Digital Inclusion

This definition is a living document, which will be updated and refined as needed.

Background

Connecting online has become an essential tool for everyday functions such as working, accessing information, staying in touch with friends and family, increasing productivity, self-actualization, and other forms of self-empowerment, as well as for receiving basic services. Being connected is a means to providing enhanced personal and societal well-being and digital livelihoods. Online connectivity enables the right and the

inclusion requires constant and conscious re-thinking of the digital world, the actors excluded from it,

the framework related to it, intersectional approach is applied throughout when discussing people, their diversity, and their needs in digital spaces. As technologies and their uses advance, the needs of various groups and individuals will also evolve and will require reassessment of what

countries do not enjoy the same privilege of public services, as infrastructure is relatively sparse

countries and remote areas struggling to acquire the additional supports necessary to make use of such cables. In addition to rural populations and indigenous peoples, disaster-prone areas, landlocked states, and island states are disproportionately likely to being unconnected, with these populations also having less access to enabling infrastructures like electricity or roads. In addition, terrestrial infrastructure may not necessarily be the best option in some cases.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, being connected has proven to be not a luxury, but a lifeline. As the pandemic relocated everyday functions such as education, work, and health services online, home, it became even clearer that it may not be enough to rely on public Wi-Fi networks to connect online and that meaningful and regular connectivity may require access from homes and private networks in an inclusive way. This may require re-thinking aggregation strategies for public access possibilities such as Wi-Fi traditionally in schools, libraries, markets, and community centers with alternative access strategies at local and community level.

For Internet use to really serve its users, the speed and quality of the Internet also needs to be adequate. Users need to be able to use relevant digital services needed for example for studying, working, online banking, and e-commerce in a reasonable manner.

ACCESS

While availability refers to physical networks

approaches, they struggle to equally weigh, evaluate, judge, and incorporate different perspectives and voices.

It is thus