



Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (IAGDI-CRO) meeting

Industry and Private Sector: Contributing to the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition

Thursday, 24 February 2022

Morning session: 09h00-10h30 CET

Afternoon session: 15h00-16h30 CET

Meeting Room: [Virtual Room \(Zoom\)](#)

OUTCOME STATEMENT

1. In November 2020, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) launched the [Road to Addis Digital Development Series](#) to build momentum towards the [World Telecommunication Development Conference](#) (WTDC, 6-16 June, 2022). The Road to Addis Digital Development Series is aimed at launching discussions focusing on connectivity for all, collecting insights on how to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity, raising awareness on connectivity, and bringing forward solutions that support this call.

Building on the outcomes of the Road to Addis Digital Development Series, the ITU, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, launched the

[Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#)¹, which is a multistakeholder alliance to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in the hardest-to-connect communities, with a focus on, but not limited to, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition will serve as a leadership level platform to engage all stakeholders with the aim of mobilizing and announcing new resources, partnerships, and commitments towards universal and meaningful connectivity. Guided by the **principles** of Inclusion, Partnership and SDG-focused digital development, the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition focuses on **four main areas**: connecting people everywhere, empowering communities, building digital ecosystems, and incentivizing investments.

Each focus area will be supported by a working group that will meet to refine the governance, pledging mechanisms, and advance the preparations for the Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable, which will take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 7 to 9 June 2022.

The Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable will offer participants from member states, private sector (including philanthropic organizations), UN agencies and other international or regional organizations, civil society, academia, and youth groups an opportunity to engage in high level discussions around the challenges and opportunities related to digital development, make concrete commitments, and forge partnerships.

2. IAGDI-CRO Commitment to Partner2Connect Initiative:

- a) Industry and private sector entities have a unique opportunity to make a difference by making transformational commitments at the upcoming Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable as a tangible way to accelerate progress towards digital transformation.
- b) As members of the IAGDI-CRO come from industry and the private sector and play a critical role in deploying projects including those on connectivity and digital skills development, we will continue to provide concrete proposals, including guidance on partnership frameworks and success factors for ICT4D partnerships, that will contribute to the objectives and outcomes of Partner2Connect Digital Coalition.
- c) Individual IAGDI-CRO members have and will also make financial and programmatic pledges aimed at closing the digital divides and contribute to universal, affordable, resilient, and trustworthy connectivity
- d) Industry and Private Sector members are, considering that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, determined to bring to the forefront the most pressing issues hindering connectivity and digital inclusion and to propose innovative solutions to the challenges with a global call for action.
- e) Industry and Private Sector will advocate the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition through their networks at a global level and participate actively at the Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable of

¹ The Coalition, launched by the ITU on the 20th of September 2021, recognizes that progress can only be made through a multistakeholder and partnership-based approach and that the direct leadership of governments, policy makers, and the regulator community is essential to achieve meaningful and universal connectivity. The Coalition coordinates and partners with other relevant international platforms such as the [Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development](#) and the [United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#).

WTDC in 2022 and fully contribute to partnerships aimed at meaningful connectivity and digital inclusion.

- f) Industry and Private Sector call upon governments, policy makers and regulators to create an enabling environment to enable them to effectively contribute towards affordable and reliable connectivity as part of COVID-19 recovery strategies.