IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	Markets, communities and public policies for access and Human Rights
Date	December 8th, 2016
Time	10:15 to 11:45
Session Organizer	Carolina Aguerre & Paula Vargas CETYS, Universidad de San Andrés / Agustina del Campo. CELE, Universidad de Palermo
Chair/Moderator	Paula Vargas-CETYS
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Agustina del Campo-CELE
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Bellagamba, Sebastián, ISOC Perry Siena, APNIC Casasbuenas, Julian, COLNODO APC Estrada, Miguel Ignacio, Min. Modernización, Argentina Galpaya , Helani, LIRNE ASIA López, Fernando, ASIET Gillwald, Alison, Research ICT Africa Ortiz Feuler, Juan, Google Policy Fellow, R3D México.
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	• Community experiences providing access to Internet; • Access policies in contexts of scarcity; • Bans on zero-rating and its effect on Internet access in unconnected communities; • Relevance of technological knowledge to design policies for access to Internet; • Empirical data about the results of connectivity policies in Mexico and their compliance with Human Rights standards; • Regulations for expanding access in Latin America; • Best practices for developing a community network; • Universal funds' real impact on expanding access to Internet; • Engaging the unconnected with Internet usage.
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	Julian Casabuenas: public access is still an alternative for poor countries. Underserved communities must adopt an open source model for networks ownership. Communities should be able to profit from backbone networks developed by government and should operate their own networks. Legal restrictions to spectrum usage by small communities should be removed. Digital Agenda shall be user oriented. Allison Gillwald: Internet access policies based on Human Rights principles are sometimes aspirational, not realistic. The Internet reflects all the inequalities already existing. Therefore it is not useful to impose models designed for mature democracies. Private and Public resources must be leveraged. Regulatory frameworks must focus on antitrust practices. Zero Rating in a context of underdevelopment is not the same that

in a context of developed countries, where it relates to quality and not to access. We cannot close the door to access possibilities.

Helani Galpaya: she explained that in South Asia the markets have reduced prices immensely because of competition. However, she pointed out that only between 20 and 30% of the population is online. For her, that means that even though the price barrier was crossed, there are still many issues to solve. India has the lowest prices in the region for Internet access and still the rates of people connected are very low. Therefore the problem is not price, the problem is that they do not see the need to be connected. In India Zero Rating plans were used not only to social activities but also to political activities, to replace other communication services. Government are inefficient using universal funds.

Fernando López, ASIET: when there are income restrictions private sector investment must be maximized. If Internet is a mechanism to increase FoE, local content is a requirement. Same regulatory conditions should be applied to all the players. We must avoid the regulatory vision according to which private sector must be pushed. Universal funds have not been properly managed. It is important to bridge the digital divide.

Sebastián Bellagamba: Internet Society, started by inviting the audience to check out the Society's report Policy framework for enabling Internet access available on http://www.internetsociety.org/doc/policy-framework-enabling-internet-access
He highlighted two main issues: how to connect the next billion and how can we solve the problem of trust for those who are already connected. 'We have to concentrate on the benefits that the Internet brings to our people and how we can get this opportunity right in order to move forward and to prosper as a society', said Bellagamba.

Siena Perry, APNIC, mentioned the situation of connectivity in Pacific nations in which there are examples of some islands where connectivity is provided by submarine cables, others that rely on satellite connectivity – which is more expensive and slower – and some islands that have no connectivity at all. Perry noted the importance of the human factor in the development of the Internet and its close relation with infrastructure.

Ignacio Estrada, Ministry of Modernization, Argentina: described Argentina's government connectivity policies and the different approaches to connect the unconnected in a

	country with vast differences of access, rates and services.
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	The session focused on the promotion of Internet access policies by innovating regulatory frameworks that address both the access problem and the human rights dimension. The discussion was in line with the recommendations from the Final Compilation document for Connecting the Next Billion, which stresses the need for an enabling environment, where 'future connectivity efforts need to ensure that those coming online have access to the entire global and open Internet. Access should be universal, equitable, secure, affordable, and high-quality on the basis of human rights...'.

The issue of zero rating was addressed considering the challenges and the opportunities it raises for many communities. For some it is the first step to gain access. Equal rating in India and increased competition among operators is a good example. When you have 6 to 10 operators there are more opportunities for interventions. A Facebook participant from the audience mentioned that the company is documenting experiences with zero rating, some can be found online. (Facebook connectivity lab). Who are the new users as a result of affordability in India? More rural and more female. Even if its affordable, there is a need for relevant content and currently most is information and social networking. Zero rating makes people go out and consume other goods.

Alternative solutions to bridge the access gap. If the desired policy is to have local content developing regions need data centers to host it. Also, independent regulators are needed. We must concentrate not only in connecting the unconnected, but also in including them to the Internet.
There was a discussion around the issue of mandatory public consultations and evidence from companies that are replacing facts and figures produced by the government. |
| Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs) | What is needed to replicate the Colombian model of community driven connectivity plans? Are there any key driver or can these models be replicated universally? How to balance short term and long term regarding Access to Internet policies? How can academia and civil society can "keep fighting" for real and full Access to Internet to the unconnected? What is the place for empirical research in order to explore the values that the unnconnected will bring to the Internet? What is the usage experience they are expecting to have?

What zero rating plans offer for those unconnected when price is not an issue, as in India? What do zero rating plans have to offer to those that could not speak against banning in India (the unnconnected)? Do we know who the unnconnected are |

| | in the different places?

Why do some argue that is not for the governments to "push" private sector to connect those where is not profitable? This idea needs to be revisited under the light of the balance required to develop these policies. Is it appropriate if the market goes only to affordable places? As the studies discussed at the roundtable have shown regarding public-private partnerships, it is quite inequitable if the private sector only goes to profitable places / "low-hanging fruit". How to increase transparency and accountability of connectivity policies? How can the availability of information be improved when the policies are designed and when they are implemented? |