

## International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience

### Working Group 3 Recommendations

#### Fostering Connectivity and Geographic Diversity

1	<b>Promote the establishment of blended-finance platforms and initiatives</b> for submarine cable investments, with emphasis on Small Island Developing States (“SIDS”), Landlocked Developing Countries (“LLDCs”), and underserved remote coastal regions, de-risking projects which may deliver high development impact but may not be commercially viable.
2	<b>Encourage engagement among financing institutions, governments<sup>1</sup> and operators</b> early in the submarine cable design process to promote potential investments benefiting SIDS, LLDCs and other underserved regions.
3	<b>Support the design and implementation of partnership structures</b> , including public-private partnerships, for marine cables to underserved regions, enabling routes that would not achieve commercial viability through purely private consortiums alone.
4	<b>Encourage the development of insurance mechanisms</b> to 1) improve project bankability for SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions and (2) reduce insurance costs for all systems.
5	Encourage governments to <b>develop clear, predictable policy and regulatory frameworks for submarine cable licensing and permitting</b> to reduce costs and project implementation delays resulting from uncertain regulatory environments, and improve project bankability.
6	<b>Encourage non-discriminatory access to cable landing stations, consistent with national regulations and national security requirements</b> , in underserved regions, enabling competing carriers to secure capacity for domestic and international terrestrial service driving wholesale price reductions benefiting end-users, digital economy development and landlocked neighboring countries.
7	<b>Promote the integration of branching units into the initial design of major trunk submarine cable routes, creating opportunities for concessional financing</b> to promote cost-effective connectivity for SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions.
8	<b>Encourage governments to consider options to develop anchor-tenancy</b> on systems designed for underserved regions by purchasing minimum bandwidth capacity on new submarine cable systems de-risking private sector and public investment.
9	<b>Support the implementation of good practices from new and existing toolkits</b> , where feasible, with the intention to enable rapid national submarine cable project deployments, with emphasis on SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions, to reduce costs and time to develop and deploy submarine cable systems and backup arrangements.
10	<b>Encourage, through industry best practice, the use of guidelines for assessing and fulfilling route diversity and resiliency needs</b> of SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions, to prevent disruptions resulting from environmental and human-made hazards.

<sup>1</sup> Any reference to “national” or “government” is understood to extend to Regional Economic Integration Organisations (REIOs) within their respective area of competence.

11	<b>Support capacity-building and technical assistance for regulators and policy makers in developing countries</b> , to enable countries to adopt good practices for submarine cable deployment, adapted to local contexts.
12	<b>Encourage comprehensive hazard vulnerability assessments for new submarine cable deployments and recommissioning projects to SIDS, LDCs and underserved regions</b> to mitigate identified hazards when possible.
13	<b>Encourage the implementation of regulatory frameworks which incentivize shared landing infrastructure in underserved regions</b> , reducing duplication of vulnerable facilities while maintaining the benefits of competition and diverse routing.
14	<b>Develop and adopt, where feasible, technical and operational protocols enabling seamless failover</b> to satellite, microwave, or other backup systems during extended submarine cable outages.