

Suggested Amendments to Chapter Two of the Operational Part – provisional input made by the following civil society organizations: CRIS, APC, ITeM, Bread for All, Digital Divide Data and IT for Change

Paragraph	Suggested Text	Comments
After 21	Add point, 'We recognize that CSO and community networks have also found to be effective in expanding ICT access to high cost (rural) and low income populations.'	TFFM Finding 5
After 21	Add point, 'We recognize that public finance plays a crucial role in providing ICT access and services to rural areas and disadvantaged populations where markets are incomplete and inadequate.'	<p>We recognize that private investment is an unique opportunity on a scale that in many ways is unique to ICD (Information and Communications for Development). However, private investment cannot displace the central role of public finance in a core development area like ICD.</p> <p>While encouraging the role of private investment in meeting the goals of ICD, the limits of the market in reaching these goals must be recognized.</p> <p>Public resources need to be mobilized at local, national and international levels.</p>
22.	Replace, "sometimes" with 'often'	The word "sometimes" greatly underestimates the problem of inadequacy of existing financial mechanisms.
23 g.	Add point, 'Local government and community-owned initiatives that deliver ICT services to communities in the areas	There is no mention in chapter 2 of community-owned and community-driven networks and services to which the TFFM report devoted a full three pages. This tried and test concept

	of education, health, livelihood support, etc.’	has special potential for addressing ICTs in poorer and rural communities, taking advantage of the innovative emerging technologies to serve the ‘last mile’ or local access issues.
25 a.	“policies...” add ‘which will enable achieving the goal of universal access’	Good regulation and open access create conditions to reach the goal of universal access to ICTs.
26 a.	To “...building regional infrastructure;” add, ‘Particularly support for building regional backbone infrastructure in Africa as a matter of priority.’ Also add, ‘and recognize the important role of multilateral finance for this purpose.’	The problem of the lack of backbone infrastructure is particularly severe in Africa.
After 26 d.	Add, ‘The creation of a mechanism for coordinating research and analysis into enabling policy environments.’	TFFM C3
Before 27	Add, ‘we recommend the formation of a Global ICD Policy and Financing Facility to: - assist developing countries utilize existing financial mechanisms for ICD more effectively - provide policy information, advice and capacity building to developing countries without conditionality - explore new financial mechanisms to support ICD; mechanisms that avoid diversion of existing funds (e.g. ODA). Such mechanisms could consist of a global tax, voluntary or compulsory, and contributions from commercial internet domain name holders Such a facility should be established and operated on a multi-stakeholder basis.’	The TFFM report repeatedly identifies “coordination” as a key reason that many ICTD financing needs remain unmet. The full document produced by the TFFM exhaustively profiles the full range of current financing mechanisms available for ICTD from the global and national private sector, multilateral institutions, national governments, bilateral donor agencies, civil society organizations and private charitable foundations. However, there is a failure in coordinating action among these sources.

27.	Add, 'The DSF should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- governed and operated on a multi-stakeholder basis- located in Africa- focus its objectives and the scope of initiatives that it supports- adopt the principles of free and open source software, open standards and open access'	If the focus of the DSF project is to narrow the digital divide in Africa, it is essential to have locally based representation. The DSF must also have precise objective to ensure that it achieves concrete, realistic and visible objectives. The DSF must guarantee technological neutrality.
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