# Concept Note
# Workshop on Financing Mechanisms
# for Community Networks in Indonesia

**Background**

In a context where many have access to a mobile signal but are not using it, there is consensus within different organisations including the ITU, who recognise that connectivity must not only be universal but also meaningful. For the United Nations Broadband Commission "meaningful universal connectivity" encompasses broadband that is available, accessible, relevant and affordable, but also that is safe, trusted, user-empowering and leads to positive impact. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, recently elected ITU's Secretary General, added that to achieve meaningful universal connectivity, "business as usual" will not work.

Among the options explored by the ITU Council Working Group-Internet on "Expanding internet connectivity", a "number of general policy issues related to expanding internet connectivity were highlighted [...] including complementary access solutions such as community networks." In the COVID-19 era, community networks are playing an increasingly important role in meeting the rising demand for affordable connectivity. Still, there is a need to create an enabling and flexible regulatory environment that allows community networks to operate cost-effectively and to encourage investment through fiscal incentives, subsidies, and technical assistance was also identified in the report. The elements of this enabling environment include the need to create appropriate licensing frameworks for small social purpose operators. Argentina has already adopted such a framework which created Universal Service Fund (USF) mechanisms to both incentivize the adoption of a community network license and the use of the fund to help establish connectivity providers in underserved communities. Similarly in Kenya, where a community network operators license was created, the USF strategy 2022-2026 is looking into financing mechanisms to support them and other complementary connectivity providers.

In the case of Kenya, a workshop requested by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) was co-organized by APC and ITU and supported by the UK Government's Digital Access Programme (DAP) to share best practices to implement their USF strategy. Similar workshops to discuss enabling environments for complementary connectivity providers have been co-organized since WTDC-22 by APC and ITU in Nigeria and Cameroon. The purpose of this activity is to replicate these successful initiatives in Indonesia.

**Objectives**
1. Exploring current issues in affordable access to communication and examines community networks trends, technologies, business models, and regulations that could contribute to affordable connectivity for all, with a focus on community networks
2. Presenting existing financing mechanisms, such as USF, that are available to community networks and new financing and sustainability strategies and recommendations.

**Key Topics**
1. Discussion of different types of connectivity gaps and emphasize the importance of providing universal and meaningful connectivity and closing digital divide through the lens of smaller local operators across global markets.
2. Introduction and definition of community networks, the different types of their characteristics, technologies used and their unique roles in the connectivity ecosystem and how they fit within the connectivity value chain and competition, together with a description of their ownership and operating models and financing mechanismsIn
3. Presentation and discussion of selected business models from selected real-world community networks contributing to the provision of universal meaningful access, particularly focusing on models developed in Indonesia.
4. Revision of instances around the world when USF has been disbursed to support community networks, and exploration of the opportunities afforded for the USF in Indonesia to support Community Networks.

**Panelists:**
Dr. Carlos Rey-Moreno, Co-Manager Local Access Program: Policy and Strategy, Association for Progressive Communications
Representative from Common Room

# Concept Note
# Workshop on Financing Mechanisms
# for Community Networks in Indonesia

**Proposed Output**

The outcomes of this workshop are a better understanding of community networks and how they contribute to universal and meaningful connectivity, together with and analysis of strategies used around the world to enable them, and an exploration of the opportunities afforded to creating a more enabling environment, including through the USF, for them in Indonesia

**Agenda**

Date : 29 November 2023 (*tbc)

Time : 8:30- 17:00 WIB

Venue : (*tbc)

| Time | Description |
|------|-------------|
| 08:30 - 09:00 | **Opening of the workshop, welcome and introductions** |
| 09:00 - 10:30 | **Why this workshop?** |
| 10:30 - 11:00  Tea Break | |
| 11:00 - 12:30 | **Community Networks:  Ownership and Operating models** |
| 12:30 - 13:30  Lunch | |
| 13:30 - 15:00 | **Community Networks Case Studies** |
| 15:00 - 15:30   Tea Break | |
| 15:30 - 17:00 | **USF as a Financing Mechanism for Community Networks - Case Studies** |