

Road to Addis: Partner2Connect meeting

20 September 2021. 8:30-11:30 a.m. EST/ 14:30-17:30 CEST

Moderated by: David Kirkpatrick. *Founder & Editor-in-Chief, Techonomy Media.*

SESSION 1

Road to Addis and Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Launch

8:30-10:00 EST/14:30-16:00 CEST

Welcome Remarks by:

- **Doreen Bogdan-Martin.** Director, ITU Development Bureau.
- **Brad Smith.** President, Microsoft.

Special Remarks by:

- **H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde.** President of Ethiopia (Video address)

Segment 1 - Road to Addis First Chapter Review

In November 2020, ITU launched the Road to Addis Series as an effort to build momentum, engage stakeholders and provide an inclusive platform to discuss some of the key themes that will be addressed at WTDC. ITU Identified [six enablers](#), which made the core thematic content of the [Road to Addis Series](#), and which will help accelerate connectivity for sustainable development. After almost a year of productive and engaging discussions, in this segment we will examine the key outcomes of the [Road to Addis Series](#), launch “**The Connectivity Road to Sustainable Development**” booklet, and introduce the second part of the Road to Addis Series.

Road to Addis Rapporteurs:

- **Gessienne Grey.** Young Leader, Generation Connect, ITU.
- **Dunola Oladapo.** Engagement Manager, ITU.
- **Emma Randal.** Young Leader, Generation Connect, ITU.
- **Ali Al-Toblani.** Young Leader, Generation Connect, ITU.
- **Janati Nakimera.** CEO and Co-Founder, Solar Net-Metering Uganda.
- **Ellen Taylor.** Youth Engagement, Generation Connect, ITU.

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Segment 2 - Launch of Connectivity in the least developed countries: Status report 2021 and P2C Overview

Today, almost half of the world's population remains unconnected. The digital divide, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a challenge particularly for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. What is the response of the global community to this challenge? How can multiple stakeholders work together to extend universal access to digital connectivity?

The first part of this segment will feature the *Connectivity in the least developed countries: Status report 2021*, a joint publication by ITU and UNOHRLLS, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In the second part, ITU's [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#) will be introduced as the multi-stakeholder alliance to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in hardest-to-connect communities, including those in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. This segment will explore how this leadership platform will help mobilize new resources, partnerships, and commitments to drive the implementation of meaningful connectivity and digital transformation projects across the four Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Focus Areas.

Launch of the Connectivity in the least developed countries: Status report 2021:

- **Courtenay Rattray**. High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- Data room with **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**. Director, ITU Development Bureau.

Remarks By:

- **H.E. Bob Loughman**. Prime Minister of Vanuatu.
- **H.E. Yankhoba Diattara**. Minister of Digital Economy and Telecommunications of Senegal.

Partner2Connect Focus Areas:

- **Nick Read**. CEO, Vodafone Group (*Connecting People Everywhere*).
- **Henrietta H. Fore**. Executive Director, UNICEF. Represented by **Charlotte Petri-Gornitzka**. Assistant Secretary-General and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships (*Empowering Communities*).
- **Achim Steiner**. Administrator, UNDP. Represented by **Usha Rao-Monari**. Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP (*Building Digital Ecosystems*).
- **Preeti Sinha**. Executive Secretary, UNCDF (*Incentivizing Investments*).

Interactive session with the audience: Q&A

Closing Remarks by:

- **Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**. Officer-in Charge, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, and Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA, United Nations.
- **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**. Director, ITU Development Bureau.

BREAK

10:00-10:15 EST/16:00-16:15 CEST

SESSION 2

Partner2Connect Focus Areas Discussions

10:15-11:30 EST/16:15-17:30 CEST

ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition is based on the principles of **Inclusion, Partnership** and **SDG-focused digital development**. It 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 will work to ensure that people everywhere, and in particular in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS can access and use digital connectivity to transform lives, communities, and society, covering four Focus Areas:

1. **Connecting People Everywhere**
2. **Empowering Communities**
3. **Building Digital Ecosystems**
4. **Incentivizing Investments**

This session will explore in detail the key objectives and commitments for each Focus Area and set up the foundations of the preparatory work that will follow for the Coalition on the journey towards WTDC.

Presentation by:

- **Maikel Wilms**. Partner and Director, Technology, Media & Telecommunications, BCG.

DISCUSSION LEADERS:

- **Hans Vetsberg**. Chairman and CEO, Verizon.
- **H.E. Hassel Bacchus**. Minister of Digital Transformation Trinidad and Tobago.
- **H.E. Micaela Sánchez Malcolm**. Secretary of Public Innovation of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers. Argentina.
- **H.E. Kanstantsin Shulhan**. Minister of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus.
- **H.E. Thulaganyo Segokgo**. Minister of Transport and Communications. Republic of Botswana. *(TBC)*
- **Joshua Setipa**. MD of UN technology Bank for LDCs.
- **Vint Cerf**. Vice-President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google.

ITU Generation Connect Visionary Board Members:

- **Ms. Mmabatho Motsamai**. Founder, The Afrolutionist.
- **Ms. Sinead Bovell**. Founder of WAYE.
- **Mr. Ted Chen**. Co-Founder and CEO Evercomm Singapore.
- **Mr. Shalin Jyotishi**. Writer New America.

Interactive session with the audience: Q&A

Closing Remarks by:

- **Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin**. Director, ITU Development Bureau.