

Session Proposal Title: Back to the Basics - Using 5G/6G to Connect Under-Served Communities.

Speakers:

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Overview:

In an increasingly digital world, Connectivity has become a fundamental necessity. Mobile technologies, including 5G, have the potential to transform how we connect and interact with the world around us, but its benefits often focus on speed, latency, and other advanced applications. From the SDG point of view, the true value of 5G and 6G lies in its ability to improve basic connectivity in underserved communities. This session aims to discuss how 5G technology can be leveraged to provide reliable and sustainable connectivity for basic needs such as education, healthcare, governmental services and public safety and empower them with the benefits of digital inclusion.

Objectives:

The session aims to explore the following:

1. The basics of 5G: The speakers will discuss the core technology behind 5G networks and compare it to previous generations of wireless connection technology, highlighting the benefits, capabilities, and limitations of 5G networks. This will help to determine how 5G can be used to provide connectivity for all.
2. The session will delve into community involvement and empowerment in bridging the digital divide. It will explore strategies for fostering digital literacy, skills development, and local entrepreneurship to ensure sustainable connectivity.
3. Basic Connectivity Needs: This session aims to bring attention to the fundamental connectivity needs of under-served communities, such as education, healthcare, public safety, and social inclusion. Speakers will examine different models of deploying 5G technology to meet these basic needs and explore how to make 5G connectivity affordable and sustainable.
4. Innovative Applications for 5G: The session will showcase the innovative use cases of 5G technology in addressing basic connectivity needs by providing real cases where this technology has been deployed successfully to improve the connectivity of rural communities in different parts of the world
5. Collaborating for Connectivity: The session will highlight the importance of collaborations between government agencies, NGOs, private sector entities, and community-led initiatives to create public-private partnerships that could ensure successful 5G deployment for basic connectivity.

Target Audience:

What will participants gain from attending your session:

Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the potential of 5G/6G technology and its applications in under-served communities. They will leave the session equipped with practical knowledge, real-world examples, and networking

connections that can help them make a positive impact in their respective communities by leveraging these advanced communication technologies.

Participants will understand the basics of 5G in serving the underserved communities. It will also serve as a networking session where participants get to connect with professionals, experts in these areas and also get to meet young people advocating for similar opportunities for the underserved community.

Again, case studies and best practices of real case studies will be shared and discussed during the session.

SDG targets:

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10
17

Policy questions:

1. What policy measures can be implemented to ensure equitable access to 5G/6G technology in under-served communities?
2. How can policymakers incentivize private sector investments in deploying 5G/6G infrastructure in under-served areas?
3. What regulatory frameworks should be put in place to address privacy and security concerns associated with 5G/6G networks in under-served communities?
4. How can governments collaborate with local communities and organisations to develop effective policies for digital inclusion and skills training, ensuring that underserved populations can fully benefit from 5G/6G connectivity?

Format

The session will be a panel discussion with experts from different fields, including technology providers, community network activists, policymakers, and rural community representatives. A moderator who is an expert in 5G technology will moderate the discussion. The panel will present different models of deploying 5G technology for basic connectivity and explore its potential impact on society. There will be an interactive Q&A segment for the audience to engage with the panelists and to address any related concerns. The session will conclude with a breakout session where participants can collaboratively share their ideas and opinions on best practices for 5G deployment for basic connectivity in underserved communities.