

# Improving ICT Regulations Towards Inclusion, Empowerment, and Growth

PASCN-ADMU Symposium on “Empower, Include, Grow: Unlocking Inclusive Growth in the Philippines and the Asia Pacific Region”  
Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University | June 13, 2024

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Ramonette B. Serafica, Senior Research Fellow

Queen Cel A. Oren, Research Specialist



# Outline



APEC tools on services and structural reform



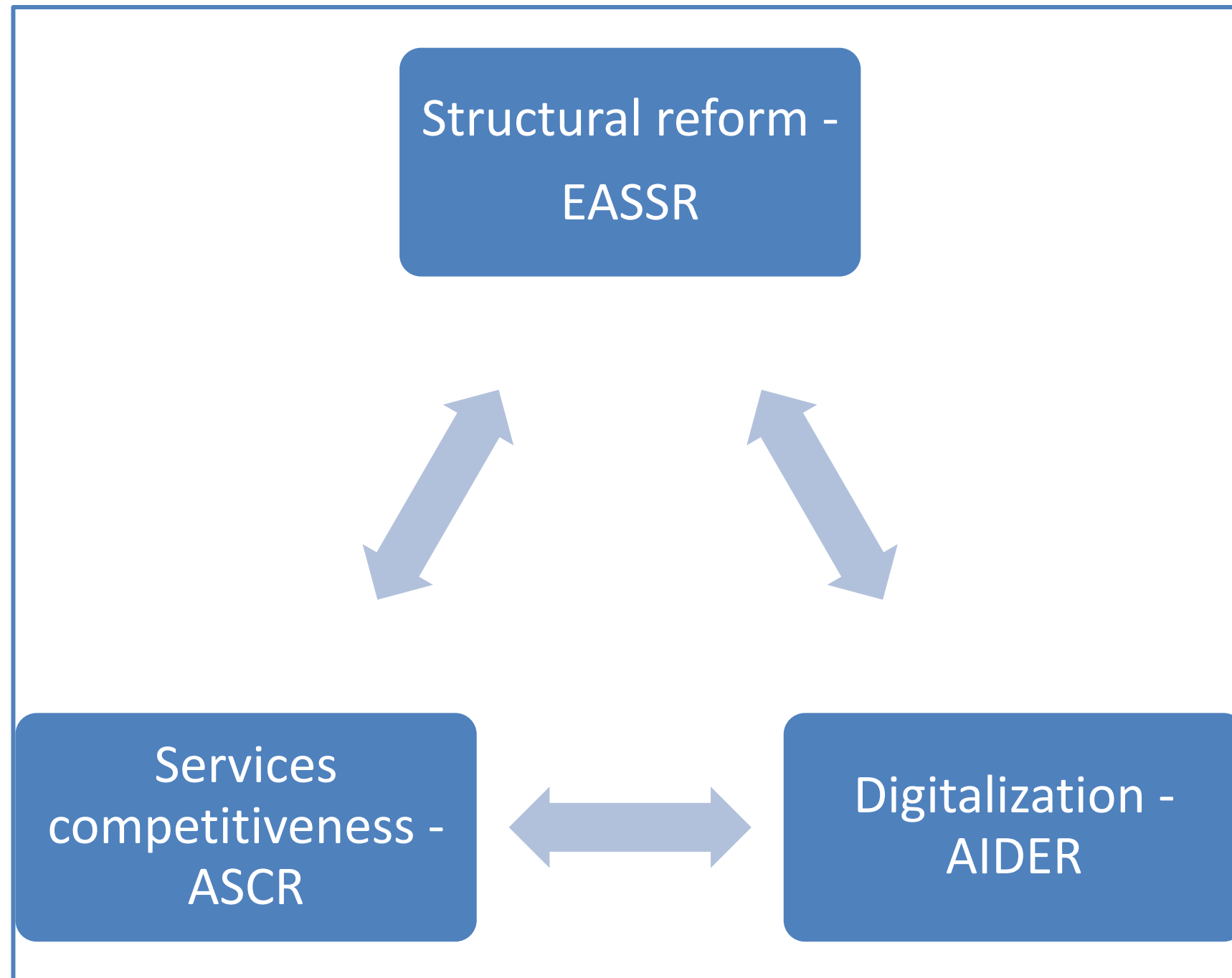
State of broadband access and key ICT-related policies and regulations



Challenges and recommendations

# APEC Toolkit on Services and Structural Reform

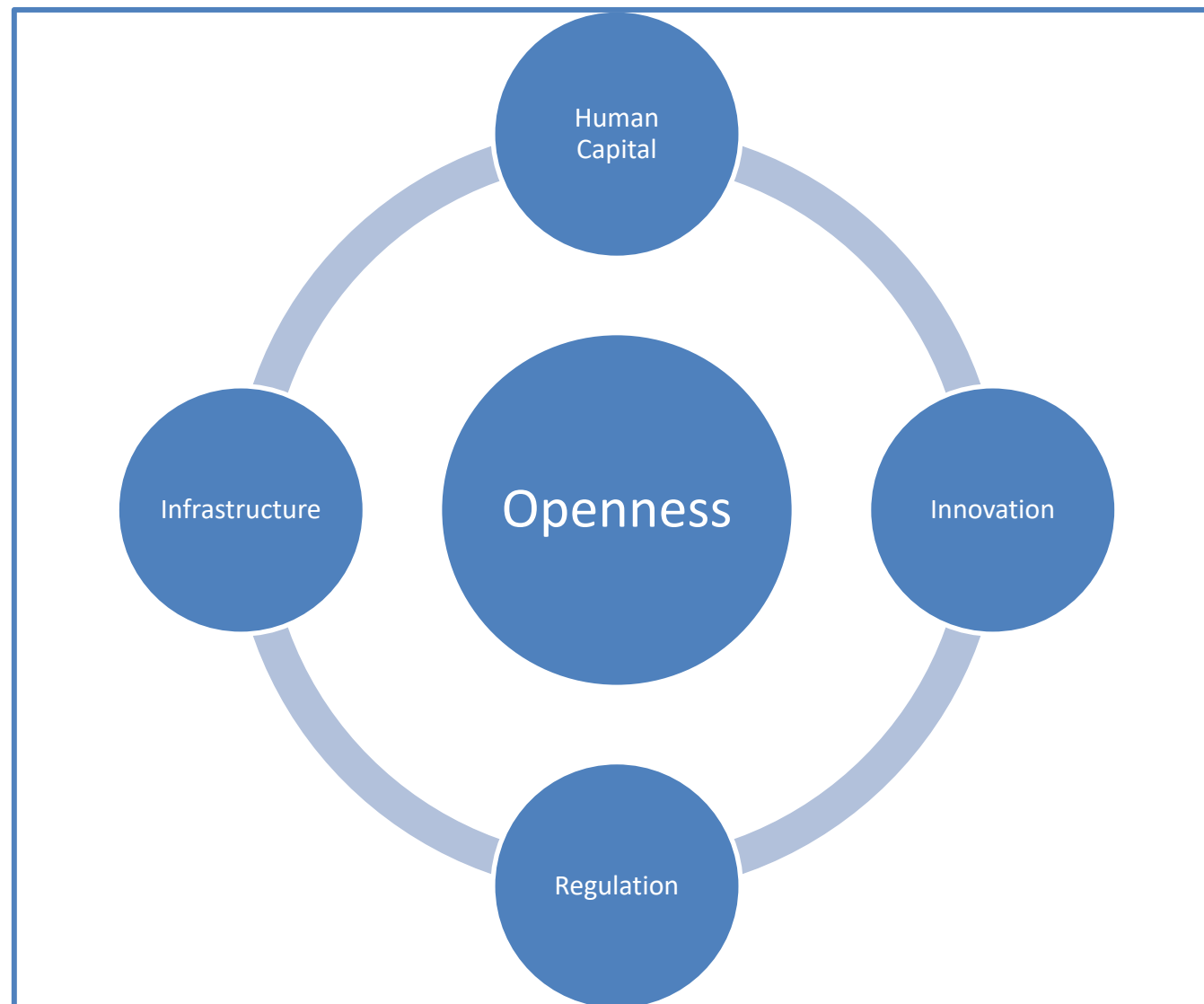
## APEC Tools



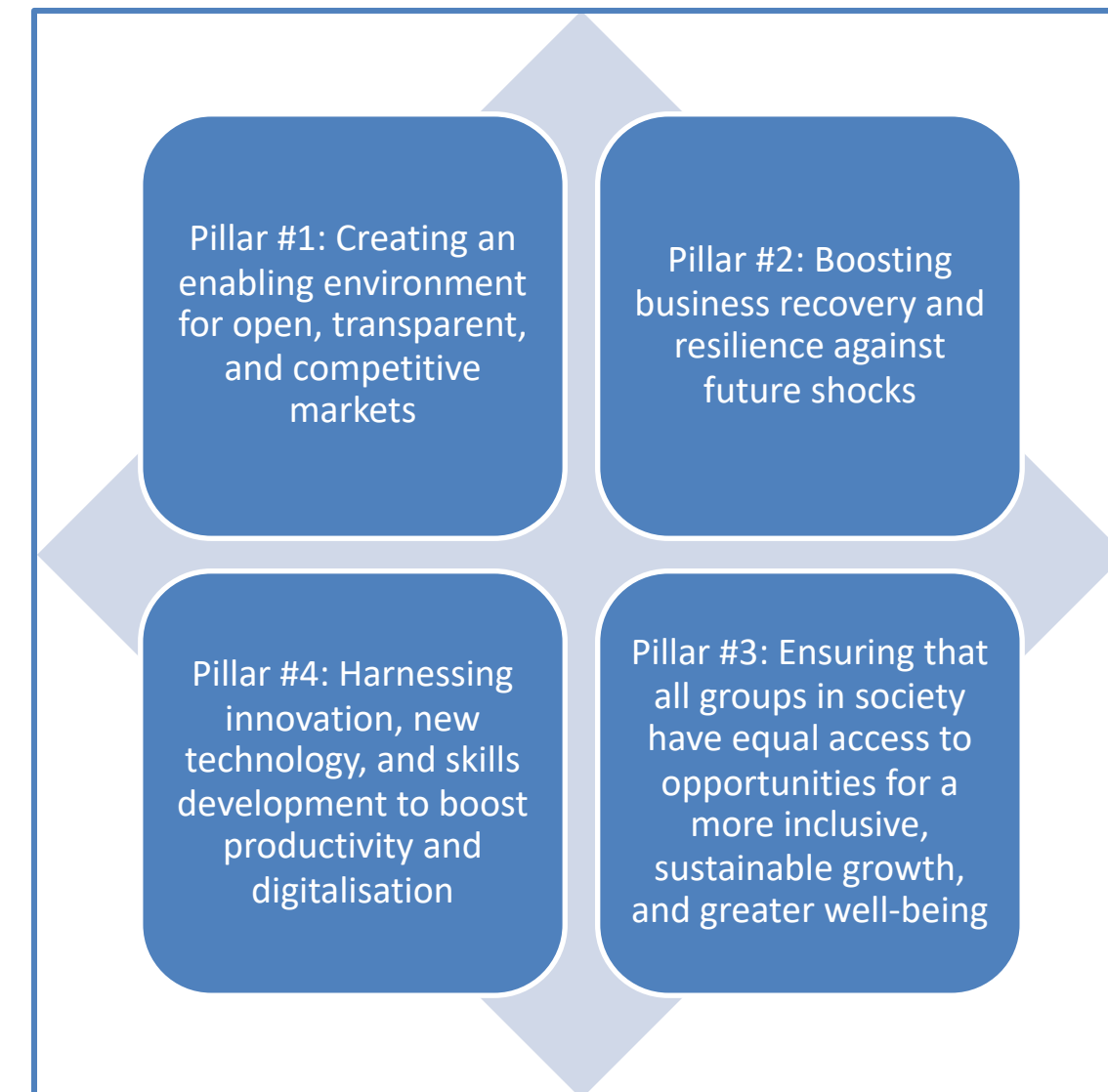
- Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR)
- APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR)
- APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER)

# Services and Structural Reform in APEC

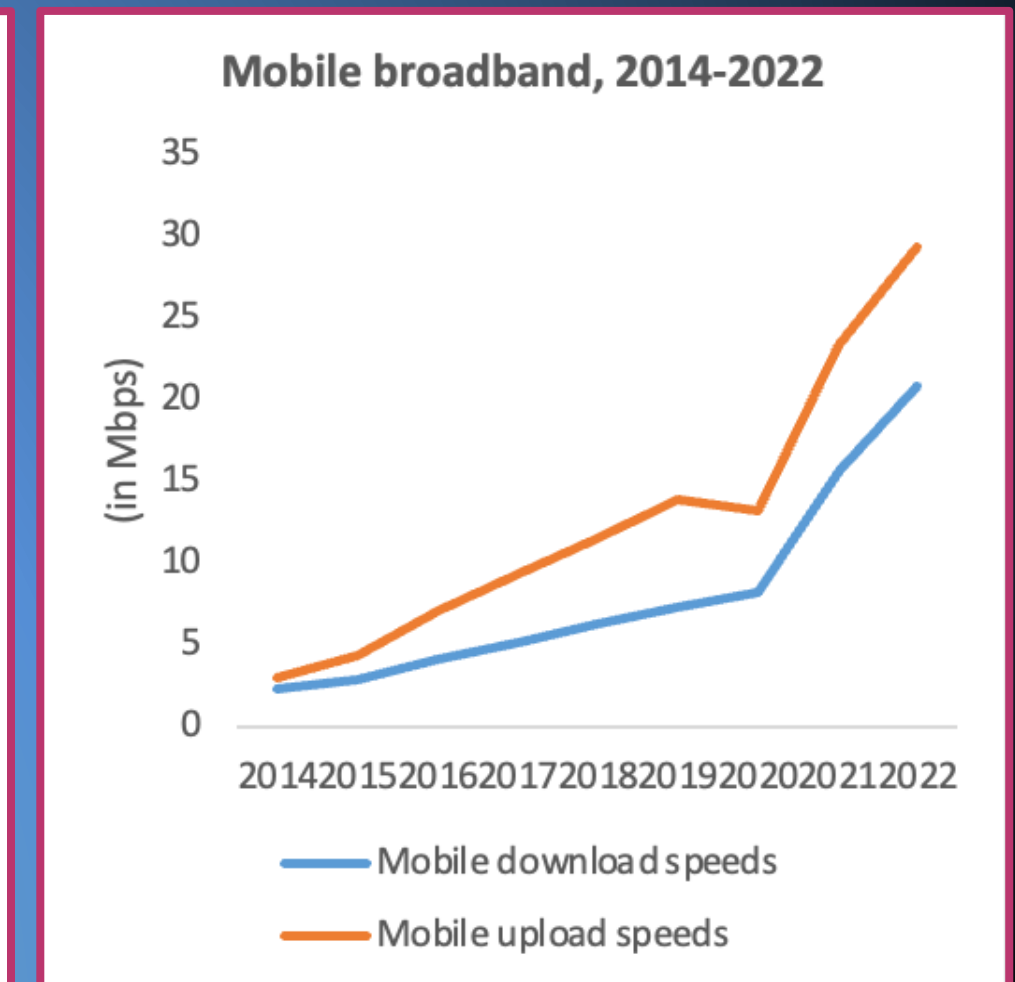
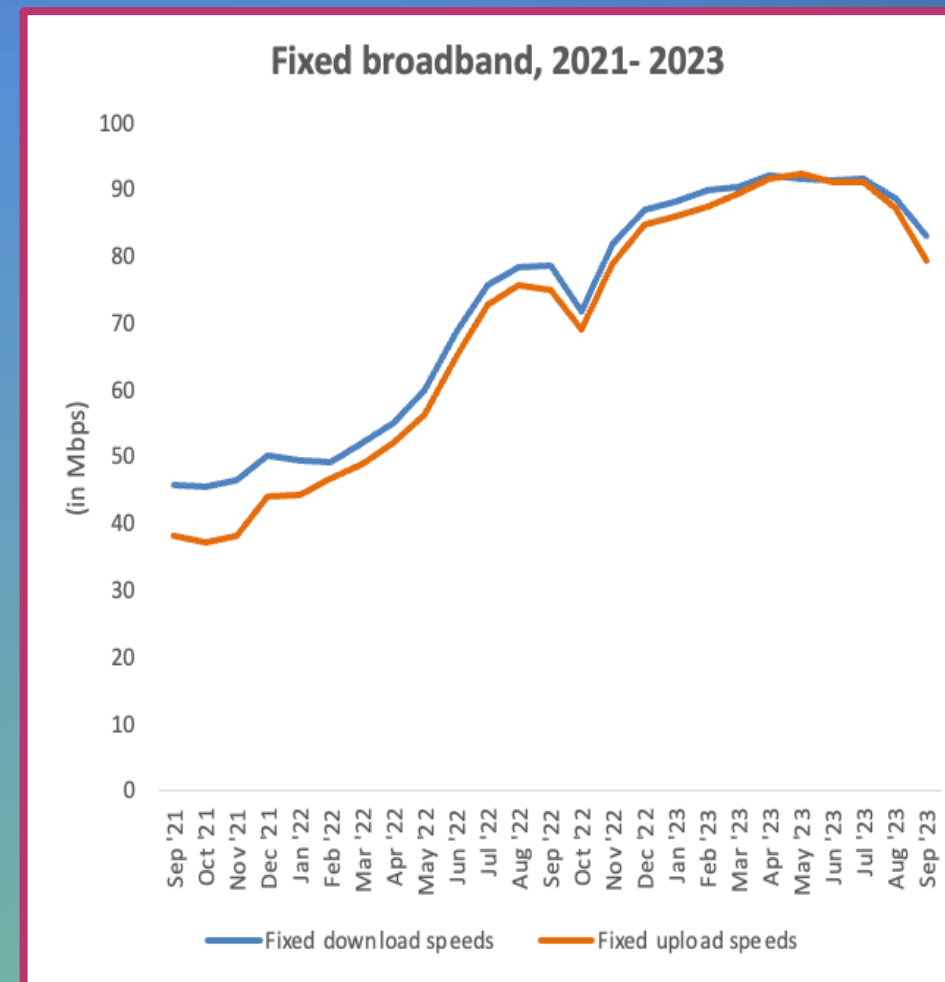
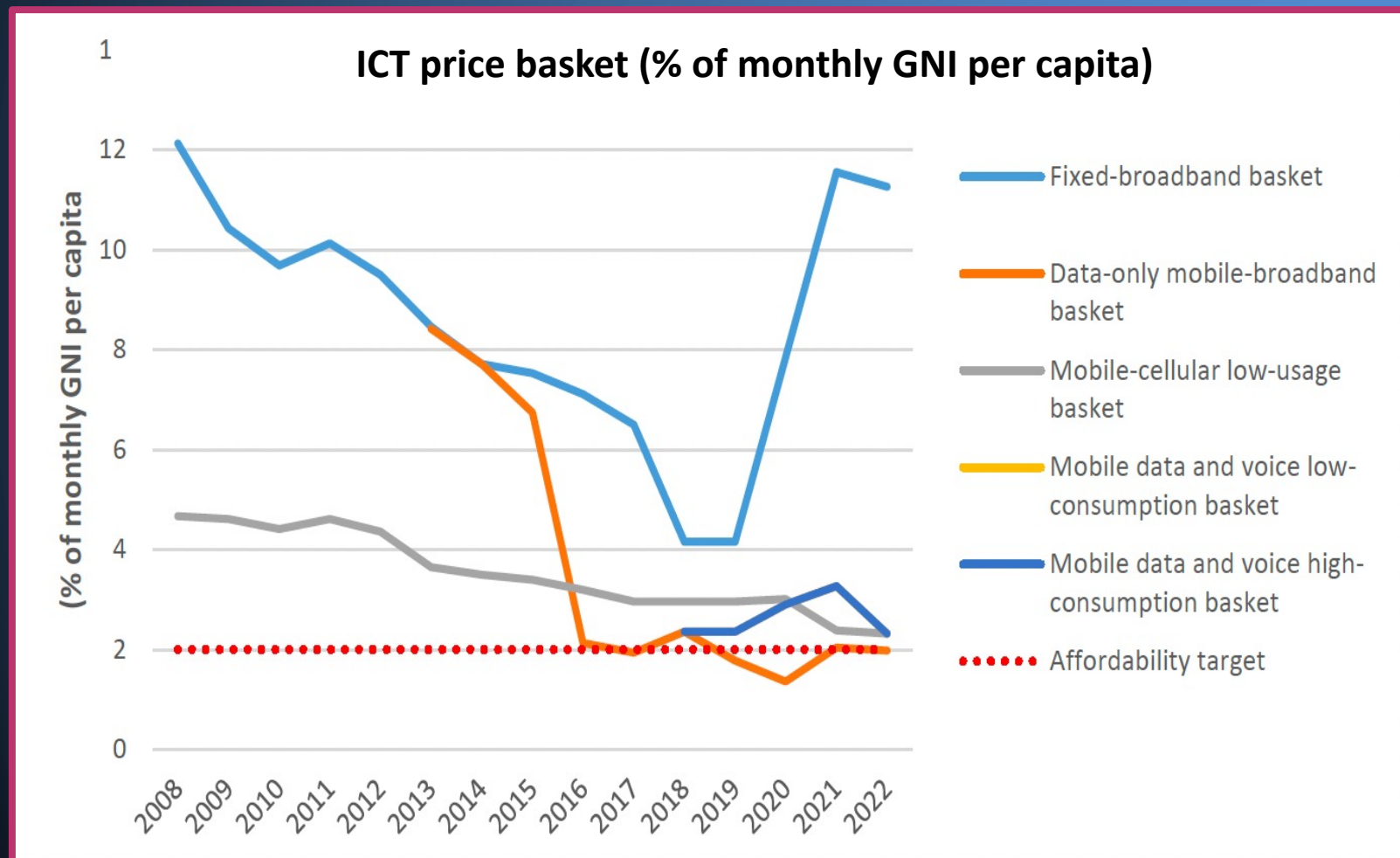
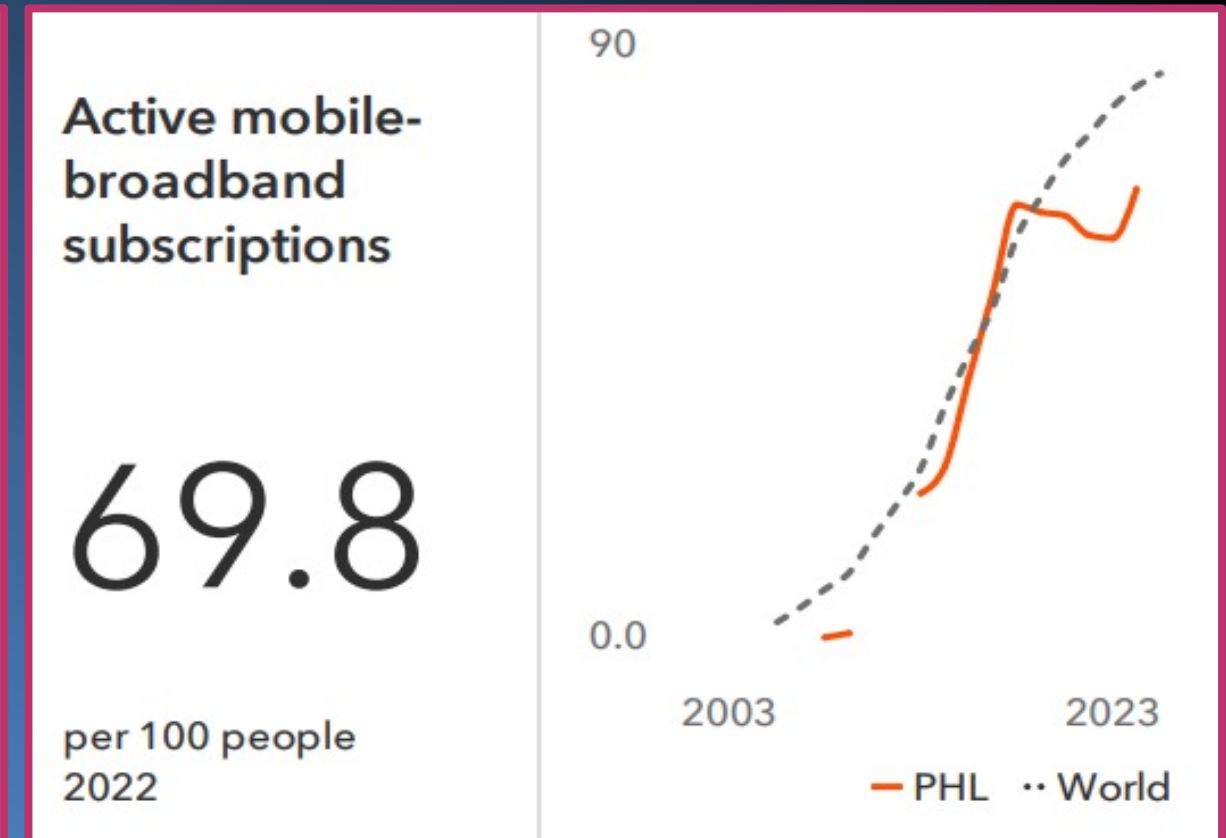
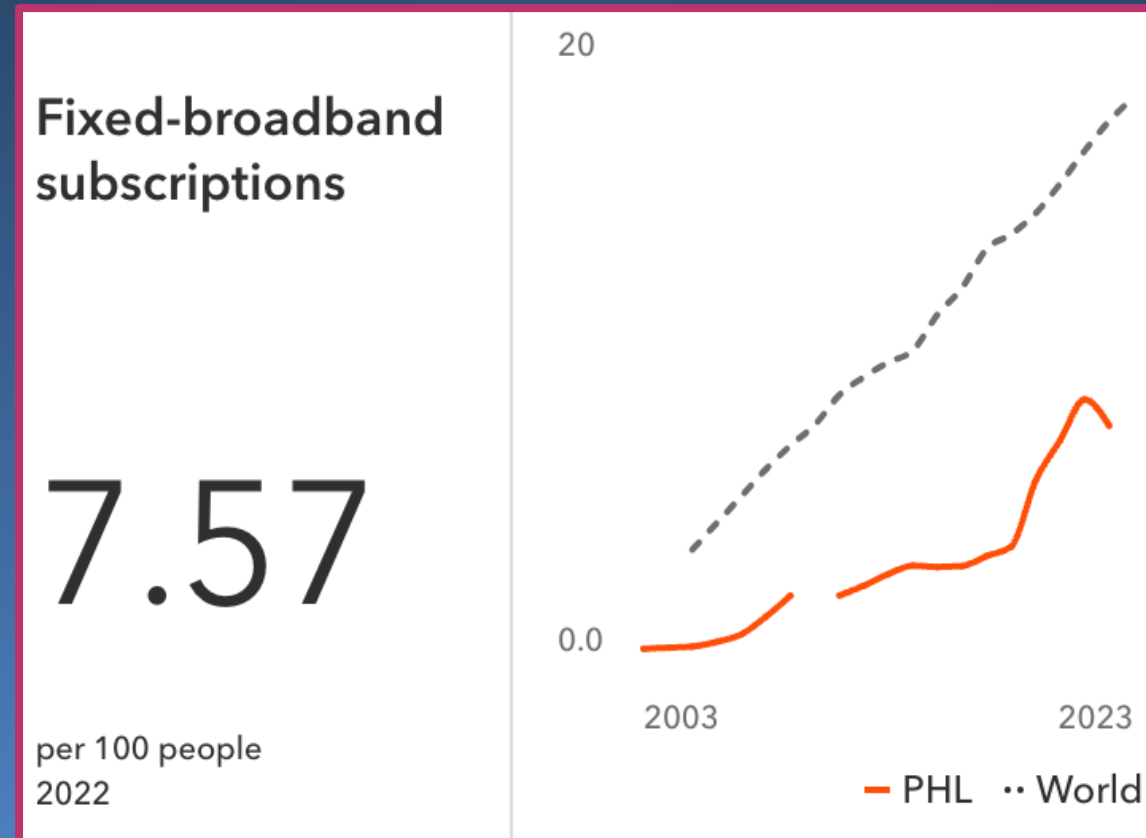
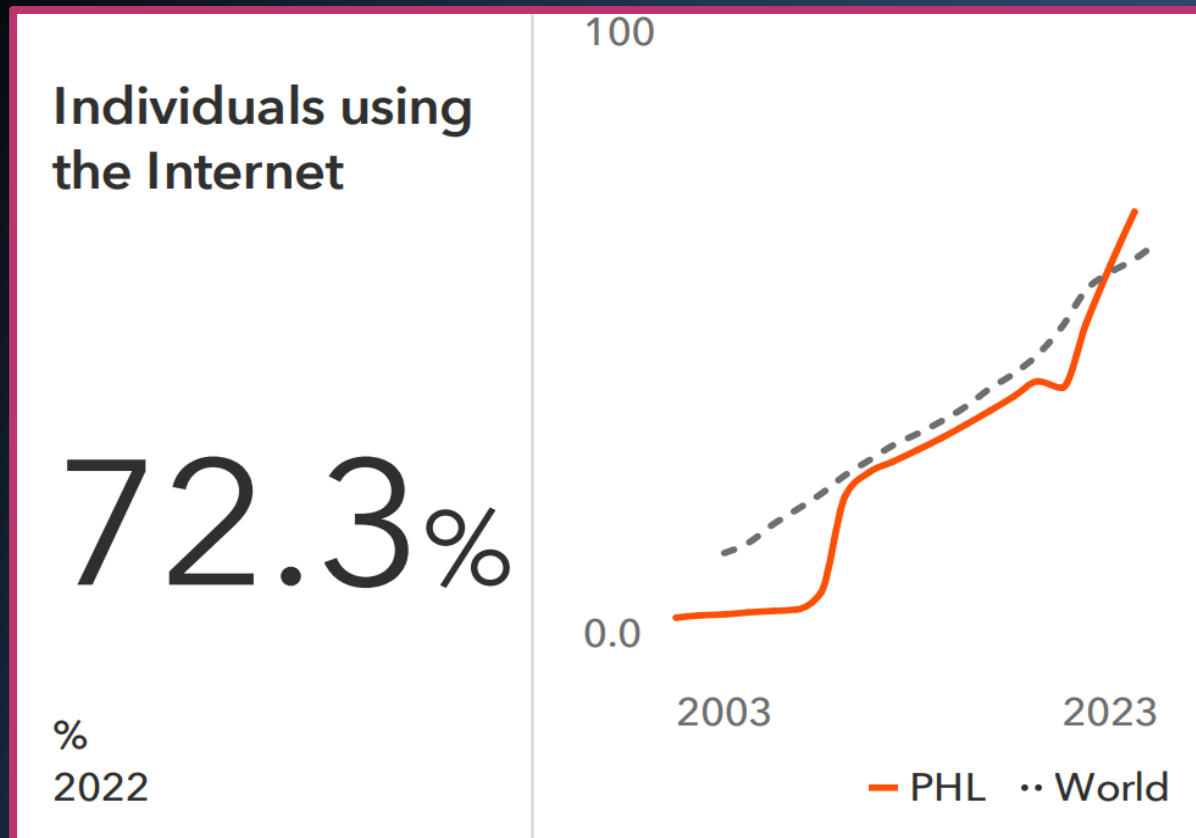
## Drivers of Competitiveness

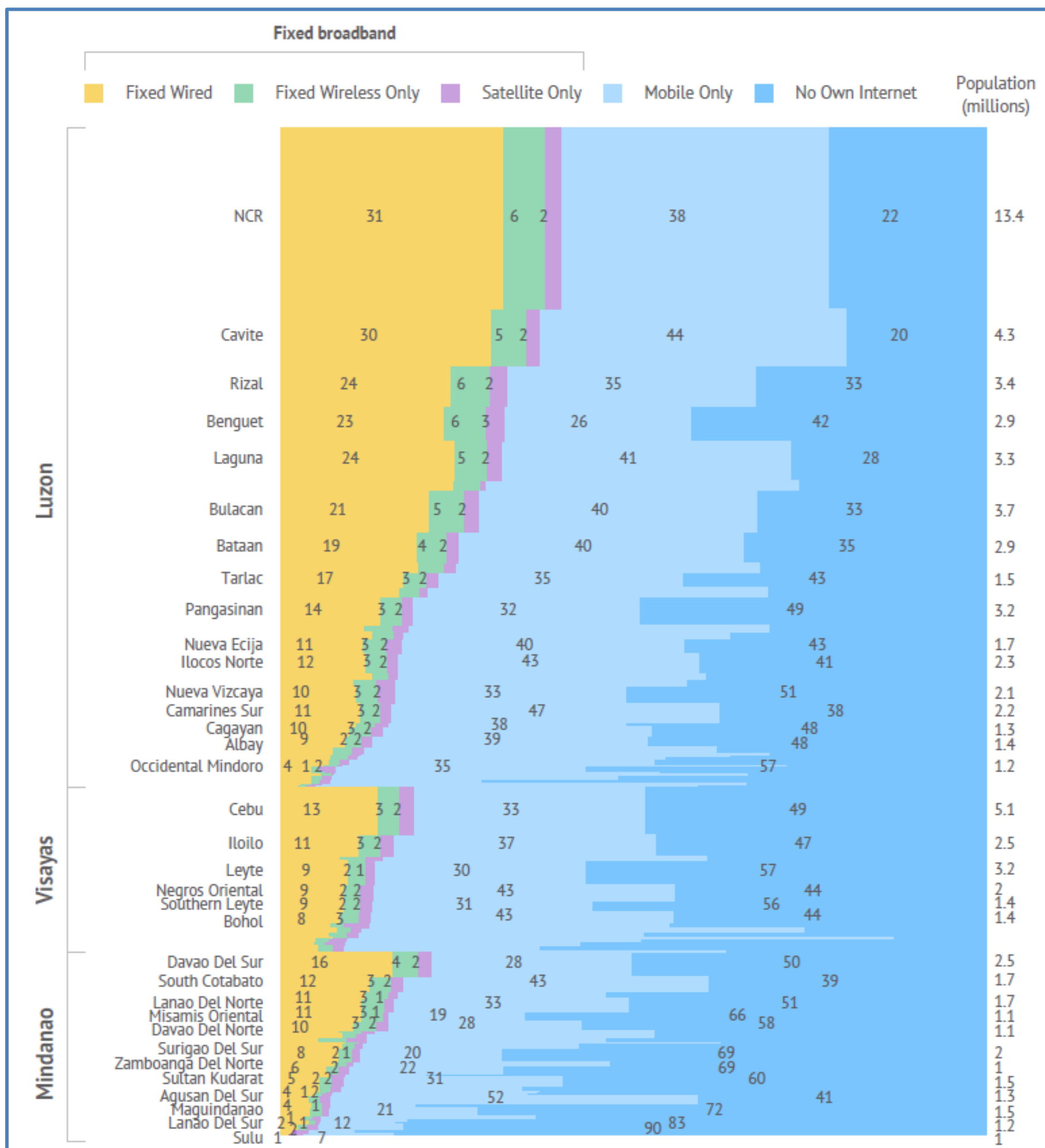


## EAASR Pillars



# State of broadband access in the Philippines



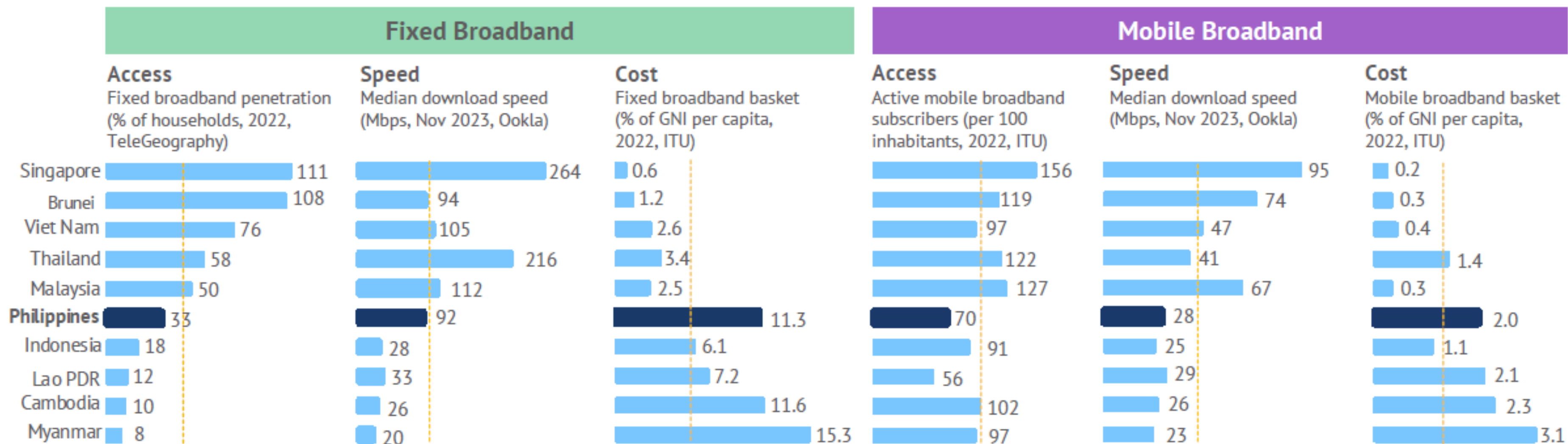


## Broadband internet penetration by connectivity types and provinces

Note: Bars are sorted by total access to fixed broadband. Bar width is weighted by population. Only NCR and provinces with at least 1 million population are labeled.

Source: World Bank staff calculations based on data from the PSA 2020 Census of Population and Housing, as cited by Kanehira (2024, p. 9)

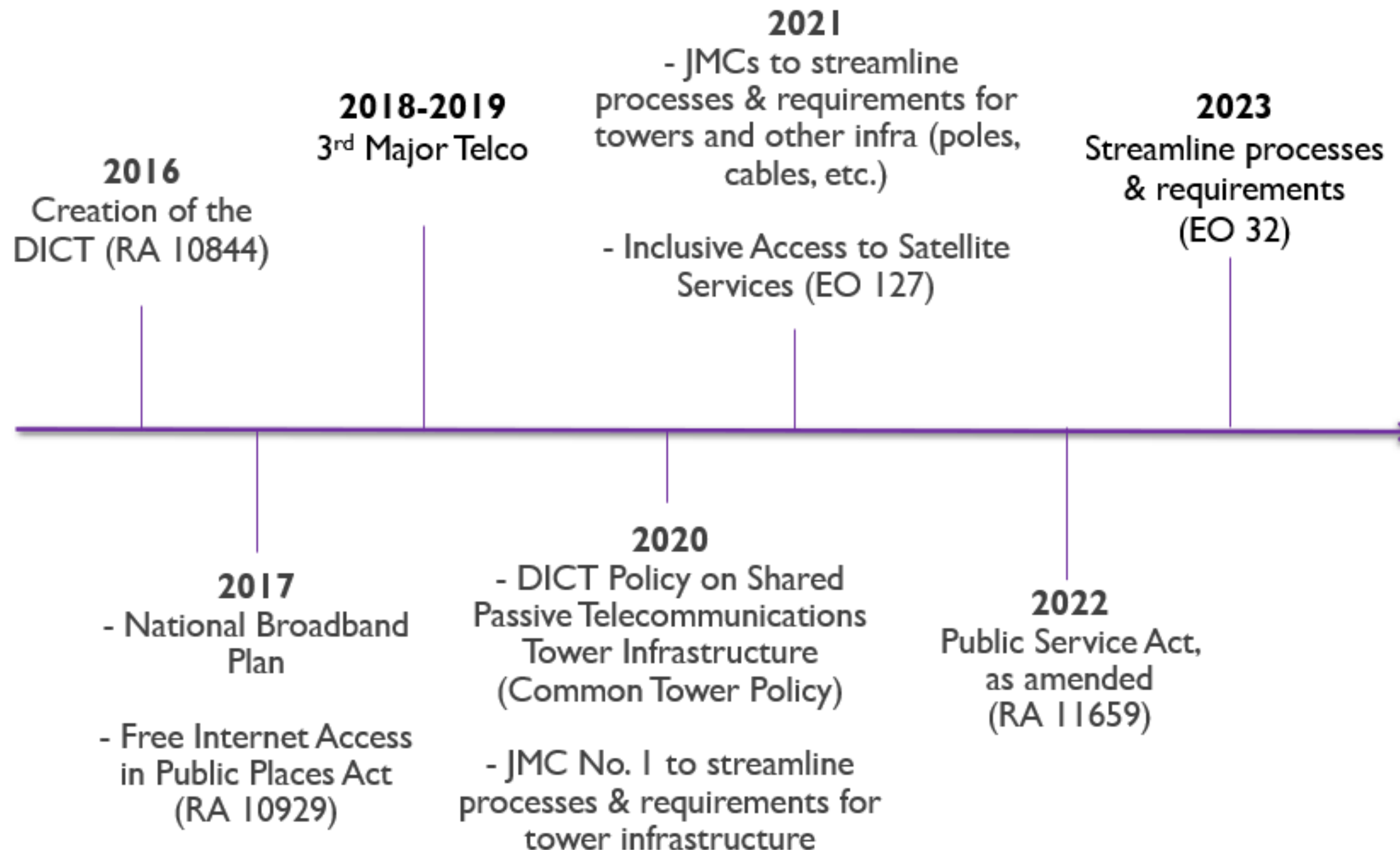
# Fixed and mobile broadband access, speed, and cost ASEAN members



Note: Dotted lines show Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) averages

Source: TeleGeography, Ookla, and ITU, as cited by Kanehira (2024, p.1)

# Recent ICT-related policy & regulatory reforms



Source: Serafica and Oren (2023)

## Further policy reforms planned

### PDP 2023-2028

- National Broadband Act
- Open Access in Data Transmission Act (Note: Substitute bill - Konektadong Pinoy Act)
- National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Modernization Act
- Introduce amendments to the National Building Code
- Amend or repeal:
  - Public Telecommunications Policy Act of 1995 (RA 7925)
  - Radio Control Law of the Philippines (RA 3846)



# Other relevant laws

## *Skills development*

- Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act (RA 11927) – 2022
- Philippine Creative Industries Development Act (RA 11904) – 2022

## *Innovation and entrepreneurship*

- The Philippine Innovation Act (RA 11293) – 2019
- The Innovative Startup Act (RA 11337) – 2019

## *Consumer protection*

- Internet Transactions Act (RA 11967) – 2023



# Case: Entry of Starlink

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- Executive Order No. 127 s.2021 enabled Starlink PH to register as an SSPO to get bandwidth from its own satellites, and as a VAS provider which could sell internet services directly to end users, without the need of a congressional franchise.
- Regulatory approval for Starlink's application as a Value-Added Service (VAS) Provider.
- 2022 Public Service Act amendment (R.A. No. 11659) allowed Starlink PH to be a 100% foreign-owned company.

# Challenges and recommendations

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- Reform the licensing regime / Remove barriers to entry and expansion - legislative franchise requirement, various permits and licenses
- Formulate a national spectrum policy
- Strengthen access regulations
- Ensure regulatory independence
- Monitor industry performance and develop a broadband map
- Monitor and evaluate government programs & projects

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EMAIL: [rserafica@pids.gov.ph](mailto:rserafica@pids.gov.ph); [qoren@pids.gov.ph](mailto:qoren@pids.gov.ph)