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Information Document

Contribution to WTPF on Reducing the cost of international Internet connectivity

Source: Richard Hill, APIG

**Introduction**

At its February meeting, the Informal Expert Group agreed Draft Opinion 1, published as WTPF13-IEG3/C 47. That draft opinion correctly notes that implementation of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) may bring a number of advantages, and indeed that view is also expressed in 3.7 of the International Telecommunication Regulations (Dubai, 2012) which states:

3.7 Member States should create an enabling environment for the implementation of regional telecommunication traffic exchange points, with a view to improving quality, increasing the connectivity and resilience of networks, fostering competition and reducing the costs of international telecommunication interconnections.

However, IXPs are not the only measure that can be taken to reduce the cost of international Internet connectivity for developing countries, thus it is proposed that WTPF consider an additional opinion on that topic.

A draft of such an opinion is presented below.

**Proposal**

**Draft opinion
Reducing the cost of international Internet connectivity for developing countries**

The fifth Word Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (Geneva, 2013),

*taking into account*

 the extensive studies carried out in ITU regarding the cost of international Internet connectivity for developing countries, in particular:

1. The 23-24 January workshop on Apportionment of Revenues and International Internet Connectivity;
2. The summary report of that workshop;
3. The studies of international Internet connectivity carried out by BDT for that workshop and presented to the workshop and also to the 27-31 May meeting of ITU-T Study Group 3,

*considering*

a) The high cost of international bandwidth borne by Internet access providers, particularly in developing countries;

b) The low level of Internet service penetration in developing countries, particularly in Africa;

c) The high prices for Internet service users in developing countries;

d) The provisions of Resolution 22 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

e) The WSIS objectives for 2015 set out in the Tunis Agenda;

f) Country experiences in terms of international bandwidth and Internet development;

g) The fact that end users in developed countries pay less than 3 per cent of the minimum wage for an Internet connection,

*is of the view*

that the requisite measures be taken to ensure that, even in developing countries, the end-user cost of an Internet connection be no higher than 3 per cent of the minimum wage. The measures to be taken may include the following:

# A. At the national level

1 Introduction of measures to encourage the implementation of Internet exchange points (IXPs);

2 Construction of national IXPs;

3 Liberalization of national terrestrial links and/or regulation of tariffs for leased links where there is insufficient competition;

4 Introduction of measures to encourage infrastructure sharing;

5 Liberalization of landing points and/or controlling the tariffs for international leased links in monopoly situations;

6 Establishment of an environment conducive to local content development and hosting;

7 Hosting of mirror sites,

# B. At the regional and continental levels

1 Adoption of directives and/or introduction of regional and continental regulatory provisions conducive to the construction of IXPs;

2 Construction of regional and continental IXPs;

3 Construction of terrestrial infrastructures to provide low-cost interconnection between countries,

# C. At the international level

1 Deployment of submarine cables at lower cost;

2 Sharing of international bandwidth costs according to the volume of Internet traffic exchanged, in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T D.50 and any annexes and supplements thereto,

*invites all members*

 to collaborate as appropriate to implement the measures outlined above.