**FORUM:** Human Rights Council

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to provide equal access to the internet

**SUBMITTED BY:** France

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Acknowledging* the about 53 percent of the world’s population that does not have access to the internet,

*Taking into consideration* the factors behind lack of access which include, socioeconomics, location, lack of infrastructure, governmental and gender,

*Emphasizing* A/HRC/20/L.13, declaring Member States must recognize that internet access is a basic human right under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Referring to* A/HRC/32/L.20, which condemns states for measures taken by countries that prevent equal access to the internet and online violations of human rights,

*Welcoming* 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 9, calling for an increase in access of internet through infrastructure, industrialization, and innovation,

*Keeping in mind* issues plaguing the ability to have complete internet access such as net neutrality, internet source providers (ISPs), and virtual private networks (VPNs),

*Stressing* the importance of internet access in developing nations as the internet can give people the use of online financing, quick access to news regarding politics and pandemics, education,

1. Endorse Project Loon developed by Google X:
   1. create Loon Balloons that are able to deliver a 4G cellular connection to over 5,000 square miles
   2. flies at the altitude of 20 kilometers in the air and can transmit the internet at the speeds of 10 MBPs of KTE
   3. works to deliver internet to the rural areas without the costs of satellites;
2. Considers it desirable to use Project Fi:
   1. provides individual SIM cars to allow for connectivity to both wifi and LTE services
   2. allows for better connectivity to Project Loon’s LTE signal
   3. currently sponsored and managed by Google
   4. only costs $20 USD for complete connectivity with no additional fees for calls;
3. Commends the use of pubic and communal locations that can provide internet and devices through libraries, town halls, and internet cafés:
   1. seen being used in countries such as France, Japan, Malaysia, India, etc.
   2. enables citizens to connect to full broadband internet for lost costs that range from hourly rates to daily rates
   3. provides access to advanced hardware and a secure environment for internet users;
4. Reminds countries to model laws similar to the European Union:
   1. following the EU Regulation 2015/2120 that:
      1. establishes net neutrality as a right for all nations in the EU
      2. gives en-users the right to access and distribute internet content or services of their choice
      3. ensures a non-discriminatory policy to not deny internet based on gender or socioeconomic status
      4. protects users from ISPs blocking or throttling any online content, applications, and services
      5. prevents ISPs from charging users to prioritize traffic to certain websites
      6. National regulatory Authorities (NRAs) have the ability to monitor market developments and ensure that the quality of the internet services mimics advances in technology
   2. calls for countries to release annual country reports on open internet from national regulators:
      1. NRAs will be closely monitoring and ensuring compliance of ISPs
      2. Countries that do not comply by the regulations that have been set forth will be investigated for human rights violations and could face international sanctions
   3. ensuring countries such as the United States, Russia, China, and Myanmar considering placing net neutrality protections back into place
   4. working in conjunction with NGOs such as the Global Net Neutrality Coalition
      1. GNNC is seen on every continent advocating for protections for net neutrality
      2. wanting net neutrality applied to all internet services offered by ISPs
      3. internet users need to have the right to receive and use a unique and public IP address
      4. privacy protections must be held in accordance to legislations and any analysis of internet trafficking must be monitored to ensure it is not infringing on human rights violations;
5. Supports the work done by internet.org by Facebook to provide internet to rural and poor regions:
   1. using free basics by Facebook:
      1. provides free access to website on mobile phones
      2. allows them to view content on news, employment, health, education, local information, etc.
      3. being used in over 65 countries and counting
      4. seeing that over 85% of the population lives in areas with cellular coverage, but it is too expensive, free basics partners with local mobile operators who
      5. also partnering with NGOs, governments, developers, and more;
   2. developing new ways to affordably connect to the internet through the Connectivity Lab:
      1. Aquila Unmanned Aircraft, flies unmanned drone at 60,000 ft around the glob, uses solar cells and efficient motors to stay airborne for months,takes advantage of light and invisible infrared lasers to flash billions of times per second to send data at fiber optic speeds with little effort
      2. has the ability to provide internet to a 50 mile radius below the flight path at any given time
      3. would allow for 66% of the Earth’s surface that has poor or no internet access to be connected
   3. going local by using the Express Wi-Fi by facebook:
      1. works with local carriers, ISPs, and entrepreneurs to expand connectivity to underserved areas
      2. currently working in India, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, and Indonesia
      3. local entrepreneurs are able to use software provided by Facebook to provide quality internet to locals and have a steady income
      4. allow communities to purchase affordable, fast, and reliable internet
   4. supporting other projects that include:
      1. Innovation Lab
      2. Innovation Challenge
   5. seeing the success in communities:
      1. Kenner: uses Free Basics to complete homework without access to books
      2. Jesus: uses Free Basics to find information about work and health for his unborn child
      3. Marissa: uses Free Basics to start her own boutique instead of being stuck in a factory job
      4. Riza: uses Free Basics to write her computer science thesis from a IT center while living on a small island nation
      5. Elisha: uses Free Basics to help his daughters learn how to be strong and break out of traditional tribal customs;
6. Suggests the establishment of the International Subcommittee on Internet and Technology (ISIT) that will:
   1. act as an international coalition that will watch over Member States for violations of online human rights
   2. will create regulations for the internet, considering that the internet is accessible on a global scale
   3. calls for protections for net neutrality, which is covered in operative 4
   4. bans ISPs and governments from allowing for paid prioritization to sites that might not align with the government views
   5. not allowing protections such as the Great Firewall of China as it infringes on citizen’s right to access the internet in it’s legal totality
   6. prevents government censorship, unless it is internationally blacklisted which can include sites that:
      1. dissemination of extremist content
      2. pornography
      3. information on forms of suicides and distributions of drugs
      4. copyrighted material
      5. dark web
   7. if countries do not follow protocols, they could face international sanctions that could include internet trade related taxes, etc.