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A COMPILATION OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS SUCCESS STORIES

(Item on the Agenda: 4.1.4, 4.2.4)

(Document submitted by Internet Society)

Impact on the sector:

Community Networks are innovative and complementary solutions to connecting more people and growing the Internet (including as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals).

Executive Summary:

This document outlines examples in the Americas and other parts of the world of communities that have successfully deployed and sustained their networks. In several cases, partnerships with the local regulatory bodies, other government agencies and ministries, private telecommunications operators, and civil society organizations were a key factor to enabling community networks. This contribution also highlights initiatives by people and organizations working with community networks, and provides resources to stakeholders interested in finding out more about them. It includes an experience in Brazil where a civil society organization supported community networks in learning how to navigate the regulatory processes in Anatel, the local regulator; a series of discussions of stakeholders in Africa focusing on the path to growing community networks in the region; an analysis on how libraries and community networks are showing a promising partnership opportunity; and the Internet Society's statement to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on how we can leverage the Internet to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
