



Towards a new ITU index

Progress report on framework development

ITU TDAG Web Dialogue, 25 March 2020

ICT Data and Analytics Division
Telecommunication Development Bureau
International Telecommunication Union



Why a new index?

- Demand for a composite index from Member States (Res. 131)
- IDI is conceptually outdated
- Attempts to revise the IDI were unsuccessful
- Digital transformation requires taking a broader approach to provide a meaningful metrics for policy makers
- Decade of Action: opportunity to get ICT development on the broader policy agenda

 **DECADE OF >>> ACTION**



A new index

A fresh approach is required:

- Forward-looking
- Flexible
- More comprehensive - taking into account the cross-cutting and pervasive nature of digital technologies and their impact on development
- Measuring *meaningful* connectivity



Why SDG framework?

- The principal framework endorsed by the international community for tracking economic and social progress through 2030
 - *“the spread of ICT and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies” (2030 Agenda)*
- UN HL Panel on Digital Cooperation: for achieving the SDGs, policy makers *need evidence* to build bridges between digital innovation and sustainability transformations
- An SDG-based digital technology index can assist governments formulate and adopt appropriate digital strategies to achieve the targets set for 2030, and brings the topic of ICT for SDGs to the level of Heads of States
- Easy-to-understand framework, globally endorsed
- In line with ITU’s overall mandate (PP Res. 71) and in particular that of the Development Sector (WTDC-2017)
- Timeframe 2020 – 2030 is ideal for a new index (UN SG: *decade of action* to deliver the Goals by 2030)

ICTs and SDGs

- Plenty of anecdotal evidence
- Need for a monitoring tool that shows policy makers how digital transformations impact on their ability to meet the SDGs
- Need for metrics that captures the entire digital ecosystem

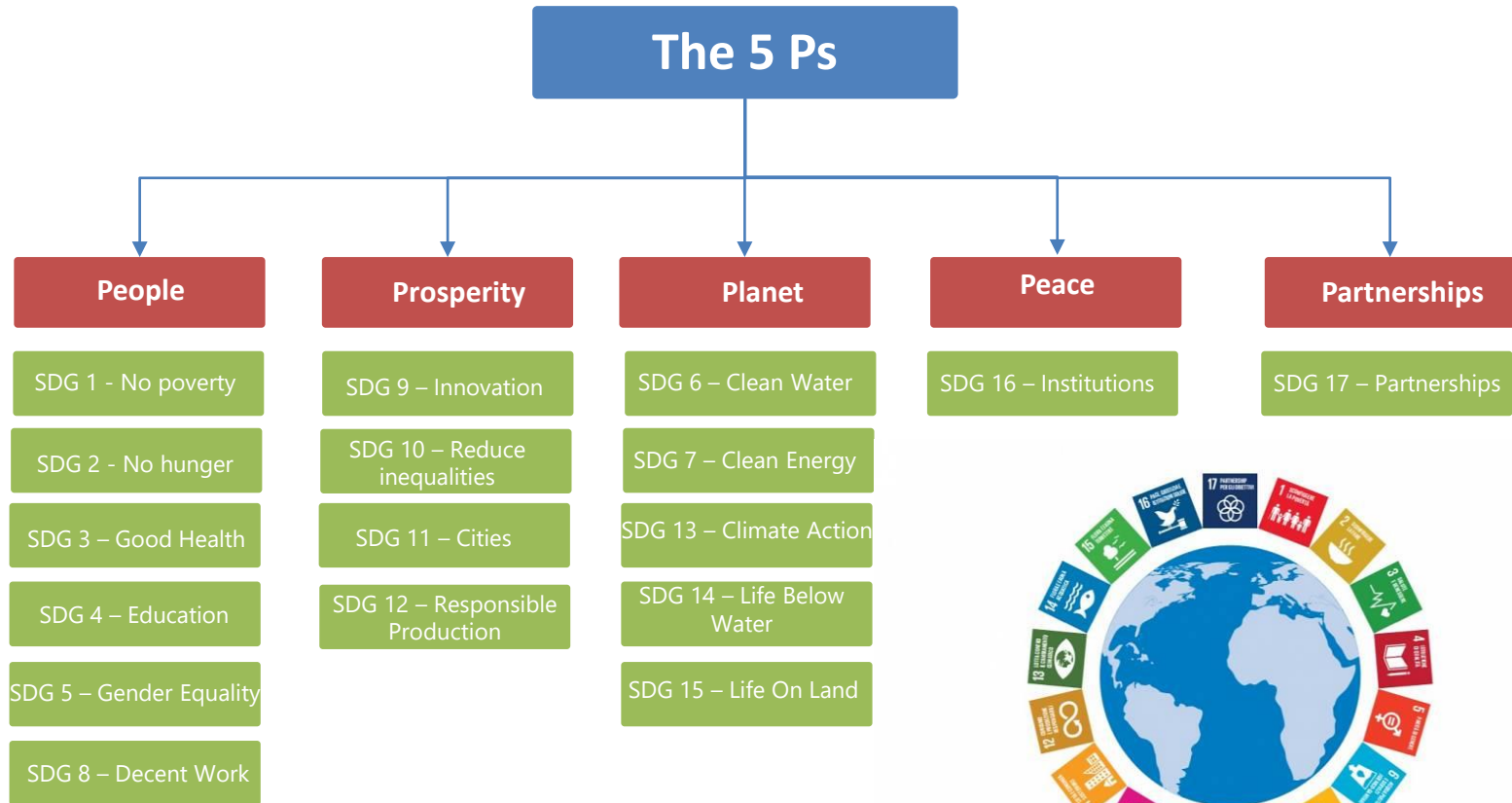




5 Pillars of the SDGs

- SDGs encompass 17 dimensions
- Grouped into 5 themes (5 Ps) to help focus attention:
 - People
 - Prosperity
 - Planet
 - Peace
 - Partnership

Mapping SDGs to the 5 Ps

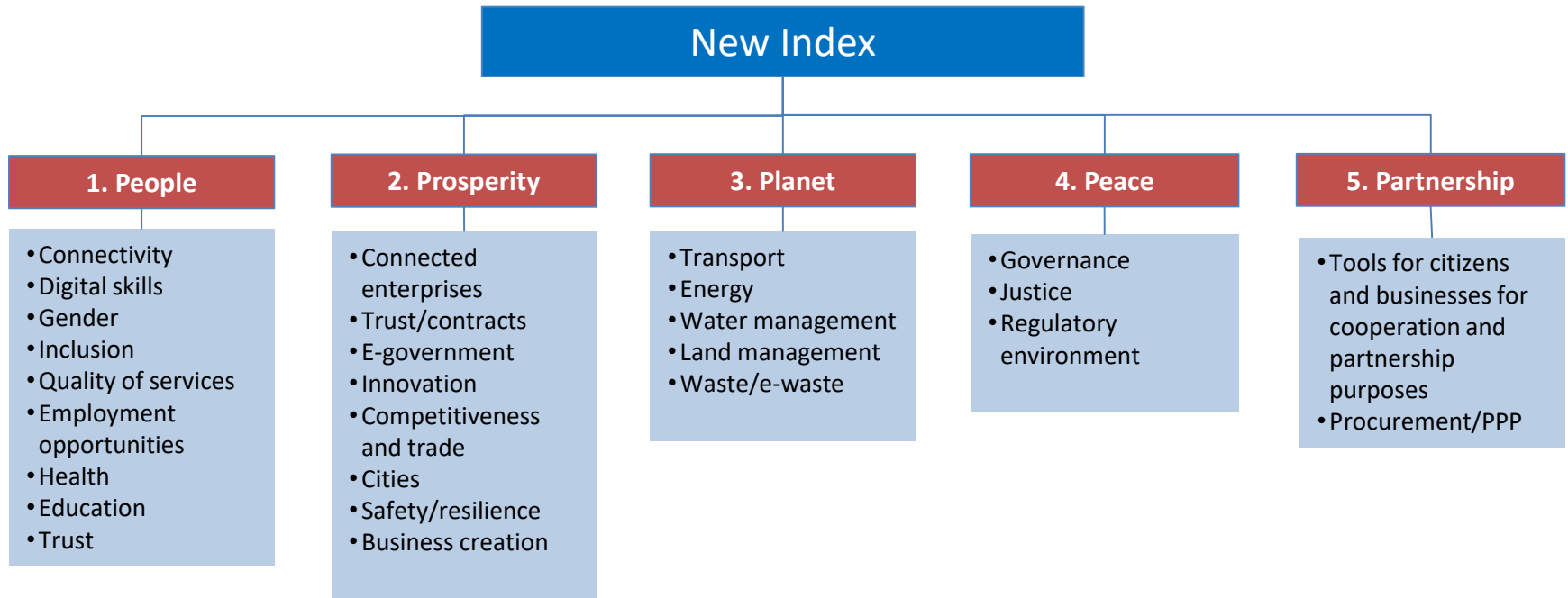




The 5Ps and digital technologies

- *People* includes goals largely related to improving lives
 - digital technologies enhance opportunities for increasing income, improving health, expanding educational opportunities and facilitating female employment
- *Prosperity* covers goals largely relating to the economy
 - digital technologies enhance productivity and create opportunities for new ways of organizing and carrying out economic activities, transforming industries from transportation to manufacturing and tourism to retail
- *Planet* consists of goals largely relating to the environment
 - digital technologies improve use of resources (transport, energy, water); and are used for monitoring, using satellites, drones and sensors
- *Peace* regroups just one SDG
 - most important contribution of digital technologies would be more transparency and less corruption, e.g. open data sets, online public services, online transactions and digital IDs
- *Partnerships* includes just one SDG
 - Online tools foster cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders; ability to use new data collection techniques for monitoring the SDGs, e.g. big data

Proposed structure and framework



Dimensions that will be explored under each pillar:

- What are the **digital technologies available** that support each of the pillars?
- How are the **technologies used** to impact countries' abilities to achieve the targets?



Three key 'value points' of the framework proposed

1. It is **simple and intuitive**, while at the same time comprehensive, and takes into account the **cross-cutting nature of digital technologies** in the society, economy and environment.
2. It provides a **direct link** between the **work and mandate of the ITU** and the **achievement of the SDGs**.
3. It **allows countries** to, on the one hand, **assess their availability of digital tools** and, on the other, measure the **usage and impact of digital technologies** on their development, and thus better leverage digital technologies as a strategic tool to **achieve specific SDG targets**.



Measurement aspects

- Comprehensive approach – mapping of ICTs with 5 Ps and SDG dimensions
- Flexible and adaptable approach allowing for refinements
- Rigorous and transparent methodology
- Different areas of measurement
 - telecommunication infrastructure and household access
 - use of digital technologies by individuals and organizations
 - health
 - education
 - digital economy
 - Government and regulation
 - employment
 - food and agriculture
 - environment
 - gender, security and poverty dimensions
- Statistical and policy indicators
- Working in close collaboration with other UN agencies
- Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development – thematic list of SDG ICT indicators (covering 11 Goals)





Next steps

- Further refine and finalize the conceptual framework
- Continue to explore data availability/quality related to each of the pillars and measurement dimensions
- Map indicators to SDGs and pillars
- Next progress report: Expert Meeting to be held on 17 April 2020 (remotely)



Proposed way forward

28 January 2020	Brainstorming with potential partners	✓
10 February 2020	Expert Meeting with Member States to discuss new proposal	✓
February - March 2020	Finalizing conceptual framework Initial checking of data availability and description of quality profile of available indicators	in progress
17 March 2020	Second brainstorming with partners	✓
25 March 2020	Present concept at TDAG Web Dialogue (remote participation)	
March - May 2020	Methodology preparation, data collection/compilation, preliminary indicators testing	
17 April 2020	Expert Meeting with Member States to present and discuss the draft index framework/methodology (half day, remote participation) (relevant document will be shared with Member States in advance)	
June - July 2020	Calculation of the index, sensitivity analysis, finalization of indicators, data and results	
June 2020	Present draft index methodology to Council for discussion (relevant document will be shared with Member States in advance)	
July – Sept. 2020	Drafting/analysis	
Second half 2020	Launch of the new Index	
1-3 December 2020	17th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS)	

Thank you

