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**Introduction**

This document contains a proposal agreed by the Administrations of the Americas region towards the definition and adoption of the Regional Priorities for the Americas for the period 2022-2025.

The proposed priorities are premised by principles of universality, equity and affordability to connect the unconnected, expand broadband infrastructure, provide the necessary skills and tools to enhance and accelerate innovation and digital transformation in the region, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The priorities focus on the needs of developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Americas region, especially among vulnerable populations[[1]](#footnote-1). Regional priorities should be implemented through effective international cooperation for human and financial resource mobilization and with an active engagement of civil society, policy makers, regulators, the Internet technical community, international and regional financial institutions, international development agencies, industry partners, academia, and other relevant stakeholders throughout the region.

**Proposal**

The following priorities are proposed for the Americas Region, taking into consideration the principles outlined above.

**AMS1:** Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure

**Expected results:**

* Assistance in the design, funding and implementation of national, regional and sub-regional broadband plans and resilient networks, including support to community networks, with special attention to indigenous communities, underserved and unserved areas, critical environment areas and vulnerable populations, taking into account innovative connectivity solutions that can be locally deployed and managed, including access to spectrum and high-speed networks;
* Assistance in the development, funding and implementation of national emergency telecommunication plans and network infrastructure;
* Enhanced and strengthened confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including capacity building and support for the development of national cybersecurity strategies;
* Effective use of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs to mitigate climate change and enhance environmental sustainability;
* Assistance in the design of effective spectrum management plans, enabling affordable access to backbone facilities, development of IXPs, and appropriate use of universal service funds.

**AMS2**: Enhancement and expansion of digital literacy, digital skills and digital inclusion programs, especially among vulnerable populations.

**Expected results:**

* Support for the development of human capacity through national, regional and sub-regional capacity building projects, such as training programs or workshops, to exchange expertise and knowledge, as well as national and international experiences to provide practical skills and tools to bridge digital divides, including the gender digital divide, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs, enhancing competition, investment and innovation;
* Provision of diligent assistance in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and programs on digital literacy, digital skills and digital inclusion.

**AMS3**: Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects.

**Expected Results:**

* Assistance in the planning and implementation of foundational infrastructure and special purpose e-services;
* Increased capacity building and multi-stakeholder cooperation to facilitate and enhance innovation in telecommunications/ICTs in support of digital transformation in the region, with special focus on developing countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, indigenous communities, in particular youth and women in rural, remote, unserved or underserved areas and communities;
* Promotion of the active engagement of civil society, international financial institutions, industry partners, academia and other relevant stakeholders.

**AMS-4** - Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs that support the achievement of SDGs and the progress towards the digital economy.

**Expected results:**

* Support and promotion of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs in developing countries, especially the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, and protected areas for emergency communications and to protect, restore and promote a sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems;
* Support for the development of an enabling policy and regulatory environment and to facilitate investment and innovation to connect the unconnected and achieve the SDGs;
* Support for Member States in the implementation of policy and regulatory strategies to connect the unconnected with a focus on affordability, including support of small operators and community networks;
* Enhanced outreach to developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, for greater participation in ITU processes and access to finance and expertise;
* Support for digital financial inclusion and fostering implementation of electronic transactions.

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1. Vulnerable populations are intended to include women and girls, persons with disabilities and specific needs, older persons, youth, marginalized communities and indigenous people. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)