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| UPDATES ON SDG ACTION WEEKEND: SDG DIGITAL, PARTNER2CONNECT, AND DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE | |
| **Purpose**  This document provides information on the SDG Action Weekend, including updates and activities related to SDG Digital, Parner2Connect (P2C), and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).  **Action required**  Members are invited to **note** the information provided in the document and encouraged to **contribute** to SDG Digital commitments, DPI, and P2C.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  <https://www.itu.int/initiatives/sdgdigital/>  <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/> | |

On 17 September, the International Telecommunication Union (**ITU**), the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and partners convened for **SDG Digital** at United Nations Headquarters in New York. As part of the [SDG Action Weekend](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fconferences%2FSDGSummit2023%2FSDG-Action-Weekend&data=05%7C01%7Crajani.vepa%40itu.int%7C0c4d74bef6ad47c9c55e08dbb56f2169%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638303261122600748%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AR1lg4CJjYkA1a9HpBYmtBwHiJwtubxixlP5QJz2Oaw%3D&reserved=0), the event focused on bringing digital SDG solutions to scale, including through [High Impact Initiative](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fsdg-summit-2023%2Fpage%2Ftransformative-action&data=05%7C01%7Crajani.vepa%40itu.int%7C0c4d74bef6ad47c9c55e08dbb56f2169%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638303261122600748%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2Fzatc0eb3OKxnoVlg9Gy04lQN4Ak8ThxsNrUlRXz1o0%3D&reserved=0) on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

According to the [*SDG Digital Acceleration Agenda*](https://www.sdg-digital.org/accelerationagenda) launched at SDG Digital, digital technologies can benefit 119 of the 169 SDG targets, or about 70 per cent, including areas such as climate action, education, hunger and poverty.

SDG Digital received financial, strategic and operational commitments from U.N. member states, the private sector, finance bodies, international organizations and philanthropic foundations to help put the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) back on track.

**Key commitments made include:**

* **Partner2Connect Digital Coalition** – The Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA), Google, Microsoft, Millicom, Telenor, ZTE, the Republic of Korea, and the Government of Saudi Arabia announced new pledges to advance progress towards universal meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation. They build on over 750 pledges valued at over USD 32 billion received to date since the launch of the [Partner2Connect Digital Coalitio](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/)n campaign in February 2022. The coalition issued a global appeal for USD 100 billion by 2026 to increase investment in universal and affordable connectivity.
* **Global Satellite Operators Association** – A pledge to double the number of people connected via satellite communications to at least 500 million globally by 2030. This could result in over USD 250 billion in global socio-economic benefits, in support of the SDGs.
* **Microsoft** – A commitment to extend high-speed internet access to 250 million people in unserved and underserved communities by the end of 2025, including 100 million in Africa. To do so Microsoft will convene a global network of internet and energy providers, government agencies, nonprofits, and private sector companies focused on closing the global digital divide.
* **Republic of Korea** – A pledge to spend nearly USD 30 million in 2023-2024 for digital development globally.
* **Telenor** – A pledge to train 3 million people in digital skills by 2025.
* **Millicom** – A commitment to increase access and digital skills to further deploy and upgrade its connectivity infrastructure; to train 99,000 women in 2023 and 100,000 women in 2024 through its digital inclusion program; and to provide teaching and education professionals with the necessary skills to deliver education online.
* **Google** – Announced a new research center focusing on AI to combat food insecurity in Africa, and USD 25 million in grants to 15 AI projects as part of its Global Goals Impact Challenge on AI for the SDGs, including in Kenya, South Africa, the Philippines, and India.
* **ZTE** – A pledge was renewed to build USD 400 million worth of ICT network infrastructure annually for LDC/LLDC/SIDS countries by 2025, and to sponsor P2C with CHF 300,000 by becoming "P2C Champion" for the period of three years for implementing activities described in the Partner2Connect Action Framework.
* **Saudia Arabia** – Announced a global initiative with ITU to connect humanity through sustainable, affordable and innovative solutions. The initiative is an extension of a joint study and work with ITU to aim to assess the current situation of global digital divide and to enhance innovative solutions, to ensure universal access to connectivity.
* **The Universal Safeguards for Digital Public infrastructure initiative,** including the 2030 Safeguards Action Hub, was also launched by UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology. It unifies and builds upon the work done in this critical area by the ecosystem of experts and institutions globally, leading into the Summit of the Future in 2024 and beyond.

**Innovative financial solutions**: The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other development institutions teamed up to announce innovative financial solutions and risk mitigation mechanisms at the country and regional level to finance digital infrastructure assets; including backbone, last mile, data centres, submarine cables and satellite. For example, Latin America and Caribbean region needs $108 billion to close digital infrastructure gap, according to Ilan Goldfajn, IDB President. To help target investments to where they are needed, IDB also presented ConectaLAC, a data analytics mapping tool of digital connectivity across the 26 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

* **High impact initiative on digital public infrastructure (DPI)** As part of the SDG Action Weekend led by the United Nations, countries, leaders, philanthropies and multilateral organizations pledged their support to build a safe and inclusive digital public infrastructure (DPI) for 100 countries by 2030. During the SDG Digital, the [high impact initiative session on DPI](https://www.itu.int/initiatives/sdgdigital/digital-public-infrastructure/) kicked off efforts to secure financing and technology for DPI design, development and implementation at scale.

DPI is a critical accelerator of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and was selected by the UN Secretary-General as one of 12 high impact initiatives with potential to get the SDGs back on track. The recently issued [G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration](https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/document/G20-New-Delhi-Leaders-Declaration.pdf) further echoes this vision, emphasizing the opportunity for entire communities to benefit from a growing array of life-changing digital solutions.

Key contributions and highlights:

* Brazil reiterated its commitment to inclusive DPI development and shared three of its examples: CadUnico, the unified registry that identifies low-income families; CAR, the rural environmental registry for regulating sustainable land use; and Gov.br, a digital ID that facilitates access to 5,000 digital services.
* Egypt discussed the need for exponential impact, while pledging to undertake green transition initiatives and create a better structure for DPI strategy aimed at transforming our relationship with the environment so that communities and economies can effectively address the global environmental crisis.
* Estonia announced 20 million euros for open-source, reusable artificial intelligence (AI) solutions and building blocks as digital public goods (DPGs).
* Finland highlighted its leadership of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation and pledged its commitment to supporting the advancement of DPI as an important enabler of people’s welfare.
* India announced its commitments to global financing and technical assistance support via the One Future Alliance, as outlined in the G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration that calls on countries to take collective action to support low- and middle-income countries.
* Malawi committed to be one of the first countries in Africa to achieve SDG target 16.9 (providing legal identity for all, including birth registration), thereby providing the foundation for building the country’s DPI.
* Sierra Leone announced its commitment as part of the upcoming [50-in-5 Campaign](https://50in5.net/), a global advocacy effort with the goal of bringing 50 countries together over the next five years to share learnings and best practices, as well as leverage built-for-purpose technologies - including DPGs - to develop their DPI capabilities.
* Spain announced a $300 million Green & Digital Fund for Technological and Knowledge Transfer for Latin America, to fund connectivity, digitalization of companies, digital skills and prepare for new and emerging technologies such as AI, prioritizing rights-based approaches.
* The Inter-American Development Bank’s President pledged to lead dialogue and actions among Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to combine their financial instruments to increase the mobilization of capital to finance public infrastructure gaps.
* Patrick J. McGovern Foundation committed $75 million through to 2023 and called on philanthropies to expand their toolkit to support frontline communities and civil society in order to lay the foundation for representation and diversity in AI and data models that can create transformative DPI for trust and service delivery.
* Nandan Nilekani, Chair and Founder of Infosys and Founding Chair of UIDAI, called for more actions on DPI for green transitions, highlighting five areas of action by COP30.
* Namibia is an early adopter of DPI for green transitions, implementing one of the five areas, i.e. the DPG-based carbon registry to strengthen access to carbon markets by COP28.
* United Cities & Local Governments constituency, representing 240,000 towns, cities, regions and metropolises, committed to working together with all stakeholders to accelerate DPI approaches and ensure that data and AI in DPI is safe for people.
* Launch of the Model Digital ID Framework: Developed with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Model Digital ID Governance Framework was built with 30 experts and more than 80 ID governance best practices made accessible for the first time through a Chatbot. The plan is to make it available across all countries.

The [SDG Digital Acceleration Agenda](https://www.sdg-digital.org/accelerationagenda) proposes a roadmap to help governments navigate critical challenges such as digital skills, governance and regulations, financing, infrastructure, and security. It offers [34 case studies](https://www.itu.int/hub/tag/sdg-digital/) that exemplify the power of digital technologies to drive progress across all 17 SDGs. These include acoustic monitoring to protect nature; deploying green technology solutions; giving residents a voice in city services; creating decent employment; supporting farmers; improving job quality; empowering women through digital knowledge; and connecting every school in the world to the Internet by 2030. The global case studies highlight the role of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, Internet of Things, decentralized ledger technology and 5G.

**The SDG Digital GameChanger Award** [honoured individuals and organizations](https://www.itu.int/hub/2023/09/sdg-digital-gamechangers-award-meet-the-winners/) in five categories for their outstanding digital solutions to accelerate progress on the SDGs:

* [Tech Herfrica](https://www.techherfrica.org/) (People category) enables wealth creation and breaking the cycle of poverty for women and girls in rural African communities;
* [MOSAIKS](https://cega.berkeley.edu/research/mosaiks-siml/) (Planet category) provides machine learning based on Earth-orbiting satellite imagery to support informed policies on climate and sustainability;
* [ekShop](https://a2i.gov.bd/ekshop-empowering-e-commerce-reducing-rural-urban-gaps/) (Prosperity category),an equitable e-commerce model, empowers small- and medium-sized businesses, refugees, and people facing digital disparities particularly ​in least-developed countries;
* [Mobility Mojo](https://www.mobilitymojo.com/) (Peace category) empowers organizations globally to create more accessible and inclusive physical environments for everyone;
* [Humans in the Loop](https://humansintheloop.org/) (Pioneer category) provides training data and human input for artificial intelligence (AI) and machine-learning operations while providing conflict-affected and displaced people with remote digital work.

Overall, governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, and young people, as well academia and the technical community submitted 450 solutions to the SDG Digital GameChanger Award.

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