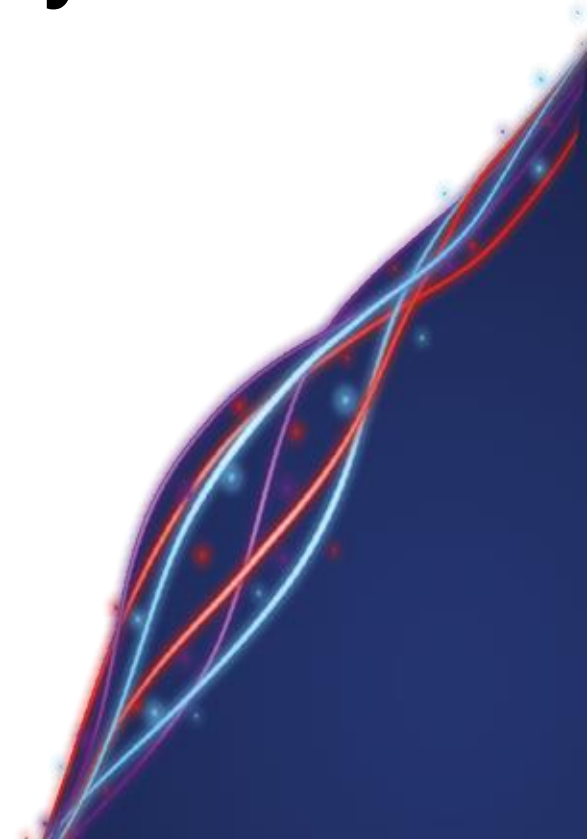


Universal and Meaningful Connectivity From Evidence to Policy Action

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Vice Chairman - World Wireless Research Forum (WWRF)
Chairman, ITU WP5D WG General
Chairman, Editorial Group APT Preparatory Group for WRC-27
Special Advisor, APT Wireless Group



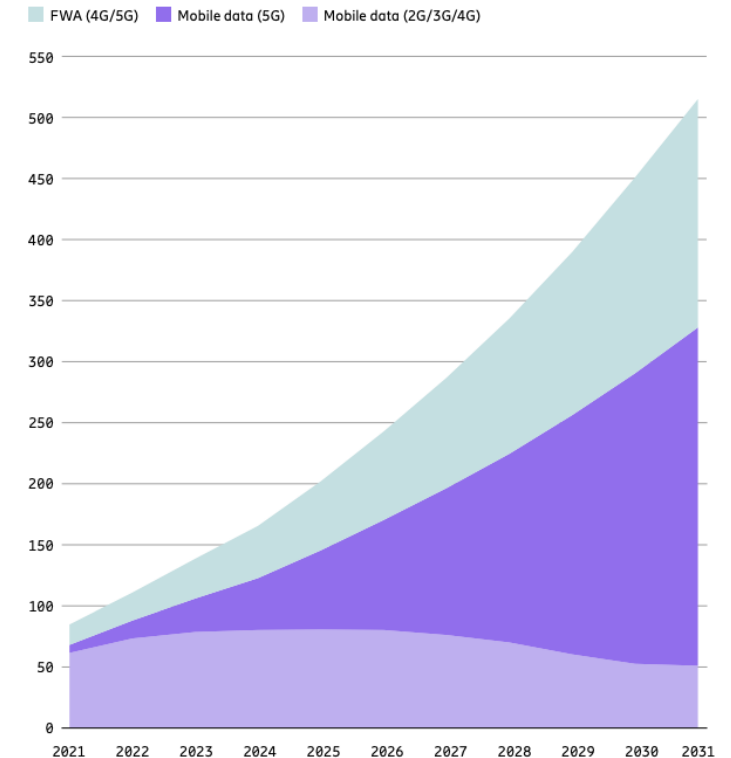
There are over 8.8 billion Mobile connections in the World

Number of Mobile based connections per head of the population in 2Q25



Ericsson Mobility Report | June 2026

Figure 8: Global mobile network data traffic (EB per month)

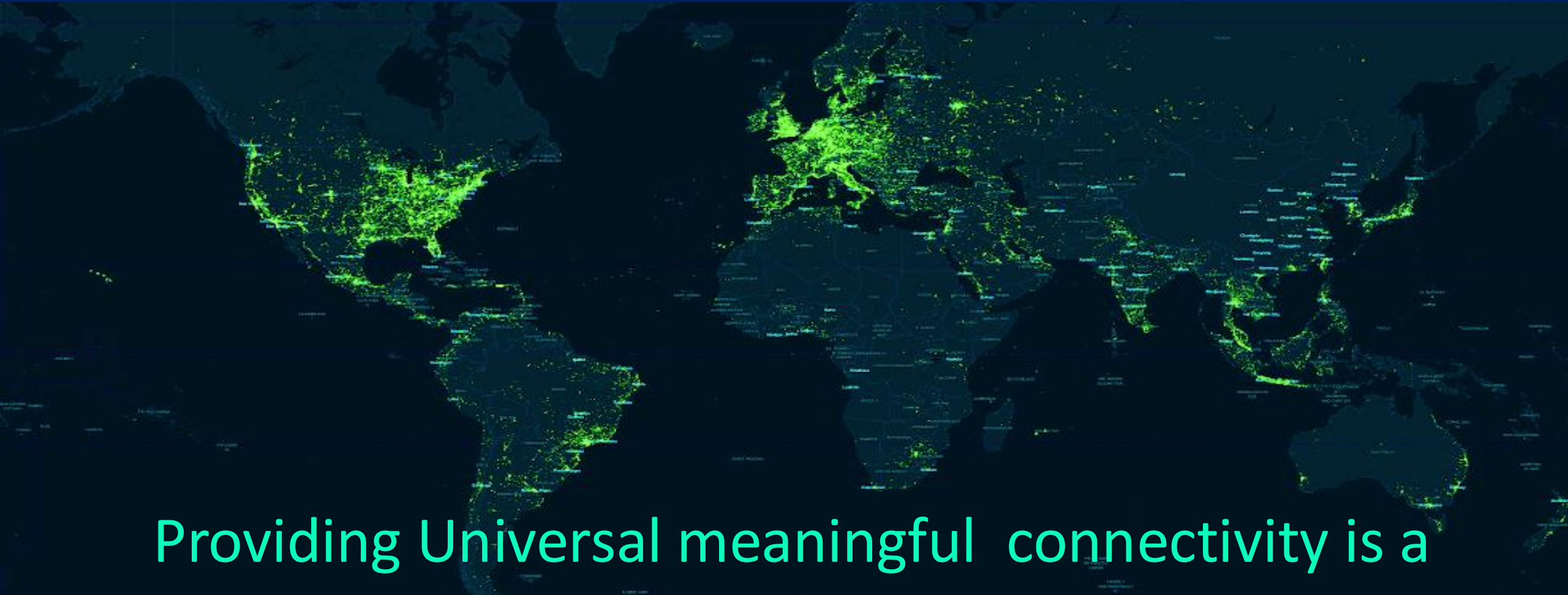


Note: Data traffic forecast, both global and regional, represents the estimated traffic volume in all networks over the duration of a month. Traffic, in terms of throughput, in high-traffic areas will be much higher than the average traffic.

Most populated cities have more than 100% teledensity

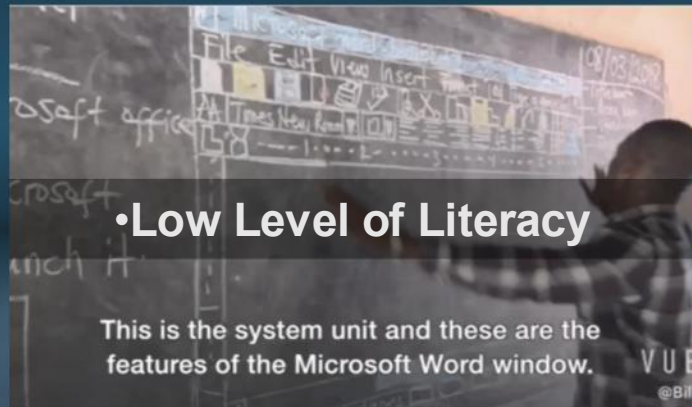
But only about 60% of the world's population has
meaningful connectivity (4.8 Billion with 3G or better)

And Only 35-40% of the landmass is covered



Providing Universal meaningful connectivity is a
technology and economic challenge

Many Challenges to Providing meaningful digital connectivity to balance population and locations



New Technologies can however overcome these challenges

India has achieved over 75% land mass coverage and 95% population coverage using wireless technologies

1,354 Mn

Total Subscribers

1,306 Mn wireless + 48 Mn wireline
Tele-density 94.7%

400 Mn+

5G Users

India ranks #2 in the world

Home Broadband

48.1 Mn

Fixed (Wired) Broadband

Fibre & wired home connections

18.8 Mn

FWA Subscribers

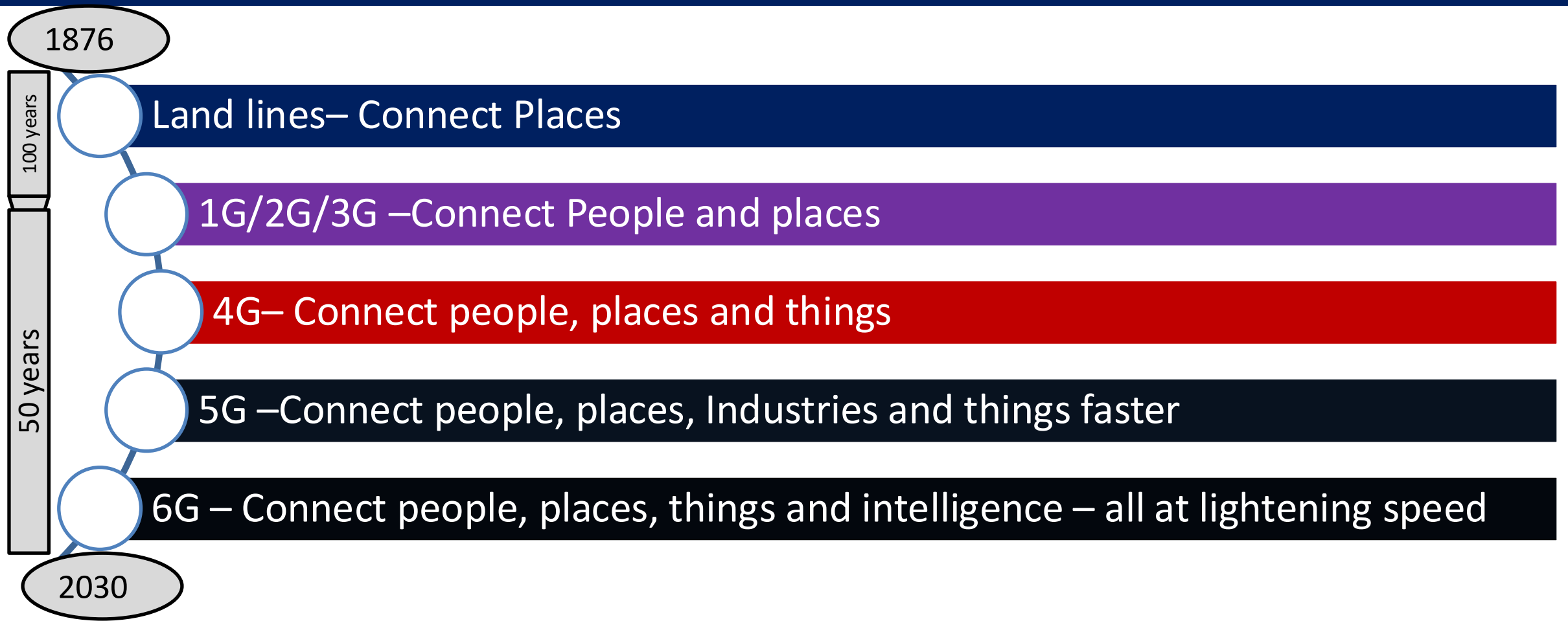
13.2 Mn 5G FWA + 5.1 Mn UBR

1,094 Mn

Total Broadband

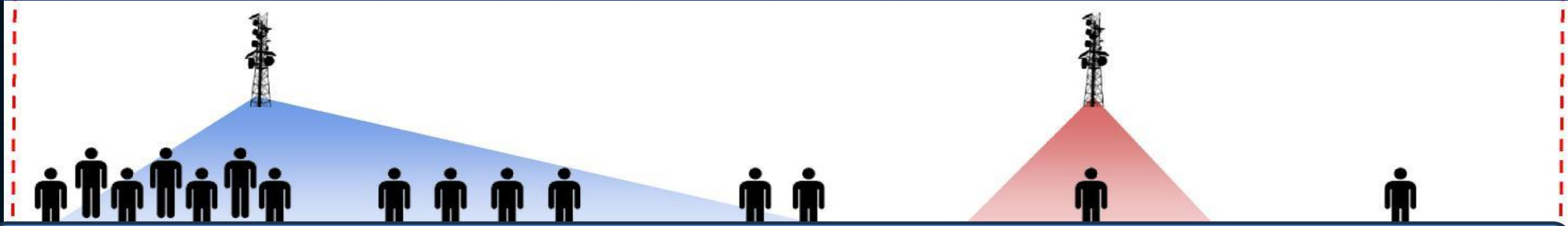
wireless + wireline

50 years of evolution of Mobile wireless Technologies continue to play a major role in bridging the UMC Gap



But Terrestrial Networks alone can't provide 100% UMC on Ground, Air and Sea

Either Economically unviable or Technologically not possible



Good Terrestrial Coverage

Bad Terrestrial Coverage

No terrestrial Coverage



Dense Urban

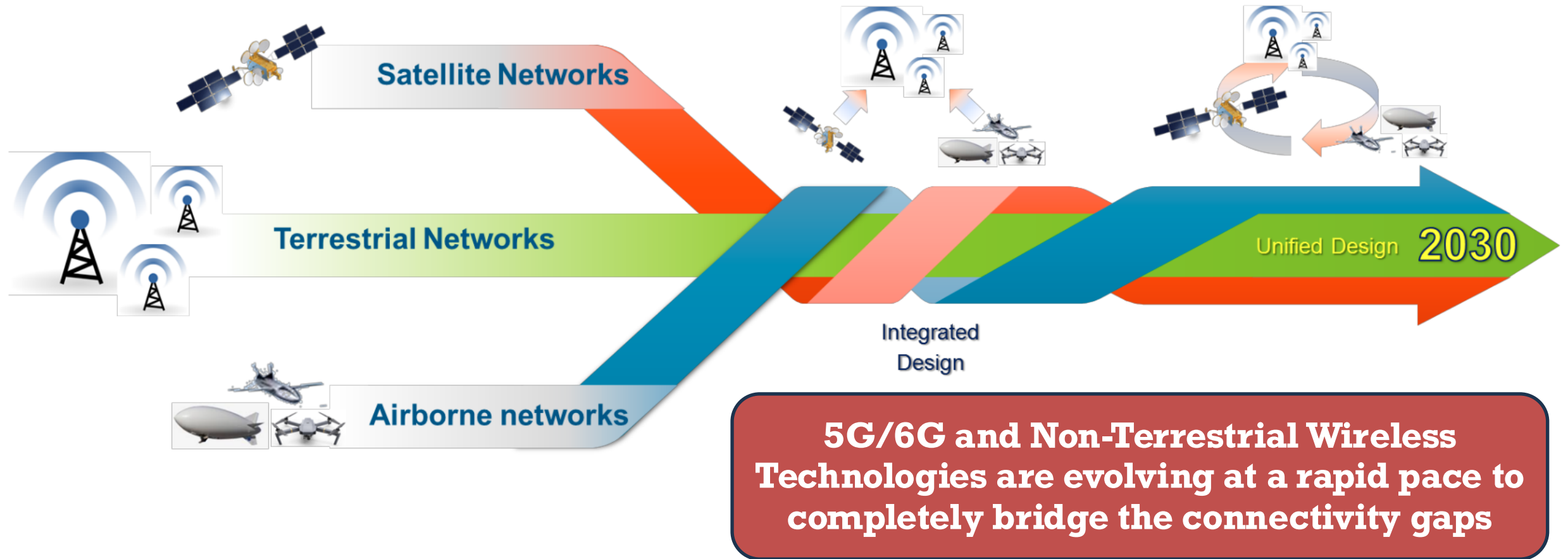
Urban

Rural

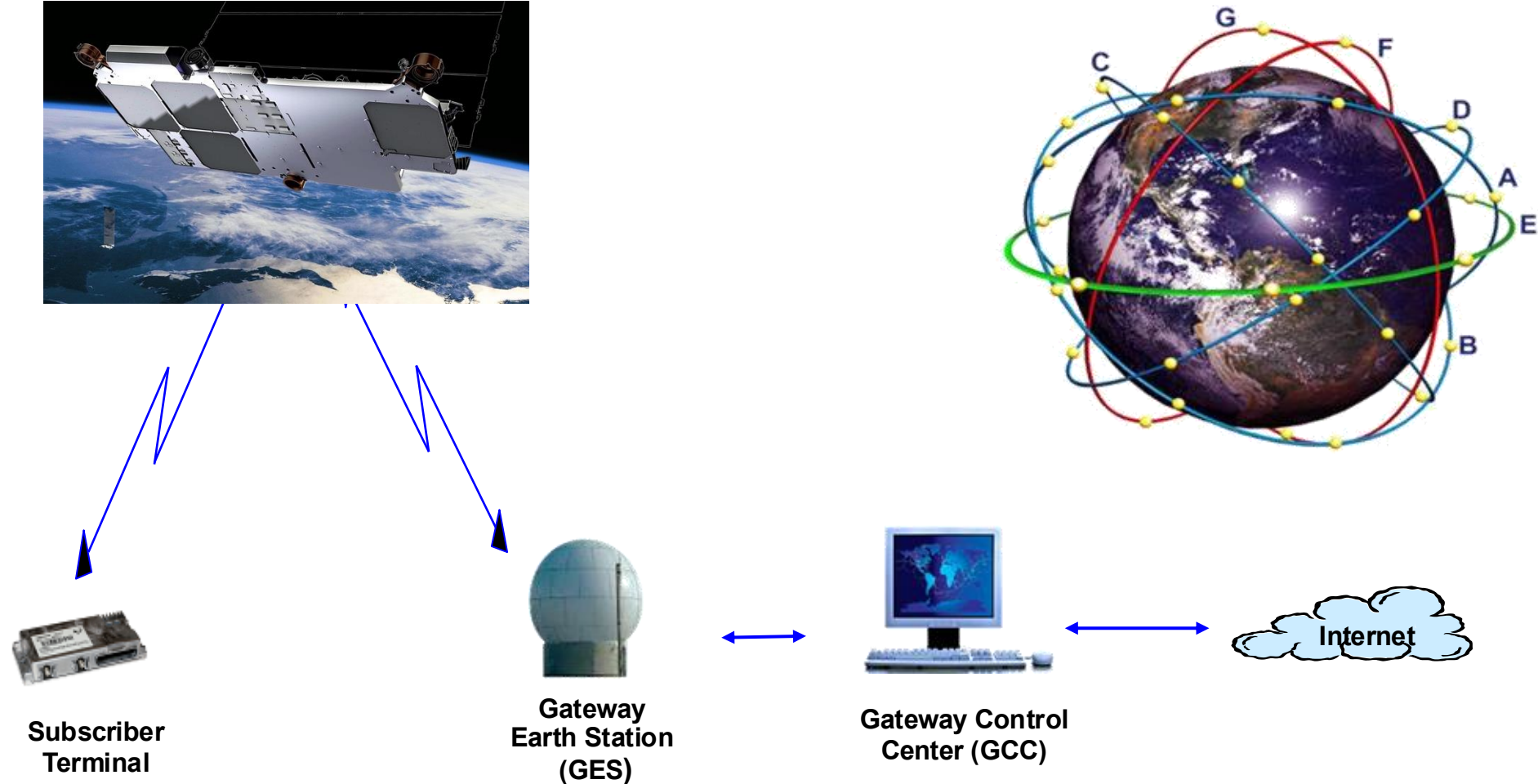
Super Rural

Maritime / Sky

6G and NTN working jointly have the power to support UMC



LEO Satellites provide a great opportunity to support direct connectivity to users to bridge some UMC gaps



ITU has been leading the standardisation of successive Wireless Technologies – both for terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks

IMT



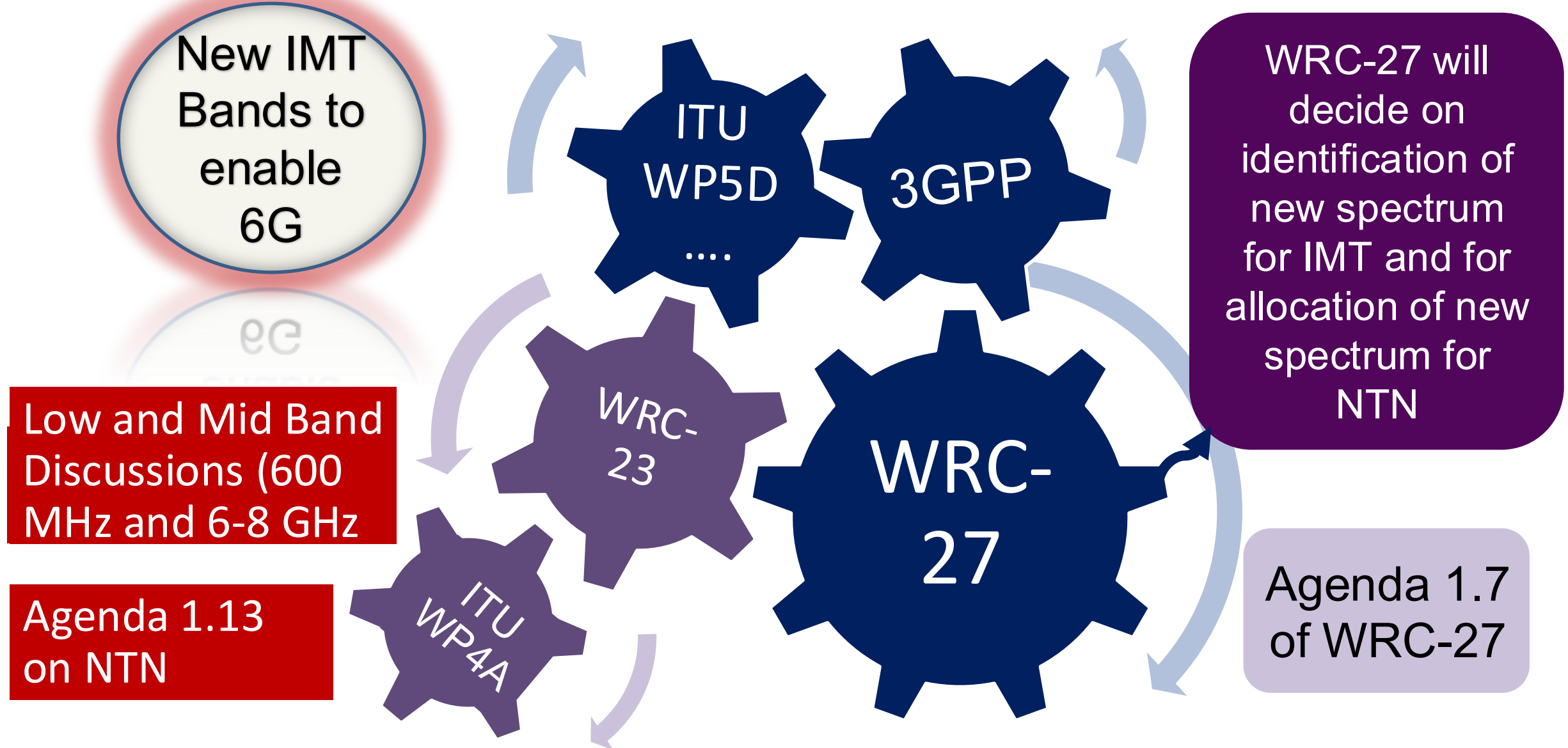
3G /
IMT-2000

4G /
IMT-Advanced

5G /
IMT-2020

6G /
“IMT-2030”

Decisions on Spectrum Allocation and identification at the ITU World Radio Conference 2027 are critical to achieve UMC





THANK YOU

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