Partner2Connect

Focus Areas Action Framework – Executive Summary

March 2022

#Partner2Connect
https://itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/
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Four Focus Areas where action is needed to meaningfully connect 2.9 bn people

ACCESS
Connecting people everywhere

Facilitate attainment of universal and affordable connectivity through resilient infrastructure deployments that ensure ubiquitous network coverage including "last mile" and hardest-to-connect uneconomical areas

ADOPTION
Empowering communities

Taking a people-centred approach by ensuring communities are digitally skilled and empowered to use digital technologies, content and e-government services safely, inclusively and equally

VALUE CREATION
Building digital ecosystems

Accelerate the digital transformation of societies through an inclusive whole-of-ecosystem approach that nurtures entrepreneurship, innovation, start-ups, SMEs, trade and job creation, through collaborative policy and regulation practices supported by data

ACCELERATE
Incentivizing investments

Structure innovative financing models and streams as well as adaptations to public policy and regulation to incentivize and facilitate public and private sector sustainable investment for financing meaningful access and affordable connectivity

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To realize digital inclusion, pledges across 12 pillars will be needed

ACCESS
Connecting people everywhere

Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Infrastructure)
Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Affordability)
Cybersecurity

ADOPTION
Empowering communities

Skills
Digital inclusion
Relevant / local content and services

VALUE CREATION
Building digital ecosystems

Digital innovation and entrepreneurship
Applications and services
Digital economy

ACCELERATE
Incentivizing investments

Innovative financing
Project viability
Investor constellation

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Focus Area 1 – ACCESS: Connecting people everywhere hinges on 3 pillars

Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Infrastructure)

To be able to connect the target population of 2.9 billion people, one of the most critical aspects is to deploy the network infrastructure so that each part of the population is covered and able to start using the Internet and associated services

Connectivity and digital infrastructure (Affordability)

In most of the developing nations (including LDCs[1], LLDCs[2] and SIDS[3]), one of the biggest barriers in the proliferation of Internet use is the factor of affordability

Cybersecurity

As people continue to be enabled with online access and services, the aspect of cybersecurity becomes increasingly important

1. LDCs = least developed countries 2. LLDCs = landlocked developing countries 3. SIDS = small islands developing states

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Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (1/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Connectivity and digital infrastructure: Infrastructure	Economic stimulus for deployment of ICT[1] network (terrestrial and space-based)	• Active and passive infrastructure-sharing • Business case • Faster and more economical deployment • Neutral passive infrastructure • Community collaborations and deployments
	Energy availability	• Reliable and sustainable energy • Micro-energy grids
	Spectrum availability and management	• Spectrum allocation
	Use of multiple technologies	• Choosing the most effective technological intervention
	Availability of adequate infrastructure to provide meaningful connectivity	• Policy, legal and regulatory measures

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (2/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Connectivity and digital infrastructure: Affordability	Broadband plans	• Broadband (mobile/fixed) plans
	Device costs	• Device ownership/financing • Taxation/duties
	Service reliability	• Network diversity
Cybersecurity	CIRT/CERT[1] deployments	• Cybersecurity capacity and expertise
	Cybersecurity capacity – tools and metrics, training and skills gap	• Cybersecurity strategy • ICT[2] network resilience and recovery following disasters

1. CIRT/CERT = computer incident response team/computer emergency response team   2. ICT = information and communication technology

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Focus Area 2 – ADOPTION: Empowering communities hinges on 3 pillars

Skills

A fundamental requirement for the remaining 2.9 billion people to be able to connect is having the capabilities to understand, use and configure digital technology for meaningful engagement

Digital inclusion

There are many ways in which discrimination and barriers to access more acutely affect particular groups of people, owing to e.g. structural inequalities and marginalization

Relevant / local content and services

Although there exists a myriad of digital products and services, not all of these are equally accessible, applicable or empowering to everyone. They may especially lack relevance for people living in LDCs[1], LLDCs[2] and SIDS[3]

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Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Skills	Low levels of literacy and digital skills	• Offering digital skills school curricula, training and programmes
	Limited access to training infrastructure and opportunities	• Providing digital centres with learning environments
Digital inclusion	Gender inequalities	• Implementing policies to enable equitable access
	Inaccessible digital technology for persons with disabilities and older people	• Universal inclusive design, AT[1] and policies
	Insufficient and ineffective child online protection	• Education and strategies
	Online antisocial behaviour and less online safety of vulnerable groups	• Regulations, reporting and education to safeguard online environments
	Lack of data	• Dedicated expertise, time and funds
Relevant / Local content and services	Limited relevant content and services	• Co-creating digital content for essential services • Opensource based tools, systems and content

1. AT = assistive technology

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Focus Area 3 – VALUE CREATION: Building digital ecosystems hinges on 3 pillars

Digital innovation and entrepreneurship

A key driver and added value of the digital ecosystem is the creation of new digital tools, services and business models

Applications and services

In many LDCs[1], LLDCs[2] and SIDS[3], the local communities are not enabled to introduce or contribute to activities that involve their needs and desires, and thus they cannot fully benefit from digital connectivity

Digital economy

Another positive aspect of digital ecosystems are the digital economies that people who are connected and empowered can gain from

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Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (1/2)

`Non-exhaustive`

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Digital innovation and entrepreneur-ship	Lack of innovation capacity – advanced digital skills	• Higher education curricula and workforce upskilling
	Insufficient clarity on digital strengths at country level	• Increased data and multilateralism • Sharing country-specific data
	Unaffordable access and adoption for MSMEs[1]	• Policy and effective partnerships
	Concentrated innovation and start-up ecosystems	• Committed multistakeholder collaboration/partnerships
Applications and services	Digital public infrastructure designed for profitable use	• Expansive, robust and secure digital public infrastructure
	Barriers to building and deploying digital services and applications	• Digital public goods • Smart sustainable hubs (smart villages and cities) • Co-creation with local communities
	Inconsistent data governance	• Data governance framework

1. MSMEs = micro, small and medium enterprises

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Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (2/2)

`Non-exhaustive`

	Key issues	Potential interventions
Digital economy	Cyberthreats, cyberattacks and cybercrimes	• National cybersecurity strategies • Capacity building of MSMEs
	Financial exclusion	• Digital financial inclusion
	Slow digitalization of businesses	• E-commerce enablers • Digitalization of B2B commerce and supply chains
	Unsustainable practices and impact of the digital economy	• Integration of sustainability in the digital economy

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Focus Area 4 – ACCELERATE: Incentivizing investments hinges on 3 pillars

Innovative financing

The financing ecosystem is evolving today which includes many different avenues for a country to leverage for financing

Project viability

For any project to be a success and be able to achieve the objectives, it is important that the project environment has strong stability and continuity. Any changes either in terms of laws, regulation or political environment will influence the viability of the project

Investor constellation

To achieve the goal of connecting 2.9 bn people, the investor community may have to focus on and help the target countries achieve sustainable changes. The traditional investment methods will have to relooked at and reassessed

Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (1/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions

Innovative financing	Complex and divergent finance model	• Use of different financing options:
		  • Public financing
		  • Blended finance
		  • Green and blue bonds

	Project-specific finance model	• Private financing • Supporting start-ups through CSR • Transit pricing • Financing and leasing to finance IT infrastructure
	Emerging technologies like blockchain and cryptocurrency	• Decentralized finance
Project viability	Attractiveness of business case/project preparation	• Project preparation

	Political and regulatory risks	• Risk management and mitigation:
		  • Optimization of regulatory levies and sector specific taxes
		  • Infrastructure regulation and contracts

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Pledges can be aligned with potential interventions to tackle key issues across pillars (2/2)

Non-exhaustive

	Key issues	Potential interventions

Project viability (continued)	Political and regulatory risks (continued)	• Risk management and mitigation (continued):
		     • General stability of laws and regulation
		     • International commitments
		     • Private sector interaction with public sector
		     • Demand volatility

	Capacity development	• Capacity building (country level, institutional and individual)
Investor constellation	Traditional funding sources	• Diversity and innovation in financing approaches • Effective use of the USAF
	Cybersecurity risks to investment	• Cybersecurity regulation • Data protection laws • Digital security risk management
	Governance influencing investment	• Independent regulators • Liberalization of the market to allow competition • Tools to improve transparency and accountability • Access to information and data

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Pledging for meaningful connectivity

P2C welcomes 4 pledge types of pledges …

Financial: an entity or groups of entities announcing a monetary contribution

Policy: legislative or regulatory reform or policy change is proposed or enacted

Advocacy: an entity or group of entities publicly supports, recommends, or promotes objectives of P2C

Programmatic: pledge regards the creation or expansion of existing programmes

… encourages these organizations to make a pledge

- Governments (incl. local governments and municipalities)
- Private sector (incl. philanthropic organizations)
- UN agencies and other international or regional organizations (incl. multilateral development banks)
- Civil society
- Academia and research associations
- Youth groups
- Media and entertainment organizations

… and suggests these attributes for a strong pledge

- Addresses key issues of four focus areas
- Helps drive transformational change towards universal connectivity
- Supports mobilization of resources across one or more focus areas 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

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Moving forward

Call organizations to contribute to achieving universal meaningful connectivity by pledging concrete action using our [pledging platform](#)

Announce pledges publicly and regularly, and spotlight pledge-makers in guest blogs

Play coordinating role to help track and monitor fulfilment of pledges made

Help coordinate implementation of pledges in partnership with pilot country government and together with key stakeholders

Discuss key issues in P2C Web Dialogues and pledges at WTDC:

Web Dialogue 2
P2C FA 2 - ADOPTION:
Empowering Communities
March 16, 14:00 – 15:30 CET
Virtual event

Web Dialogue 3
P2C FA 3 – VALUE CREATION:
Building digital ecosystems
April 20, 15:00 – 16:00 CET
Virtual event

Web Dialogue 4
P2C FA 4 – ACCELERATE:
Incentivizing Investments
May 11, 15:00 – 16:00 CET
Virtual event

P2C Digital Development Roundtable
7-9 June
Kigali, Rwanda

March, 2022   April, 2022   May, 2022   June, 2022   …

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Thank you!

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