Workshop on Financing Mechanisms for Community Networks through the Universal Service Fund in Kenya

Day One - Tuesday, October 25th		
Time	**Description**	**Facilitator(s)**
08:30 - 09:00	**Session 1.0 – Opening of the workshop, welcome and introductions** **Opening Message:** **CA Representative**	Ms Josephine Miliza, APC
09:00 - 10:30	**Session 1.1 - Validation of Expectations** This session introduces course facilitators and participants to each other in order to better understand the context that participants bring to the workshop and ensure that the workshop content and process are tuned to their needs and expectations.	Ms Josephine Miliza, APC Mr Michuki Mwangi, ISOC Mr. Steve Song, APC consultant
10:30 - 11:00 Tea Break		
11:00 - 12:30	**Session 1.2 - Why This Workshop?** This session begins by examining how the value of being connected to a communication network continues to rise as more and more digital resources and services become available to citizens. It will address the different types of connectivity gaps and emphasize the importance of providing universal and meaningful connectivity. Finally, it explores the context of the digital divide through the lens of smaller local operators across global markets.	Ms Josephine Miliza, APC Mr. Steve Song, APC consultant
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch		
13:30 - 15:00	**Session 1.3 - The Role and Development of Community Networks** This session introduces and defines community networks. It will discuss the different types of their characteristics, technologies used and their unique roles in the connectivity ecosystem. In this session, we consider the fundamental questions on how community networks fit within the connectivity value chain and competition.	Mr. Michuki Mwangi, ISOC
15:00 - 15:30 Tea Break		
15:30 - 17:00	**Session 1.4 - Community Networks Ownership, Operating and Financing Mechanisms** This session will delve into community networks ownership, operating models and financing mechanisms. It will look at the life cycle of a community network and the economics of operating a network - the costs, potential revenue models, retained earnings & funding. Lastly, it will define different milestones and metrics to consider on the path to financial sustainability.	Mr. Steve Song, APC consultant

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\	Day Two - Wednesday, Oct 26	
Time	**Description**	**Facilitator(s)**
08:30 - 08:45	**Session 2.0 - Review of Day 1 and Overview of program for Day 2**	Ms. Josephine Miliza, APC
8:45 - 09:00	**Session 1.4 - Community Networks Ownership, Operating and Financing Mechanisms** - Brief overview.	Steve Song
09:00 - 11:30	**Session 2.1 - Community Networks Case Studies (cont.)** In this session, selected business models from selected real-world community networks contributing to the provision of universal meaningful access in three countries,Zimbabwe, Aheri and Tunapanda (Kenya), and maybe South Africa (**Zenzeleni**), will be presented and discussed with the participants. Different elements that affect the sustainability of the case studies will allow a closer look at the opportunities afforded by community networks.	
11:00 - Noon Tea Break		
12:00 - 13:00	**Session 2.2 - Grant Making and Institutional Strengthening for Community Networks** The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Internet Society (ISOC) have been providing small grants to emergent community networks. This session will explore the APC and ISOC small grants methodology and platform and reflect on lessons learned over the course of their initiatives.	Dr. Kathleen Diga Ms. Fatima Bhyatt Mr. Michuki Mwangi
13:00-14:00 Lunch		
14:00 - 15:00	**Session 2.3 - USF as a Financing Mechanism for Community Networks - Case Studies** There are and have been instances around the world when USF has been disbursed to support community networks. A benchmark of these initiatives will be presented and this will be followed by selected case studies from **Argentina** and the UK that will be reviewed and unpacked in detail to allow participants to understand the experiences from other jurisdictions.	Mr. Steve Song, APC consultant
15:00 - 15:30 Tea Break		
15:30 - 17:00	**Session 2.4 - USF as a Financing Mechanism for Community Networks in Kenya**	Ms. Josephine Miliza, APC

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	Based on the experience from APC supporting community networks over the past 5 years and the case studies from other countries who are using the USF to support community networks, a vision of a 5-year plan for the USF to support CNs in Kenya will be presented for discussion..	

Description

This workshop explores 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. It also explores the existing financing mechanisms that are available to community networks and new financing and sustainability strategies and recommendations. Each day is divided into four 90-minute sessions that will be delivered in an interactive, participatory format designed to maximise engagement from participants.

Target participants

Representatives from the Communications Authority of Kenya comprising representatives from licensing, frequency and spectrum management, USF, finance and procurement and competition, tariffs and market analysis departments.

Modality

In-person workshop with the possibility of remote participation in exceptional cases