

**WTPF-IEG/3/14**

**OPINION (n+1) Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXP’s) as a long term solution to advance connectivity**

The fifth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 2013),

*Recalling*

1. That Paragraph 27, c)i of the Tunis Agenda recognizes the contribution that Internet Exchange points can make to reducing interconnection costs and broadening network access
2. That Paragraph 50 of the Tunis Agenda calls for the establishment of national, regional and sub-regional Internet exchange points as a strategy for increasing affordable global connectivity thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all.

*Considering*

1. That enabling the interconnection of international, national and regional networks through IXPs is a more effective way to improve international internet connectivity and to reduce the costs of such connectivity rather than attempting to regulate prices for international internet interconnection.
2. That the study described in the report by ISOC, OECD and UNESCO (see <http://www.internetsociety.org/localcontent>) on the relationship between local content Internet Development and access prices found a significant relationship between the development of international bandwidth and the price of local Internet access.

*is of the view*

1. that establishment of national, sub-regional, and regional IXPs is a priority to address connectivity issues, improve quality of service and reduce interconnection costs;
2. that the increased level of interconnection which participation of IXPs enables, contributes to an enhanced level of resilience in the network infrastructure;
3. that regulation of international Internet interconnection cost is not an effective way forward to improve international internet connectivity;
4. that donor programmes and developmental financing mechanisms should consider the need to provide funding for initiatives that advance connectivity, IXPs and local content for developing countries;
5. that the creation of IXPs enables a virtuous cycle: To the extent that the IXP begins to build critical mass, involving ISPs, it will also begin to attract content providers, along with business, academic, and government users;
6. that local content capacity in developing countries should be encouraged and supported within the enabling environment that local/ regional IXPs provides;
7. that liberalization of the electronic communication market plays a significant role in allowing a competitive market to emerge to support introduction and interconnection with IXP’s and
8. that multilateral interconnection of network operators provides for a resilient infrastructure.

*Invites*

Member States and Sector Members to work in a collaborative manner with developing countries in order to:

* promote networks on national, sub-regional and regional level
* enable the emergence of Internet Exchange Points
* permit the local, regional and international internet network operators to interconnect through IXPs.