
Dear WSIS+20 Secretariat (UN DESA),

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this space with our proposals to be considered in Bridging Digital Divides and Financial Mechanisms. We present this remarks on behalf of Colnodo, a Colombian civil society organization that is part of the Colombian Internet Governance Forum and member of the Association for Progressive Communications - APC.

Bridging Digital Divides

Our proposal could be added into **paragraph 32** of the Zero Draft, aligned with the language of both the **Global Digital Compact (GDC)** and Colnodo and APC's practical experience in implementing **community networks** in Colombia and other parts of the world:

Paragraph 32:

32. We call on governments, multilateral development banks, relevant international organisations civil society, and the private sector to develop **innovative** financing mechanisms and incentives to connect the unconnected to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity, **including through investing in and deploying resilient digital infrastructure in rural, remote and “hard-to-reach” areas, and by promoting equitable access to satellite orbits, taking into account the needs of developing countries. In doing so, it is essential to promote inclusive and locally driven solutions such as *local networks*, including *community networks*, which have proven effective in bridging the digital divide in rural, remote and underserved areas, while strengthening local capacity and ensuring that connectivity responds to community needs and priorities.**

Local networks enable communities to design, deploy, and manage their own telecommunications infrastructure, ensuring that connectivity responds to local priorities, languages, and cultural contexts. They foster community participation, digital skills development, and local innovation, contributing to sustainable and resilient connectivity models that complement national and commercial networks.

In line with the Global Digital Compact's call to “invest in and deploy resilient digital infrastructure, including satellites and local network initiatives,” we encourage all stakeholders to recognize community-led models as integral components of universal access strategies. These approaches not

only expand coverage but also strengthen digital inclusion by building local capacity, empowering marginalized groups, and advancing progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 9 and 11).

Financial Mechanisms.

As members of the Association for Progressive Communications, we want to endorse its proposal to Establish a financing taskforce to propose innovative mechanisms building on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and anchored in the WSIS architecture, specifically in paragraph 72 to include:

We call for the establishment of a dedicated task force anchored in the WSIS architecture to explore and propose financing mechanisms to support implementation of the WSIS vision and goals, building on the outcome of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and giving consideration to public finance, revision of the design and deployment of universal service funds, development bonds, tax revenue, and other forms of private investment and innovative and collaborative approaches.

Thank you for your attention,

Best,

Julián Casasbuenas G.
Colnodo Director

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