



**world summit  
on the information society**  
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

Helping the world communicate



**International  
Telecommunication  
Union**

# Is it possible to eliminate the digital divide in a ubiquitous network society?

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# WSIS Declaration of Principles

- Universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICT infrastructure and services, constitutes one of the challenges of the Information Society and should be an objective of all stakeholders involved in building it. (Para 21)
- We are fully committed to turning this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized. (Para 10)



# Universal or Ubiquitous?

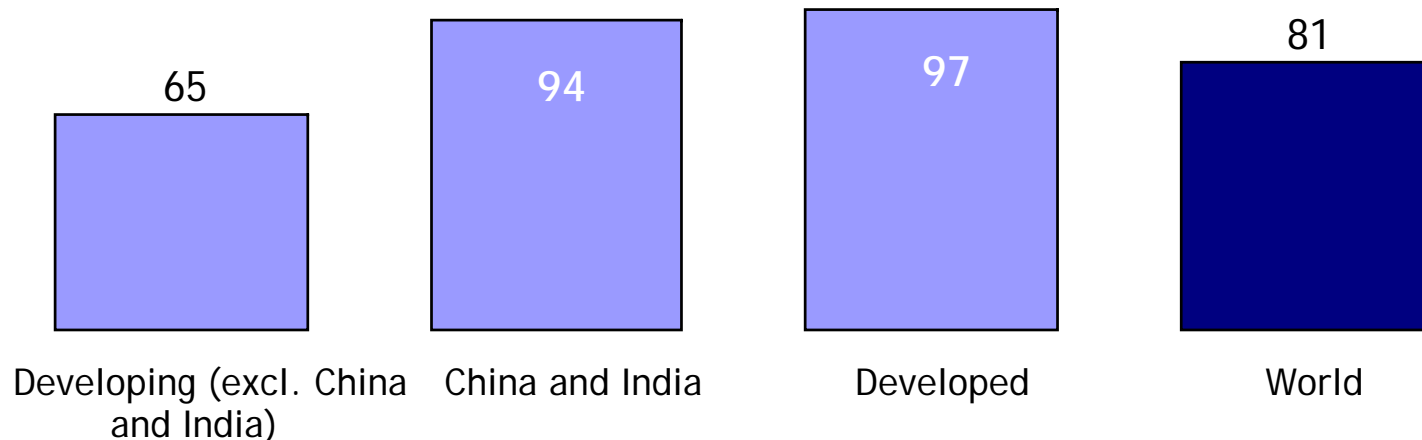
## ■ Universal connectivity

- Available
- Accessible
- Affordable

## ■ Ubiquitous connectivity

- Anywhere
- Anytime
- by Anything
- by Anyone

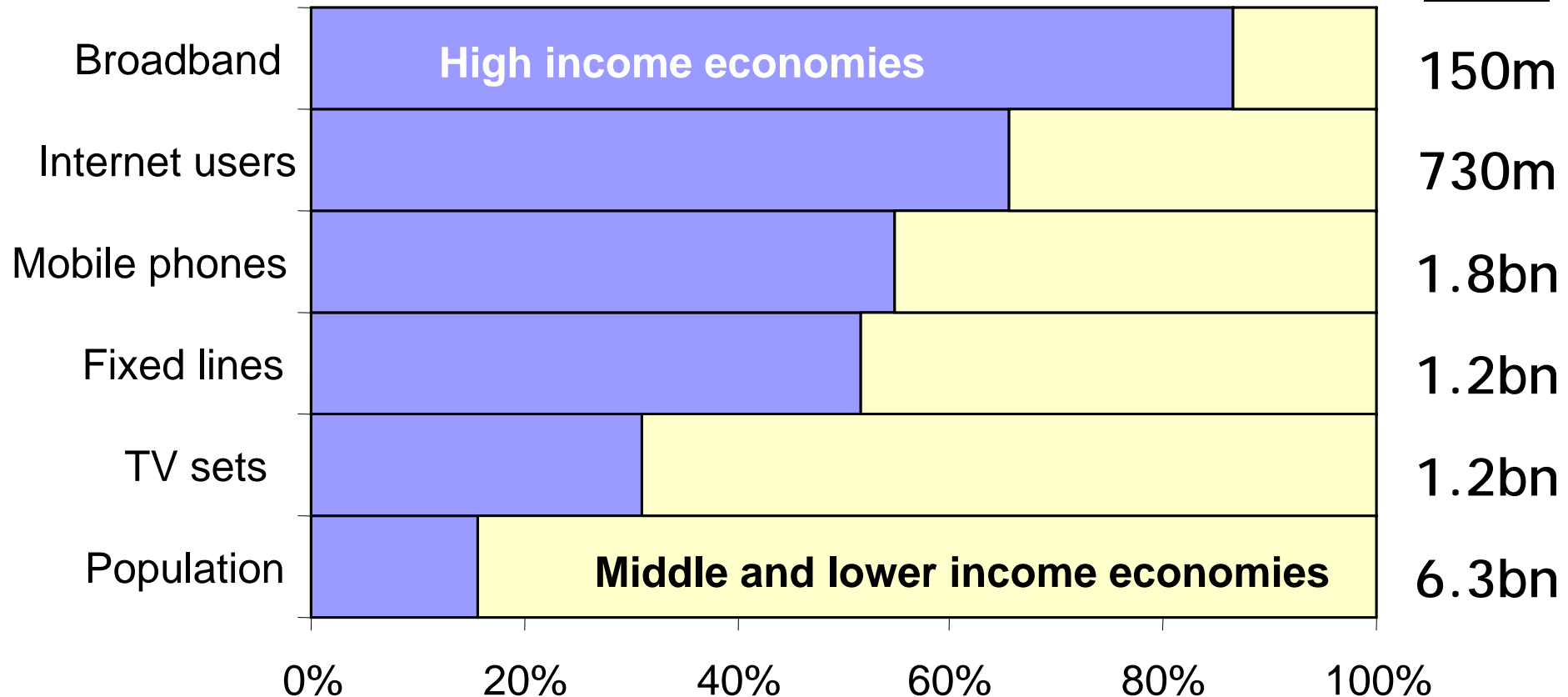
% of population with telephone access, 2002





# The newer the technology, the less even the global distribution

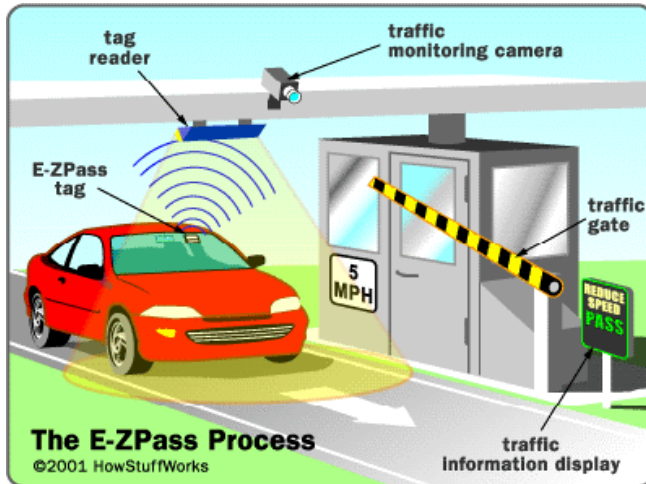
2004





# Today's ubiquitous applications may be suitable mainly to developed economies ...

- Road pricing schemes



- Using technology to make ageing more comfortable

- Contactless ski-passes, using RFID chips



- RFID chips in passports





# ... But tomorrow's ubiquitous applications will be suitable to developing economies



- Traffic congestion management

- Livestock tracking at Chitale Dairy Farm, India



- Inventory management for offshore manufacturing



- Environmental monitoring and disaster relief





**Is it possible to eliminate the digital divide in a ubiquitous network society?**

**No! but it is possible to reduce its extent and its impact**





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websites: [www.itu.int/ubiquitous](http://www.itu.int/ubiquitous)  
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Thank you

