Intel Submission to ITU GSR-24 Consultation

Intel Corporation (Intel) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the ITU GSR-24 Consultation.

At Intel, our purpose is to build world-changing technology that improves the life of every person on the planet. We strive every day to make a positive global impact and be good corporate citizens. Increasingly central to every aspect of human existence, technology is transforming our world at an accelerated pace. And at the heart of that technology: semiconductors. Semiconductors are the foundation of all innovation and transformative technologies as the world becomes more digital, from powering our ability to work remotely, to staying connected with friends and family, to providing enhanced healthcare and autonomous vehicles.

Intel's global broadband objectives are the same as that of most governments and consumers: we want to enable high-speed and high-quality, widespread, affordable broadband in all countries extending computing technology to connect and enrich the lives of every person on earth. High-speed and high-quality intelligent broadband networks can provide digital equity for SDGs to close the gaps, for example in education, health.

We need to bridge the digital divide, thereby creating a more accessible and inclusive future for all. This requires us to not only connect people to the internet (deployment), but also providing the tools and skills so they can effectively use the internet (adoption). Students need computers both in schools and at home for their education and digital equal opportunity. UN targets include the connection of all households, schools, and digital skills by 2030. According to UNESCO, Half of the total number of learners – some 826 million students – kept out of the classroom by the COVID-19 pandemic, do not have access to a household computer and 43% (706 million) have no internet at home. Not only students but all household members can benefit from the computer at home. It will provide the connection of all household members and people in the world.

Digital literacy and ICT skills are requirements for success in today's knowledge economy and society. Integration of ICT in Education is a key enabler for digital skill development and broadband demand creation. Computers are essential for the realization of all SDGs such as e-learning, e-health, e-commerce, e-agriculture, remote work and meetings, digital skill development programs for young generation on new ICT technologies like AI, programming, coding, and projects to empower women, girls, and other applications.

Aligned with Intel's corporate purpose and RISE 2030 strategies and goals, Intel has rolled out "Intel Digital Readiness Programs" globally in partnership with governments, academia, civil society, and industry stakeholders as a shared-value initiative to demystify and democratize emerging technologies—including AI for Citizens, AI for Youth, AI for Future Workforce, AI for Current Workforce, and Digital Readiness for Leaders—aimed at empowering citizens, students, professionals, and leaders to participate in and benefit from a digital economy.

Resolution 70/125 of the UN General Assembly and ITU Plenipotentiary 2022 Resolution 139 underlines the importance of high-speed broadband connectivity to bridge the digital divide. Schools and households need both high-speed broadband connectivity and computers. High-speed broadband networks are also very important for the successful implementation of AI and other new applications such as video-based e-health (telemedicine), e-learning. Therefore, it is also important to prioritize high-speed broadband connectivity for the economic development and digital equity. Intel is a leading supplier for 5G, Wi-Fi and other telecommunications equipment and devices. Making high-quality broadband more widespread and affordable and improving the cost and quality of data-rich applications will spur economic growth in many ways. Intel actively supports UN efforts such as ITU and Broadband Commission for accelerating new high-speed broadband technologies like 5G, Wi-Fi 6, G.fast (DSL), fiber that are key for school, household connectivity, new digital services and skills.

Proposals for the inclusion in ITU GSR-24 Best Practice Guidelines

• Accelerate the implementation of transformative technologies and required digital skill development programs to improve the life of people, especially on AI.

• Develop affordable national computer and broadband connectivity programs especially for students, households (through subsidies and incentives including sound tax policies).

• Allocate enough licensed and unlicensed frequency spectrum for new high-speed broadband wireless technologies (like 5G and Wi-Fi 6) and accelerate the implementation of networks.

• Effectively use USF (Universal Service Fund) and other financing mechanisms (such as development banks) for the high-speed broadband connectivity, computer programs for schools, universities, students, and digital skill development programs. And benefit from the experience of other countries on USF projects.

• Connect all schools and classrooms with high-speed broadband technologies and establish computer labs according to need of digital skill programs such as on AI and coding.

• Promote market-based broadband policies for widespread, high-speed, high-quality, affordable broadband.

• Benefit from the experience of other successful countries on the implementation of transformative technologies.