



## **CONNECT AMERICAS SUMMIT**

*Broadband for Socio-economic Development*

**17 – 19 JULY 2012**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

## Introduction

The **Connect Americas Summit** is organized by the International Telecommunication Union and is hosted by the Government of the Republic of Panama. Connect Americas is part of ITU's *Connect the World* series, an ambitious initiative launched in 2005 aimed at connecting the unconnected by the year 2015.

Organized on a regional basis, the *Connect the World* series of events is focused on regional priorities, including the Regional Initiatives established at the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2010 (WTDC-10), as well as the overall goals established at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

## Summit Objectives

The Connect Americas Summit aims to mobilize the human, financial and technical resources required to close Information and Communication Technology gaps in the region. The Summit offers a venue for leaders from the public and private sectors as well as international and regional financing and development agencies to network face-to-face and forge new partnerships. It is preceded by a preparatory process (including consultation meetings in Mexico City, Mexico, and Port of Spain, Trinidad) during which ICT development projects and project holders are identified, as well as partners and donors willing to contribute to the implementation of the selected projects, with a view to enhance the deployment of ICT networks, applications and services within the region.

## Summit Format and Outcomes

The Summit features high-level interactive panels focused on the challenges posed for developing economies in harnessing the full potential of ICTs. Bold decisions and commitments will be announced on multi-stakeholder partnerships to meet these challenges. In addition, a Summit Communiqué issued by leaders from the Americas will demonstrate a high-level political commitment to the outcomes of the Summit.

17 July 2012

**09:30 - 11:30 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

The purpose of this session is to review the projects and the partnership agreements reached in light of the identified priorities and themes, leading to their announcement during the Summit in the Partnership Announcements/Pledges session on the closing day.

Note – This session is open to all Summit Stakeholders. Project holders and entities interested in using the Summit as a platform to promote their projects, pledges and partnerships are encouraged to attend the Meeting.

**11:30 - 12:30 DRAFTING GROUP MEETING**

The purpose of this session is to review the draft Summit Communiqué.

Note – This session is open to representatives of delegations of the Americas Region.

**12:30 - 14:30 LUNCH**

**15:30 - 17:30 SUMMIT MINISTERIAL MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting is to finalize the Summit Communiqué.

Note – This session is a Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegations. It is open to representatives of delegations of the Americas Region.

18 July 2012

**09:30 - 10:45 OPENING CEREMONY**

Opening Statements

- Dr Hamadoun I. TOURÉ, ITU Secretary-General
- His Excellency Mr Ricardo MARTINELLI BERROCAL, President of the Republic of Panama

Policy Statements

**11:00 - 12:00 OPENING DEBATE: TOWARDS A FUTURE BUILT ON BROADBAND**

During the Broadband Leadership Summit, which took place in Geneva on 25 October 2011, members of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development challenged the global community to work together to promote “broadband inclusion for all” as a means of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In this session, members of the Broadband Commission from the Americas Region will debate with other stakeholders why broadband is important for the Americas and which initiatives can be undertaken by stakeholders in the region to encourage broadband inclusion.

12:00 - 12:30 PRESS CONFERENCE

12:30 - 14:30 LUNCH

14:30 - 14:40 SETTING THE STAGE: BROADBAND FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Keynote Speech by Mr. Brahima SANOU, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

Introductory remarks to the Summit's High-Level Interactive Panel Sessions

14:40 - 16:00 INTERACTIVE PANEL 1: BANKROLLING BROADBAND: IS BIG GOVERNMENT BACK?

**Session Overview:**

Information and communication technologies (ICTs), and especially broadband, are widely recognized as key drivers of private sector investment, employment and socio-economic development. While developed countries have rapidly and effectively leveraged the benefits of broadband, many developing countries are now faced with the challenge of setting and implementing policies fostering opportunity and prosperity through broadband access for all. To create tomorrow's Knowledge-based Societies and meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the time is ripe to critically consider different strategies for funding broadband rollout.

While a large portion of the huge investment needed for broadband infrastructure will likely come from the private sector, it is wise to explore policy frameworks that can stimulate funding of future deployments. Ranging from shared access and direct infrastructure funding through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and end-user subsidies, to market reform and notably, competition and fiscal policies – there is today a wealth of available options. The technology is available, the regulatory environments are increasingly being smoothed out, and the demand is certainly there. Can investment be far behind?

16:15 - 17:30 INTERACTIVE PANEL 2: DIGITAL INCLUSION - GIVING VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

**Session Overview:**

Access to infrastructure is central to achieving the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and services for all. Digital inclusion is fundamental to building inclusive societies, in line with national and international development goals. Digital inclusion means that indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, girls, youth and children can use accessible and affordable ICTs as tools for their social and economic development.

Promoting accessible ICTs for persons with disabilities, can unleash vast untapped markets. Ensuring that women and girls are well-prepared and encouraged to take up careers in the ICT sector can play a fundamental role in youth employment strategies. Using ICTs to provide vocational and life skills training to indigenous peoples empowers these communities.

Regulators and policy-makers face the challenging task of ensuring affordable access to ICTs and digital inclusion, while at the same time creating and maintaining investment incentives for all market participants. This session will identify the policy, regulatory and business strategies that can address some of the toughest issues facing political and business leaders alike.

20:00 - 24:00 GALA RECEPTION, SHERATON HOTEL

19 July 2012

09:30 - 10:45 INTERACTIVE PANEL 3: PRESERVING OUR PLANET: COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Session Overview:

Climate change brings with it economic, social, and environmental impacts that compromise sustainable development. The adverse effects of climate change can fall disproportionately on the populations of developing countries, who may have fewer resources to withstand shocks. Telecommunications/ICTs can make a valuable contribution to climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation. This Session discusses the role of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigating climate change, including: the implementation of satellite and ground-based remote-sensing platforms for environmental observation and weather monitoring; the development of energy-efficient communications; the introduction of more energy-efficient working methods, design and implementation of early warning systems for alerting the public of impending dangerous weather events; and adoption of appropriate policies and regulations that govern emissions and management of green house gas emissions. The session will also examine climate change impacts resulting in issues related to food security, reduction in marine species, deforestation and the rise in epidemics. How can ICTs contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation?

11:00 - 12:30 INTERACTIVE PANEL 4: CYBERSECURITY IN A HYGHLY CONNECTED WORLD

Session Overview:

With the increasing volume of e-commerce and online financial transactions, the availability of government services, the popularity of collaborative and social networks and the emergence of the "Internet of things", building confidence and maintaining trust in the use of ICTs will continue to be a major concern of governments and all relevant stakeholders. As ICTs continue to be further integrated into the economy and our societies, their continuous availability, reliability and security will be increasingly vital to everyone. Governments are realizing the need to cooperate at regional, international and global level to address the dramatic increase of cyber-threats and the risk they pose to the social and economic stability of countries. The on-line experience must be enjoyed by everyone in a secure manner — in particular, by children who can become vulnerable to exploitation by criminals. This session will discuss some of the initiatives already taking place in the Americas region and explore further cooperation and partnerships, as well as particular risks for children in cyberspace.

12:30 - 14:30 LUNCH

14:30 - 16:00 INTERACTIVE PANEL 5: SAVING LIVES: ICT FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

Session Overview:

Emergency telecommunications play a critical role both in disaster risk reduction and in disaster management thus making an immense contribution to saving lives. These technologies are instrumental in monitoring, detecting, and predicting disasters. In the period before disasters strike, they serve as a medium through which authoritative alerts are disseminated. When disasters

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strike, emergency telecommunications facilitate search and rescue operations, distribution of food, medicines, and shelter by humanitarian workers for the benefit of the victims. As part of the recovery effort, emergency telecommunications can provide vital information on the needs of the affected populations. As demonstrated by recent disasters across the globe, and in the Americas, there is a need to assist countries in the deployment and use of ICTs before, during and after disasters strike. Identified as a regional priority, this session discusses suitable technologies, the design of national and sub-regional emergency telecommunication plans/early-warning systems supported by appropriate related policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks based on sound standard operating procedures.

16:15 - 16:45 PARTNERSHIPS ANNOUNCEMENTS/PLEDGES

16:45 - 17:30 CLOSING SESSION