



BUILDING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

**Joint Facilitation Meeting on
WSIS Action Line C2, C4, C6**

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Action Line C6: Enabling Environment
Universal Access Trends

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Action Line C6 Enabling Environment

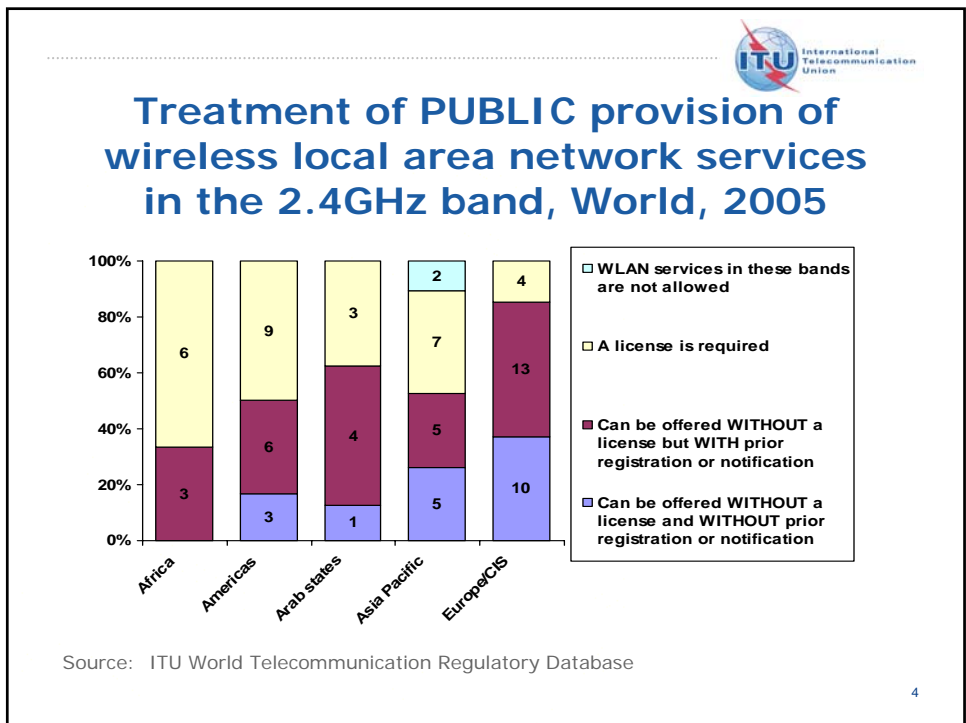
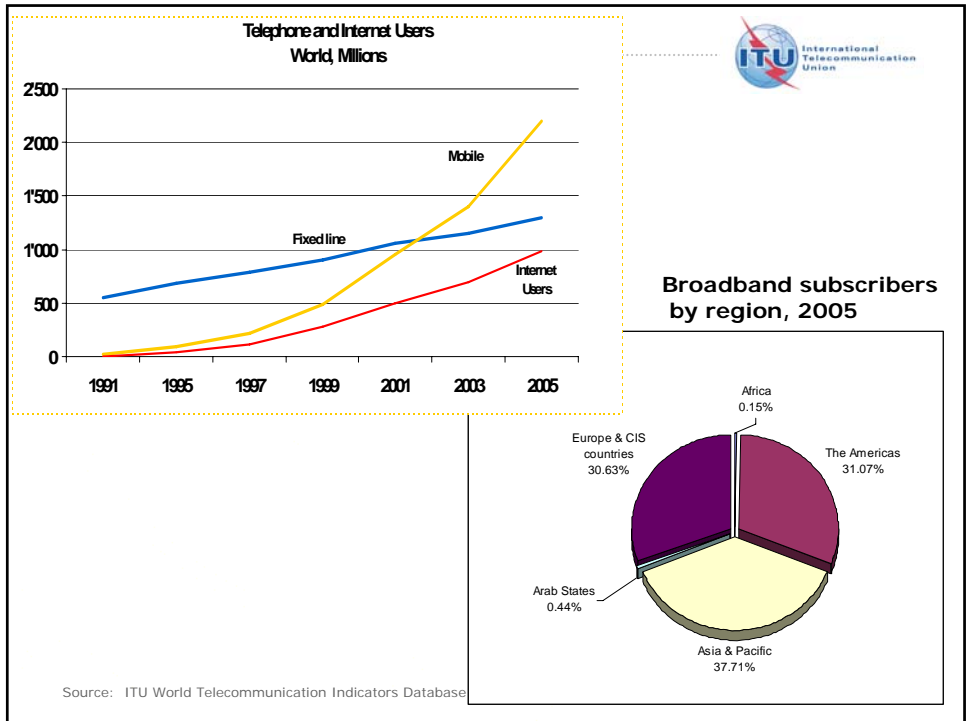
Universal Access Trends

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**Universal Access Issues
Today—or using all tools**

- How should the scope of universal access be defined?
- What should universal access funding support?
- Should broadband be included in a universal access definition?
- Where funding is required, how should universal access funds be collected and distributed?
- How should needs be identified - top down or bottom up?
- What role do not-for-profit organizations play?



Universal Access Funding and Disbursement

- Eroding revenues from international and long distance calls coupled with decline of accounting rate system and rise of VoIP
- Universal access funds based on operator revenue, levies on end users, license and spectrum fees, general taxation
- Who is supported? End users, Incumbents, Small operators, NGOs and Not for Profits
- Top-down or bottom up approach?
- Micro-finance

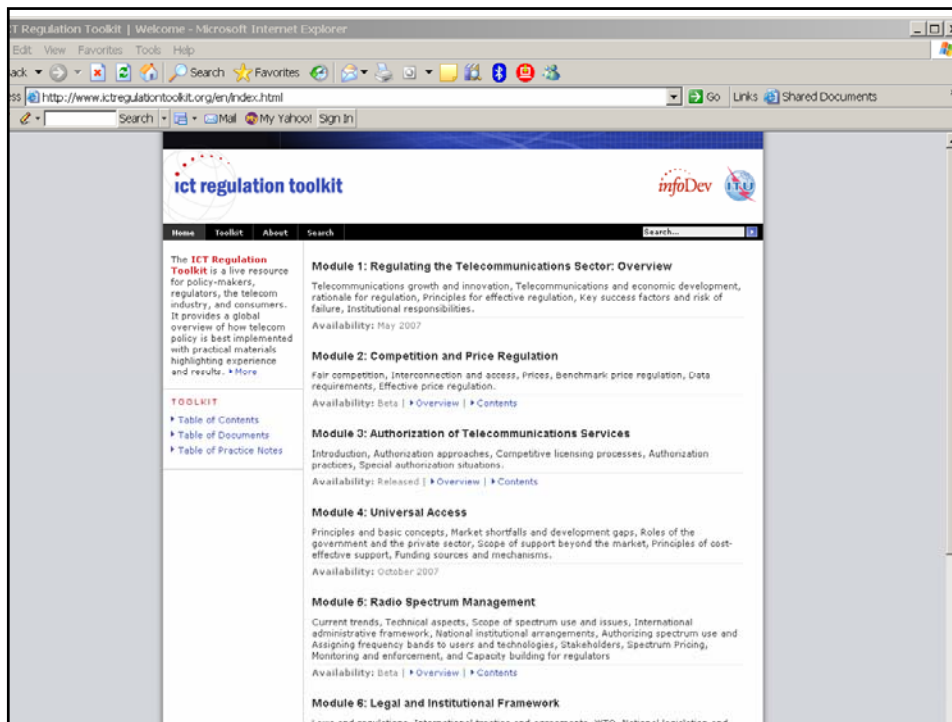
5




Blueprint for Universal Access Trends

- Greater reliance on sector reform
- Government funding collected and disbursed in innovative ways
- Leverage technological developments, new actors, innovative financing (micro-credit)
- Ensure backbones deployed

6





Universal Access Module

- The Key role that regulatory reform plays in promoting universal access/service
 - Fostering a competitive market to address the “market efficiency gap”
 - Addressing the true access gap: government financial intervention to achieve universal access
 - The role of the government as a facilitator, how in some cases it can do so without providing financial support, e.g., to bring a broad range of actors together to develop national broadband internet backbones or establish national and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).
- Universal service / access policies in the context of increasing deployment of broadband and Internet; including to schools, rural areas, health facilities, youth, women, indigenous people and disabled users.
- Universal service / access mechanisms in the context of changing interconnection modalities associated with next-generation networks.
- The provision of emergency services in both traditional telecommunications and IP/NGN environments.
- The design of targeted subsidies; risks and management models for universal service / access funds.
- Examples and case studies of operator-specific strategies for planning universal access projects
- The roles of public and private sectors, and NGOs, including for example initiatives for local open access networks for communities and municipalities.

8

Thank you!

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