What do we mean by ‘6 Degrees of Sharing’?

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Inspired by ‘6 Degrees of Separation’

- Aim to connect all the world to broadband
- Competitive framework
- Cut costs
- Existing regulatory tools

Photo source: ITU, Panes, Hicks
Why Share

- Cost single biggest reason to share
- Developing countries seek to leverage mobile infrastructure boom into mobile broadband boom
- Developing countries also seek to build IP-based backbone and backhaul networks
- Developed countries seek to leverage fixed line investments and upgrade to Fibre to home, building or curb
- Both share the same goal: to expand network deployment and development by cutting costs
How to Share

- Share some infrastructure but still compete on services
- Requires political will and clear regulatory framework
- Many of the regulatory tools already exist in interconnection and competition frameworks
- Can apply principles like site sharing, collocation, connection services to mobile, fibre and international gateway facilities
Time is Right

- For many developing countries, end of exclusivity periods
- A second wave of regulatory reforms could be unleashed
- Sharing strategies could be central to the second wave of regulatory reform
- Results could be phenomenal
6 degrees

What it is:

✓ Using infrastructure sharing together with Universal Access strategies within a competitive framework
✓ Reducing costs
✓ Allow new players to provide broadband
✓ Relying on time-tested competition principles
✓ About allowing markets to work
✓ Consumers getting service

What it’s not:

✗ An attempt to put infrastructure back in the hands of monopoly providers or to stifle competition (Sharing’s not possible if there’s only one player!)
✗ A strategy to lessen competition or to sell less equipment
✗ About markets not working
✗ Limiting consumer choices
✗ A limit on facilities-based competition
Different degrees of sharing or flip sides of the same coin?

- From basic interconnection regulation to local loop unbundling to functional separation?
- Functional separation versus open access?
- Adapting practices designed for different goals, e.g. tower sharing for environmental goals for universal access goals
Thank you!

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