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| Roadmap for ITU's activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | |
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| **Summary**  This document highlights ITU’s activities and engagements that are advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.  **Action required**  Members are invited to note the document and to continue contributing to the ongoing activities.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [Draft Resolution A/C.2/76/L.5](https://undocs.org/en/A/C.2/76/L.5); [UNGA Rolution A/RES/70/125](https://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125); [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1](https://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1); UNGA Resolution [A/RES/73/218](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/218); [UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/202](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/379/41/PDF/N2037941.pdf?OpenElement); [ECOSOC Res 2021/28](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/28); [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/res-140-E.pdf); [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en); [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum); |

**ROADMAP FOR ITU'S ACTIVITIES TO HELP ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA FOR**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

1. In line with Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019) and taking into account the overall mandate of ITU and its role as the specialized United Nations agency for ICTs, the Roadmap for ITU actions related to the SDGs remain a living document giving course to ITU actions related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
2. During ITU PP-18, Member States and sector members reemphasized on the importance of telecommunications/ICTs as an enabler that harnesses the potential of and opportunities resulting from digital innovation which can benefit the socio-economic development of the countries concerned and help achieve the 17 SDGs. In Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), ITU Strategic Plan 2020-2023, member states highlight the necessity of contributing to the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs in close alignment with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process. An [ITU SDG Mapping Tool](https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool) was developed using the WSIS Stocktaking database and submissions by the Sectors and the GS on their activities. The sector objectives, in particular the objectives and outputs of BDT and TSB, and intersectoral objectives are also well linked to the WSIS Action Lines, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, currently further development of the tool is being planned. The [WSIS Action Lines and SDGs matrix](http://www.wsis.org/sdg) developed in collaboration with the UN agencies involved in the implementation of WSIS activities also clearly highlights the linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
3. Since 2016, as resolved by ITU membership in Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019), the WSIS framework is used as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda.
4. In order to maximize ITU's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, ITU's primary focus is in addressing **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Target 9.c aiming to significantly increase access to ICTs and provide universal and affordable access to the Internet. That is to enable ICT and telecommunications to be a catalyzer towards fast forwarding all SDGs. As **SDG17** (Partnership for the Goals) highlights ICTs as a means of implementation, with crosscutting transformative potential, it is imperative that ITU leverages this broad impact. Notable SDGs where ITU has a particularly strong impact include **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities), **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities), **SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 1 (No Poverty), **SDG 3** (Good-Health and Well-Being), **SDG 4** (Quality Education) and **SDG 5** (Gender Equality). Please see details in Annex 2.
5. In terms of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, ITU’s work on using digital technologies for monitoring, mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting human health and the environment from e-waste, facilitating digital solutions for energy efficiency, as well as ITU’s efforts to green its own operations, help to address various SDGs, including **SDG 7** (Affordable and Clean Energy), **SDG 12** (Responsible Consumption and Production), **SDG 13** (Climate Action), **SDG 14** (Life Below Water) and **SDG 15** (Life on Land).
6. Bearing in mind the overall mandate of the ITU and its role as the specialized United Nations agency for ICTs, the Roadmap is a living document intended to give course to ITU actions related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. SDG 3 “Good health and well-being”, SDG 8 “Decent work and economic growth”, SDG 9 “Industry, innovation and infrastructure”, SDG 11 “Sustainable cities and communities”, SDG 12 “Responsible consumption and production”, SDG 13 “Climate action”
7. The Roadmap is made available in Annex I.

**Annex I**

**DRAFT ROADMAP OF ITU ACTIONS RELATED TO THE SDGs**

1. **Revised ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 aligned with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai in 2018, endorsed the new Strategic Plan for the Union for 2020-2023. The strategic goals and targets set for the Union by the Member States (on 1-Growth, 2-Inclusiveness, 3-Sustainability, 4-Innovation and 5-Partnership) support ITU's role in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With the adoption of the UNGA Resolution "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" ITU, along with the rest of the UN family, needs to support Member States and contribute to the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs. The associated 17 SDGs and 169 related targets offer a holistic vision for the UN system.

The role of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) as essential catalysts to fast-forward the achievement of the SDGs is clearly highlighted in the 2030 Agenda: "the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies". ITU, as the UN's specialized agency for ICTs and global connectivity, has a key role to play in promoting prosperity in our digital world.

1. **Discussions at WG–WSIS &SDG, and at annual sessions of Council**

ITU’s activities related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be reported annually to Council for its feedback and guidance on how ITU can better serve its members and the global community in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.

1. **WSIS Forum: Alignment of the WSIS Action Lines with SDGs**

The annual [WSIS Forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum) continues to be the leading global multistakeholder platform for information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and forging of partnerships to advance development goals though ICTs. The Forum brings together high-level officials, academics, practitioners, ICTs experts, youth, business, and civil society leaders to engage in addressing issues on ICTs for development. The WSIS Forum promotes inclusiveness and equal opportunity among diverse and multiple stakeholders to deliberate and act together on information society trends and issues. Each activity at the WSIS Forum is aligned with the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs, highlighting the contributions and impact of ICTs to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

ITU has been working with all WSIS stakeholders to strengthen the alignment of the WSIS process with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The WSIS Action Lines serve as a key framework for progress on the achievement of SDGs. The linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs can be found through the *WSIS Action Lines and SDG matrix* ([www.wsis.org/sdg)](http://www.wsis.org/sdg)), which was coordinated by ITU and developed by a number of United Nations agencies in 2015. This matrix is a tool to map how ICTs can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and an easy reference for stakeholders engaged in shaping the future of the SDGs and the WSIS processes.

1. **WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes**

The WSIS Stocktaking process has been maintained by ITU since 2004 as requested by the WSIS Outcomes (TAIS, Para 120). This publicly accessible WSIS Stocktaking database (www.wsis.org/stocktaking), currently with more than 14,000 entries and a growing community of 450.000 stakeholders, is a unique global tool for collecting information and regular reporting on information and communication technology related initiatives and projects, carried out by governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other entities, in the context of 11 WSIS Action Lines. In 2015, the UN General Assembly within the framework of the ten-year review of the WSIS (Res. A/70/125) called for a close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Res. A/70/1).

The WSIS Stocktaking process responded by highlighting the contribution of 11 WSIS Action Lines to the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations Economic and Social Council ECOSOC Resolution 2021/28 on "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society" reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the WSIS goals, encourages all stakeholders to submit ICT-related projects and initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking platform. ITU continues to invite stakeholders to update and submit new entries online at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking). Submitted activities are being reflected in the annual WSIS Stocktaking Reports.

The WSIS Prizes contest, as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process, was launched in 2012 to recognize best ICT practices that are implementing WSIS Action Lines and advancing Sustainable Development Goals. WSIS Prizes honour outstanding projects that leverage the power of ICT to accelerate socio-economic development around the globe and demonstrate how established Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be realized in concrete actions and inspire other stakeholders all over the world to follow their success. Facilitated by ITU in coordination with all WSIS stakeholders, the [WSIS Prizes 2022](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) contest submission phase is ongoing, and stakeholders are invited to use this opportunity to identify and showcase success stories across the WSIS Action Lines defined in the Geneva Plan of Action and Sustainable Development Goals.

1. **WSIS / SDG Task Force as the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism**

WSIS / SDG Task Force facilitates coordination of ITU Secretariat’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and WSIS processes within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget.

1. **Cross-sectoral mapping of ITU activities and initiatives to the SDGs**

The ITU secretariat will continue to update the stocktaking and mapping of all ITU initiatives and activities related to the SDGs ([ITU SDG Mapping tool](https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool)), taking into consideration existing frameworks provided by the WSIS Action Lines for the overall ICT ecosystem.

This also includes a link with the WSIS Stocktaking now implemented as well as providing a space for other stakeholders to map their own ICT activities with the SDGs.

1. **Review and input from the ITU Sectors**

Since Council 2017, measures have been taken to report on the contribution of ITU to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the ITU Annual Report (please refer to the latest Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan and Activities of the Union/ITU Annual Progress Report c21/Doc35). Information has also been introduced in the [ITU SDG Mapping tool](https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool).

ITU activities contributing to the 2030 Agenda are also reflected in the Annual Four-year rolling Operational Plans 2020-2023 ([Resolution 1395](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0121/en): Annual four-year rolling Operational Plans for the Union for 2020-2023) – presented in document [C19/28](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0028/en).

1. **Engagement with Member States**

The main areas of focus here are on ITUs advocacy and assistance for the use of ICTs for development activities. The SDG global follow-up and review process foresees the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) during the High-Level Political Forum held annually in July in New York. Member States will be continuously encouraged to ensure highlighting in their future Voluntary National Review, the importance of ICT for sustainable development as a cross-cutting enabler and accelerator to achieve the SDGs. Highlights could include illustrating good practices, lessons learned, challenges, opportunities and support required in terms of finance, capacity building, technology, partnerships etc. References to policy and enabling environment measures with key stakeholders including national and local government, legislative bodies, civil society and the private sector are encouraged. Periodic information sessions for New York Permanent Missions on ITU relevant work and ICT4SDGs will be continued, with particular focus on the set of SDGs selected for deep dives during each HLPF.

Member states will continue to be encouraged to incorporate ICT component for SDGs in national development frameworks, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (former UNDAFs).

1. **Engaging with all stakeholders on the implementation of the Connect 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**

In the Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) the Connect 2030 Agenda endorses the high-level strategic goals and targets set out in the strategic plan of the Union and the global broadband targets set up by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and aims to inspire and invite all stakeholders and entities to work together to contribute and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

As part of the implementation of the ITU Strategic Plan, ITU will engage with all stakeholders, including international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and academia, while undertaking initiatives to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. ITU brings together more than 700 Sector Members and Associates from industry, international and regional organizations, and academia, providing a unique, trusted, and global multi-stakeholder platform for partners from the public and private sectors to address ICT issues related to the implementation of the SDGs.

1. **UN system-wide coordination on the SDGs**

ITU participation in relevant UN system coordination mechanisms, under related 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation issues. Among these:

1. Chief Executive Board for Coordination
2. High Level Committee on Programmes
3. High Level Committee on Management
4. Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology, and Innovation as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism entrusted with the STI Forum and Online Platform
5. Interagency Task Team on Financing for Development
6. United Nations Sustainable Development Group
7. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (former UNDAFs)
8. United Nations Group on the Information Society
9. United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanisms

ITU will continue to provide input to the various UN Secretary-General thematic reports highlighting ITU’s work and contribution, including challenges and opportunities, of ICT for sustainable development.

ITU will also provide ICT data and statistics to monitor and track the ICT indicators, incorporating those on new technologies, related to the SDGs.

ITU will participate and provide input to the global follow-up and review process of the SDGs, including following UN General Assembly, ECOSOC, the High-Level Political Forum, CSTD and other relevant UN bodies, meetings and thematic discussions. Through its Regional Offices, ITU will also contribute to or/and co-organize UN Regional Forums for Sustainable Development (regional mechanism for follow-up and review), while providing annual ITU Regional Development Forums as platforms for strengthening implementation of the regional initiatives focusing on ICT for SDG.

1. **Communication and Advocacy Campaign**

ITU will continue creating material highlighting the impact of ICTs on the SDGs with audio visual, social media and other content.

Advocacy and communication messaging will be aligned and tailored to different stakeholders.

**Annex 2**

* ITU contributes to SDG 9 in particular - helping to build resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation (specifically SDG Target 9.c). Efficient and affordable ICT infrastructure and services allow countries to participate in the digital economy and to increase their overall economic well-being and competitiveness. Most least developed countries are recording impressive progress towards SDG 9, with significant impact in the areas of financial inclusion, poverty reduction and improved health.
* ICTs can achieve results at a scale, speed, quality, accuracy and cost not imaginable just a decade ago. They are means to deliver quality goods and services in the areas of health care, education, finance, commerce, governance and agriculture, among others. They can help to reduce poverty and hunger, boost health, create new jobs, mitigate climate change, improve energy efficiency and make cities and communities sustainable.
* About half the world's people do not use the Internet. Disenfranchised populations, particularly women and girls, elders, people with disabilities, indigenous populations, the economically disadvantaged, as well as people living in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, need to be included in a digital society to meet all 17 SDGs.​

## ITU’S CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING ALL 17 SDGS

ITU is assisting countries to transition into the digital era. Central to ITU's strategy to leverage the power of ICTs to accelerate progress on the SDGs is the “four I's" framework based on building Infrastructure, securing Investment, promoting Innovation and ensuring Inclusivity.

ITU's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals starts with SDG 9: Building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. ITU supports countries in achieving SDG 9 (specifically SDG Target 9.c) by enabling access to the Internet and other ICTs, in the following three ways:

1. ITU plays a vital role in brokering international agreements to allocate and coordinate the use of the global radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. This effort allows ICT devices anywhere in the world to be used on the same frequency bands, which in turn ensures that radiocommunication services run smoothly, without interference from other radio communication services and users, and benefit from the resulting economies of scale. ITU is the only body for the management of the radio-frequency spectrum at the international level.
2. ITU and its members, including governments, the private sector and academia, are developing the international standards—the technical criteria, processes and practices—that ensure that key ICTs perform smoothly, efficiently and safely and provide further opportunities for economies of scale.
3. ITU has been assisting developing countries in making ICTs affordable, relevant and accessible to all. For example, ITU supports countries in developing programmes to build the necessary physical infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity, develop digital skills for youth and others, improve digital inclusion for people with special needs, enhance the regulatory and market environment to increase access to ICTs, and promote ICT-centred innovation and entrepreneurship.

ITU also raises awareness and rallies the commitment necessary to achieve the SDGs through a number of processes and fora. For example, ITU leads the coordination of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process, leveraging pre-existing WSIS mechanisms and Action Lines to promote the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The annual WSIS Forum takes stock of the positive impact of ICTs on people's lives around the world. ITU maintains the WSIS Stocktaking database, which is a repository of more than 10 000 ICT for Development projects and more than 350 000 members, and awards WSIS Prizes that give international recognition to stakeholders who implement ICT for Development Projects.

ITU has also developed a SDG Mapping Tool that illustrates how ITU activities contribute to the SDGs. ITU is the custodian of the SDG indicators 4.4.1, 5.b.1, 9.c.1, 17.6.2 and 17.8.1 and responsible for tracking them at the international level.

ITU, in collaboration with partners, has been working to contribute to each and every SDG:

* **SDG 1: No poverty**. More than 2 billion people in the world don't have bank accounts, while access to digital financial services has been proven to help lift people out of poverty. In November 2017, ITU teamed up with several partners to launch [a global programme](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2017-PR36.aspx) to accelerate digital financial inclusion in developing countries.
* **SDG 2: Zero hunger**. By making agricultural practices more data-driven and efficient, ICT-enabled solutions can help farmers increase crop yields while reducing their use of energy. In 2017, [ITU and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2017-CM17.aspx) joined forces to bolster ICT innovation in agriculture.
* **SDG 3: Good health and well-being**. Direct patient interaction, health informatics and telemedicine can be improved through better connectivity. In 2017, ITU and the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the ["Digital Health for Africa"](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2017-CM21.aspx) partnership to scale up the use of digital technologies to strengthen the delivery of public health care services in Africa. Furthermore, [Be He@lthy, Be Mobile](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ICT-Applications/eHEALTH/Be_healthy/Pages/Be_Healthy.aspx), a collaboration between ITU and WHO founded in 2013, helps governments introduce health services for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their risk factors by using mobile phones to deliver information to millions of users in their countries. ITU is also developing standards for multimedia systems to support the widespread deployment of e-health applications, in particular in the area of telemedicine, in collaboration with other organizations that develop standards related to e-health.
* **SDG 4:** **Quality education**. ITU and the International Labour Organization (ILO) are leading the [Digital Skills for Decent Jobs Campaign](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Youth-and-Children/Pages/Digital-Skills.aspx), whose goal is to equip five million young men and women with job-ready digital skills by 2030 in support of the SDGs as part of the first-ever, comprehensive United Nations system-wide effort for the [promotion of youth employment](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm) worldwide.
* **SDG 5: Gender equality**. Two hundred fifty million fewer women are online than men. To close the digital gender gap, ITU members annually organize [International Girls in ICT Day](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Why-a-Girls-in-ICT-Day.aspx), led by ITU. ITU is also involved in a number of gender equality initiatives including [EQUALS](https://www.itu.int/en/equals/Pages/default.aspx), a ground-breaking global network to build an evidence base and improve women's access to technology, build relevant digital and other skills, and promote female leadership in the tech sector.
* **SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation**. ICTs facilitate smart water and sanitation management. The [ITU Focus Group on Smart Sustainable Cities](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ssc/Pages/default.aspx) has identified key trends in [urban smart water management](https://www.google.ch/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwj-hJ777OfSAhXDBSwKHXlmCysQFggaMAA&url=https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ssc/Documents/Approved_Deliverables/TR-SWM-cities.docx&usg=AFQjCNFAIFTzJc7whH3D2qX-LvdsNpjDYA&sig2=0rcz1IFC4I2d32EkC-txVg), including ICTs for managing wastewater.
* **SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy**. ITU has helped develop greener ICTs and has outlined [how smart grids](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/oth/4B/01/T4B010000050001PDFE.pdf) can help to build more controllable and efficient energy systems and reduce carbon emissions.
* **SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth**. ITU has launched a [Digital Innovation Framework](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Innovation/Pages/default.aspx) to assist countries, cities and other ecosystems to accelerate their digital transformation and stimulate ICT-centric innovative entrepreneurship and vibrant small and medium enterprises.
* **SDG 10: Reduced inequalities.** ITU works to reduce inequality within and between countries, communities and populations by enabling access to technologies and knowledge to disadvantaged segments of society.
* **SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities**. To facilitate the transition to smart sustainable cities, ITU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) launched "[United for Smart Sustainable Cities" (U4SSC)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc/united/Pages/default.aspx) in 2016. Fifty cities have now joined this project.
* **SDG 12:** **Responsible consumption and production**. eWaste, waste created by ICTs, is increasing. ITU proposes to [create an e-waste Coalition](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Climate-Change/Documents/GEM%202017/Global-E-waste%20Monitor%202017%20.pdf) to strengthen collaboration on addressing the global e-waste challenge. ITU has also developed [global strategies, standards and policies](https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Pages/ewaste.aspx) that offer guidelines for the sustainable management of e-waste.
* **SDG 13:** **Climate change action**. ITU develops policies and international standards that help reduce the amount of energy required to provide ICT products and services. For example, ITU has developed standards on [green data centres](https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Documents/ITU-TRecDataCentresList.pdf) and [green power feeding systems](https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Documents/ITU-TRecGreenICTPowerList.pdf).
* ITU supports work on **SDG 13, 14, and 15 — Climate action, Life below water, and Life on land** — by allocating and coordinating the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits allowing satellite observations that play a significant role in monitoring oceans, marine life and terrestrial ecosystems.
* **SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions**. ITU helps to drive citizen empowerment through its work on smart sustainable cities and key performance indicators (KPIs) that measure social inclusion such as voter participation, or the number of government services delivered through electronic means. ITU also helps countries deploy broadband connectivity and develop ICT applications to facilitate the provision of free or low-cost digital access for schools, hospitals and underserved populations.
* **SDG 17: The power of partnerships**. Public-private partnerships, one of the comparative advantages and foundations of ITU's work, are key to bringing ICTs to all nations, peoples and communities. Partnerships are particularly needed to build the physical infrastructure required to deliver Internet services in hard-to-reach areas and to currently disadvantaged populations, as well as to facilitate the investment, inclusion and innovation required by the SDGs.​

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