Call to Action
ICTs as a Means of Implementation for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

The Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), representing many of the world's leading telecom operators, vendors and service providers of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, issue this Call to Action as part of the post-2015 development framework.

We call on all stakeholders to fully recognize the transformative role of ICT solutions in fostering sustainable development and addressing today's most urgent challenges, including climate change, and to recognize that ICTs are cross-cutting catalysts for all three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental development. We take note of existing research in this field[1]. Making ICT universally available can deliver important, cross-cutting synergies across different sectors. ICT does not just represent four targets in the proposed post-2015 development framework: as means of implementation, clean technologies and energy-efficient ICT solutions can deliver real and substantial carbon savings across many other sectors, including health, education, transport and power supply.

We urge all stakeholders to acknowledge the important contribution which broadband and ICT can make to delivering on the aspirational, transformational and universal targets of the post-2015 framework. We call on all stakeholders to engage in sustainable consumption and production and to forge a new global partnership advocating the important role of broadband and ICT to achieve the internationally agreed global development goals.

Private sector companies are engaged in important innovation in the ICT field to develop new solutions, and are contributing positively to the sustainability debate through technology transfer and the use of improved and cleaner technologies for new purposes. Governments and the public sector can play a vital role by making broadband a national priority and developing national broadband plans and strategies for implementation[2][3].

In particular, GeSI and ITU appeal to Rio+20 stakeholders to:
- Ensure that post-2015 framework acknowledges the vital role of emerging and transformative ICT solutions across different sectors.
- Leverage and upgrade existing and widely deployed ICT infrastructure, and to focus on making ICT infrastructure universally available.

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[1] Including, among others, GeSI's 2008 report, "SMART 2020: Enabling the Low-Carbon Economy in the Information Age", GeSI's 2012 report, "SMARTer 2020 - The Role of ICT in Driving a Sustainable Future and the ITU/Broadband Commission for Digital Development's report, "The Broadband Bridge: Linking ICT with Climate Action".

[2] According to ITU and Broadband Commission's latest research, 142 countries had National Broadband Plans by end 2014.

[3] Planning for Progress: Why National Broadband Plans Matter, 2013 http://www.broadbandcommission.org/publications/Pages/planning-for-progress.aspx

- Create an enabling policy framework that supports the deployment of innovative ICT solutions, for example, in the areas of e-health, smart technologies (for example, including smart grids), transport and mobility, food and agriculture.

GeSI and ITU express their commitment and willingness to work with stakeholders to realize the important contribution of transformative broadband and ICT solutions to achieving development goals.