Partner2Connect

Overview - TSAG
2 June 2023

#Partner2Connect
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Objective

To serve as a leadership level platform to engage all stakeholders to mobilize and announce new resources, partnerships, and commitments to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally, with a focus on but not limited to hardest-to-connect communities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Our goal is to mobilize 100B USD in pledges by 2026

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As part of the UN's vision and the ITU's core strategic goals on Universal Connectivity and Sustainable Digital Transformation…

Partner2Connect (P2C) reflects the mandates as per PP:

RESOLUTION 30 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022), Special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

RESOLUTION 191 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022) Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union\instructs the Secretary-General

RESOLUTION 200 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022) Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development (monitor progress, disseminate information and share knowledge, raise awareness within the UN system, and support Member States)

… and the mandates in WTSA:

RESOLUTION 34 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)
Voluntary contributions

1 to encourage the financing of specific projects, focus groups, regional groups of ITU-T study groups or other new initiatives, on bridging the standardization gap, by means of voluntary contributions;

2 to invite Sector Members and Associates to finance voluntarily the participation of developing countries, and in particular remote participation using electronic working methods, in ITU-T meetings and workshops;

3 to invite Member States, Sector Members and Associates from both developing and developed countries to make voluntary contributions and to submit to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau projects and other initiatives of interest for ITU-T to be financed under voluntary contributions.

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P2C Action Framework - Focus Areas

ACCESS
Connecting people everywhere

ADOPTION
Empowering communities

VALUE CREATION
Building Digital Ecosystems

ACCELERATE
Incentivizing investments

Pillars

- Infrastructure
- Affordability
- Cybersecurity

- Skills
- Inclusion
- Local Content/ Services

- Innovation/ Entrepreneurship
- Apps & Services
- Digital Economy

- Innovative Financing
- Project Viability
- Investor Constellation

Explore the Action Framework at: www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/partner2connect-action-framework/home/index/

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Criteria for a strong pledge

1. Addresses key pillars of the four Focus Areas of the P2C Digital Coalition
2. Helps drive transformational change towards universal connectivity and the digital transformation of societies
3. Helps mobilize resources across the four Focus Areas of P2C
4. Brings together multiple entities committed to endorse, implement, or scale the pledge
5. Can be easily quantified, monitored and tracked, and its impact can also be measured and reported over time and against the overall objective of achieving universal connectivity

Examples of Pledges

1. FINANCIAL

A financial pledge consists of an entity or groups of entities announcing a monetary contribution in line with the objectives of the P2C Digital Coalition and/or a specific P2C Focus Area.

2. POLICY

A policy pledge is one where a legislative or regulatory reform or policy change is proposed or enacted to advance the objectives laid out by the P2C Digital Coalition and/or the P2C Action Framework.

3. ADVOCACY

An advocacy pledge is one where an entity or group of entities publicly supports, recommends, or promotes (e.g., through research, MOUs) the objectives laid out by the P2C Digital Coalition and/or the P2C Action Framework in their industry, network, events, or publications.

4. PROGRAMMATIC

A programmatic pledge regards the creation or expansion of existing programs that are in line with the P2C Focus Areas.

P2C Accomplishments (as of June 1, 2023)

- P2C is a **true multistakeholder Digital** Coalition
- Within one year of having launched the P2C Pledgign Platform,P2C has gathered **723 pledges** worth over **30 USD Billion**
- At present, P2C engages **349 entities** from government, private sector, UN agencies and other international or regional organizations (including multilateral development banks), civil society, academia, and youth groups
- Of the **349** entities participating in the Coalition, **110 are Member States**
- The **private sector (77 entities)** represents about **22%** of the entities participating in the Coalition
- **Seventeen** UN Agencies are currently involved with the Coalition

723 Pledges	**$30.78bn** Estimated financial value (USD)
349 Entities	**130** Countries of pledge-makers

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P2C Pledges on Standards

- Of the 723 pledges, **55 pledges** worth **USD 120 Million** relate to Standards
  - 25 from Governments
  - 20 from International Organizations

- Equal take between **Programmatic** and **Policy** pledges (17 each)

- Some **pledgers include**:
  - Governments of: Australia, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Bahrain, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Venezuela, Egypt
  - UNDP, UNOPS, APC, ICC, League of Arab States,

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Examples of Pledges - Standards

Standards

- **Programmatic** – The geoeconomics of critical technology standards in Southeast Asia - The **Government of Australia** will deliver a series of virtual training workshops, based on academic research, to partner governments in Southeast Asia to raise awareness of the importance of technology standards and related governance arrangements.

- **Policy** – Development of Cybersecurity Standards - The **Government of Bahrain** commits to insure a safe ICT infrastructure in place and to enhance cybersecurity capabilities, including through the creation of a National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), develop cybersecurity standards and enhancing monitoring and response to cyberattacks. (Valued at 2.7M USD)

Partner2Connect Annual Meeting 2022

- On **8 December**, the first Partner2Connect Annual Meeting was held at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva.
- **700 people registered** to the event (with an almost an equal slitp betwween physical and virtual participants)
- **45 speakers** across **seven sessions**, discussed some of the challenges and opportunities for accelerating sustainable digital transformation, reported progress on pledge implementation, and announced new pledges

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Partner2Connect's first Annual Report reflects the significant commitments and progress made by pledgers to date

Pledges

Entities

202
Pledges Reported
(out of 552 pledges submitted by 18 Nov)

37%
Pledge response rate

99
Entities Reporting
(out of 263 entities by 18 Nov)

38%
Entity response Rate

Key Findings

3.3BN USD (out of 29.7 BN USD) already spent or disbursed to implement pledges

10% of the reported pledges have already been completed

78% of pledgers who reported expect to **meet their target** deadline for implementation

Partner2Connect Events 2023 - Timeline

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More information can be found in the P2C Annual Progress Report, with the latest data being available from the Progress Report Dashboard

Annual Report 2022

Web version of annual report now available

Interactive Progress Reporting Dashboard

Interactive Dashboard will continue to update with the latest information on pledge implementation progress

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Annex

Focus Area 1 – ACCESS: Connecting people everywhere hinges on 3 pillars

Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Infrastructure)

To be able to connect the target population of 2.9 billion people, one of the most critical aspects is to deploy the network infrastructure so that each part of the population is covered and able to start using the Internet and associated services

Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Affordability)

In most of the developing nations (including LDCs[1] , LLDCs[2] and SIDS[3]), one of the biggest barriers in the proliferation of Internet use is the factor of affordability

Cybersecurity

As people continue to be enabled with online access and services, the aspect of cybersecurity becomes increasingly important

1. LDCs = least developed countries 2. LLDCs = landlocked developing countries 3. SIDS = small islands developing states

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (1/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Infrastructure)	Limited economic stimulus for deployment of ICT[1] network (terrestrial and space-based)	• Active and passive infrastructure-sharing • Improved business cases from implementing policies, subsidies, SOPs[2], USOs[3] and best practices • Faster and more economical deployment • Neutral passive infrastructure • Community collaborations and deployments
	Insufficient energy availability	• Reliable and sustainable energy • Micro-energy grids
	Use of multiple expensive technologies	• Choosing the most effective technological intervention
	Spectrum availability and management	• Spectrum allocation
	Low availability of adequate infrastructure to provide meaningful connectivity	• Policy, legal and regulatory measures

1. ICT = information and communication technology 2. SOPs = standard operating procedures 3. USOs = universal service obligations

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (2/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Affordability)	Unaffordable broadband plans	• Affordable and innovative broadband (mobile/fixed) plans
	High device costs	• Diverse device ownership/financing models • Reduction of taxation/duties
	Unreliable service	• Network diversity
Cybersecurity	Insufficient CIRT/CERT[1] deployments	• Cybersecurity capacity and expertise development
	Limited cybersecurity capacity – tools and metrics, training and skills gap	• Cybersecurity capacity and expertise • Cooperative approach • Multisector and multilateral harmonisation
	Low protection and resilience of critical infrastructure	• Cybersecurity strategy • ICT[2] network resilience and recovery following disasters

1. CIRT/CERT = computer incident response team/computer emergency response team 2. ICT = information and communication technology

Focus Area 2 – ADOPTION: Empowering communities hinges on 3 pillars

Skills

A fundamental requirement for the remaining 2.9 billion people to be able to connect is having the capabilities to understand, use and configure digital technology for meaningful engagement

Digital inclusion

There are many ways in which discrimination and barriers to access more acutely affect particular groups of people, owing to e.g. structural inequalities and marginalization

Relevant / local content and services

Although there exists a myriad of digital products and services, not all of these are equally accessible, applicable or empowering to everyone. They may especially lack relevance for people living in LDCs[1], LLDCs[2]and SIDS[3]

1. LDCs = least developed countries 2. LLDCs = landlocked developing countries 3. SIDS = small islands developing states

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Skills	Low levels of literacy and digital skills	• Offering digital skills school curricula, training and programmes
	Limited access to training infrastructure and opportunities	• Providing digital centres with learning environments
Digital inclusion	Gender inequalities	• Implementing policies to enable equitable access
	Inaccessible digital technology for persons with disabilities and older people	• Universal inclusive design, AT[1] and policies
	Insufficient and ineffective child online protection	• Education and strategies
	Online antisocial behaviour and less online safety of vulnerable groups	• Regulations, reporting and education to safeguard online environments
Relevant / Local content and services	Lack of data	• Dedicated expertise, time and funds
	Limited relevant content and services	• Co-creating digital content for essential services • Opensource based tools, systems and content

1. AT = assistive technology

Focus Area 3 – VALUE CREATION: Building digital ecosystems hinges on 3 pillars

Digital innovation and entrepreneurship

A key driver and added value of the digital ecosystem is the creation of new digital tools, services and business models

Applications and services

In many LDCs[1], LLDCs[2] and SIDS[3], the local communities are not enabled to introduce or contribute to activities that involve their needs and desires, and thus they cannot fully benefit from digital connectivity

Digital economy

Another positive aspect of digital ecosystems are the digital economies that people who are connected and empowered can gain from

1. LDCs = least developed countries 2. LLDCs = landlocked developing countries 3. SIDS = small islands developing states

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (1/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Digital innovation and entrepreneur-ship	Lack of innovation capacity – advanced digital skills	• Higher education curricula and workforce upskilling
	Insufficient clarity on digital strengths at country level	• Increased data and multilateralism • Sharing country-specific data
	Unaffordable access and adoption for MSMEs[1]	• Policy and effective partnerships
	Concentrated innovation and start-up ecosystems	• Committed multistakeholder collaboration/partnerships
Applications and services	Digital public infrastructure designed for profitable use	• Expansive, robust and secure digital public infrastructure
	Barriers to building and deploying digital services and applications	• Digital public goods • Smart sustainable hubs (smart villages and cities) • Co-creation with local communities
	Inconsistent data governance	• Data governance framework

1. MSMEs = micro, small and medium enterprises

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (2/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Digital economy	Cyberthreats, cyberattacks and cybercrimes	• National cybersecurity strategies
	Financial exclusion	• Digital financial inclusion
	Slow digitalization of businesses	• E-commerce enablers • Digitalization of B2B commerce and supply chains
	Cyberthreats, cyberattacks and cybercrimes	• National cybersecurity strategies • Cybersecurity capacity building of MSMEs
	Unsustainable practices and impact of the digital economy	• Integration of sustainability in the digital economy

1. MSMEs = Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Focus Area 4 – ACCELERATE: Incentivizing investments hinges on 3 pillars

Innovative financing

The financing ecosystem is evolving today which includes many different avenues for a country to leverage for financing

Project viability

For any project to be a success and be able to achieve the objectives, it is important that the project environment has strong stability and continuity. Any changes either in terms of laws, regulation or political environment will influence the viability of the project

Investor constellation

To achieve the goal of connecting 2.9 bn people, the investor community may have to focus on and help the target countries achieve sustainable changes. The traditional investment methods will have to relooked at and reassessed

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (1/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions

Innovative financing	Complex and divergent finance model	• Use of different financing options:
		  • Public financing
		  • Blended finance
		  • Green and blue bonds

	Project-specific finance model	• Private financing • Supporting start-ups through CSR • Transit pricing • Financing and leasing to finance IT infrastructure
	Emerging technologies like blockchain and cryptocurrency	• Decentralized finance
Project viability	Attractiveness of business case/project preparation	• Project preparation

	Political and regulatory risks	• Risk management and mitigation:
		  • Optimization of regulatory levies and sector specific taxes
		  • Infrastructure regulation and contracts

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (2/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions

Project viability (continued)	Political and regulatory risks (continued)	• Risk management and mitigation (continued):
		  • General stability of laws and regulation
		  • International commitments
		  • Private sector interaction with public sector
		  • Demand volatility

	Capacity development	• Capacity building (country level, institutional and individual)
Investor constellation	Traditional funding sources	• Diversity and innovation in financing approaches • Effective use of the USAF
	Cybersecurity risks to investment	• Cybersecurity regulation • Data protection laws • Digital security risk management
	Governance influencing investment	• Independent regulators • Liberalization of the market to allow competition • Tools to improve transparency and accountability • Access to information and data