



# Road to Addis: Partner2Connect Meeting

20 September, 2021. 8:30-11:30 a.m. EST

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#ITUWTDC#RoadToAddis  
#Partner2Connect

## Winning the SDG race: bridging the digital divide by 2030

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, ITU has redoubled its efforts to help countries rapidly expand connectivity, to reach the 3.7 billion still offline and the millions of communities around the world where connectivity is still too poor to offer meaningful benefits to people.

The international community needs to find new ways to overcome chronic connectivity barriers, to dramatically level-up affordable access to technology and empower people with the digital skills to use it, so that everyone, everywhere, has access to life-changing, enabling, digital platforms and services.

Building on the outcomes of the [ITU Road to Addis Digital Development series](#), which started in 2020 as part of the preparatory process for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC, 6-15 June 2022), in coordination with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, and in line with the [UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#), the [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#) will be launched on 20 September 2021 at the Road to Addis: Partner2Connect meeting.

The Partner2Connect Digital (P2C) Coalition is a multi-stakeholder alliance to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in hardest-to-connect communities, including those in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Coalition will serve as a leadership platform to mobilize new resources, partnerships, and commitments across four Focus Areas:



Connecting people everywhere



Empowering communities



Building digital ecosystems



Incentivizing investments

In addition to the discussions on the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, the meeting will highlight the outcomes of the Road to Addis Digital Development series, as well as launch the *LDCs State of Connectivity Report*, a joint publication by ITU and UNOHRLLS (United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States).

The [Road to Addis: Partner2Connect meeting](#) will be held on the margins of the **76th UN General Assembly** from **8:30-11:30 a.m. EST**. Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will take place in a **virtual** format.

**Join ITU and other partners to win the SDG race and bridge the digital divide by 2030!**

# Preliminary Program (with considered panelists)

**Moderated by:** David Kirkpatrick. Founder & Editor-in-Chief, Techonomy Media.

## 8:30 – 10:00 **Session 1 – Road to Addis and Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Launch**

### 8:30 – 8:40 **Welcome Remarks by:**

- **Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin.** Director, ITU Development Bureau.
- **Mr. Brad Smith.** President, Microsoft.

### **Special Remarks by:**

- **Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde.** President of Ethiopia.

### 8:40 – 9:10 **SEGMENT 1 - Road to Addis First Chapter Review**

In November 2020, ITU launched the Road to Addis Series as an effort to build momentum, engage stakeholders and provide an inclusive platform to discuss some of the key themes that will be addressed at WTDC. ITU Identified [six enablers](#), which made the core thematic content of the [Road to Addis Series](#), and which will help accelerate connectivity for sustainable development. After almost a year of productive and engaging discussions, in this segment we will examine the key outcomes of the Road to Addis Series, launch “**The Connectivity Road to Sustainable Development**” booklet, and introduce the second part of the Road to Addis Series.

#### **Road to Addis Rapporteurs:**

- **Mr. Ali Al-Toblani.** Young Leader, Generation Connect, ITU.
- **Ms. Gessiene Grey.** Young Leader, Generation Connect, ITU.
- **Ms. Janati Nakimera.** CEO and Co-Founder, Solar Net-Metering Uganda.
- **Ms. Dunola Oladapo.** Engagement Manager, ITU.
- **Ms. Emma Randal.** Young Leader, Generation Connect, ITU.
- **Ms. Ellen Taylor.** Youth Engagement, Generation Connect, ITU.

### 9:10 – 9:55 **SEGMENT 2 - Launch of LDC Connectivity Report and P2C Overview**

Today, almost half of the world’s population remains unconnected. The digital divide, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a challenge particularly for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. What is the response of the global community to this challenge? How can multiple stakeholders work together to extend universal access to digital connectivity?

The first part of this segment will feature the *LDCs State of Connectivity Report*, a joint publication by ITU and UNOHRLLS, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In the second part, ITU’s [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#) will be introduced as the multi-stakeholder alliance to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in hardest-to-connect communities, including those in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. This segment will explore how this leadership platform will help mobilize new resources, partnerships, and commitments to drive the implementation of meaningful connectivity and digital transformation projects across the four Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Focus Areas.

**Launch of the LDCs Connectivity Report:**

- **Mr. Courtenay Rattray.** High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

**Remarks By:**

- **H.E. Mr. Yankhoba Diattara.** Minister of Digital Economy and Telecommunications of Senegal.
- **Mr. Bob Loughman.** Prime Minister of Vanuatu.
- **Mr. Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene.** Prime Minister of Mongolia.

**Partner2Connect Focus Areas:**

- **Mr. Nick Read.** CEO, Vodafone Group (*Connecting People Everywhere*).
- **Ms. Henrietta H. Fore.** Executive Director, UNICEF (*Empowering Communities*).
- **Mr. Achim Steiner.** Administrator, UNDP (*Building Digital Ecosystems*).
- **Ms. Preeti Sinha.** Executive Secretary, UNCDF (*Incentivizing Investments*).

**9:55 – 10:00**

**Session 1 Closing Remarks by:**

- **Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatalisano.** Officer-in Charge, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, and Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA, United Nations.
- **Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin.** Director, ITU Development Bureau.

**10:00 – 10:15**

**Break**

**10:15 – 11:25**

**Session 2 - Partner2Connect Focus Areas Discussions**

ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition is based on the principles of **Inclusion, Partnership** and **SDG-focused digital development**. It recognizes that progress can only be made through a multistakeholder and partnership-based approach and that the direct leadership of governments, policy makers, and the regulator community is essential to achieve meaningful and universal connectivity. The Coalition will work to ensure that people everywhere, and in particular in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS can access and use digital connectivity to transform lives, communities, and society, covering four Focus Areas:

- 1. Connecting People Everywhere**
- 2. Empowering Communities**
- 3. Building Digital Ecosystems**
- 4. Incentivizing Investments**

This session will explore in detail the key objectives and commitments for each Focus Area and set up the foundations of the preparatory work that will follow for the Coalition on the journey towards WTDC.

**Presentation by:**

- **Mr. Maikel Wilms.** Partner and Director, Technology, Media & Telecommunications, BCG.

**Firestarters (ITU Generation Connect Visionary Board Members):**

- **Ms. Sinead Bovell.** Founder of WAYE. Member of ITU Generation Connect Visionaries Board.
- **Mr. Ted Chen.** Co-Founder and CEO Evercomm Singapore. Member of ITU Generation Connect Visionaries Board.
- **Mr. Shailin Jyotushi.** Writer New America. Member of ITU Generation Connect Visionaries Board.
- **Ms. Mmabatho Motsamai.** Founder, The Afrolutionist. Member of ITU Generation Connect Visionaries Board.

**11:25 – 11:30**

**Closing and Next Steps**

**Closing Remarks by:**

- **Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin.** Director, ITU Development Bureau.