



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ICT for sustainable development:

How digital solutions can drive progress towards the SDGs

13 July 2017; 6:15 – 7:30 PM; Conference Room7, UN Headquarters, New York



GeSI
GLOBAL e-SUSTAINABILITY
INITIATIVE

“The spread of information and communication technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies...¹”

Indeed, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are crucial in achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and have a key role to play in *eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*. ICTs form the backbone of today's digital economy and have enormous potential to *fast forward* progress on the SDGs and improve people's lives in fundamental ways.

Much work remains to be done in order to harness the opportunities and benefits made possible by digital technologies. Working together and broadening engagement with different stakeholders for a meaningful impact will be crucial. This session will present recent efforts and key findings from partnership initiatives, exploring some of the challenges, opportunities and issues of using these ICTs to deliver on the ambitious global sustainable development agenda.

Coinciding with the press launching in Geneva on the 13th July, the session will benefit from the presentation of the report *“Fast Forward Progress: Leveraging Tech to Achieve the Global Goals”*. The report is a contribution from the United Nations system, coordinated by the ITU, to this year's HLPF, containing insights and thought leadership as to how ICTs can help promote the achievement of the SDGs.

A particular focus on business development potential and growth opportunities will also be highlighted from the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI)'s SMARTer2030 and #SystemTransformation research, assessing and quantifying how digital solutions can close the SDG achievement gaps and enable the transition to a low-carbon economy.

As policy-makers move beyond traditional ICTs and broadband-focused policies to those that will support digital innovation within different sectors, we will learn from the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's Working Group on Digital Health on how to meet SDG3; UNIDOS's call to fully integrate ICT-centric innovation and industrial policy in order to achieve impact from SDG9; and how ensuring success at the country level will require a holistic digital innovation framework.

Programme	
6:15 – 7:30 PM	Moderator's welcome remarks and introduction - Gary Fowlie, Head of the ITU Liaison Office to the United Nations
	Report Launch: <i>Fast Forward Progress: Leveraging Tech to Achieve the Global Goals</i> - Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department in the General Secretariat of ITU
	ICT for development – Key findings from SMARTer2030 and #System Transformation - Mr. Luis Neves, GeSI Chairman, Deutsche Telekom
	Digital Health to meet SDG3 – Ms. Elizabeth Rojas Levi, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for the Americas Region, Nokia Corporation (Broadband Commission Working Group on Digital Health)
	Strengthening Partnerships for SDG 9 – Mr. Patrick J. Gilabert, Deputy Representative, UNIDO Office New York
	National Digital Development Plans - Country case dialogues (tbc: Bangladesh, Chile, Kenya)
	Q&A – Wrap-up

¹ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development