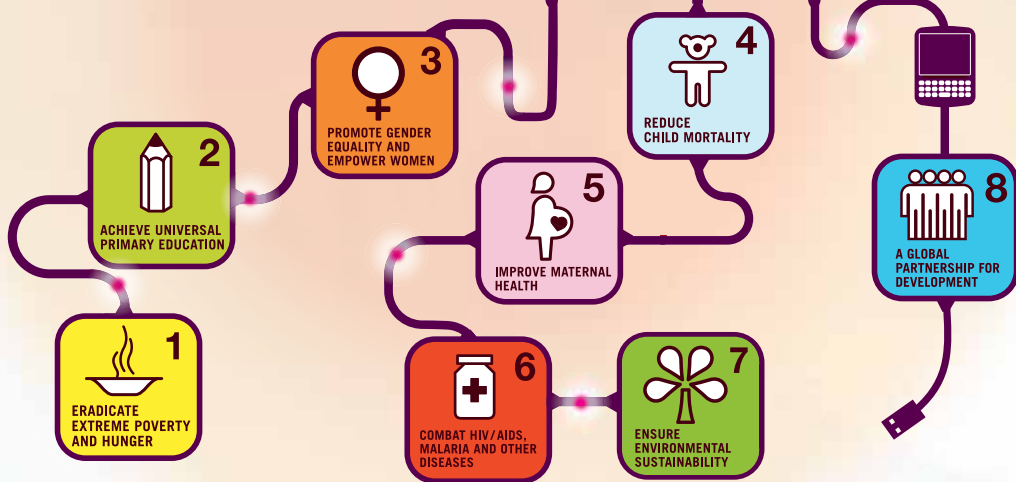


Build on Broadband



A Winning Formula for

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Side event at the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries

08h00-10h00 am, 10 May 2011

Istanbul, Turkey

Tophane Hall, ICC



UN LDC





Programme



OPENING REMARKS:

Mr. Charles M. Kitwanga, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, Tanzania

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary-General, ITU

MODERATOR:

Russell Southwood, Chief Executive, Balancing Act, United Kingdom

PANEL:

1. *ITU: Commitment to Create an Information Society in Least Developed Countries*

Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Sector, ITU

2. *Innovations to facilitate broadband uptake among LDCs*

Rajiv Mehrotra, Chairman. VNL, India

3. *Financing broadband deployment and usage*

Carlo Maria Rossotto, ICT Regional Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, World Bank, United States

4. *Broadband uses in health and gender empowerment in LDCs*

Veronique Thouvenot, Head, Millennium2015 "Women and eHealth" International Working Group, France

5. *Deploying broadband for sustainable development*

Karma Wangdi, Head, Infrastructure Division, Department of Information Technology & Telecom, Ministry of Information & Communications, Bhutan

6. *The potential of broadband technology to help meet the MDGs*

Tad Deriso, President & CEO, Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative, United States

Build on Broadband: Winning Formula for the Millennium Development Goals

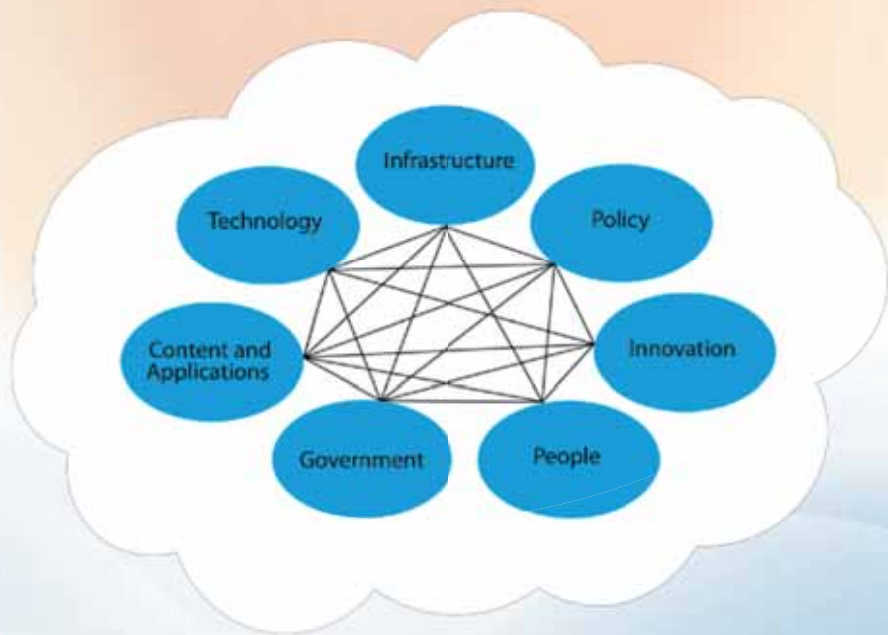
ICTs are increasingly influencing social, economic, cultural and political developments in this globalized world. The ITU side event seeks to explore the critical role that ICTs and broadband technologies in particular can play in helping least developed countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Information and communication technology (ICT) has been recognized as one of the key enablers of human development and poverty alleviation advocated by the MDGs both by being part of the MDGs themselves (MDG 8, Target 18) and for its role in strengthening MDGs monitoring and evaluation systems. Today, Goal 8 and Target 18 of the MDGs on ICTs are the most advanced. The ICT Sector continued to grow despite the global financial and economic meltdown of the past few years.

ICT can play a catalytic role in helping other sectors attain those MDGs associated with their mandates (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for development).

ITU launched a Connect the World Series to bring together countries and development partners. In 2007, ITU held in Kigali, Rwanda a Connect Africa event. Development partners pledged over 55 billion dollars in terms of investment into the ICT sector. Connect the Arab region will take place in November 2011. These events aim to make universal access to broadband a reality for all.

These technologies can reduce the vulnerabilities of countries to natural disasters through effective environmental monitoring, improve literacy through e-education, improve yields through weather monitoring, enhance social inclusion of people in rural areas and special groups such as people with disabilities, women and children, and improve health-care through e-health.

The promotion of decent work, social protection and gender equality policies play an essential role in reducing poverty and enhancing social inclusion. The ITU side-event brings together wealth of experience and expertise from hands-on panelists from Government, United Nations Agencies, Development Banks and Private Sector.



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