ICTs are part of the solution

ITU and the UN: Delivering as one on climate change

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), which constitute the backbone of the Information Society, can be used in a number of ways to help implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol:

- by providing the means and tools for environment/climate monitoring and the implementation of the Convention;
- by driving down emissions in the ICT sector;
- by reducing the carbon footprint of other sectors by initiatives such as substituting travel for virtual meetings or using ICTs to reduce fuel consumption and;
- by helping developed and developing countries adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

An enabler of a low carbon future

A step forward

ICTs are a cross-cutting technology that can drive the deep transformation needed in the global effort to combat climate change. Specific mention of ICTs in the negotiating text would provide an incentive to the ICT industry to invest in developing countries, help reduce the digital divide, and at the same time help fight climate change – a win-win scenario. *ITU Membership, therefore, invites COP16 delegates to look to the ICT sector, and take maximum advantage of the power of ICTs to reduce global emissions worldwide.*

"ITU is one of the most important stakeholders in terms of climate change. With your efforts to connect the world and bridge the digital divide, ITU will contribute significantly to this long-term agenda, which will have serious implications for the future of humankind."

Mr Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-General

"This is all about opportunity. Forward-thinking leaders already recognize the role of ICTs to address the powerful climate change issues across the board. The challenge today is to move forward and look to the ICT sector as a key enabler of a new model of development."
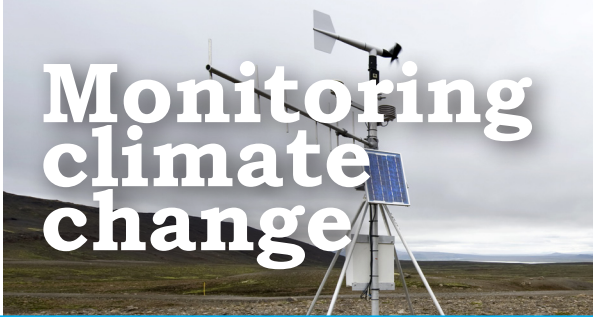
Dr Hamadoun Touré
ITU Secretary-General

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the UN specialized agency responsible for telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs). Its membership, comprising 192 governments and over 700 private companies, has called for ITU to take the lead in engaging the global community (including the UN system, the ICT industry, as well as academia and NGOs) to address climate change through the use of ICTs. *ITU is based in Geneva, Switzerland, with 12 field offices around the world.*

By working together we can advance on innovative solutions for a better future

Get involved at www.itu.int/climate or by contacting us at climate@itu.int

Join us in...

Monitoring climate change

Satellite-based remote sensors are the main global observation tools employed by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) for climate monitoring, disaster prediction, detection and mitigation of the effects of climate change. ITU allocates and maintains access to the radio-frequencies and orbit resources necessary for GCOS and is behind the international standards that ensure effective operation and worldwide integration.

Promoting ICTs as a clean technology

As the pre-eminent global body for ICT standardization, ITU is playing an important role in limiting and ultimately reducing GHG emissions. By developing technical standards to limit and reduce the power requirements of ICT equipment and services and to reduce e-waste, ITU is actively promoting environmental sustainability.

Adaptation and mitigation

ITU is assisting countries, in particular developing countries, in using ICTs for e-environment and sustainable development. ITU assists countries in designing resilient national adaptation plans that are complementary to multistakeholder national emergency telecommunication plans. Such plans optimize the use of ICT networks, services and applications and can result in more effective adaptation.

Acting on Climate Change

Digital Broadcasting Plan for 120 countries
ITU has developed technical standards and approved the Digital Broadcast Plan, which reduces by ten times, the consumption of hundreds of thousands of powerful transmitters.

Methodologies for assessing the environmental impact of ICT
ITU is developing, together with more than 40 organizations and major ICT companies, a set of methodologies to measure and minimize the life cycle impact of the ICT sector on GHG emissions, both in terms of its own carbon footprint, and to increase the savings created through ICT applications in other sectors.
The first methodology is ready for use.

Universal Charger standard - one size fits all solution aims to cut waste and GHG emissions
The ITU global standard for a universal energy-efficient mobile phone charger will save up to 82,000 tonnes of redundant chargers a year and at least 13.6 million tonnes of CO_2 annually.
Implementation by manufacturers is scheduled for 2011.

Access our latest publications on climate change and the protection of the environment at

www.itu.int/climate