

Partnership with Connect2Recover initiative: Perspective of MIC, Japan

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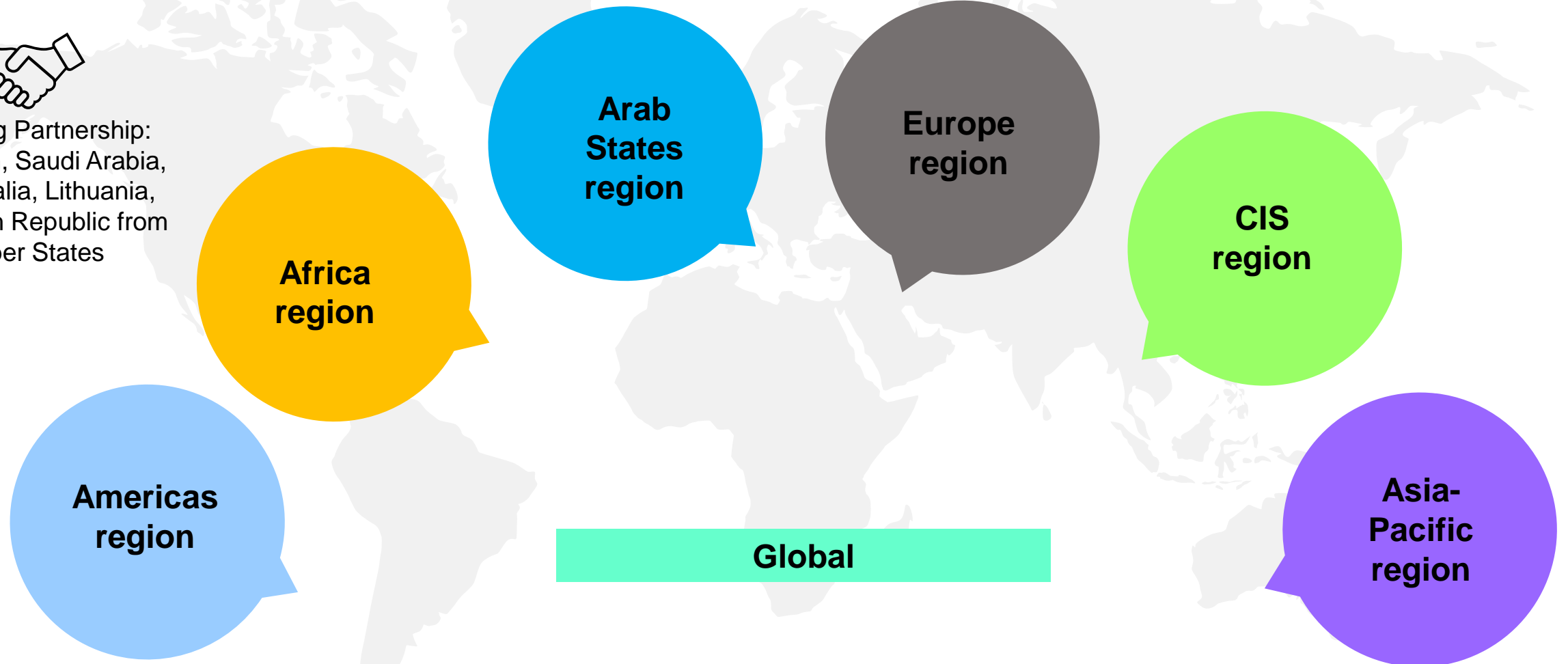
Introduction

- At the time of the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Least developed countries are least connected to the Internet and were greatly affected by the pandemic in socio-economic terms.
 - There was a need to assist countries recover from the pandemic by expanding access to affordable and reliable connectivity.
- Digital divide: 2.7 billion people (33 percent of world population) remain offline, while on average only 36 percent of the population in least developed countries are online.
- Connect2Recover initiative: Launched by ITU in September 2020 to reinforce and strengthen the digital infrastructure and digital ecosystems of beneficiary countries as they adjust in the wake of the pandemic and to help these countries continue to remain resilient in times of natural hazards.
- Resolution 215 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on role of telecommunications / information communication technologies in mitigating global pandemics.

Connect2Recover: Partnership and Impact in 43 countries



Strong Partnership:
Japan, Saudi Arabia,
Australia, Lithuania,
Czech Republic from
Member States



Role of MIC, Japan

- Provides support to Connect2Recover initiative:
 - One of two founding partners with King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre that launched Connect2Recover
 - Made three contributions to Connect2Recover initiative.
 - Focus on countries in Africa.
- Connect2Recover Steering Committee

Contribution of MIC, Japan to Connect2Recover: Focus on Africa (1)

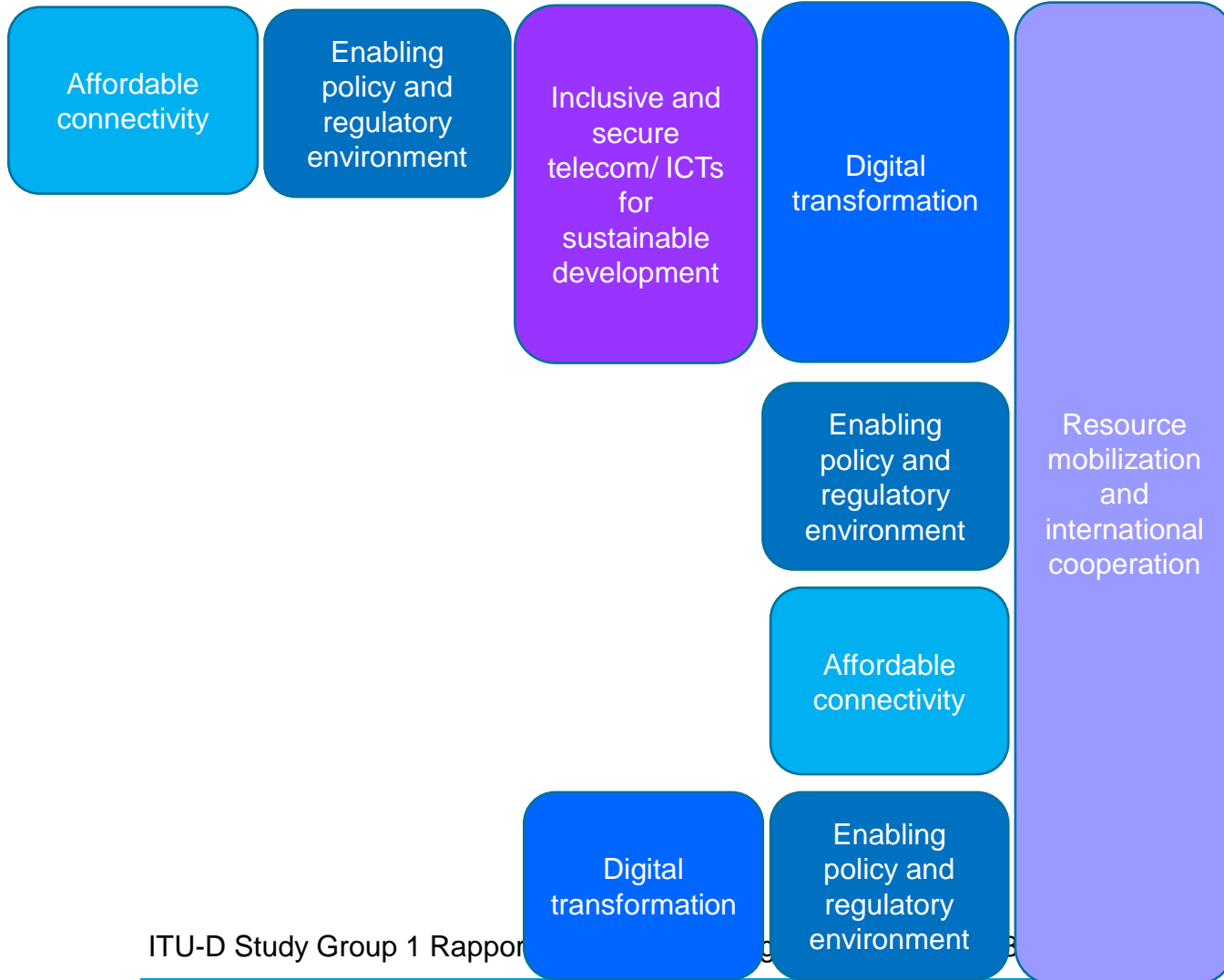
- Development of “Connect2Recover initiative: A methodology for identifying connectivity gaps and strengthening resilience in the new normal”. This global methodology was used to carry out country-level resilience assessments in 5 regions: Africa, Americas, Arab States, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Europe.
- Country level assessments:
 - Mauritania country-level digital resilience assessment has completed and has been accepted by the country. The report will also be translated into the national language for greater impact. In addition, this report contributes to the digital transformation of Mauritania, and Mauritania is a pilot country under Partner2Connect.
 - Zimbabwe country-level assessment is underway.

Contribution of MIC, Japan to Connect2Recover: Focus on Africa (2)

- Pilot on school connectivity in Rwanda with Giga (ITU/UNICEF):
 - Under Connect2Recover, provided contribution to support the provision of connectivity and solution to 5 of the 63 Giga phase 1 pilot schools that have been connected in Rwanda in 2021.
 - These 5 schools include one school hosting refugees, two nine years-based education schools, one twelve years basic education schools and one teacher training college.
- The Information Session on Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Meaningful Connectivity on 2 May 2023 shared lessons learned and best practices under Connect2Recover. It was attended by 68 participants, including 15 Member States. There was sharing of experiences and discussions. The next step is for member states in Africa to propose requests for ITU technical assistance under Connect2Recover by 19 May 2023.
- There are other discussions of requests, trainings and workshops being planned.

Alignment with ITU-D Priorities and Study Group 1 Questions

ITU-D Priorities



C2R 5 phase approach

- **Global Methodology** to assist countries to respond to consequences of COVID-19 (Correspond to Q1/1, Q3/1, Q4/1)
- Carry out **Country Digital Infrastructure and Resilience Assessments** (Correspond to Q1/1, Q3/1, Q4/1)
- Develop or update **National ICT Strategies and NETPs** (Correspond to Q1/1, Q3/1, Q4/1)
- **Pilot Activities** to deploy telecommunications / ICTs (Correspond to Q5/1)
- **Deep-Dive Studies** in areas of digital policy including for early warning purposes (Correspond to Q1/1, Q3/1)

Thank you.