PRESENTATION AT THE 6TH ITU SYMPOSIUM ON ICTs, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

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Question: How can the Ministries of Communication and Environment work together to move forward the Climate Change Agenda?

The two ministries are very important in moving the Climate Change Agenda forward, and the can work together particularly in the following area;

1. Developing **Climate information services** and transmitting the same to the general public, especially vulnerable groups, cheaply and efficiently. E.g. early warning systems and forecasting or use of RANET (Radio and Internet) in the language most understood locally to provide weather and climate information. Development of info packages and releasing the same thro media education programs.

2. Developing and communicating **Climate Change adaptation strategies** necessary for coping or adjusting to new climatic changes to the public to plan their lives better; e.g. to avoid crop failure due to drought or flooding should provide list of appropriate crops and livestock including husbandry, for unstable or changing rainfall patterns at the click of a button.

3. Provide cheap and easy access to various adaptation technologies and innovative strategies hence faster **technology transfer and adaptation.** A lot of technologies can be acquired and shared in an interactive manner thro ICTs.

4. Use ICT for **Climate Change mitigation**. E.g. energy savings either by reduced consumption through more efficient systems, use of intelligent systems, smarter management of energy supply and demand; avoiding practices that increase CO_2 release such as use of motorised transport by perfecting virtual meetings and teleconferencing. Mobile phones, community radios, internet and related applications can be used to overcome communication barriers as well as avoid damages caused by climate Change including bad infrastructure.

5. Develop **toll free call in system** for people in vulnerable situations to get direct advice during crisis times due to climate related calamities. Ost disasters ranking from fires to floods and climate related. Need to urgently developed materials and products that can be used to answer callers.

6. Join efforts in **safe disposal of ICT products**. Whereas ICT products also contribute to CO2 production and hence climate change, its positive contributions to society outweigh the negatives. Further, more refining of efficiencies can reduce the negative impacts. Its important however to reduce on the damping of by products e.g. used phones, TVs etc and design safe disposal procedures including laws and regulations.