

<p>The information solicited through this questionnaire will only be used in aggregate form, unless otherwise authorised by the respondent. Do you authorise us to cite/share your views individually?</p>	<p>Please enter your contact details:</p>	<p>16. What are the key issues to be addressed to promote the affordability of the Internet, in particular in developing countries and least developed countries?</p>
<p>Yes</p>	<p>Ian Peter, Internet Governance Caucus member, Australia ian.peter@ianpeter.com</p>	<p>no comment</p>
<p>Yes</p>	<p>Nnenna Nwakanma NNNENA.ORG/ACSIS/Africa IGF Rue des Jardins 22 BP 1764 ABJ 22 Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire</p>	<p>1/3 Africans live at least 50 kilometers from the landing points of submarine cables. We need to be investing in satellites for rural areas, where cable will be more expensive.</p> <p>An African country has drawn from the Universal Access Fund to finance a military operation. Why? Can we have a transparency index on the use of the Universal Access Fund?</p>

Yes	<p>Country: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO</p> <p>Organization: CENTRE AFRICAIN D'ECHANGE CULTUREL</p> <p>Adress: CAMPUS NUMERIQUE FRANCOPHONE DE KINSHASA.44, AVENUE DE L'HOPITAL</p> <p>email: cafec3m@yahoo.fr/b.schombe@gmail.com</p>	I need to dig deeper.
Yes	Russia, Coordination Center for Russian Top-Level Domains, 8, Zoologicheskaya Str., Moscow, 123242, Russia; info@cctld.ru	n/a
Yes	Sweden, Netnod, Franzéngatan 5, 112 51 Stockholm, info@netnod.se	See 15. The highest costs today exists, regardless of whether one look at developed or developing countries, where it is hard to deploy alternative transmission, alternative global transit providers. This due to lack of deregulation or by an over-extensive licensing requirements on providers.
Yes	Bangladesh The Forum for Development, Journalism and Communication Studies (FOCUS) focus_bangladesh@yahoo.com	Make internet connection available every where with minimal cost. Produce a policy guideline for the stakeholders and users Take cooperation from regional and international agencies eg UN

Yes	<p>Russia  Russian Association for Electronic Communications  Presnenskaya embankment, 12, Federation Tower West, floor 46, Moscow, 123100  www.raec.ru  info@raec.ru</p>	<p>Consistent overcome of the "digital gap", increasing national capacities and facilitating the development of national technology.</p>
Yes	<p>Country: United States  Organization: Internet Governance Project  Address: Syracuse University School of Information Studies Syracuse, NY 13244 USA  E-mail: press@internetgovernance.org</p>	<p>Robust competition and free entry into markets, and freedom to innovate are the most important policies to promote affordability. Subsidies can ameliorate some issues temporarily but do not provide a sustainable long term solution to affordability issues and may actually be counterproductive by removing the supply-side incentive to lower prices and operate more efficiently.</p>
Yes	<p>Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  Los Angeles, CA, USA  12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536  USA  Phone: +1 310 301 5800  FAX: +1 310 823 8649  baher.esmat@icann.org</p>	<p>There is of course a range of various issues to be addressed in that regard; with the provision and affordability of access high on the list as noted previously. There are also policy issues relating to good economic regulation and competition, which no doubt other contributors will major on.</p> <p>In the context of the DNS choice and affordability of domain names is also an issue, with those offered by a ccTLD Registry being particularly pertinent. Thus the work ICANN is committed to, through the Regional Strategies, in addressing the weaknesses of the DNS sector. In Durban, in July we jointly organized a DNS Forum for African countries, and we are repeating the exercise in Buenos Aires at our ICANN meeting in November. We are also committed to address the cost (considered prohibitive by some previously) of acquiring generic top-level domain names before any further expansion of gTLDs is introduced.</p> <p>A Specific area that falls within ICANN mandate is the introduction of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). IDNs enable tens of millions of users around the world to access the Internet using their native languages, and are used in many parts of the developing world in Asia, Middle East and North Africa. To date, 23 countries have their ccTLDs in their native scripts, including</p>

		<p>among others China, India, Russia and eleven Arab countries [5]. There are also planned to be over 100 new gTLDs in non-Latin scripts introduced into the root of the Internet in the next 6 months or so.</p> <p>[5]: Countries and territories with IDN ccTLDs:  <a href="http://www.icann.org/en/resources/idn/fast-track/string-evaluation-completion">http://www.icann.org/en/resources/idn/fast-track/string-evaluation-completion</a></p>
Yes	<p>South-South Opportunity  jrtnchekoua@gmail.com  B.P 33 Yaoundé Cameroon"</p>	<p>This work focuses on the public Internet access provided by private operators (telcos, independent cafes, national or local chains ...) to contribute to a better understanding of the process of integration in urban geography. Public access to ICT, private or voluntary, is the main form of access in countries where the cost of materials and connection are high relative to the standard of living of the population. This sharing can be analyzed as a particular form ICT appropriation. Indeed, China is experiencing growth and penetration of the Internet and a high rate of domestic equipment in significant computers (20% overall but 50% in town). Yet the rate of users of Internet cafes is growing even faster, and almost all internet cafes in the private sector, involved in the creation of a business ecosystem.</p>

Yes	<p>USA</p> <p>American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) 3635 Concorde Parkway, Suite 200 Chantilly, Virginia, 20151</p> <p>chandley@arin.net</p>	This space intentionally left blank
Yes	<p>Country: JAPAN Organization: Japan Network Information Center (JPNIC) Address: 4F Urbannet Kanda bldg. 3-6-2 Uchi-Kanda, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 101-0047 JAPAN Email: secretariat@nic.ad.jp</p>	(Left intentionally blank)
Yes	<p>Country:Japan Organization:KEIDANREN Address:1-3-2,OTEMACHI CHIYODA-KU,TOKYO 100-8188 E-mail:joho@keidanren.or.jp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting market development and providing business environments conducive to sustainable Internet access services based on market principles</li> <li>• Lowering trade barriers and deregulations for e-business and related services, including voice/data communication, online payment, product delivery, etc.</li> <li>• Improving literacy in harmonized usage of the Internet such as protecting intellectual property, network security and privacy. This will very important for business in suppressing costs in maintaining reliable services so that business can offer an affordable price with dependability</li> </ul>
Yes	<p>Country: Japan Organization: Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. Address: CFB East 13F, 3-8-1 Nishi-Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0065 JAPAN E-mail: hotta@jprs.co.jp</p>	.

Yes	<p>Government Offices of Sweden  Ministry for Foreign Affairs  Department for International Law, Human Rights and Treaty Law  Carl Fredrik Wettermark  SE-103 39 Stockholm  Sweden  carl-fredrik.wettermark@gov.se</p>	<p>Key issues to be addressed by developing and LDC countries include the establishment of economically and socially sound policies and regulations that enable competition on a level market playing field with predictability and accountability, leading to better infrastructure, lower prices and increased international exchange. The fourteen principles agreed in the OECD Communiqué on Principles for Internet Policy-Making, are greatly relevant to developing countries and LDC.  (<a href="http://www.oecd.org/internet/innovation/48289796.pdf">http://www.oecd.org/internet/innovation/48289796.pdf</a>)</p>
Yes	<p>United States,  Imagining the Internet,  CB 2850, Elon University, 27244,  andersj@elon.edu</p>	<p>no time</p>
Yes	<p>Igor Milashevskiy, i.milashevskiy@minsvyaz.ru  Alexander Grishchenko,  a.grichenko@minsvyaz.ru</p> <p>Russian Federation  Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications  (Mincomsvyaz of Russia)  7, Tverskaya str., Moscow, 125375, Russian Federation  Email: office@minsvy</p>	<p>Key operational issues that need to be solved for promotion of Internet affordability include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of ICT infrastructure including broadband access, facilitating the establishment of national and regional Internet exchange points;</li> <li>- Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.</li> </ul>

Yes	<p>RIPE NCC Singel 258 1016AB Amsterdam The Netherlands</p> <p>Email: externalrelations@ripe.net</p>	-
Yes	<p>Ellen Blackler Vice President, Global Public Policy The Walt Disney Company 425 Third Street, Suite 1100 Washington DC 20024 United States</p>	<p>Affordability of service in difficult to serve areas remains a concern even in developed countries. Affordability can best be addressed by encouraging open, competitive markets that will maximize private investment, leveraging the virtuous cycle of content, adoption and investment described above and supplementing this approach with universal service policies for areas that remain uneconomic to serve.</p>
Yes	<p>Mark Carvell Head, Global Internet Governance Policy Creative Economy, Internet and International Department for Culture, Media &amp; Sport 100 Parliament Street London SW1A 2BQ United Kingdom mark.carvell@culture.gsi.gov.uk</p>	<p>There are several components in the package of solutions for addressing this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ensuring national regulatory frameworks serve to drive costs down while attracting investment in service provision, promoting innovation and fostering local entrepreneurship;</li> <li>ii. promoting competition amongst providers;</li> <li>iii. examining the market potential for competitive mobile networks;</li> <li>iv. facilitating the establishment of Internet exchange points linked to regional backbones and broadband networks which significantly reduce transmission costs;</li> <li>v. creating sustainable markets for low cost devices;</li> <li>vi. engaging with industry analysts and policy experts at events such as the Internet Governance Forum.</li> </ul>

Yes	<p>ORGANISATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS:</p> <p>Association for Progressive Communications (APC) Global Valeria Betancourt &lt;valeriab@apc.org&gt;</p> <p>Bytes for All, Pakistan Pakistan Shahzad Ahmad &lt;shahzad@bytesforall.pk&gt;</p> <p>Centre for Community Informatics Research. Development an</p>	Not answered.
Yes	<p>Malaysia Consumers International Lot 5-1 Wisma WIM, Jalan Wan Kadir 3, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, WP 60000, Malaysia jeremy@ciroap.org</p>	We associate ourselves with the Best Bits submission, except for the additional answer to question 8 above.
Yes	<p>Country: Switzerland Organization: Digitale Gesellschaft Schweiz Address: Digitale Gesellschaft, c/o Swiss Privacy Foundation, CH-5620 Bremgarten AG E-mail: office (at) digitale-gesellschaft.ch</p>	(no answer)



Yes	<p>(a young international NGO with seat in Switzerland)  Organization: GodlyGlobal.org  Address: GodlyGlobal.org c/o Norbert Bollow,  Weidlistrasse 18, CH-8624 Grüt  Email: nb@GodlyGlobal.org</p>	<p>In all significantly populated areas where nevertheless economic factors do not result in the market providing affordable and qualitatively good Internet connectivity, Internet infrastructure needs to be built which is publicly funded and publicly owned. In contexts where the responsible governments are not able to do this, the UN has a responsibility to step in.</p>
Yes	<p>Anja Kovacs, Project Director  Internet Democracy Project  C14E  Munirka DDA Flats  New Delhi 110067  India   anja@internetdemocracy.in</p>	<p>(Not answered)</p>
Yes	<p>Country: India  Organization: SFLC.IN  Address: 2nd Floor, K-9, Birbal Road, Jangpura  Extension, New Delhi -110 014, India.  E-mail : mishi@softwarefreedom.org</p>	<p>Paragraph 54 of the Tunis agenda recognizes that an enabling environment is crucial, for "value is added at the edges of the network in both developed and developing countries when the international and domestic policy environment encourages investment and innovation." The key issues to be addressed to promote the affordability of the Internet are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Issues in telecom regulation;</li> <li>b) Accessibility to affordable hardware;</li> <li>c) Awareness of ICT technologies;</li> </ul>

Yes	<p>LACNIC</p> <p>Latin American and Caribbean Regional Addresses Registry</p> <p>Rambla República de México 6215, Montevideo, Uruguay.</p> <p>comunicaciones@lacnic.net</p>	<p>Despite some references have been provided above, it is important to stand out the need of Public Private partnership in order to increase broadband connectivity, and also to recognize the existing asymmetries between one developing country to the other, or even in different regions of the same developing country. Promoting the affordability of the Internet in least developed countries will require, among other strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband strategies at national level, including mobile broadband</li> <li>• Regional coordination for access to broadband connections</li> <li>• Providing access for remote and disadvantaged locations.</li> <li>• Using and managing the radio-frequency spectrum to increase access</li> <li>• Understanding the political, economic and technical challenges of installing IXPs and providing regional interconnection</li> <li>• Understanding and taking actions regarding the challenges of IPv4 exhaustion and the need of IPv6 deployment</li> <li>• Invigorating the local digital content industry</li> </ul>
Yes	<p>United States</p> <p>Center for Democracy &amp; Technology</p> <p>1634 I Street NW #1100</p> <p>Washington, DC 20006</p> <p>mshears@cdt.org</p>	Not answered
Yes		Not answered.

Yes	<p>Brazil</p> <p>Center for Technology and Society of Fundação Getulio Vargas Praia de Botafogo, 190, 13 andar Rio de Janeiro - RJ</p> <p>joana.varon@fgv.br marilia.maciel@fgv.br</p>	-
Yes	<p>Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Kasumigaseki 2-1-2, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8926, JAPAN m3.ichikawa@soumu.go.jp</p>	<p>For the affordability of the Internet, the reduction of prices for ICT networks and services should be evolved by the further liberalization of the telecommunications market, enhancement of competition, and promotion of investment.</p> <p>Taking account of the recent increase in penetration of mobile communications in developing countries, it is effective to implement policies that realize broadband communications with mobile communications and expand mobile services corresponding to broadband mobile communications.</p>
Yes	<p>Cote d'Ivoire, DIGILEXIS – SPR, 28 BP 1485 Abidjan 28 kichango@gmail.com</p>	<p>Promote and implement internet exchange points</p> <p>Promote more dynamic and smarter methods for managing the radio spectrum, and tap into the unused frequency bands also known as TV White Spaces in order to solve connectivity issues in remote and rural areas.</p> <p>ITU should put the necessary effort into demonstrating to its membership that it is possible to reduce the cost of internet access for the end user without the state necessarily losing in revenue on the long run.</p>
Yes	<p>France, INTLNET, 120 chemin des Crouzettes, Saint-Vincent de Barbeyrargues, France 34730, info@intlnt.net.org</p>	<p>Help people in every country to share and deploy digiliteracy. The digisphere is the way people (individual, families, structures, cities, States) accommodate digital facilitation in their own life. Personal empowerment is a whole, which only now includes an additional way to grasp at reality.</p>

Yes	Saudi Arabia, Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) PO Box 75606, Riyadh 11588, Saudi Arabia MAJED ALMAZYED, mmazyed@citc.gov.sa	We would expect this issue to be studied in depth by the enhanced cooperation Body, building on the work of ITU and other intergovernmental organizations. Some of the factors to be considered may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and use of suitable technologies which are simple and low cost.</li> <li>• National and regional Internet exchange points.</li> <li>• National and regional servers for major content providers.</li> <li>• Minimizing differences in the cost of carrying traffic.</li> <li>• Possibly subsidization of service.</li> </ul>
Yes	United States of America	To promote widespread affordable access to the Internet, developing countries must enable policy and regulatory environments that are fair, transparent, stable, predictable, and non-discriminatory. Policies should promote competition, support innovation in technologies and services, incorporate education and training programs, and incentivize private sector investment. Further, efforts need to be made to foster an increasingly educated and skilled workforce around the world so that the developing and least developing countries can find ways to become creators and suppliers of Internet services, applications, content, and code, not merely consumers of those provided by others. <p>In addition, the policy recommendations for encouraging broadband infrastructure development contained in the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development report can also contribute to affordable Internet connectivity in developing countries. The recommendations are for governments to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide policy leadership for investment, including open consultations on necessary policy and legal frameworks;</li> <li>2) Open telecommunications markets to competition through licensing and taxation reforms, including transparent licensing regimes;</li> <li>3) Enable government services that will stimulate demand for and investment in telecommunications, especially in developing countries;</li> <li>4) Establish a universal service program to support telecommunications infrastructure investment; and</li> <li>5) Encourage efficient and innovative mobile broadband practices for new</li> </ol>

		<p>market entrants and consumers.</p> <p>These recommendations warrant additional observations. Whereas mobile telephony is most often relied upon for local in-country calls, with the Internet the majority of the traffic is international. Under such circumstances it is more practical to establish in-country Internet Exchange Points (ISPs) to keep local in-country traffic in country, as well as to ensure market pricing for international connectivity. Often international links are held by a single firm or small consortium that gives them favor over their competition, with the prices being higher than would otherwise be required. ISPs would help change the business environment to move more and better services at lower cost to the people who need them most.</p> <p>Another key consideration is the development of locally relevant content—creating the on-line value that pulls demand onto the expanding Internet. The rapidly evolving market of cloud services, portable, personal devices and advanced software applications will power a new generation of local content as more citizens gain access to the Internet at affordable cost.</p> <p>An additional key issue is the adoption of effective USAFs by the government, and the adoption of newer technologies by the commercial carriers. Combined, these provide an incentive to expand to reach rural populations through less costly solutions; for many countries, often over 50% of their population is rural and marginalized and have the least financial resources to afford access.</p>
Yes	United States, Intel, 12 Poet Drive, Matawan NJ, 07747, Mike.s.chartier@intel.com	<p>Competition, especially at the facilities level, is the best way to reduce costs to consumers. In the situation where people are marginalized due for example to location, economic strength, or disability, subsidies such as Universal Service Funds, can be used to connect the underserved. To help countries take advantage of broadband and optimize the use of USFs, Intel has launched a series of USF workshops, bringing together government leaders, NGOs and strategic partners to share best practices and help unlock the benefits of broadband and ICT to all global citizens. With participants from ITU, USAID, World Bank, AHCNET, Regulatel, telecenters.org and delegates from Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, these workshops have maximized discussion and interaction among leaders to close the digital divide. This dialogue is a prime example of enhanced coordination and shows how the public and private sector can come together to unlock the benefits of broadband and ICT through effective use of USFs .</p>

		In addition capacity building is important to ensure developing countries have the latest examples of what is working or not in other countries. As explained in answers to questions 3 and 12, Intel, along with many different organizations and government administrations around the globe are working successfully on this problem.
Yes	<p>Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet)  <a href="http://www.kictanet.or.ke">www.kictanet.or.ke</a>, and the Internet Society (ISOC) Kenya Chapter <a href="http://isoc.or.ke/">http://isoc.or.ke/</a></p> <p>Contacts:  Mwenda Kivuva (<a href="mailto:Kivuva@transworldafrica.com">Kivuva@transworldafrica.com</a>)  Meshack Emakunat (<a href="mailto:memakunat@yahoo.com">memakunat@yahoo.com</a>)  Grace Githaiga (<a href="mailto:ggithaiga@hotmail.com">ggithaiga@hotmail.com</a>) (M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal and legislative frameworks</li> <li>• Sober regulators considerate of issues affecting the masses</li> <li>• Internet Infrastructure development</li> <li>• Affordable gadgets to access the internet</li> <li>• Liberalization of the internet industry</li> <li>• Government investment in internet infrastructure</li> <li>• Allow competition for the cables suppliers hence lower cost of internet and make it affordable to ordinary users.</li> </ul>
Yes	<p>Switzerland, Federal Office of Communications  OFCOM, 44 rue de l'Avenir, CH-2501  Biel/Bienne, Switzerland  <a href="mailto:ir@bakom.admin.ch">ir@bakom.admin.ch</a></p>	<p>Several international organisations reviewed best practises with respect to universal service / access and often made recommendations on this basis.</p>

Yes	Finland, Government and other parties include the multi-stakeholder WSIS working group which acts also as steering committee for the Finnish Internet Forum Mervi.Kultamaa@FORMIN.FI	Abolishing any restrictions to competition and ensuring a stable regulatory environment is of great importance for promoting the affordability of the Internet. If competition alone can't produce affordable broadband connections universal service obligations might be needed. Spectrum planning and sharing of infrastructure are also means of promoting the provision of broadband services. Also to be noted, a recent initiative by Google, Facebook and others to bring Internet to the reach of the unconnected five billion ( <a href="http://www.internet.org">www.internet.org</a> ). See also the answer to 15.
Yes	France, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), 38 Cours Albert 1er 75008 Paris, aha@iccwbo.org	<p>To advance and continue the affordability of the Internet it is important to create an enabling environment that attracts investment, promotes innovation and fosters entrepreneurship. An essential factor in this enabling environment is the deployment of broadband infrastructure. It has been statistically verified that the adoption of national broadband plans and policies that stimulate competition has resulted in marked increases in fixed and mobile broadband penetration. In addition, there is now ample evidence that broadband deployment is a significant stimulus to employment creation, growth in GDP, and an overall key driver of economic growth.</p> <p>A key driver of Internet access and its affordability is the deployment of broadband infrastructure – both fixed and mobile. The trending in cost of access to broadband and therefore the Internet has continued to drop among developed countries (recent statistics indicate that broadband access typically costs less than 2% of average income in 49 leading economies of the world). In the developing world the number of countries witnessing a decline in cost of broadband cost has increased thus stimulating Internet affordability and access. Availability of spectrum has a role as well in promoting the availability of the Internet. Research and development on new technologies that lower cost and increase bandwidth, and opening up markets to competition, where feasible, can also help lower cost.</p> <p>A great deal of information on best practices to ensure an enabling environment that promotes broadband deployment is available. Regional IGFs are excellent platforms for the exchange of information on best practices for creating an enabling environment that encourages investment, for example, in broadband deployment and its corollary an affordable Internet.</p>

Yes	Czech Republic, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Na Frantisku 32, 110 15 Prague 1, novakovam@mpo.cz	Should be identified and based on national analysis and reports.
Yes	Russian Federation, The council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (the Upper Chamber)103426, Moscow, Bolshaya Dmitrovka str., 26 rugattarov@council.gov.ru	I suppose that, the problem can be divided into two aspects: the economic one and the technological one, which are closely related. On the one hand, the low level of Internet expansion in developing countries is not connected with not low demand among population, but with high cost of data-way connection to the fiber-optic cable and Internet-providers services. So it is necessary to find ways to reduce costs of connection to the main cables of developing countries. On the other hand, there is a problem with the equipment for computers. The solution is to create a broad market of cheap computing devices and smart-phones as base tech-equipment for the population of a certain country, to introduce software solutions based on open source-key to avoid high licensing payments.
Yes	Mexico 1) Camara Nacional de las Industria Electronica de telecomunicaciones y tecnologias de la informacion (CANIETI) Culiácan No. 71 col. Hipodromo Condesa México D.F.  2) Instituto Nacional del Derecho de Autor (INDAUTOR), Puebla #143, Colonia Roma	INDAUTOR: Una de las cuestiones clave que deben abordarse para promover la accesibilidad de internet, es el financiamiento de las TIC, ya que los países en desarrollo y los países menos adelantados enfrentan otras prioridades nacionales y el acceso de internet requiere de una gran inversión, por lo tanto, si no cuentan con mecanismos adecuados de financiamiento de las TIC difícilmente podrán acceder al internet.  CANIETI: IDEM (ADN)



Yes

United States of America, United States Council for International Business (USCIB), 1400 K Street, NW, Suite 905, Washington, DC 20005  
bwanner@uscib.org

To advance and continue the affordability of the Internet it is important to create an enabling environment that attracts investment, promotes innovation and fosters entrepreneurship. An essential factor in this enabling environment is the deployment of broadband infrastructure. It has been statistically verified that the adoption of national broadband plans and policies that stimulate competition has resulted in marked increases in fixed and mobile broadband penetration. In addition, there is now ample evidence that broadband deployment is a significant stimulus to employment creation, growth in GDP, and an overall key driver of economic growth.

A key driver of Internet access and its affordability is the deployment of broadband infrastructure – both fixed and mobile. The trending in cost of access to broadband and therefore the Internet has continued to drop among developed countries (recent statistics indicate that broadband access typically costs less than 2% of average income in 49 leading economies of the world). In the developing world the number of countries witnessing a decline in cost of broadband has increased thus stimulating Internet affordability and access.

(See The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All -- <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/bb-annualreport2012.pdf>)

Availability of spectrum has a role as well in promoting the availability of the Internet. Research and development on new technologies that lower cost and increase bandwidth, and opening up markets to competition, where feasible, can also help lower cost.

A great deal of information on best practices to ensure an enabling environment that promotes broadband deployment is available. Regional IGFs are excellent platforms for the exchange of information on best practices for creating an enabling environment that encourages investment, for example, in broadband deployment and its corollary an affordable Internet.

Yes	<p>43 civil society organizations, 10 of them with ECOSOC consultive status, and many more individuals.</p> <p>Organizations supporting the proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Action Aid International (ECOSOC status)</li> <li>2. Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication, Bangladesh (EC</li> </ol>	.
Yes	<p>INDIA, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office 9, RUE DU VALAIS, 1202, GENEVA Mission.india@ties.itu.int</p>	<p>The key issues relating to affordability of the Internet, include the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Co-location of content in geographically dispersed location along with Content Distribution Networks (CDNs)</li> <li>ii. Lowering of Interconnection costs</li> <li>iii. Internet Exchange Points with peering for routing local traffic and interconnection across borders</li> <li>iv. Location of Internet "host" computers in the country and/or region.</li> <li>v. Regional backbones that interlink countries in the region and which also link to international backbones</li> <li>vi. Location of the root server systems in these countries</li> <li>vii. Interoperability and Net Neutrality - In response to the limitation posed by propriety software, alternative products such as Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) and alternative licensing regimes (for example Creative Commons, Copy left etc.) to help reduce the costs and (legal) risks associated with proprietary software and content.</li> <li>viii. Multi-lingualization (Internationalized Domain Names and Local Language Content).</li> <li>ix. Affordability in accessing International internet connectivity.</li> </ol>
Yes	<p>LATVIA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mission.un-gen@mfa.gov.lv</p>	<p>The WSIS outcome document provides clear guidance to this question.</p>

Yes	BULGARIA, Law and Internet Foundation, bul. Patriarh Evtimii 36, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria info@netlaw.bg	Recent studies published by ITU reveal that broadband penetration is directly related to its cost, relative to an average family income, as well as to the availability of products and services that accommodate the general population's purchasing ability. For example, as the annual cost of broadband drops below 3 percent of a family's annual income, its use begins to increase dramatically. For developed countries, this relative cost has already been achieved, but for at least 34 countries worldwide, the cost of broadband remains higher than the average annual family income and thus it remains entirely out of reach. Extending the penetration of broadband to reach the next billion users becomes more complex because the ability of people in developing countries to afford more advanced technology and communications lessens dramatically. For at least 34 countries worldwide, the cost of broadband remains higher than the average annual family income and thus it remains entirely out of reach. Other issues to be addressed are the illiteracy, lack of local content, lack of coherent regional policy.
Yes	BULGARIA, Department of Administration Modernization, Council of Ministers, 1 Dondukov Blvd.1594 Sofia is.ivanov@government.bg	.

Yes	<p>Country: Bulgaria  Organization: Information Technology and eGovernance Directorate, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications  Address: Sofia, 9 Dyakon Ignatii Str.  E-mail: hhrstov@mtitc.government.bg</p>	<p>Analysis of this issue should be included as a permanent issue in the IGF agenda. It requires intense discussions of pragmatic approaches in which the experience of some stakeholders can be extremely useful. One of the solutions is to attract investments to these countries to build infrastructure. Possibly by-lateral and multilateral projects can be discussed. Also public-private partnerships can be a fruitful mechanism to be implemented the elaboration of which should be subject to the principles of openness, transparency and respecting the public interest.</p> <p>Information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard it calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries; the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and it is noted with concern that there is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world;</p>
Yes	<p>Bulgaria, Executive Agency Electronic Communication Networks and Information Systems.  Bulgaria 1000 "Gurko 6" str.  mail@esmis.government.bg</p>	<p>Developing more free Internet access zones could be a solution in promoting affordability of the Internet. More educational training Internet usability courses could also increase the interest toward the benefits of Internet.</p>
Yes	<p>Bulgaria, Council of Ministers, Strategic Development and Coordination Directorate  1 Dondukov Blvd 1594 Sofia  y.stoyanov@government.bg,  l.kamenova@government.bg</p>	<p>Investment in broadband capacity;  Providing Internet access at affordable prices.</p>

Yes	Bulgaria, Bissera Zankova - Media Adviser to the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (MTITC) Sofia, 9 Diakon Ignatii Str. bzankova@gmail.com	Analysis of this issue should be included as a permanent issue in the IGF agenda. It requires intense discussions of pragmatic approaches in which the experience of some stakeholders can be extremely useful. One of the solutions is to attract investments to these countries to build infrastructure. Possibly by-lateral and multilateral projects can be discussed. Also public-private partnerships can be a fruitful mechanism to be implemented the elaboration of which should be subject to the principles of openness, transparency and respecting the public interest. See APC Reducing the Cost of International Internet Connectivity at <a href="http://intgovforum.org/Substantive_1st_IGF/APC_IGC_IIC_final.pdf">http://intgovforum.org/Substantive_1st_IGF/APC_IGC_IIC_final.pdf</a> Hillary Clinton initiative at <a href="http://www.nbcnews.com/id/3036789/ns/msnbc-morning_joe/vp/50692099#50692099">http://www.nbcnews.com/id/3036789/ns/msnbc-morning_joe/vp/50692099#50692099</a> - Kenya example!
Yes	Bulgaria, Academy of Sciences (IMI-BAS and LT-BAS) Sofia 1113, Acad. G. Bonchev Block 8 Director@math.bas.bg, Yoshinov@cc.bas.bg	.
Yes	Bulgaria, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics 5 James Bouchier Blvd. Sofia 1164, Bulgaria krassen@fmi.uni-sofia.bg	The key issues to promote affordable Internet access in developing countries are related to creation of high speed broadband and mobile Internet infrastructure and offering free and unlimited Internet access to this infrastructure. UN, UNESCO and other relevant international organizations should play key role for covering all the needed expenses.
Yes	Bulgaria, Ministry of Economy and Energy 8 Slavyanska str., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria ts.tsankova@mee.government.bg	Developing more free Internet access zones could be a solution in promoting affordability of the Internet. More educational training Internet usability courses could also increase the interest toward the benefits of Internet.

Yes

Country: Switzerland  
Organization: Internet Society  
Address: Galerie Jean-Malbuissou 15  
Email: bommelaer@isoc.org

The key issues to be addressed to promote the affordability of the Internet lie in a holistic examination of some of the barriers to connectivity. Governments and other stakeholders have the ability to implement and encourage policies that remove barriers to connectivity. Actions to “lift barriers” to connectivity (as noted in a new study released by the Internet Society in May 2013 “Lifting Barriers to Internet Development in Africa: Suggestions for Improving Connectivity”: <http://www.internetsociety.org/doc/lifting-barriers-internet-development-africa-suggestions-improving-connectivity>) include: liberalising regulatory regimes and lowering barriers to entry, particularly related to submarine cables and international gateways, reducing bureaucracy and costs of rights of way (including across borders), reducing the sector specific tax-burden, offering investors greater policy and regulatory certainty, incentivising infrastructure sharing, developing clear ICT policies, implementing a holistic view of the Internet value-chain that involves a range of stakeholders and identifies obstacles and removes conflicting policies around tax, investment and promotion of ICTs, and implementing policies that do not distort the market by favouring individual operators or restore de facto monopolies.

As stated before, a key element to promote affordability of Internet access is to set-up Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), to encourage additional infrastructure provision (submarine cables, ISPs, content providers), and to provide training that encourages more efficient and effective Internet service provision. IXPs allow for local Internet service providers to peer their traffic, often on a settlement-free basis, to keep “local traffic local”, reducing some long-haul traffic costs associated with traffic exchanged between participants, IXPs can allow big content providers to cache their content locally, enhancing speed and access to content and avoiding routing traffic through expensive and inefficient international routes.

The Internet Society is very active in this regard to building capacity in developing and least developed countries and promoting a multistakeholder approach, including ISPs, governments, content providers, and research and education networks under the same roof.

Yes

Division for the Information Society (DI)  
Ministry of External Relations - Brazil  
Tel: +55 (61) 2030-6609 - FAX: +55 (61) 2030-6613

The discussion on affordability of the Internet entails a number of international Internet-related public policy issues including, among others: global interconnection charges, global net neutrality, competition policies, technology standards and technology choices, regional Internet Exchange Points, infrastructure, regional programs, capacity building; development of local technology;and public policies that ensure accessible prices

Brazil considers, however, that WGEC should not put emphasis on this issue in the light of its mandate and time constraints.