



This is the message we bring to Rio+20, that ICT infrastructure can empower communities, women, children and the elderly alike: a true platform for progress, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

I invite delegates at the conference to define concrete actions and measurable targets to extend the benefits of ICTs to all

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré,
ITU Secretary-General

ABOUT ITU

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the UN specialized agency responsible for information and communication technologies (ICTs). Its membership, comprising 193 Member States, around 700 sector members and 38 academic institutions, has called for ITU to take the lead in engaging the global community to recognize ICTs as drivers towards a sustainable future. ITU is based in Geneva, Switzerland, with over 12 field offices around the world.

ITU reaffirms that sustainable development is a top priority for our organization and the continuing validity of the principles of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and on Agenda 21, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.



Get involved in ITU's activities at the conference:
www.itu.int/rioplus20

ICTs: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTs) TURNING VISION INTO ACTION

ICTs play a critical role in sustainable development in a modern, fast moving and technology-driven world

ICTs are the cross-cutting drivers of sustainable development- fully integrating its three pillars: social equity and progress; sustainable economic growth; and environmental protection

ADVANCE SOCIAL EQUITY AND PROGRESS

The ability to communicate, as well as access online information and exchange knowledge in real-time, promises to do more than just give the world a voice - it empowers people to make their own choices and decisions.

Access to mobile networks is now available to 90% of the world's population making it the most inclusive infrastructure on the planet. It is a platform that gives equitable access to basic public services, such as health care and education.

A basic infrastructure

ICTs should be recognized as basic infrastructure that enables access to education, information and health care services, and to help bridge social divides. It is as important a utility as power, water and transportation.



ENABLE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

ICTs are a unique cost-effective, environmentally friendly and inclusive instrument to spur green growth, promote social progress and the MDGs, and reinforce environmental protection.

A 10% increase in broadband penetration contributes to a 1.8% increase in GDP.

A platform for progress

ITU invites Rio+20 to acknowledge the importance of ICTs in enabling, creating and promoting productive and sustainable economic growth.

REINFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ICTs are powerful tools to protect our atmosphere, land and oceans through monitoring and information sharing, as well as to mitigate and adapt to climate change through the use of smart technologies, earth observation devices and early warning systems.

ICT-enabled solutions could deliver approximately 7.8 GtCo2e of emissions savings in 2020.

A goal to accelerate sustainable development

Access to ICTs should be considered a human need and a fundamental right. To achieve this, ITU invites Rio+20 to include access to ICTs, in particular to broadband, as one of the sustainable development goals to be endorsed by the conference.

