



ITU Backgrounders

CONNECT 2020: SETTING A GLOBAL AGENDA FOR THE ICT SECTOR

ITU Member States will be setting out an ambitious vision for the ICT sector for the year 2020.

During the upcoming 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14), ITU Member States will be setting out an ambitious vision for the information and communication technology (ICT) sector for the year 2020. Four key goals include measurable targets that are part of the draft 2016-2019 ITU Strategic Plan that was endorsed by the 2014 session of ITU Council. They represent the high-level impact and change in the ICT sector that we – as a Union - want to see in the world.

Dubbed **Connect 2020**, this vision highlights the role of ICTs as a key enabler for social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development. Discussed, drafted and proposed by ITU membership via an open and transparent process, it includes four key goals:

- **Growth** – enable and foster access to and increased use of ICTs,
- **Inclusiveness** – bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all,
- **Sustainability** – manage challenges resulting from ICT development,
- **Innovation and Partnership** – lead, improve and adapt to the changing technology environment.

Each goal reinforces the other; in **growing** ICT access, ITU Membership aim to foster growth in the use of ICTs and create a positive impact on short and long-term socio-economic development. By **including** everyone, the benefits of ICTs would be extended to all, bridging the digital divide between the developed and developing worlds and reaching marginal and vulnerable populations.

The ability to **sustain** the tremendous benefits delivered by ICTs is key, since growth also brings challenges and risks that need to be managed. By **innovating** and advancing **partnerships**, the evolving ICT ecosystem can ensure its adaptation to the rapidly changing technological and social environment.

The goals and targets grouped under the Connect 2020 framework have been elaborated through a process that lasted for more than a year and included wide participation of key stakeholders. ITU engaged active contribution from a broad range of entities that included vendors of telecommunication/ICT equipment, telecom operators, international, regional and national associations and organizations, civil society and private sector organizations, as well as public administrations and online consultations.



PLENIPOTENTIARY 2014

BUSAN KOREA



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Setting goals and targets under the Connect 2020 umbrella will be one of the major outcomes of PP-14. During the conference, activities will be organized around the four main Connect 2020 goals, focusing on how to address global challenges and seize opportunities, and the role of various stakeholders in achieving the targets. The result will be a common and shared vision for the ICT sector around the world.

Since Connect 2020 introduces the common and shared vision for the telecommunication/ICT sector, it is an invitation to all stakeholders – not only Member States, but also private sector, industry, academia and civil society – to work together towards the “Connect 2020” vision.

ITU Member States are being invited to focus their policy statements on how each country will contribute to the implementation of Connect 2020. Such statements may include national commitments, announcement of partnerships, as well as launch of new initiatives, among others.

Check the [PP-14 Newsroom](#) for the full programme of Connect 2020 activities.