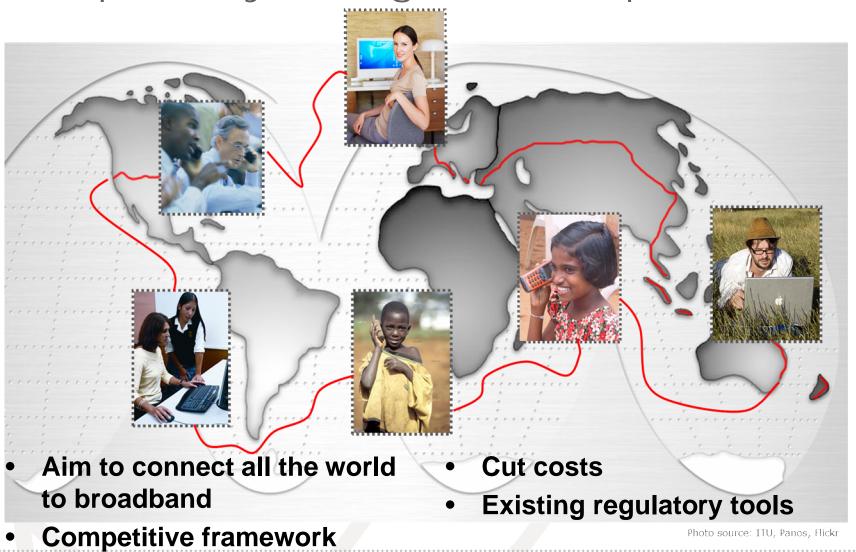GSR 08: Session 1

What do we mean by '6 Degrees of Sharing'?

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Inspired by '6 Degrees of Separation'

- **Aim to connect all the world to broadband**
- **Cut costs**
- **Existing regulatory tools**
- **Competitive framework**

Photo source: ITU, Panos, Flickr

Why Share

- Cost single biggest reason to share
- Developing countries seek to leverage mobile infrastructure boom into mobile broadband boom
- Developing countries also seek to build IP-based backbone and backhaul networks
- Developed countries seek to leverage fixed line investments and upgrade to Fibre to home, building or curb
- Both share the same goal: to expand network deployment and development by cutting costs

How to Share

- Share some infrastructure but still compete on services

- Requires political will and clear regulatory framework

- Many of the regulatory tools already exist in interconnection and competition frameworks

- Can apply principles like site sharing, collocation, connection services to mobile, fibre and international gateway facilities

Time is Right

- For many developing countries, end of exclusivity periods
- A second wave of regulatory reforms could be unleashed
- Sharing strategies could be central to the second wave of regulatory reform
- Results could be phenomenal

6 degrees

What it is:

- ✓ Using infrastructure sharing together with Universal Access strategies within a competitive framework
- ✓ Reducing costs
- ✓ Allow new players to provide broadband
- ✓ Relying on time-tested competition principles
- ✓ About allowing markets to work
- ✓ Consumers getting service

What it's not:

- ✗ An attempt to put infrastructure back in the hands of monopoly providers or to stifle competition (Sharing's not possible if there's only one player!)
- ✗ A strategy to lessen competition or to sell less equipment
- ✗ About markets not working
- ✗ Limiting consumer choices
- ✗ A limit on facilities-based competition

Different degrees of sharing or flip sides of the same coin?

- From basic interconnection regulation to local loop unbundling to functional separation?

- Functional separation versus open access?

- Adapting practices designed for different goals, e.g. tower sharing for environmental goals for universal access goals

Thank you!

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