swiss Administration*  
*Open floor for comments, other contributions and conclusions*  

| 17:00 | Room K | Closing ceremony  
ITU, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNECA |
Annex Two: Written contributions submitted to the open consultations but not presented during the meeting

- **OECD/InfoDev**
  *Draft Report from the Workshop on Policy Coherence in the Application of Information and Communication Technologies for Development, Background Paper on the Role of Competition in the Access to ICTs*  

- **Towa Koh Michel**, Coordonnateur National ACSIS Cameroun, Directeur Fondateur du C.F.T.I.
  *De la Gouvernance et de la Solidarite Internationale (fr)*  

- **Rami Adel Abou Shadi**, Administrative and Finance Coordinator, Communication and Information Technology Center (CITC) - Mansoura University, Egypt
  *ICT between financial and planning strategies in developing countries*  

- **SeaCom**
  *The Seacom Story*  

- **Francis F. Muguet**, NET4D, Switzerland; The Global Patronage
  *A worldwide inclusive financing mechanism for Digital Works / Free Software Fund for Digital Solidarities (FSFDS)*  
  *FSFDS.org*  

- **Portugal**, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications
  *Fostering Information Technology for all: State investment on capacity building for younger generations and financial mechanism and associated measures to stimulate investment in NGN*  

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  *Creating a new Financing mechanism for Capacity Building through facilitating establishment of Centre of Excellence at country level to strengthen the building of capacity, skills and institutions on ICT*  

- **International Taskforce for Women and ICTs (ITF)**
  *Contribution*  

- **Dr Timothy Barker**, DIYNGO
  *Searching for the Ghost in the Capitalist Machine: The Utilisation of Financial Mechanisms to Fund Information Communication Technologies for Development*  