# Sustainable digital transformation

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# The sustainability of ICT



L.1470: Greenhouse gas emissions trajectories for the information and communication technology sector compatible with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement

# Where are we?

- Improvements
  - in electricity supply
  - in material and energy efficiency of ICT devices and networks
- In addition to / replacement
- But the circular economy ...
  - Durability, long lifespan
  - Multiple cycles



Digital transformation: ICT for sustainability

- A more profound and radical use of digitalisation.
- The broad economic, societal, environmental effects of digitisation and digitalisation.
- Continuous and transformative processes that rely on digital tools and ICT infrastructure.
- Hard to predict end status.

ITU-T work item 2023 L.SDT "Definition of Sustainable Digital Transformation"

# Decoupling

(2019)

- The decoupling of natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic activity and human well-being is an essential element in the transition to a sustainable future.
- Requires urgent and concerted action.
- Attitude: not business as usual, but *unusual* countdown to climate disaster.

Profound and radical, transformative ! From owning to using, sharing, social and environmental responsibility



# Sustainable, circular ICT products

Q7 SG5 mainly

- 2012 Rare metals: L.1100 recycling, 2014 L.1101 measurement, 2016 L.1102 digital labels
- 2018 L.1020, 2020 L.1021, 2021 L.1022 circular economy principles in the ICT sector
- 2020 L.1023: Assessment method for circular scoring (ecodesign), revision 2023
- 2020 L.1024 Impact of servitisation (circular business models)
- 2021 L.1033: Guidance for **institutions of higher learning** to contribute in the effective life cycle management of e-equipment and e-waste
- 2021 Digital product passport: L.GDSPP, L.D4PI 2022 (w ETSI)
- 2022 L.1035 Sustainable management of **batteries**, 2023-4 L.DLB durability of Lithium-ion bat
- 2023 L.1061 Circular public procurement
- 2023 L.ME\_DD, L.GPSIM secure deletion, L.ME\_AF firmware updates
- 2023-4 L.suppl.GSP Green supply chain management, L.SCCA carbon accounting

# What do do?

- The sustainable digital transformation of our society
- ... at least avoid aggravating the situation: circularity
  - Rebound effect: reduction in expected gains from new technologies that increase the efficiency of resource use, because of behavioural or other systemic responses.
- New knowledge, research ... from need and potential ... to transformative solutions
- Scaling up action: starts locally, ends globally
- Concerted action, harmonisation: standards, policy goals