



# **African Research & Education Networking**

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## **“Strengthening African Capacity for Cost-Effective Access to the Internet”**

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*The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its membership.*



# Internet Governance

## ITU Mission

- Maintain and extend international cooperation in telecommunications
- Technical and policy assistance to developing countries
- To harmonize actions of Member States and promote cooperation between Member States and Sector Members



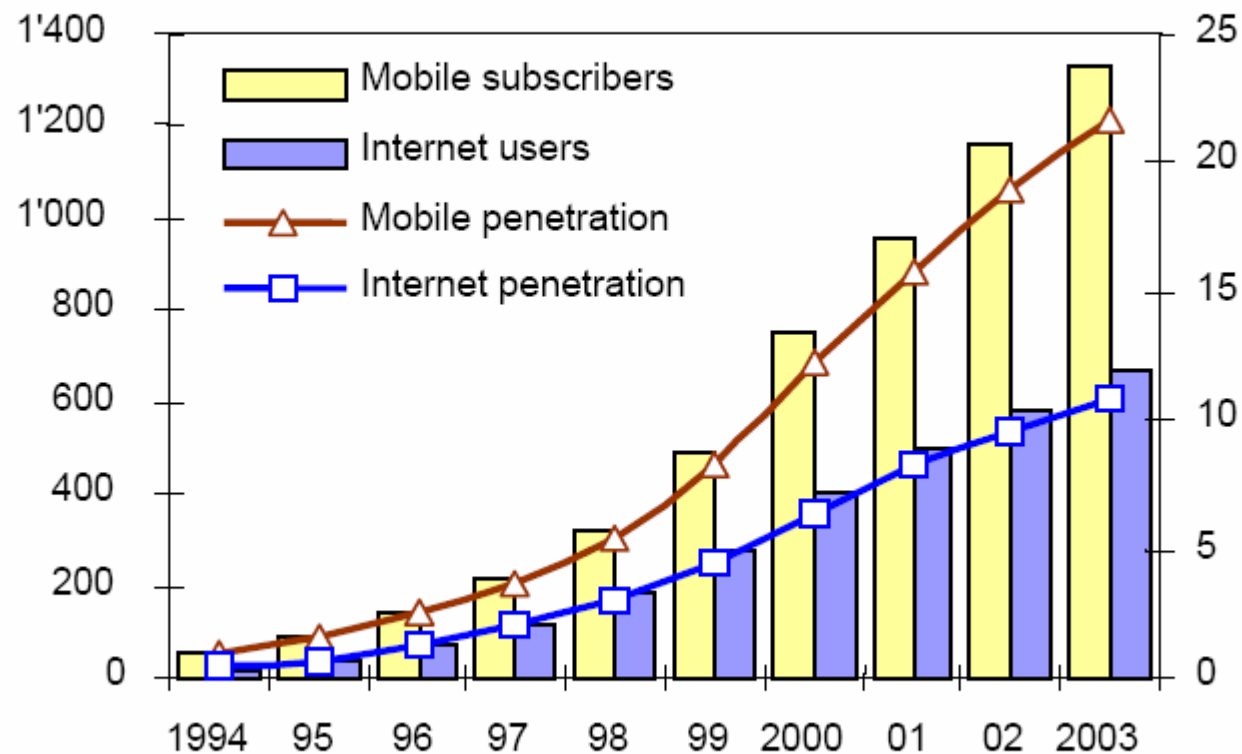
## ITU Mission

- To promote at international level, the adoption of a broader approach to issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society
  - WSIS originally proposed at ITU in 1998 and later endorsed by UN
- To extend the benefits of telecoms to all the world's inhabitants
- “Helping the world communicate”



## Impact of New Technologies

Users (millions) and penetration per 100 pop.

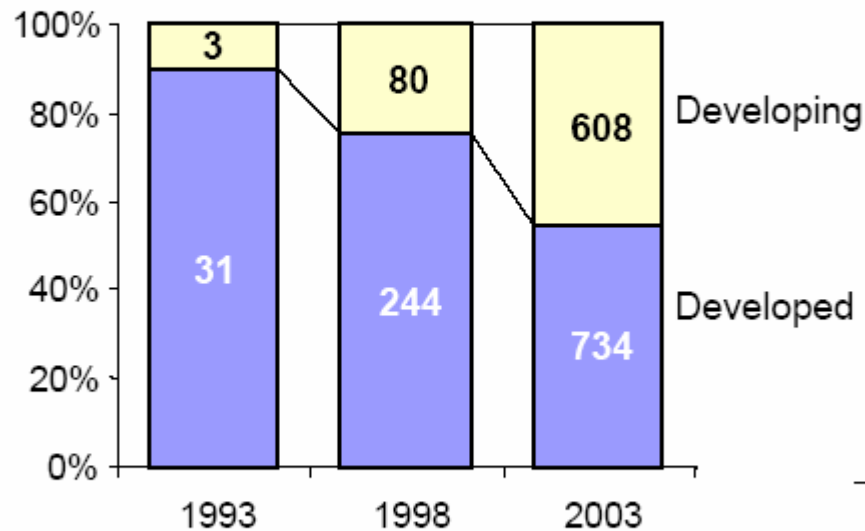


*“Virtually all of the growth in the global telecoms sector over the past decade has come from mobile communications and the Internet”*

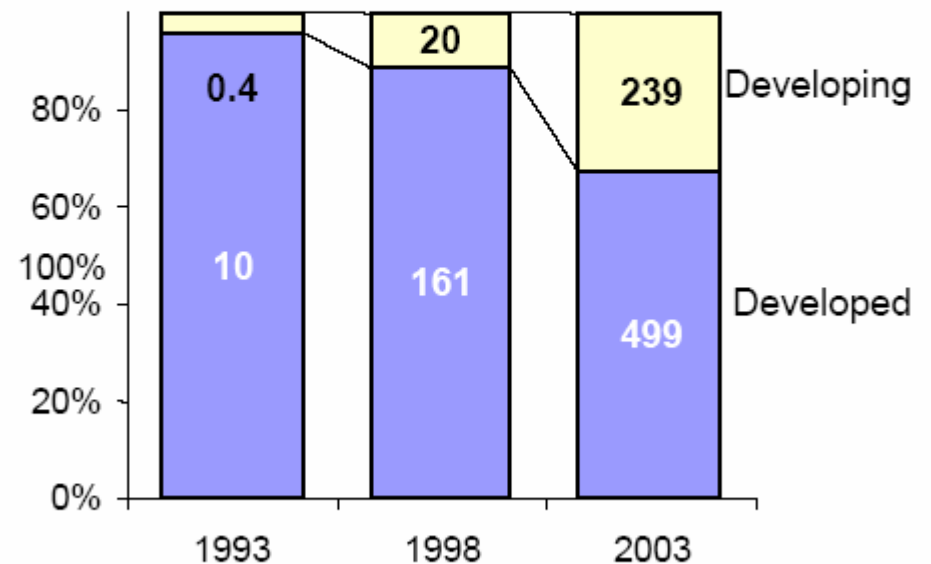


## Bridging the digital divide (millions)

**Mobile**



**Internet users**



Source: ITU Internet Reports 2004: The Portable internet.



# Internet Governance Issues

- Affordable and Universal Access
- Administration of Internet Names and IP Addresses
- Multilingualization of Internet Naming System
- Network and Information Security
- International Internet Connections (IIC)
- Administration of Root Server System
- National policies & regulations
- Dispute Resolution
- Etc.



### 3. ITU-UNDP Project



## Strengthening African Capacity for Cost-Effective Access to the Internet

#### Brief Description:

- Contribute towards the building of strong Internet infrastructure backbone in Africa.
- Contribute towards the implementation of national and regional Internet exchange points plus any other critical ICT infrastructure projects in Africa
- Identify technical expertise respecting the spirit of technical cooperation among developing countries in which successful experiences and best practices from other developing regions will serve as models of transformation, supported by flourishing public and private partnerships.

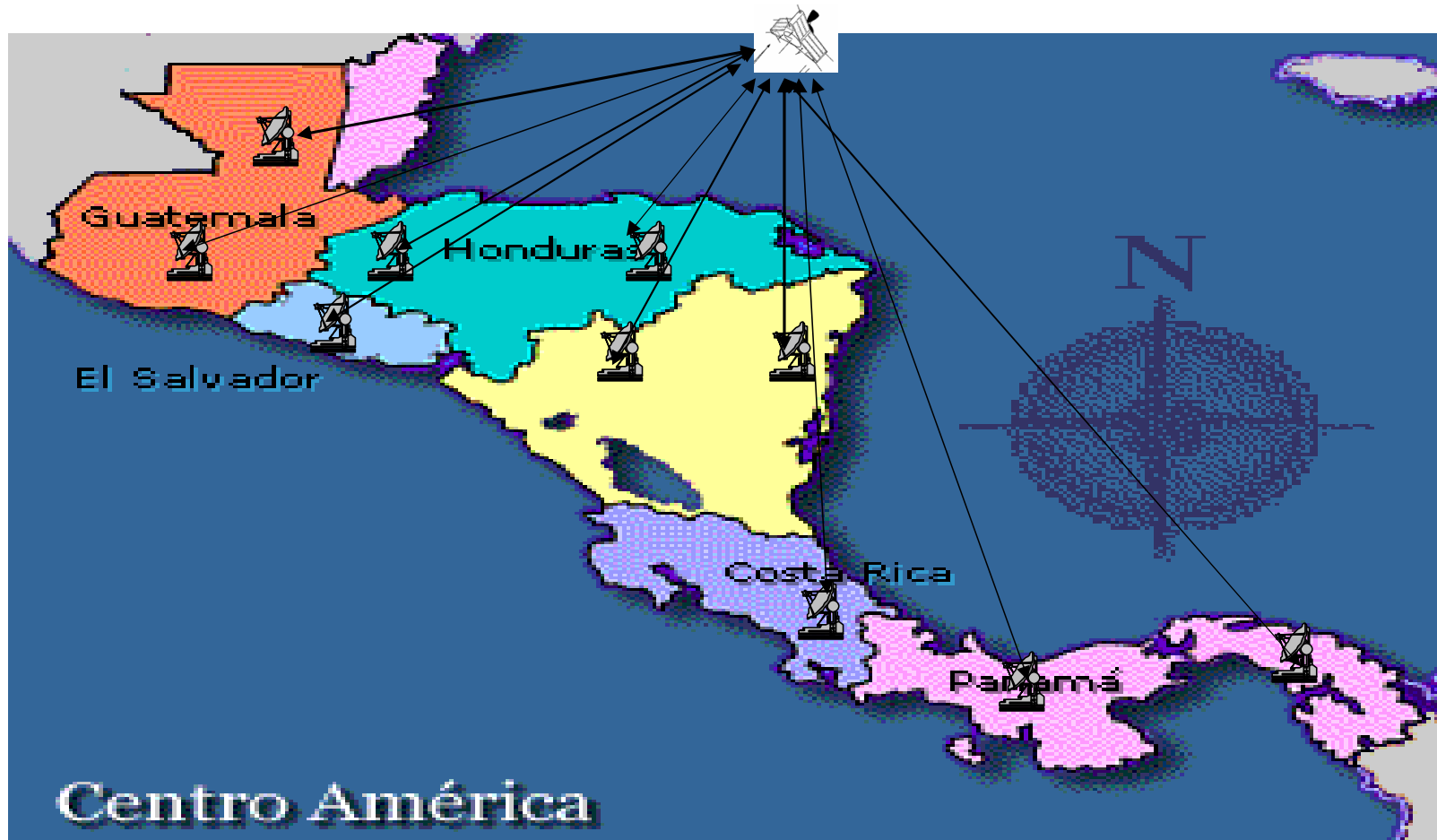


- Project activities will strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to assess the key challenges, opportunities and constraints stemming from the establishment of the Information Society.
- The project will also facilitate the formulation of conducive policies aimed at stimulating the implementation of ICTs for universal access, and the forging of mechanisms that may help countries to leap-frog into the information society through new technologies.
- The project will benefit all the regions of the developing world.  
  
Africa (Sub-Saharan); Asia (China, India, Malaysia, Singapore); South America (Brazil, Chile, Mexico); and Arab States (United Arab Emirates, Egypt)
- While Africa's improved Internet connectivity will be the main focus and every country is invited to contribute.





## Another project: Connecting Central America





# Challenges of Change

- o Internet Governance
- o IP broadband-based services
- o Convergence
- o IP Telephony / Voice over IP
- o Int'l Trade: IP Telephony service is a Commodity (??)
- o Broadband an enabler
- o Regulatory aspects
- o Business models
- o Etc.



# Project Activities



- Needs Identification;
- Awareness Raising and Policy Advocacy;
- Establishment of Regional Coordinating Centers; and
- Assist in the implementation of the Internet Backbone at national level, sub-regional and regional levels.



## 4 Conclusion

1. ITU-D role in contributing towards building a global information society and closing the digital divide can only be fully achieved through partnership and collaboration with other players.
2. ITU-D broad mandate, experience and large membership which includes both public and private sector are unique features that would facilitate the transformation from digital divide to digital opportunities for all.
3. ITU-D continues to provide a time-tested framework for establishing partnerships and a WIN-WIN opportunity through strong synergies amongst the parties.
4. Call for Partnership and Collaboration on ITU-UNDP project : ***Strengthening African Capacity for Cost-Effective Access to the Internet.***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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