

**WTPF-IEG/3/31**

**Note:** The United States submits the following revisions (in track changes) to Document WTPF-IEG/2/14 (Contribution 35).

**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; and
3. Resolution 101 (Guadalajara, 2010) *resolves 2),* that the ITU should fully embrace the opportunities for telecommunication/ICT development that arise from the growth of IP-based services, in conformity with the ITU purposes and the outcomes of the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of WSIS.

*Considering*

1. That the report by ISOC, OECD and UNESCO, 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.
2. That the ITU and UNESCO Broadband Commission report, *The State of Broadband 2012*, concluded that IXPs have resulted in economic efficiencies and have proven helpful in expanding connectivity, where the regulatory environment has been favorable.
3. That at the 2012 Connect Americas Summit, regional leaders committed to the development of Internet exchange points at the local, national and regional levels to reduce Internet access costs

*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 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 than regulating prices for international internet interconnection ;
3. that donor programmes and developmental financing mechanisms should consider providing funding for initiatives that advance connectivity, IXPs and local content for developing countries;
4. that the adoption 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 local, national, and international content providers, along with business, academic, and government users;
5. that local content capacity in developing countries should be encouraged and supported within the enabling environment that local/ regional IXPs provides;
6. that effective IXPs often emerge where Member States have adopted multistakeholder policy processes, as IXPs rely on cooperation among relevant stakeholders;
7. that regulatory impediments on arrangements for transit and peering should be removed to create an enabling and competitive environment for the creation of IXPs;

h) that liberalization of the market plays a significant role in allowing a competitive market to emerge to support introduction and interconnection with IXP’s and;)i) that multilateral interconnection of network operators provides for a resilient infrastructure.

*Invites*

Member States and Sector Members to work in a collaborative manner to:

* promote the further development of networks on national, sub-regional and regional levels
* enable the creation of Internet Exchange Points through the exchange of technical expertise and the fostering of supportive policy environments
* remove barriers to participation by local network and international operators interconnecting through Internet exchange points.