



**world summit
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Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

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Multi-stakeholder partnerships for bridging the digital divide



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ITU/Korea WSIS Thematic Meeting, Seoul,
23-24 June 2005**





Agenda

- WSIS and the digital divide
- Why multi-stakeholder partnerships?
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships in action
 - Selected case studies
- Measuring the digital divide
 - Digital divide trends
 - Towards a composite “Digital Opportunity Index”
- Overcoming barriers and enhancing partnerships





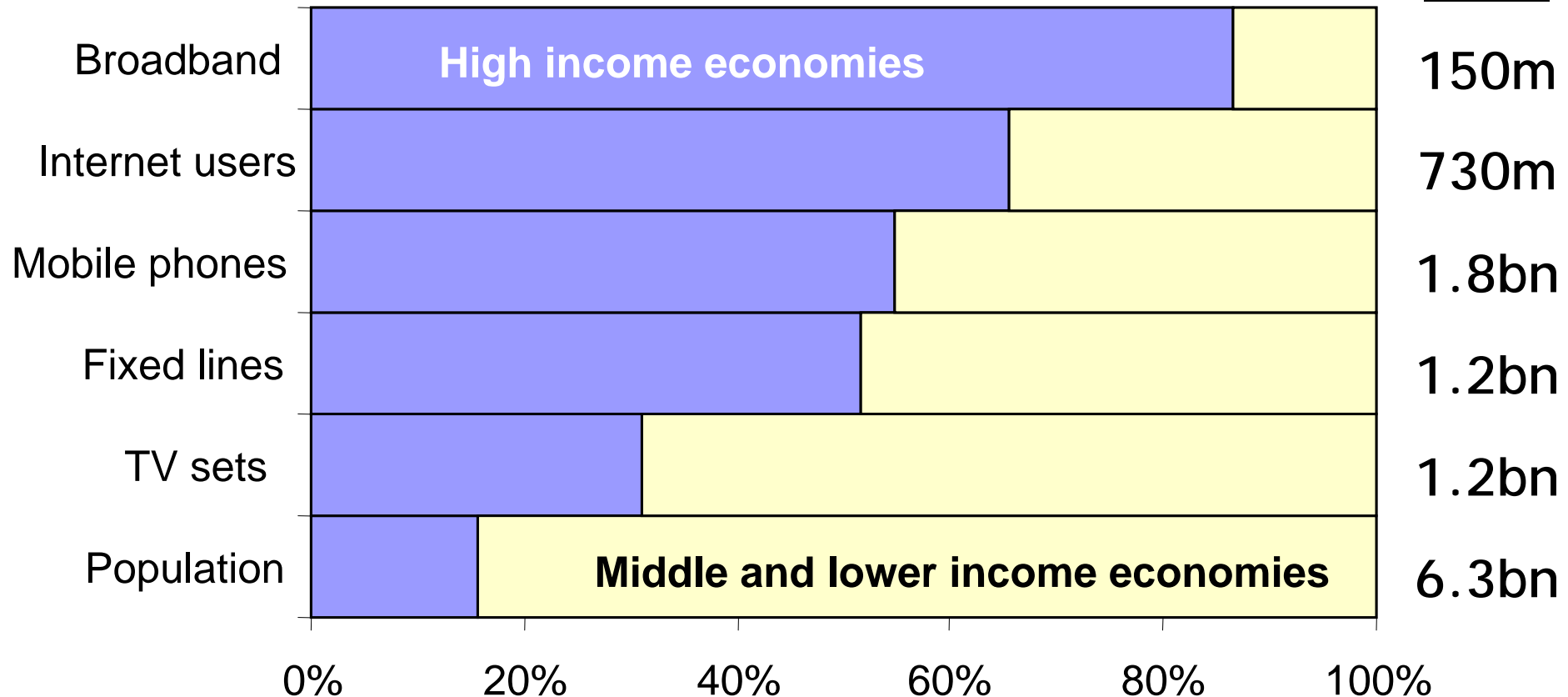
WSIS and the Digital Divide

- Universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICT infrastructure and services, constitutes one of the challenges of the Information Society and should be an objective of all stakeholders involved in building it. (Para 21)
- We are fully committed to turning this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized. (Para 10)



The newer the technology, the less even the global distribution

2004





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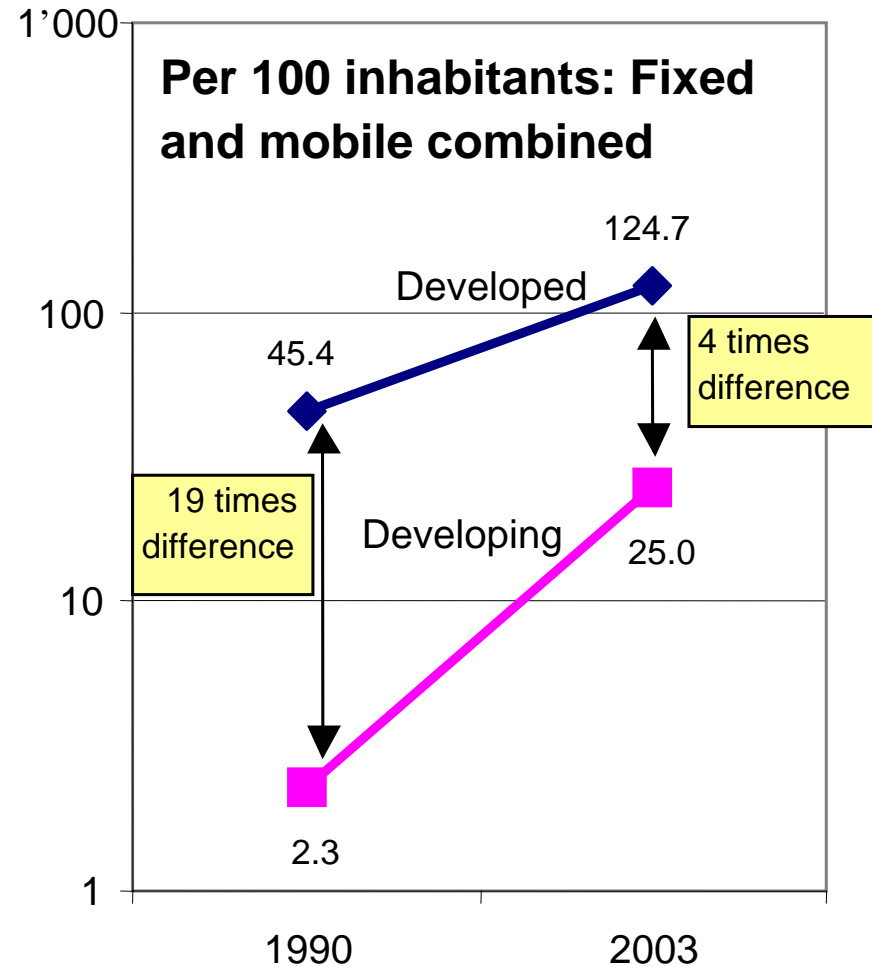
Slides for chapters 3 and 4





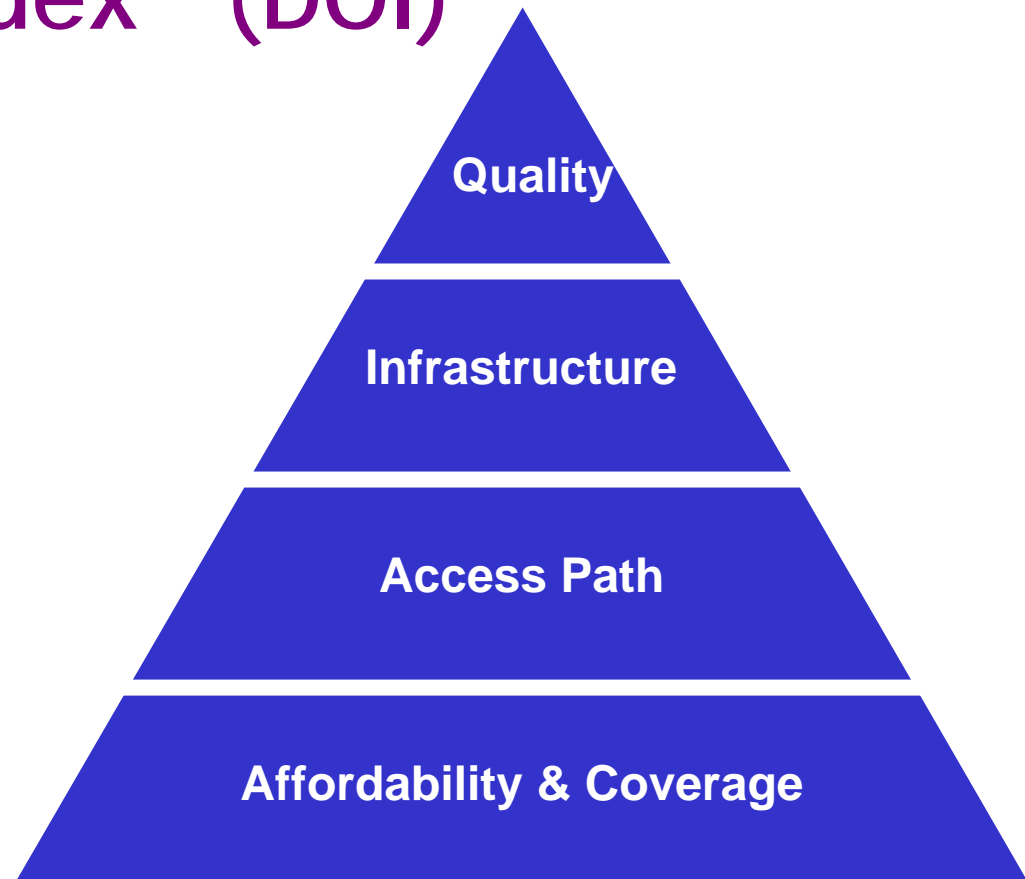
Closing the gap

- Telephone access in developing countries grew by 20% per year, 1990-2003, compared with 8% per year in developed countries
- Mobile phone networks have grown from 11 million users in 1990 to reach 2 billion by mid-2005
- Pre-pay mobile schemes have made them particularly attractive to low-income households



Towards a composite “Digital Opportunity Index” (DOI)

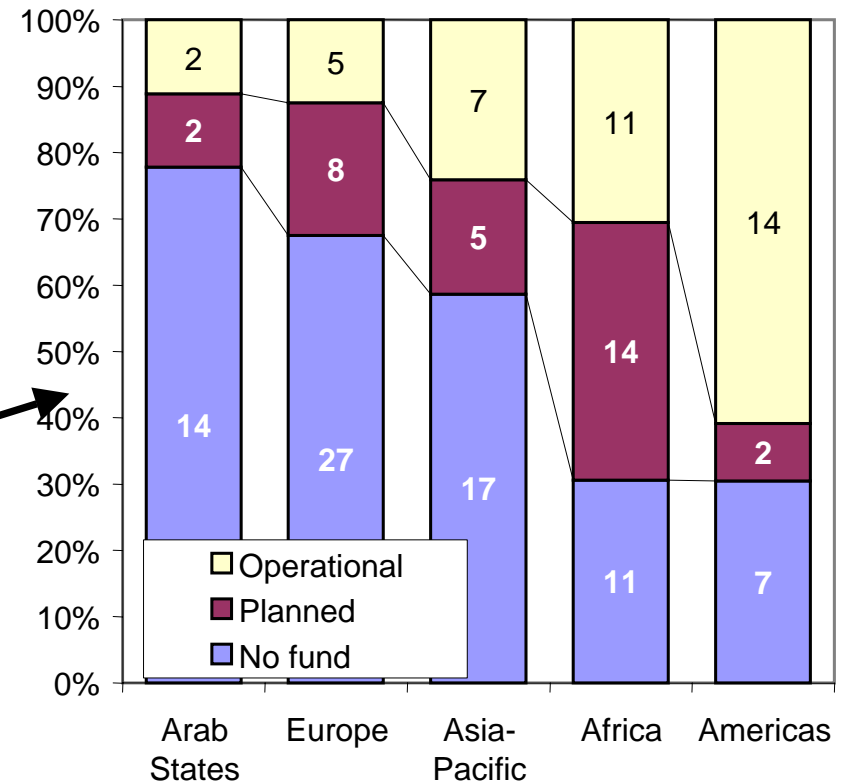
- “A realistic international performance evaluation and benchmarking (... should be developed to follow up the implementation of the ... Plan of Action” Para 28
- “In cooperation with each country concerned, develop and launch a composite ICT Development (Digital Opportunity) Index.” Para 28a
Extracts from WSIS Plan of Action





Financing options for multi-stakeholder partnerships

- Tariff cross-subsidies
- Targeted tariff discounts
- Pre-paid cards
- Telecentres
- Liberalisation of payphones
- **Universal service funds**
- Least cost subsidies
- Digital solidarity fund





Some factors for success in multi-stakeholder partnerships

- True partnership, based on mutual trust and willingness to learn (e.g., “Connect the World” programme, bringing together 22 partners)
- Ability to adapt to technological change (e.g., HealthNet project)
- Long-term commitment on behalf of partners (e.g., IDRC commitment to projects e.g. Acacia, BellaNet, ICA, Pan-Asia Networking)
- Replicability and scalability of projects (e.g., GrameenPhones’ VillagePhone initiative extended to 39’000 villages in Bangladesh and replicated also in Uganda)
- Long-term commitment on behalf of partners (e.g., IDRC commitment to projects such as Acacia, BellaNet, ICA, Pan-Asia Networking)





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Thank you

