Chair: Prof. Dr. Arnold Picot, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

Participants:
Anriette Esterhuysen, Association for Progressive Communications, Melville, South Africa
Dr. Arnulf Heuermann, Detecon International, Bonn
Samia Melhem, The Worldbank Group, Washington D.C.
Thorsten Scherf, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn

Prof. Picot:
Good afternoon to everybody. We are approaching the final hour of our conference and I have the pleasure to introduce to you our panel this afternoon. I start with Anriette Esterhuysen. She came from South Africa to this conference, and she is the executive director of the Association for Progressive Communications, APC. This is an international network of more than 40 civil society organisations dedicated to empowering the supporting groups, especially with respect to the strategic use of information and communication technologies. Before, she was an executive director of Asengonet, an internet service provider, a training institution especially dedicated to the development sector in South Africa. She is also a founder of Womensnet in South Africa and has served on the African Technical Advisory Committee of the UN’s Economic Commission for African information society initiative. She was also a member of the United Nation’s ICT task force. So, I think she is best equipped for our discussion this afternoon.

Next to her is placed Dr. Arnulf Heuermann. He is a managing partner of Detecon. Detecon International is a consulting group based here in Germany which is among other things well known for worldwide consulting services for ICT infrastructures. He has gathered experiences in more than 35 countries over the years and has held responsible positions with respect to strategy, marketing, management and international sales. His major substantive foci in his work are telecommunication regulations, merger and acquisition, liberalization and privatizing activities as well
as market and corporate strategy. Before he joined the Detecon group he worked for a couple of years for the WIK, Institute for Infrastructure and Communication Services, a quite well known state owned research institute here in Germany and gained a doctor degree in economics from the university of Bonn.

To my left I can welcome Ms. Samia Melhem. Samia is a senior operations officer in the global ICT policy division of the Worldbank Group in Washington and she is a member of the e-government practice group there. She chairs the e-development thematic group, whose mission is knowledge sharing amongst ICT practitioners, also a very important subject for our discussion today. She serves currently on special groups with regard to ICT policies and ICT in the public sector in the Worldbank and addresses quite a few other related subjects. I might also mention that she has held several positions in Africa, Middle East and Eastern and Central Europe. So, she knows various regions of our world with respect to our subject. She has gained among other degrees a degree in electrical engineering, in computer science and an MBA.

Last but not least I am very pleased to welcome Thorsten Scherf. Thorsten is a member of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Bonn. There he serves as an advisor on information and telecommunication technologies for development which is really our subject. Before he worked and did research at the University of Marburg focussing on regulatory matters for providing universal access to telecommunications in rural areas of developing countries. Among other countries he gained practical experience and did research in Peru, Bolivia and Uganda and he gained a doctorate degree at the University of Marburg. But before that he served for a couple of years at the Arcor AG, a German fixed net provider at the time. There he was charged with regulatory affairs questions. Thank you very much for joining us.

Ladies and gentlemen, we start our panel discussion and I have asked each of the panellists to bring forward some key points that they think are most prominent and most important in order to understand the topic of our panel which is called “ICT and Economic Development in Underserved Markets – A Chicken and Egg Problem”. Before I invite everybody to present his or her major messages I would like our technical staff to present once more one of the slides that Joachim von Braun presented this morning (see figure 4 on page 9).

If you look at this slide you can ask yourself now ’Where are we going?’ Is the gap between low income and the middle-income regions closing or widening? If you look over the years it seems to be widening quite a bit. This might be a concern. We want to discuss whether it would be possible to close that gap by either infusing more technology in a holistic way – we have learnt from Dr. Toyama today that a comprehensive holistic view is very important – or are other factors at play so that this gap perhaps will be difficult to overcome? So, what is the interplay between the economic development in terms on the level of income that is displayed in this slide