

**WTPF-IEG/3/20**

**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 (IXP) as a strategy for increasing affordable global connectivity thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all

*Recognizing*

a) That according to no. 3.7 of the International Telecommunication Regulations (rev. 2012) 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.

*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.

 *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 regulation of international Internet interconnection cost is not the only way forward to improve international internet connectivity;
3. of recommending donor programmes and developmental financing mechanisms to consider the need to provide 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 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 liberalization of the market plays a significant role in allowing a competitive market to emerge to support introduction and interconnection with IXP’s and
7. that multilateral interconnection of network operators provides for a resilient infrastructure.

 *Invites*

Member States and Sector Members to work in a collaborative manner with developing countries plans

* to promote networks on national, sub-regional and regional level
* to enable the emergence of Internet Exchange Points
* to promote public policies aimed at fostering competition to participation by local network and international operators interconnecting through Internet exchange points.