

First Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovative (STI Forum)

Advancing Solutions and Opportunities – Global Cooperation Towards SDG 9

Description:

How can we realistically connect the next billions of new Internet users by 2020? With nearly 60 percent of humanity still lacking Internet access, the success of extending universal, affordable connectivity depends on the shared expertise, experiences, and creativity of the global technology and policy communities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Identified as one of the important components of Goal 9, the strive to promote universal and affordable access to the Internet by 2020 is one of the key efforts to promote the Internet as a horizontal enabler for the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

This event will introduce efforts by the global Internet community to advance solutions to this end, not least through the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a key multistakeholder platform for the Internet community established by the UN to discuss public policy issues. In 2015, the IGF launched a new intersessional initiative called “Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion”, which aims to identify challenges and good practices from all stakeholders on how to extend global access. It will also reflect on the findings of a recent summary report compiled by the IEEE and the World Bank resulting from an interactive event “Global Connect Stakeholders: Advancing Solutions” held this past April where stakeholders explored real-world solutions that exists now to extend affordable Internet access in underdeveloped and underserved communities. Both the IGF Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion and the IEEE and World Bank report will guide an interactive discussion where all participants will dialogue to surface anticipated challenges, promising opportunities and identify efforts for collaborative action to advance the goal of connecting the unconnected in a meaningful manner to achieve the SDGs.

Organizing Partners:

- Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN
- Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)
- Internet Society (ISOC)
- People Centered Internet

Thematic Focus:

In order to achieve the SDGs stakeholders from various fora with diverse viewpoints should gather to work collaboratively to foster and advance real world and impactful solutions to achieve the SDGs. The focus of this session is to bring more individuals and organizations from varying viewpoints together to explore cross-sectional and cross-functional solutions.

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Speakers¹:

Mr. Aki Enkenberg, Senior Adviser, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Ms. Constance Bommelaer, Senior Director of Global Internet Policy, (ISOC)

Mr. David Conrad, Chief Technology Officer, (ICANN)

Ms. Deborah Brown, Senior Project Coordinator (APC)

Ms. Karen McCabe, Senior Director, Technology Policy and International Affairs (IEEE)

Ms. Mei Lin Fung, Organizer, People Centered Internet

Mr. Salvador De Lara Rangel, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

Concept Note

Introductions and Setting the Scene: How have global collaboration in extending connectivity emerged over the past ten years, and what are some of the current challenges for practical implementations?

- *Presentations of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, global initiatives and reflections on current work*
- *What are some of the identified issues?*
- *How does it relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?*

Roundtable Discussions: Roundtable breakout sessions to discuss the challenges and opportunities for collaboration

- *The way forward in extending Internet access (deploying infrastructure, developing usability, enabling users, ensuring affordability, etc.)*
- *How to maximize the impact of Internet access on SDGs (Health, Education etc.)?*
- *What are the anticipated challenges & promising opportunities?*

Reporting on Discussions, Summary and Next steps: Reporting by each roundtable on the discussions and a summary of the next steps

- *Priorities and roadmap for collaborative projects*
- *Summary and Next Steps*

Potential Contribution to the STI Forum:

The event is designed to demonstrate how a collaborative approach and multi-stakeholder partnerships can address the challenge of access and connectivity in developing countries, and how a sustainable Internet can serve as a vehicle to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The event will highlight concrete examples and invite additional stakeholders from all fora to contribute collectively to provide concrete, meaningful solutions that illustrate the power of the widespread implementation of ICTs to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

¹ Please note that the focus of the session is on the attendees of the event, rather than panelists, in order to facilitate an open dialog among all individuals in the room.