TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE

Working Group on Access (connectivity) and affordability

1. Scope and Objective

The Working Group on Access and affordability is a sub-group of the m-Powering Development Initiative Advisory Board tasked with focusing on means to advance access (connectivity) and affordability through mobile technology and devices, taking into consideration the need for relevant content, apps and services. The Group will focus on how ICTs can empower the poorest and most marginalized population groups. The objective of the working group is to provide input to the work of the Advisory Board.

2. Activity

The working group will, among other things:

i. identify key stakeholders and new players,

ii. Identify existing technologies and mobile devices that could enable affordable access,

iii. identify potential technical, regulatory and commercial barriers for the implementation of these technologies and devices,

iv. research innovative incentive mechanisms to extend access, connectivity and uptake

v. carry out a needs analysis by identifying and surfacing use cases (m-health, m-education, m-banking, m-agriculture, m-governance, etc.),

vi. examine the potential of unified platforms, providing for the integration of databases with application platform and transactional capability, in empowering the poorest and marginalized population,

vii. identify innovative business models for sustainable connectivity taking into consideration affordability within the targeted group,

viii. draft a work plan for concrete actions,

ix. carry out the activities that will support the implementation of the Initiative work plan.

3. Membership

Members of the working group serve in their individual capacity and any interested Board Member can participate in the work of the group and any other working group. The group can also invite third parties to join their work, on the basis of their potential contribution to the group's activities.

4. Methods of Work

The working group will determine its own methods of work, including time for consideration of requests, preparation and conduct of its tasks. The activities of the group will be coordinated and led by the leading Board Member who was designated during the Advisory Board meeting. In principle, the working group will carry out its work by electronic means, using conference calls and e-meetings.

5. Secretariat and Administrative Support

Within available resources, ITU will provide the administrative and secretariat support required by the working group, including record keeping, distribution of documents and SharePoint related services.