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**Introduction**

This document contains a proposal by the administrations of Argentina, Brazil, Canada and United States towards the definition and adoption of the Regional Priorities for the Americas for the period 2022-2025.

The proposed priorities are premised by principles of universality, equity and affordability to connect the unconnected, expand broadband infrastructure, provide the necessary skills and tools to enhance and accelerate innovation and digital transformation in the region, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The priorities focus on the needs of Developing Countries, Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Countries, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Americas region, especially among vulnerable populations[[1]](#footnote-1). Regional priorities should be implemented through effective international cooperation for human and financial resource mobilization and with an active engagement of civil society, policy makers, regulators, the Internet technical community, international and regional financial institutions, international development agencies, industry partners, Academia and other relevant stakeholders throughout the region.

**Proposal**

The following priorities are proposed for the Americas Region taking into consideration the principles outlined above.

**AMS1:** Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure

**Expected results:**

* Assistance in the design, funding and implementation of national, regional and sub-regional broadband plans and resilient networks, including support to Community Networks, with special attention to indigenous communities, underserved and unserved areas, critical environment areas and vulnerable populations, taking into account innovative connectivity solutions that can be locally deployed and managed, including access to spectrum and high-speed networks.
* Enhanced and strengthened confidence and security in the use of ICTs

**AMS2**: Enhancement and expansion of digital literacy, skills and inclusion programs, especially among vulnerable populations.

**Expected results:**

* Support the development of human capacity through national, regional and sub regional capacity building projects, such as training programs or workshops, to exchange expertise and knowledge as well as national and international experiences to provide practical skills and tools to bridge digital divides, including the gender digital divide, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable telecommunication/ICTs, enhancing competition, investment and innovation.
* Provide diligent assistance in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and programs on digital literacy, digital skills and digital inclusion.

**AMS3**: Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems in the Americas through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects

**Expected Results:**

* Increased capacity building and multi-stakeholder cooperation to facilitate and enhance innovation in telecommunications/ICTs in support of digital transformation in the region, with special focus on Developing countries, LDCs, Landlocked, SIDS, indigenous communities, with an emphasis on youth and women in rural, remote, unserved or underserved areas and communities.
* Promote the active engagement of civil society, international financial institutions, industry partners, Academia and other relevant stakeholders.

**AMS-4** - Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected in the Americas region through accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs that support the achievement of SDGs.

**Expected results:**

* Support for development of an enabling policy and regulatory environment to facilitate investment and innovation to connect the unconnected in the Americas region and achieve the SDGs.
* Support member states in implementation of connectivity strategies with a focus on affordability, including support of small operators and Community Networks
* Assistance in the design of effective spectrum management plans, affordable access to backbone and development of IXPs, and appropriate use of universal service funds
* Support digital financial inclusion

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1. Women and girls, persons with disabilities and specific needs, older persons, youth, marginalized communities and indigenous people. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)