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| **9 June 2023** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PARTNER2CONNECT DIGITAL COALITION | |
| **Purpose**  This report provides highlights and an update on the progress of ITU’s Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C).  **Action required by the Council**  This report is transmitted to the Council **for information**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  Resolutions [30](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-030-E.pdf), [191](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-191-E.pdf), and [200](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-200-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference  WTDC Resolution [88 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf) | |

The [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C)](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/) is a global multistakeholder platform that mobilizes resources, partnerships, and commitments to foster meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the hardest-to-connect communities. Access to universal and meaningful connectivity is critical for achieving each one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, in particular, for countries to leapfrog in areas such as **education**, **health**, **government services** and **trade**. However, with **2.7 billion** people currently offline, digital connectivity remains a major challenge especially in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

To achieve the goal set out in the [UNSG Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/) of *ensuring that every person has safe, affordable, and meaningful access to the Internet by 2030*, a high-impact initiative was urgently needed. Hence, P2C was launched as a **transformative**, **solutions-based** and **action-oriented approach** to: advance the implementation of the UNSG Roadmap; contribute to the Global Digital Compact; support the sustainable development agendas for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and to ultimately accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. Organizations of any kind (Governments, Private Sector, UN Agencies, Civil Society, Academia, Youth Groups and Media and Entertainment Organizations) can submit pledges and commitments to P2C via the [P2C platform](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/pledges/explore-pledges/). Pledges can be categorized as either Financial, Programmatic, Policy or Advocacy in nature.

*Criteria for a strong pledge:*

* Addresses key issues of the four Focus Areas of the [P2C Action Framework](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/partner2connect-action-framework/):
  + [**ACCESS**](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/partner2connect-action-framework/2022/03/11/focus-area-1-access-connecting-people-everywhere/): Connecting people everywhere;
  + [**ADOPTION**](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/partner2connect-action-framework/2022/03/12/focus-area-2-adoption-empowering-communities/): Empowering communities;
  + [**VALUE CREATION**](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/partner2connect-action-framework/2022/03/12/focus-area-2-adoption-empowering-communities/): Building digital ecosystems;
  + [**ACCELERATE**](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/partner2connect-action-framework/2022/03/12/focus-area-2-adoption-empowering-communities/): Incentivizing investments.
* Helps drive transformational change towards universal connectivity and the digital transformation of societies.
* Helps mobilize resources across the four Focus Areas of P2C.
* Brings together multiple entities committed to endorse, implement, or scale the pledge.
* Can be easily quantified, monitored and tracked, and its impact can also be measured and reported over time and against the overall objective of achieving universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

As of June 1,2023, and within just one year of having launched the P2C pledging platform, P2C has gathered **723** [**pledges**](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/pledges/explore-pledges/) worth over **30.7 USD billion** from **349 entities** globally. Of the 349 entities participating in the Coalition, **110 are Member States** and **77 are from the private sector**. The Coalition also engages fifteen **UN Agencies**.

P2C helps forge collaboration and partnerships that match country needs and priorities with development and financial partners. With the support of the broader UN family, Member States and the wider set of stakeholders that form the Coalition, P2C is bringing a coordinated approach to the wider UN digital development agenda.

**Monitoring and Evaluation of implementation progress**

Global connectivity and sustainable digital transformation cannot be achieved without accountability. Through Partner2Connect, ITU can play a central role in **monitoring**, **tracking** and **reporting on commitments** towards connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

Further to [submitting or editing a pledge](https://www.itu.int/partner2connect-pledges), the P2C platform provides everyone with the possibility to [explore](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/pledges/explore-pledges/) all pledges in an open and easily accessible way. With the use of interactive dashboards, anyone can access real-time aggregated (or disaggregated) information about the pledges that have been submitted, and use a variety of criteria for searching and analysing the pledges. Furthermore, the P2C platform also offers a **self-reporting process** to comply with the principles of accountability, transparency, partnership and action-oriented leadership that the Coalition stands for. P2C also monitors and reports on the status of pledge implementation. This process is supported by the [P2C Self-Reporting Form](https://www.itu.int/partner2connect-pledges/login/), an online tool designed to capture the implementation progress of all pledges submitted to the P2C platform. All pledgers are required to complete this form.

The information entered in the Self-Reporting Form will help the Coalition produce dashboards and analyses on overall progress. The findings, along with highlights from selected pledges, are used to prepare the P2C Annual Report document, which will be published every year and presented at the **P2C Annual Meeting**. Aggregated results will be made available on the P2C’s public dashboard. If they wish to do so, pledgers can always provide more regular progress reports to more accurately reflect how implementation activities are evolving.

As of June 1, 2023, of the **723 pledges** submitted to the Coalition, **215** have been reported on; this represents a **30% response rate**. Of the **349 entities** submitting a pledge, **112 (32%)** have submitted a progress report.

**P2C outlook – 2023 and beyond**

Partner2Connect will continue to bridge the digital divide by catalysing concrete efforts to accelerate meaningful connectivity and digital transformation across the four Focus Areas, and within the framework of the multistakeholder partnership model it represents.

The Coalition will continue to:

* **Mobilize new pledges** through the P2C platform on all focus areas and across all regions of the world;
* **Deliver events** and **reporting on pledge implementation** progress;
* **Facilitate pledge implementation** to catalyse concrete joint efforts that accelerate connectivity and bridge the digital divide

ITU has a goal of mobilizing **100 billion USD worth of P2C pledges** by 2026.

P2C has already been featured at the ITU WTISD session that took place on May 17, where updates on existing and new P2C pledges were provided. P2C will also be featured at the [**SDG Digital Day**](https://www.itu.int/digital-day/sdg/)on **17 September** where pledgers will announce new commitments to help rescue the SDGs through the effective use of data and digital technologies. The 2nd P2C Annual Meeting is planned to take place in December 2023.

During 2023, BDT will also be organizing a series of country and regional level events including matchmaking roundtables in the P2C pilot countries (**Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Mauritania, and Madagascar**) and the six **Regional Development Forums in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States and the Commonwealth of Independent States**. The objective of these roundtables will be to bring together Member States and partners that made pledges and do matchmaking with the aim of financing country and regional priorities.

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