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In today's rapidly changing telecom environment, it is generally recognized that telecommunications can make an important contribution in the future both to quantitative and qualitative growth. While telecommunications will not be the only factor affecting economic and social progress, adopting the right telecom policies and making the best of the available new technologies, products and services can make an important difference in the efforts of numerous countries to close the domestic and international income and development gap in the years to come.

The main challenges related to the task of closing the telecom gap include the definition and adoption of appropriate telecom regulations and strategies, dealing with the problem of the general storage of capital in the developing and transition economies, and finding the right balance between competition and providing the necessary level of universal service.

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