



# Winning the SDG race: bridging the digital divide by 2030

## The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition

### Driving digital transformation for the hardest-to-connect communities

Information and Communication Technologies (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. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, ITU has redoubled its efforts to help countries rapidly expand connectivity, to reach the millions of communities around the world where connectivity is still too poor to offer meaningful benefits. The international community needs to find new ways to overcome chronic connectivity barriers, to dramatically level-up affordable access to technology and to empower people with the digital skills to use it, so that everyone, everywhere, has access to life-changing, enabling, digital platforms and services.

Building on the outcomes of the [Road to Addis Digital Development Series](#), which started in 2020 to create momentum towards the World Telecommunication Development Conference (**WTDC, 6-16 June 2022**), in alignment with the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs, in close cooperation with the [Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology](#), and in line with the [UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#), on September 20, ITU launched the [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#) (P2C). The Coalition is a multistakeholder alliance 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).

The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition will serve as a leadership level platform to engage all stakeholders to mobilize and announce new resources, partnerships, and commitments to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity.

The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition will support the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the UN Secretary General's report: "[Our Common Agenda](#)", in close collaboration with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology.

## The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition is based on four Focus Areas



**ACCESS**  
Connecting people  
everywhere



**ADOPTION**  
Empowering  
communities



**VALUE CREATION**  
Building Digital  
Ecosystems



**ACCELERATE**  
Incentivizing  
investments

## Each Focus Area will be supported by a Working Group

Each Focus Area will be supported by a Working Group. Each Working Group will meet on a regular basis to discuss issues relevant to the Focus Areas, define actions to advance the objectives of the Coalition, develop the Focus Areas Action Framework, and to make recommendations.

The Working Groups will continue to meet to refine the governance, pledging mechanisms, and advance the preparations for the **Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable**, which will take place at WTDC, from **7 to 9 June 2022**.

The Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable will be an opportunity for all Partner2Connect stakeholders to gather to boost support for the Coalition, present the recommendations of the four Working Groups and announce transformational pledges.



# Join the Coalition

## Who can join

ITU, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology is the overall convener of the P2C Digital Coalition. The Working Groups for each Focus Area will be comprised of the following:

- Member States
- Private Sector (including philanthropic organizations)
- UN Agencies and other international or regional organizations (including Multilateral Development Banks)
- Civil Society
- Academia and
- Youth Groups

The composition of the Working Group for each Focus Area will be flexible with the aim to have at least one representative from each of the categories of participants above.

## Criteria to join

The criteria is as follows:

- Evidence of commitment in the Focus Area ie. through past work or through a newly defined motivation.
- Readiness to make a major commitment or pledge to move the needle in the Focus Area.
- Commitment of participation at the highest level at the June 2022 P2C Digital Development Roundtable.
- Active engagement in the design of the Focus Areas Action Framework

## Where to find more information:



To request further information on the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, please contact: [Partner2Connect@itu.int](mailto:Partner2Connect@itu.int)