

B20 Task Force on ICT and Innovation: Concrete Actions for Los Cabos

The B20 Task Force on ICT and Innovation has proposed four “Priority Actions for Los Cabos” to G20 stakeholders. While all four priority actions are essential to fully take advantage of ICT, two ideas in particular must be implemented in order to benefit a large portion of the population in the shorter term.

1. Enable broadband for all

Metric and criteria for success

- Increase percentage of people with access to Internet from 35% to 70% in G20 countries.

Concrete action: Create a database that allows comparability of ICT-related indicators across countries and across time (e.g. indicators related to coverage, quality and cost of ICT, as well as indicators measuring the economic effects of ICT, such as digital literacy levels and e-payments penetration, for example).

Commitments needed

- Telecom ministries from G20 countries should require the publication of ICT-related indicators to the private sector
- Telecom companies should commit to provide the required information to build the ICT-related indicators
- A global entity should collaborate with Telecom Ministries to compile and publish the information captured at a national level.

Commitments made by the task force

- America Movil, in coordination with ITU and other multilateral organizations commits to analyze and establish the indicators to be tracked and the methodology to measure them

Concrete action: Determine universal access goals based on each country’s current starting position and invest in creating infrastructure for coverage based on the set targets.

Commitments needed

- Local representative who commits to coordinate efforts in each country to establish universal access goals

Commitments made by the task force

- ITU commits to diagnose the starting point of the different countries and establish a goal for each of the key indicators

Concrete action: Define regulatory framework for each country to create the incentives and environment for investment and competition, specifically to make previously economically unviable zones viable (e.g. spectrum management).

Commitments needed

- Telecom ministries along with regulators to commit to change in regulation in order to promote the needed investments
- Create universal service funds or other funding mechanisms to provide investments for areas that will not be covered through market mechanisms

2. Develop content and applications for the public good: social inclusion through ICT

Concrete action: Improve basic and digital literacy and create targeted programs to teach skills

Commitments needed

- Education ministries and telecom ministries should launch PPP to provide programs to improve digital literacy

Concrete action: Change regulation when necessary (e.g. financial regulation to allow mobile banking).

Commitments needed

- Telecom and finance ministries along with regulators should change financial regulation to allow and promote mobile banking

Concrete action: Invest in technological platforms to provide content and applications for the public good (e.g., healthcare, financial inclusion, education).

Commitments needed

- Telecom and finance ministries should promote the existence of financial incentives for investment