



WORKING TOGETHER TO CONNECT THE NEXT 1.5 BILLION BY 2020

Report on the Special Session of the
UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development
at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum,

Davos, 21 January 2016

**BROADBAND
COMMISSION**
FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT





BACKGROUND

The third Special Session of the Broadband Commission at the World Economic Forum was co-organized with partners from the World Economic Forum, and sponsored by the Ministry of Communications and IT of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Broadband Commission was relaunched in 2015, in line with the adoption of the Global Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, and was rebranded as the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. The Broadband Commissioners are at one in their firm belief that broadband can be a powerful driver for sustainable development and are underlining this by dedicating their work specifically to drive progress towards achieving the SDGs.

When the SDGs were adopted in September 2015, many organizations and governments spoke with conviction about the positive role that technology, and specifically information and communications technologies or ICTs, can play in driving sustainable development.

The Special Session brought together a wide range of organizations and entities dedicated to connecting the unconnected, to discuss how to bring all the world's people online, innovative investment models, and in particular to align and reinforce our efforts to connect the next 1.5 billion people by 2020 (a target from the Connect 2020 Agenda, which was adopted unanimously by 193 Member States at ITU's main international conference in 2014).



INTRODUCTION

World leaders recently approved a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provide the overarching global framework for development through to the year 2030.

Connecting the unconnected and generating sufficient investment opportunities for the universal deployment of broadband and ICTs (information and communication technologies) and their

related services and applications will be a key factor in achieving all 17 goals, and is the primary focus of the new-look Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.

Providing affordable and inclusive access is a core challenge and priority for many governments, industry leaders, and international organizations. The UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and its many partners

believes that ICTs can be a significant enabler to achieving progress in the SDGs but for this to happen we need investment and partnerships across multiple sectors, and a stronger alignment and collaboration between existing initiatives.

This position was emphasized in the recently adopted SDGs, particularly Target 9c: “significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to internet in LDCs by 2020.” The international community also set out specific goals for connectivity to support sustainable development in the ‘Connect 2020 Agenda’ for global telecommunication/ICT development, which defines tangible targets for ICT growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, and innovation and partnership by 2020.

There are many elements to consider when undertaking the global challenge to connect the world. These include: the need for affordable access to broadband; network infrastructure challenges and related

financing models; an enabling policy and regulatory environment; ensuring that there is a demand for connectivity and services; and the impact of connectivity on social and economic growth and environmental sustainability.

The UN Broadband Commission Special Session in Davos brought together leaders and representatives from a number of key global connectivity initiatives to identify challenges and opportunities in their implementation, as well as identify synergies and areas for greater collaboration. A discussion paper, which looked at the potential investments needed to achieve global connectivity - was presented by ITU as a contribution to the Special Session and a joint Statement (annexed below) was released after the session.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following highlights aim to capture the key points contributed from a number of participants during the 90 minute session. It is not a formal record of the meeting but rather a means to share the key discussion points with a wider group of stakeholders.

The session was opened by the moderator, David Kirkpatrick, CEO of Techonomy Media, who stressed the importance of bringing everyone online, and the need to achieve this as rapidly as possible, building on the strengths of common purpose and the impressive amount of knowledge in the

room. It is not a question of 'if' but 'when' everyone will be brought online, Kirkpatrick emphasized, which means working together more effectively to accelerate the common goal of global connectivity.

Opening remarks were delivered by the two Co-Vice Chairs of the Broadband Commission, Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, and Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, as well as by representatives of the two Co-Chairs of the Commission, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and Carlos Slim, Chairman of the Carlos Slim Foundation.

Houlin Zhao noted that this was the third Broadband Commission meeting in Davos to be sponsored by Azerbaijan, and thanked the sponsor, as well as all the participants for coming. This is the first meeting of the Broadband Commission since the approval of the SDGs, and this represents a good opportunity to use the power of ICTs, and especially broadband, to improve people's lives. He reiterated the value of the ITU's Connect 2020 Agenda which was unanimously approved by all 193 ITU Member States, and noted the big challenge of connecting the next 1.5 billion – a challenge which can be met if everyone works together, and which would be facilitated by the adoption of the draft

statement prepared in advance of the meeting.

Irina Bokova thanked the participants for coming and welcomed the good tradition already established by the meeting, and the opportunity to talk about connectivity and the transformational force of ICT and more broadly how to build an inclusive society (more than purely technical aspects). We have learned from the Connect 2020 agenda as well as WSIS that everywhere people are thinking about new technologies and new paths of development, and how the convergence of views and the interests of the private sector, governments and civil society are getting stronger. She asked the meeting to consider climate change, as well as the importance of significantly increasing access to ICTs and striving to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in LDCs by 2020, as specified in goal 9c of the Global Agenda. Looking more broadly at all of the SDGs, there are none of the 17 goals where ICT is not relevant, and that is why this meeting is so important – as

is the next full meeting of the Commission in Dubai in the middle of March.

Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth & ICT, Rwanda, spoke on behalf of Broadband Commission Co-Chair President Kagame, who sent his greetings and apologies, and reiterated his full support for the effort of building more synergies and partnerships to deliver on the expectations and dreams of the billions who remain unconnected. He congratulated ITU on the discussion paper, emphasizing the importance of advance knowledge and the understanding of what it takes to do the job, and noted that the themes of Davos were challenging, remembering that there are still so many that are yet to join this revolution. We must remain focused, and improve regulation, the business environment, education, innovation and entrepreneurship, until the last billion – not only the next billion – is connected. Connecting the unconnected must be seen as a shared global responsibility, as well as a profitable business activity,

and an unprecedented opportunity for those joining information economy for the first time. The President remains fully engaged on the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and looks forward to meeting Commissioners in Davos this week, in Dubai in March, or in Rwanda in May.

Carlos M. Jarque, CEO of FCC, and Broadband Commissioner, spoke on behalf of Broadband Commission Co-Chair Carlos Slim, who sent his kind regards to the meeting. He shared his thoughts on connectivity and inclusion, reminding participants of the Nobel Peace Prize winner who had said never underestimate the power of a single voice globally connected. The Broadband Commission is globally connected and it has a voice – and its message today is to connect the next 1.5 billion by 2020. This number is in the minds of many governments and institutions, and clearly we need a lot of investment – the ITU report suggests US\$ 450 billion is needed in the next four years to meet the target.

This is a profitable investment both socially and economically. The size of the Digital Economy is of about 16 Trillion dollars in the same period. He stressed the need for a 'proper ecosystem' to vastly expand connectivity for inclusive development, and noted that in some countries regulation is still volatile – so work is still needed on legal and regulatory frameworks. He also discussed the need for improved regulator knowledge, and the need to digitalize public sectors and communities and to promote digital inclusion. We need to realize opportunities in health, education, and finance, and we need to ensure that SMEs benefit from the digital economy. The Broadband Commission Working Group chaired by Jeffrey Sachs can play an important role as all these sectors are strategic and interrelated. We need to focus on content and digital culture – content makes it happen. Finally, we need to do a better job of disseminating the benefits of broadband in development, identify best practices and to scale them up; we need to make sure everyone understands the SDGs

will not be reached without broadband; and we need to benefit from the power of being able to measure society in real time. To sum up: we live in a time of good technological fortune, but we have to work on several fronts to bring the benefits to all.

Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD, said that we have to look at challenges on making progress on the SDGs – one of which is infrastructure, as already mentioned. Today there is a major divide in access to broadband infrastructure – fixed broadband penetration is under 1% in Africa, while mobile broadband penetration is 17%. But mobile broadband penetration in the developed world is almost 87%. So the challenge is how to finance the bridging of that gap. We will soon be publishing our latest global investment monitor, which shows a number of trends, including the global growth of FDI (although most of this is in the developed world); the net decline in South America; and the fact that the main inflows go into technology, not infrastructure. The good news is that

investment in IT-related infrastructure has not only been done by technology companies – but still the investment in broadband remains a challenge. He noted that the reality is that investment is most likely to be attracted into mobile infrastructure, and that regulation and incentives can be optimized to share infrastructure to better use assets. At the same time we need to look beyond infrastructure, and in particular consider e-commerce: you need a payment system, you need an ecosystem where cybersecurity is assured, so you need a comprehensive ecosystem, and there can be partnerships at every level. Finally, national priorities need to be coherent – both on global commitment and national action.

Günther Oettinger, EU Commissioner, Digital Economy and Society, and Broadband Commissioner, emphasized the European Commission's commitment to supporting the efforts and work of the Broadband Commission. He noted the growing digital divide, and said that people

will not invest if there is no business case. If there are not adequate skills and local content and applications, then there will be no local added value and therefore no reason to invest. When we ask countries about their priorities, they never answer 'digital infrastructure', yet this should be the number one priority, alongside roads etc. The next priority needs to be skills. We need better education in schools and high schools – and delivering digital competence to everyone is a binding obligation. Next, we need to look at standards: we are on the way from 3G to 4G to 5G, and 5G is a revolution, but we need global standards, and we need to organize these, to bring together leading countries in this area, and to agree global standards very soon. Finally, we need to ask philosophical questions. Do we like open Internet? What about cybersecurity? What is the philosophy behind digital services? Who is ruling it – governments or the market? Is it market-based or state-owned? To sum up, we need money, a business case, a strategy on how to co-finance. It's about skills and about



philosophy, and there is a lot to do. The next divide is a digital one with three billion winners and four billion losers.

Kaushik Basu, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank, noted that this was the first meeting following the World Bank's launch of the 2016 World Development Report on "Digital Dividends", which brings together a lot of evidence

about the digital world but also points out dangers, and new divides opening up. It is clear that huge benefits can be brought by connectivity, such as m-pesa in Kenya, or garment workers in Bangladesh receiving end of month text messages concerning their salaries, allowing them to send remittances across the country. In India, one billion people are now registered under a system of biometric identification, so now

poor people are entitled to benefits even if they migrate to another region. Mobility has become much easier, and has transformed the retail sector in China, for example, through technology. But we are now more acutely aware than ever of the haves and the have nots – this is a new divide. Think of literacy: up until around 5,000 years ago, being illiterate was not a disadvantage, but today it is a huge disadvantage to be illiterate (and it is shameful that 15% of adults in the world cannot read and write). Connectivity is the new literacy: if you are not connected, you will be the new poor. Education is incredibly important, and with new technology you can teach remotely far more easily. One of our jobs at the World Bank, which we have just started with the launch of the report, is to operationalize this through a new digital development partnership, which aims to link up with other organizations and work together with activism and go into countries which are under-connected and set up field offices. A counterpart to connecting people is the regulatory framework: what do different

countries allow – for example in terms of mobile cash? We want to take advisory role, but we cannot do it alone, and we hope this new platform will help us all to stay together.

Alex Wong, Co-head of 'Future of the Internet' initiative, WEF, said that he was happy to use Davos to convene all the participants here. WEF has made an extended commitment to the future of the Internet as a key initiative, launched last year, and a key pillar is 'Internet for all' (we have decided to focus on all four billion unconnected); many of you are members of this, including ITU, World Bank, Cisco etc. We have made a great start by completing a framework, and we are now moving into the action phase, with multi-stakeholder action on the ground. This decision was made with many of you involved, and we invite all of you to be part of this, because it does require a coordinated approach. With everyone here, the talent and skills, we can address this challenge. He noted some of the principles that

Klaus Schwab has elaborated on the Fourth Industrial Revolution: first, stop thinking in compartmentalized ways; second, the need to have an inclusive approach; and finally, the need to always put people first. We need to empower them and remind ourselves that these new technologies are first and foremost tools by people for people – so we need a people-centric approach. As we all move into the action phase, let me end with a quote by Henry Ford: ‘coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success.’

Sun Yafang, Chairwoman of the Board, Huawei Technologies, and Broadband Commissioner, noted that she had heard a lot about digital transformation in Davos this year, and about living in a digital world. She illustrated the issue of connectivity and inclusiveness with examples from China, where the government has given a high priority to communications infrastructure. By approaching carriers and working in partnership to roll out the network, China has brought fixed broadband connections

to almost all villages across the country in the space of just three years – and in some villages it is now possible to watch 4K TV. Governments need to approach carriers so that together they can build infrastructure and then make money. In another case, Huawei worked recently with Vodafone to connect schools in refugee camps – it was very important to develop an instant network, first for emergencies, and then for other uses, to enable maximum inclusiveness. This shows that it is not only the infrastructure that is important, but also the applications. She also highlighted the success of mobile payments in Africa, and notably Kenya, where mobile money has been hugely successful in creating businesses, and where people no longer need banks. Mobile money is now used by 24 million people in Kenya, accounting for transactions worth US\$ 21 billion – which is almost a third of Kenya’s GDP. These applications are important, and Huawei is now working on mobile money with another nine countries.

Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO, ICANN, stressed the need to ensure and promote decency and trust in an ever-more connected world, where there are already some 15 billion sensors connected to the Internet, and many billions more being connected every year. If we are using connectivity to push for democracy, then we also need to make sure that people regain their trust in institutions. He also raised the issue in Brazil, where many millions of people have access to broadband but do not use it – not due to affordability (broadband costs less than 2% of income in Brazil) but because they didn't know what to do with it. So we need to go beyond broadband per se, and focus on digital lives – including trade, commerce, education and more. We need to go beyond just connectivity, and see how we can serve users' real-life needs. He closed by emphasizing the need to create action networks amongst us and to 'bulldoze' down the barriers to connectivity that remain.

Bernard Gainnier, Chairman & Territory Senior Partner, PwC France & Francophone Africa, emphasized the importance of agreeing on the priorities. We all know the issues involved, but we may differ in priorities. He raised the issue of electricity, which is inter-related and very important, as infrastructure efforts must be synchronized, as well as ensuring physical access. He asked participants about the responsibilities of business in this respect? Where telco players are making bigger margins, in emerging markets, what is their responsibility in terms of increasing access to broadband? Broadband access and spectrum is one side of the story, but taxes are also important.

Runa Khan, Founder and Executive Director, Friendship Bangladesh, discussed the difference between global planning and the reality in the field, which today is often simply minimum access. She described the situation in Bangladesh, a large, flat country, where many people still do not know what to do with the Internet. Friendship Bangladesh works in the first instance on

health issues, with a mobile primary health programme linking the whole health system to be a mobile connected system, and then move on to education. We have to make sure that even those people with limited access use it now, so that when better access comes they know what to do with it. If we use what is there now, then we can make the big jump to 5G when it arrives – this is the principle of dealing both with the realities now as well as the big picture later on.

Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary-General, UN-OHRLS, and Broadband Commissioner, stressed the need for a strong holistic approach. When we look at investment, technology and regulation we need to take into account both the challenges and the opportunities. He suggested looking at the bottom billion in a Broadband Commission Working Group – the challenges and solutions are different here, but there is a huge opportunity and we should work on that.

Tim Berners-Lee, Professor of Engineering, MIT Computer, Founder of the World Wide Web, noted that as the world becomes a place where the majority rather than the minority has access, we also need to ensure that it stays fair and ethical. He described the Web-Index, a World Wide Web foundation project, which measures not only whether you have access, but whether it is making a difference to health, jobs, and the economy etc. It is a useful index, allowing countries to be ranked, and the results can be quite surprising – with Italy, for example, scoring surprisingly low. The index allows us to make value judgements – your country ought to be able to do better. There are already many people working with us, but please reach out and see who else can help. We need to bear in mind that it is a high-level index, and also therefore keep focused on the end goal, which is making an economic difference and making peoples lives better.

Mats Granryd, Director-General, GSMA, highlighted the growing importance

of mobile communications in terms of broadband – of the three billion already connected, roughly 90% is via mobile. The mobile industry is valuable not just in monetary terms but also in terms of jobs, with over 13 million jobs now directly involved in making sure mobile phones work. We have achieved great successes but we still face huge challenges, with more than another four billion still to be connected. This is a huge opportunity to work together, without forgetting four important factors: coverage; the cost of running a network and owning a device; digital literacy (we must reduce the

gap, making awareness of the benefits widespread); and developing relevant local content. Together we can and will connect everyone – let's all work together to achieve this, building on the great energy in this room.

Philippe Metzger, Director General, Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Switzerland, commended everyone's efforts and suggested that all the initiatives be aligned and combined – a tall order, but one which is overdue. We need to break the silos, which is very difficult to do, as we operate in silos daily, but this is key, in a world where



we are more connected than ever. So let's try to combine the plethora of initiatives, and let's do this by being concrete, and being open about all initiatives. Let's also not be too critical too quickly, or regulate too quickly, which could stall progress. Most importantly, let's ask ourselves and others what we think about these initiatives. Switzerland believes in a people-centred information society, to let me also raise the issue of local content: connectivity is a prerequisite, but connectivity by itself will not empower people on the web. It is clear that aligning all these activities is a huge challenge, but we must avoid making a 'spaghetti ball' – to that end, let me mention Switzerland's open-ended Geneva Internet Platform, which is there precisely to allow us to listen to each other and break out of the silos.

Ulf Ewaldsson, Senior Vice President & CTO, Ericsson, highlighted the great achievements that had already been made, considering that just twenty years ago only 3% of the world's people were

connected, and that by 2021 there should only be 600 million people not covered. We have created the largest platform ever for innovation. This progress has been made because of the most effective innovation regime in history – bringing together multi-country standardization and an effective IPR regime. This is unprecedented in human history and should be an inspiration to all of us of what we can achieve. The technology is there to do all of these things, so I am optimistic about the future.

Janet Longmore, Founder and CEO, Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT), emphasized the importance of youth and highlighted the work DOT has been doing for the past 14 years with young people in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. She noted the lack of young people at the meeting in Davos, and stressed the need for further engagement with youth, as they are both early adopters and often highly talented and creative, as well as being action-oriented. There are young people in every marginalized community,



and they have phones, and know how to access information. Their talent can be mobilized to help others in the community. So we need to engage with young people, including future global shapers, focusing on inclusiveness, content development and skills.

Shenggen Fan, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute, noted that the bottom billions, who have no access, are poor, hungry people. The

institute's research identified three main challenges: connectivity – many poor African states have very limited access; content – there is a real lack of good content, and farmers need specific and complex information about crops and the market; and capacity – how can we help farmers to improve their capacity? When farmers have access, they can converge knowledge information. The institute would be happy to share the results of the research

undertaken in Uganda and Rwanda, and to share the lessons learned.

Closing remarks were delivered by the two Co-Vice Chairs of the Broadband Commission, Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, and Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General.

Irina Bokova recapped the discussions concerning the many aspects of the digital divide, including infrastructure, content and culture, and skills, and stressed the importance of learning from the experiences of different projects (as was noted at the Broadband Commission's full meeting at UNESCO in Paris). Clearly it is very important to work with governments and all other stakeholders and to connect the dots.

Houlin Zhao thanked the participants for all of their contributions, remarks and proposals, and agreed that it was essential to mobilize everyone. He was particularly grateful for the recommendation to focus

on young people, which is related to ITU's active focus on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), where most of the people involved are young.

Participants to the session and members of the Commission issued a joint statement after the meeting underlining their commitment to work together to accelerate and achieve global connectivity. The meeting ended with a solid commitment to ensure that all key 'connectivity' players will continue to prioritize coordination and alignment and, as noted in the Statement, to use the platforms of already-scheduled key annual meetings to further this objective.

ANNEX

Special Session of the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

Joint Statement

Working together to provide Internet access to the next 1.5 billion by 2020

Davos, 21 January 2016:

“As leaders of government, industry, development and investment organizations from around the world, we believe that global Internet connectivity, specifically global broadband connectivity, is a significant enabler to achieve sustainable development for all.

Access to the Internet is the backbone of the Knowledge Societies that fuel today’s digital economies, cultures and education systems. Internet access will accelerate the achievement of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Today, too few of the world’s citizens are connected to the Internet, and even fewer have meaningful access. Currently, only about 3.2 billion people are online. That’s less than half of the world’s population. In Least Developed Countries, fewer than one in every ten are online.

1. http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press_releases/2015/57.aspx
2. <http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/literacy-data-release-2014.aspx>
3. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002322/232205e.pdf>

Just as importantly, *meaningful* Internet access requires relevant, affordable content, available in the right language and offering the capability to transform information into actionable knowledge. Only about 5% of existing languages are accessible online; in addition, the estimated 781 million illiterate adults² and almost 100 million children without complete primary education³ are not able to effectively navigate today’s complex websites.

Our goal is to make sure the next 1.5 billion people are connected and have meaningful access to the Internet by 2020. Meaningful

access goes beyond mere connectivity to Internet and mobile infrastructure; without the appropriate skills and capacity, people cannot fully benefit from access to ICTs.

Our ambition is in line with the goal of connecting 60% of individuals to the Internet by 2020 – a central target of the *Connect 2020 Agenda* set by the 193 Member States of the United Nations specialized agency for ICTs, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as well as the target set by the US government's Global Connect initiative.

There are many elements to consider when undertaking the global challenge to connect the world: the need for affordable access to broadband; overcoming challenges to rolling out the required network infrastructure and related financing models; creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment; stimulating the development of local and relevant content and services; developing the capacities of people, including their media and information literacy; and understanding the impact of Internet access in terms of socio-

cultural developments, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Special attention must be paid to enhancing ICT access and skills for the most marginalized groups, including girls and women, and persons with disabilities. The guiding principle for our work must consist in an all-inclusive approach.

No single entity can achieve this important goal and address all of these challenges. Investment and partnerships across multiple sectors are both required, so we must join forces to align existing initiatives.

It is for this reason that the UN Broadband Commission's Special Session in Davos 2016 was convened. Our commitment is to ensure that common goals of global Internet access are fully coordinated and mutually reinforcing, with the aim of maximizing the potential that connectivity can bring to achieve global sustainable development.

Starting here in Davos today we will ensure that this collaboration will build on a range of innovative and important initiatives

including: the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development; the World Economic Forum's Future of the Internet Initiative; the GSMA's Connected Society programme; the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS); the US State Department's Global Connect initiative; Connect the World from ONE.org; the Alliance for the Affordable Internet; ITU initiatives to support implementation of the Connect 2020 Agenda; and UNESCO's programmes on ICTs for quality education, and for culture and the sciences – to name but a few.

We will ensure that these and other important industry-driven initiatives continue to strengthen and that the drive to connect the next 1.5 billion people becomes a common and recurring feature at key international fora.

In 2016, we aim to leverage existing and planned events to further our collaboration and common purpose. Some of these global fora include: WEF's 2016 programme of 'Internet for All' events; GSMA's Mobile World Congress in February; the Broadband Commission Spring meeting in March; the

US State Department's 'Global Connect' Conference in April; the annual meeting of the World Bank in April; the WSIS Forum in May; the UN-OHRLLS five year review meeting for Least Developed Countries in May, Transform Africa in Kigali in October; ITU Telecom World in November, and more.

The potential that the power of broadband and ICTs can bring as a key driver for sustainable development for everyone must be realized. By aligning our initiatives and joining forces, we will remain fixed and focused on these common connectivity and development goals and ensure collaboration, not competition, in our efforts. By working together we can strive more effectively for full digital and social inclusion."

Statement endorsed by participants at the Special Session of the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Davos, 21 January 2016

<http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/davos-statement-jan2016-en.pdf>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Surname	Company
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The Broadband Commission for Digital Development was launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in response to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call to step up UN efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Established in May 2010, the Commission unites top industry executives with government leaders, thought leaders, policy pioneers, international agencies and organizations concerned with development.

The Broadband Commission embraces a range of different perspectives in a multi-stakeholder approach to promoting the global roll-out of broadband, as well as providing a fresh approach to UN and business engagement.

To date, the Commission has published a number of high-level policy reports, best practices and case studies.

More information about the Commission is available at
www.broadbandcommission.org

This report aims to serve as a record for the special session of the Broadband Commission at the World Economic Forum, January 2015.

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