RESOLUTION 200 (BUSAN, 2014)

Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology development

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recalling

a) the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;

b) the commitment by ITU and its Member States to achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

c) the targets set by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which served as global references for improving access to and use of telecommunications/information and communication technology (ICT) in promoting the objectives of the Geneva Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015;

d) § 98 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which encourages strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders and welcomes, in that respect, the ITU-led Connect the World initiative,

considering

a) the Union's dual responsibility as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs and executing agency for implementing related projects under the United Nations development system;

b) the United Nations system-wide preparations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and efforts towards achieving the MDGs,

noting

that the Busan Declaration on the future role of telecommunications/ICT in achieving sustainable development, adopted by the ministerial meeting held in Busan, Republic of Korea (2014), endorsed a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, under the agenda "Connect 2020",

recognizing

a) the principles of the UN Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in Resolution 55/2, acknowledging the benefits of new technologies, especially ICTs;

b) the WSIS outcome documents – the Geneva Plan of Action (2003) and the Tunis Agenda (2005);

c) the WSIS+10 Review Process, in particular the outcome documents of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event – the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015;

d) the outcomes of the Connect series summits (Connect Africa, Connect CIS, Connect Americas, Connect Arab States and Connect Asia-Pacific) under the Connect the World global multistakeholder initiative set up within the context of WSIS;

e) the Dubai Declaration adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14) and the Dubai Action Plan and relevant WTDC-14 resolutions, including Resolutions 30, 37, and 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), as well as Resolutions 135, 139, and 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference;

f) Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, which adopted the strategic framework for the Union for 2016-2019 and set the strategic goals, related targets and objectives,

recognizing further

a) that telecommunications/ICT is a key enabler to accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development;

b) the need to sustain current achievements and intensify efforts in promoting and financing ICTs for development;

c) the global challenges of the rapidly evolving telecommunication/ICT environment, as identified in Annex 1 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014),

resolves

1 to endorse a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, under the agenda "Connect 2020", envisaging "*an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone*";

2 to endorse the four high-level strategic goals detailed below and the respective targets detailed in annex to this resolution, inspiring and inviting all stakeholders and entities to work together to implement the Connect 2020 Agenda:

– Goal 1: Growth – Enable and foster access to and increased use of telecommunications/ICTs

– Goal 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all

– Goal 3: Sustainability – Manage challenges resulting from telecommunication/ICT development

– Goal 4: Innovation and partnership – Lead, improve and adapt to the changing telecommunication/ICT environment;

3 to call upon Member States to continue active engagement in ongoing discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, working with the United Nations Secretary-General, to ensure the important role of telecommunications/ICT as a key enabler for achieving the MDGs, the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs, and to help ensure the importance of telecommunications/ICT for the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda that integrates in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to monitor the progress towards achievement of the Connect 2020 Agenda, leveraging data, among others, from the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;

2 to disseminate information and share knowledge and best practices on national, regional and international initiatives contributing to the Connect 2020 Agenda;

3 to further facilitate implementation of the WSIS Action Lines assigned to the responsibility of ITU, in accordance with the Connect 2020 Agenda;

4 to present annual consolidated progress reports to the ITU Council;

5 to bring this resolution to the attention of all interested parties, including, in particular, UNGA, the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council, for cooperation in its implementation;

6 to continue to support Member States in their active engagement with regard to *resolves* 3 of this resolution,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to report on the progress towards achievement of the objectives and outcomes of the work of each Sector, as elaborated within the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019 in Annex 2 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014), that contributes to the Connect 2020 agenda,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to coordinate the collection, provision and dissemination of indicators and statistics that measure and provide comparative analysis for the progress towards achievement of the Global Telecommunication/ICT Targets, and report on the progress as part of the annual Measuring the Information Society report,

instructs the Council

1 to review the annual progress achieved towards the accomplishment of the Connect 2020 Agenda;

2 to present an assessment of the progress towards achieving the Connect 2020 Agenda to the next plenipotentiary conference,

invites the Member States

1 to participate actively in the implementation of the Connect 2020 Agenda, and contribute with national, regional and international initiatives;

2 to invite all other stakeholders to contribute and work together towards the Connect 2020 Agenda;

3 to provide data and statistics, as appropriate, to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Connect 2020 Agenda;

4 to report national progress towards the achievement of the Connect 2020 Agenda, and contribute to the database that will collect and disseminate information on national and regional initiatives contributing to the Connect 2020 Agenda;

5 to engage actively in discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in accordance with the process established by UNGA;

6 to ensure that ICTs are central to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, by being acknowledged as an important tool to achieve its overall SDGs;

7 to contribute to the work of ITU, as elaborated in the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019 in Annex 2 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014), that contributes to the Connect 2020 Agenda,

invites Sector Members, Associates and Academia

to take an active role towards implementing the Connect 2020 Agenda,

invites all stakeholders

to contribute with their initiatives and their experience, qualifications and expertise to the successful implementation of the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 200 (BUSAN, 2014)

Connect 2020: Global telecommunication/information and communication technology goals and targets

Goal 1: Growth – Enable and foster access to and increased use of telecommunications/ICTs

– **Target 1.1:** Worldwide, 55 per cent of households should have access to the Internet by 2020

– **Target 1.2:** Worldwide, 60 per cent of individuals should be using the Internet by 2020

– **Target 1.3**: Worldwide, telecommunications/ICTs should be 40 per cent more affordable by 2020

Goal 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all

– **Target 2.1.A:** In the developing world, 50 per cent of households should have access to the Internet by 2020

– **Target 2.1.B:** In the least developed countries (LDCs), 15 per cent of households should have access to the Internet by 2020

– **Target 2.2.A:** In the developing world, 50 per cent of individuals should be using the Internet by 2020

– **Target 2.2.B:** In the least developed countries (LDCs), 20 per cent of individuals should be using the Internet by 2020

– **Target 2.3.A:** The affordability gap between developed and developing countries[1] should be reduced by 40 per cent by 2020

– **Target 2.3.B:** Broadband services should cost no more than 5 per cent of average monthly income in developing countries by 2020

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[1] These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

– **Target 2.4:** Worldwide, 90 per cent of the rural population should be covered by broadband services by 2020

– **Target 2.5.A**: Gender equality among Internet users should be reached by 2020

– **Target 2.5.B:** Enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities should be established in all countries by 2020

Goal 3: Sustainability – Manage challenges resulting from telecommunication/ICT development

– **Target 3.1:** Cybersecurity readiness should be improved by 40 per cent by 2020

– **Target 3.2:** Volume of redundant e-waste to be reduced by 50 per cent by 2020

– **Target 3.3:** Greenhouse gas emissions generated by the telecommunication/ICT sector to be decreased per device by 30 per cent by 2020

Goal 4: Innovation and partnership – Lead, improve and adapt to the changing telecommunication/ICT environment

– **Target 4.1:** Telecommunication/ICT environment conducive to innovation

– **Target 4.2:** Effective partnerships of stakeholders in the telecommunication/ICT environment

On the road to implement the Connect 2020 Agenda

The Connect 2020 agenda sets out an ambitious vision for the telecommunication/ICT sector for year 2020, highlighting the role of ICTs as a key enabler for social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development.

Discussed and drafted by ITU membership via an open and transparent process, enabling the wide participation of key stakeholders, the proposed vision for "an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunication/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone", is further complemented by a set of four goals and related targets to be achieved by 2020:

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

During the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, held from 20 October to 7 November 2014, in Busan, Korea, and right before the beginning of a promising new period for the ICT sector, Member States unanimously endorsed the Connect 2020 agenda and stated their national commitments towards the fulfilment of the common vision, goals and targets, as outlined in some 107 policy statements delivered throughout the conference.

Goal 1: Growth – Enable and foster access to and increased use of telecommunication/ICTs

Information and Communication Technologies are nowadays an integral part of our society and a key enabler for socio-economic development in every country; it is thus important to increase access to and use of these technologies in order to make the benefits provided by ICTs available to as many people as possible. ITU and its Member States commit hence to bring additional 1.5 billion users online by 2020 with a particular focus on improved telecommunication infrastructures, capacity building and increased affordability of ICTs.

Increased access to and use of ICTs

The importance of increasing access to ICTs was broadly recognized and significantly stressed by ITU Member States during their official statements, where they highlighted how increased Internet, broadband and mobile penetration, as well as access to ICT equipment and smartphones is crucial for maximizing socio-economic development and improving the quality of life in every country. In order to increase access to ICTs, improved telecommunication infrastructure, such as fiber optic networks, has been highlighted as essential for enhancing international connectivity.

Specific focus has also been put on fostering the use of new technologies like 4G solutions, Next Generation Networks, IPv6, cloud based services, which can increase the number of people connected and also improve the quality of the services provided.

Moreover, ITU Member States committed not only to increase coverage and quality of the telecommunication infrastructure, but also to provide specific services to the population as a whole (e.g. e-government services), as well as to key institutions like health centers or schools and (e.g. through provision of laptops or free internet connection).

Improving access to ICTs would be pointless without increasing simultaneously IT literacy of the population; in this regard ITU Member States highlighted the importance of capacity building initiatives aimed at improving the e-skills of the population, implemented for example through school courses for coding, cloud computing and other e-skills essential for playing an active role in the new information society.

For increased access to be effectively beneficial, it is further necessary to make all these technologies and services affordable to the whole population. For this reason a large number of Member States stressed the importance of liberalization policies for the telecommunication sector aimed at increasing competition and subsequently reducing the cost of these services and technologies.

Last but not least, using the power of ICTS for protecting the environment and addressing climate change has gradually been taken on board by a growing number of countries. ITU Member States outlined their ongoing efforts in this direction, including the use of e-applications to reduce the amount of printed material. Especially in the case of countries with extreme natural phenomena, such as small island countries, ICTs continue to play a tremendous role in the prediction and mitigation of natural disasters.

Goal 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all

ITU and its membership are committed to ensuring that everyone, without exception, benefits from ICTs and maintain their vision for bridging the digital divide and enabling the provision of broadband for all. Bridging the digital divide focuses on global telecommunication/ICT inclusiveness, fostering access, ICT accessibility and affordability in all countries and regions for everyone, including vulnerable groups of the population, such as women, children, people with different income levels, Indigenous peoples, elderly persons, persons with disabilities and specific needs.

Increasing broadband coverage and access and promoting ICT inclusiveness

Member States outlined their visionary national broadband strategies and plans, which are indicative of the ongoing global efforts in achieving the long-standing goal of connecting all world regions and offering equal opportunities to everyone, independent of their income, geographical location, age or gender.

For the great majority of Member States, expanding broadband coverage to unserved areas is a high priority for 2020. Governments, especially in developing countries, reiterated their commitment in employing the necessary mechanisms for increasing affordability in rural and remote areas. Some of these mechanisms include the transition to fiber optic cables, and promotion of infrastructure sharing and reduction of fees for network roll-out in the respective areas. In this regard, Member States pointed out the importance of strengthening cooperation with the private sector in the years to follow, for ensuring the provision of low-cost services and devices in the developing world.

Furthermore, governments in developing countries will continue to promote a broader use of ICTs in the under-served communities, for example through the establishment of telecentres as well as wireless

broadband services. With the promotion of e-applications and m-services they further aim to create unique development opportunities, not only for individuals, but also for the overall government service network (i.e. e-governance, e-education, e-health, e-commerce, mobile money).

The importance of equal opportunities

While enhancing access to ICTs and their profound potential, Member states also recognize the importance of providing equal opportunities in the use of ICTs and empowering all citizens with the benefits of technology.

To achieve this, governments commit to strengthen their efforts in promoting and increasing digital literacy through targeted education and training programmes, especially among children, youth, and women, thus offering incentives for personal and professional development and enhancing social inclusion. Furthermore, persons with disabilities continue to be high on the agenda of Member States with an increasing number of initiatives being undertaken for making available the necessary tools for an effective use of ICTs by all population groups with specific needs.

Goal 3: Sustainability – Manage challenges resulting from telecommunication/ICT development

The increasing growth rate and extended use of ICTs creates the need for maintaining a stable and sustainable environment that can support the future developments in the area of ICTs and enhance their impact. In this regard, ITU and its Member States commit to minimizing the negative impact of undesired collaterals, such as cybersecurity threats, including potential harm to most vulnerable parts of the society, in particular children, and negative effects on the environment.

Increasing ICT resilience

In their public statements, ITU Member States reiterated once again the importance of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. Developing relevant national strategies and putting into force the necessary legal frameworks was broadly recognized as the key starting point for addressing cyber risks and was identified as one of the priorities and future commitments for the majority of Member States. For this purpose, setting up fruitful partnerships with expert entities and investing in capacity building and technical training was seen as essential for the development of the necessary expertise.

Furthermore, the operation of Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs), was broadly highlighted as essential in the overall national efforts for responding to cyber threats, with a number of countries presenting their plans for new CIRTs to be established and others sharing useful national experiences.

As the use of ICTs is adopted by a wider range of age groups, the protection of children online becomes crucial for ITU Member States. Defining the right legal and policy frameworks and empowering children toward a conscious and responsible online behaviour is of utmost priority.

Governments also referred to the linkage between cybersecurity and the issues of cybercrime, consumer and data protection, and online privacy. A need for an effective international cooperation, involving all stakeholders, was identified in this regard. Member States further reiterated the continuation of their work towards reversing problems caused by the excessive use of ICTs, such as e-waste and the depletion of natural resource.

Goal 4: Innovation and partnership – Lead, improve and adapt to the changing telecommunication/ICT environment

In the rapidly evolving environment, the goal set by ITU membership is to contribute to the development of an environment that is sufficiently conducive to innovation, where advances in new technologies and strategic partnerships become a key driver for the post-2015 development agenda. ITU membership recognizes the global need to adapt systems and practices continuously, since technological innovation is transforming the telecommunication/ICT environment, and recognizes the need to foster the engagement and cooperation with other entities and organizations in pursuing that goal.

Environment Conducive to Innovation

ITU Member States, cognizant of the role ICTs play in economic and social development of their countries, are determined to take the lead in modifying the national legislative and regulatory frameworks in order to encourage innovation in ICTs. Increasing competition, reinforcing freedom, and creating a fair and transparent market-oriented ecosystem were considered to be essential in creating a conducive environment for innovation.

Promoting the use of new technologies (e.g. e-applications, cloud computing), engaging youth and providing knowledge and incentives for research, creativity and entrepreneurship were seen as key elements for fulfilling the overall vision for the development and growth of the ICT sector.

Effective Partnerships

ITU Member States highlighted that through innovative multi-stakeholder engagements, expanded public–private partnerships, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation, their common goal of creating an interconnected world with improved and broader links among nations and people will be better achieved.

Member States aim at strengthening cooperation both at a national level, as well as at a regional and international level, with a special focus on neighboring countries that often share common interests and challenges.

Sharing experiences and best practices, especially with regard to enabling policies and regulatory frameworks, were seen as a key way forward, in order to embrace the opportunities of the digital era in a harmonized way. Furthermore, partnerships with the academia on key research and development initiatives will be further reinforced in the light of the 2020 goals.

Connect 2020 National Commitments

Afghanistan

"Our Government understands the importance of broadband Internet and it is our goal to make it available, at affordable price to all of our citizens. We plan to realize this goal mainly through expansion of our National optical fiber network, in the use of 3G/4G wireless technologies".

Algeria

"We have reserved an increasingly important space for the Information Society and for ICTs. One of the principal actions undertaken is the development of high speed and very high speed networks with a view to connecting in the period of two years all towns of more than 1,000 inhabitants for the north of the country, and more than 500 inhabitants in the south of the country".

Angola

"The Government of Angola is presently strongly committed to the implementation of a Nationwide Plan of Development (NDP), for the period of 2013-2017 and, for its fulfillment, ICTs are expected to play a major role, in stimulating and motivating the implementation of various national strategies".

Argentine Republic

"AR-SAT 1, the first Argentine satellite, will provide television services, Internet access, and data and IP telephony services. This is a very special accomplishment since this satellite was designed, manufactured and tested in our country, thanks to the work of national scientists".

Australia

"The Australian Government is determined to improve mobile telecommunications across the country in places where terrain or distance are particularly challenging. It has allocated $AUD 100 million for this purpose and will soon be seeking private sector proposals to deliver on its commitment".

Azerbaijan (Republic of)

"The Government of Azerbaijan has initiated a platform for improving the connectivity in Eurasia and ITU is one of the partners of the project. This platform has been supported by 3 resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and the last one was on establishing Eurasian Connectivity Alliance coordinated by the Government of Azerbaijan".

Bahamas

"We are committed to provide a specified basic level of electronic communications services to all populated areas at affordable prices, and free of charge to certain institutions of social and educational importance".

Bahrain (Kingdom of)

"We are fully committed in Bahrain to make every effort in order to support innovation, eliminate obstacles to competition, and improve the services offered to consumers".

Bangladesh (People's Republic of)

"The objectives of our ongoing development activities include, among others, achieving 35% broadband penetration and 70% internet penetration by 2018 through a quick rollout of 3G and LTE technology. At the same time Bangladesh has taken initiatives to launch its own satellite in the orbit by 2017".

Barbados

"Barbados and the entire Caribbean share the view that for developed and developing Countries, ICT is an important engine of economic growth and major contributor to sustainable development".

Bhutan (Kingdom of)

"We are confident that, by 2020, more than 90% of our rural population and 50% of all households will have access to affordable broadband connections".

Bolivia

"For Bolivia the challenge for year 2020 is that 100% of the towns with more than 50 inhabitants have access to telephony, to Internet, and community satellite television. We are on our way to achieving that goal".

Botswana

"To address the challenge of broadband access in rural areas, we have recently developed a National Broadband Strategy that we have started implementing. Through the Strategy we are beginning to see positive increase in broadband access and usage of ICT services".

Brazil (Federative Republic of)

"Convinced that ICTs are a crucial instrument for social and economic development the Brazilian Administration is committed to implementing consistent and ambitious public policies under the National Broadband Plan. The goals of the Plan include the expansion of the networks and the availability of affordable devices and broadband services. As you can see, growth of ICTs, digital inclusion, sustainability and innovation, as much as the new ITU Strategic goals, are also the building blocks of Brazil's goals and policies for ICTs in the middle to long-term".

Brunei Darussalam

"We are merging our telecommunications and broadcasting authorities, policies and frameworks to foster a more conducive business environment for growth in ICT and innovation. In May this year, Brunei Darussalam formulated a National Broadband Policy document which sets out the goals for the development of broadband and broadband-enabled services in the country over the next four years".

Bulgaria

"Digital inclusion is on the Bulgarian agenda and we will continue our efforts to ensure equitable access for all, regardless of territorial boundaries and cultural differences, corresponding to the modern needs of the digital society".

Burkina Faso

"The Government has established a number of infrastructure projects, for example, the fiber optic networks which are to link our rural areas. We have also modernized the public administration through a Government plan".

Burundi

"We gave priority to building the national fiber optic backbone for high speed connectivity. Now all the districts are connected and very soon all schools and health centers will be connected as well".

Cambodia

"The Cambodian ICT Master Plan 2020 and the National Master Plan of Science and Technology 2014-2020 were officially announced in August and in October respectively. Five priority projects have been identified in the Cambodian ICT Master plan such as e-Government framework developed since 2004, Cybersecurity, e-Education, e-Commerce and e-Tourism".

Cameroon (Republic of)

"Concerning the development of broadband infrastructure, Cameroon has already laid more than 6,000-kilometers of optic fiber, and we hope to lay a further 4,000 over the next four years".

Chile

"The Government of President Michelle Bachelet has set up a fiber optic project with a public investment of almost $100 million which will seek to promote connectivity in Chilean Patagonia, crossing islands, fjords and glaciers, to the extreme south, as far as the Strait of Magellan".

China (People's Republic of)

"We plan to set up a market oriented environment which is fair and transparent, in order to promote the sustainable development of ICT technologies and services and also to bring benefits to people's livelihood".

Colombia (Republic of)

"Following our Vive Digital Plan, the Government of Colombia continues taking the necessary steps in order to be able to integrate all of its citizens, thanks to the revolution of Internet and the digital revolution".

Congo (Dem. Rep.)

"In terms of promoting optic fiber networks and submarine cables under the Atlantic, 3,000 kilometers of the National backbone is already in operation. The overall project would extend to 4,000 kilometers to connect the far east of our country, and the mobile 3G is already available. The tests for 4G are under way".

Costa Rica

"We feel that it is particularly important to take into account the most vulnerable parts of the population such as youth, women, people with disabilities, and the rural areas, and we are developing tools to be able to proceed further so that ICTs can be an adequate instrument for creating capacity and integrating each one of our communities, including also indigenous communities".

Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of)

"We have a penetration of mobile telephony of 86%, which is more than 20 million subscribers, and by 2020, we hope the rates will be equivalent for Internet and also for high speed. In order to achieve this, we have undertaken a reform of ICT legislation and institutions, and started infrastructure projects for broadband accessibility, content production and capacity building".

Cuba

"We have been developing our telecommunication systems, developing fiber optics, and boosting Internet services and cellular telephony. We offer a number of free services and we continue to train professionals in ICTs, both in universities and in other fora".

Cyprus (Republic of)

"We have developed a comprehensive plan (for the period 2012-2020) for the development of information society in Cyprus, which was approved by the Council of Ministers of Cyprus in February 2012. Our digital strategy is in line with the ITU's Strategic goals and global ICT targets".

Djibouti (Republic of)

"We are committed to constantly developing our networks, and bringing them up to world class level. We are all aware of the stake and we have a vision, Djibouti 2035, which has been put in place by our President, and which would help widely disseminate information communication technologies and help our national and regional economy".

Dominican Republic

"We continue to promote our competitiveness and innovation, and to ensure growth which is inclusive and will reduce the digital divide. It is the responsibility vis-a-vis our population to give them access to broadband and we want to involve the entire ecosystem of the telecommunications sector".

Egypt (Arab Republic of)

"Egypt national strategy for ICT 2020 targets three strategic objectives: (1) Develop a national integrated digital platform to access knowledge and services using simple and affordable means for all citizens anywhere, anytime; (2) Support entrepreneurship and innovation to increase ICT contribution Egypt's GDP; (3) Capitalize on Egypt's strategic geography, and on it being a key pathway for submarine cables between East and West, to position it as a global digital hub for Internet services".

Ethiopia

"With regard to the goals and related targets to be achieved by 2020, in the upcoming 5 years Ethiopia aims to foster people's access to ICT. Mobile penetration will reach 100% from the current 30%. Similarly 50% of households' will have fast, broad and reliable internet connectivity".

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (The)

"With the ICT strategy that Macedonia had setup in 2007 we were able to revolutionize the ICT sector, and our Information Society in general. From computers for every pupil in the schools, Broadband connectivity to each school, free Broadband Wi-Fi in 680 rural areas, to fully liberalized telecommunication sector, to analog-digital overnight TV switch off and releasing the Digital Dividend in 2013 while issuing a 4G license for all mobile operators on 700Mhz spectrum".

France

"France shares the vision and the goals of the new strategic plan, in particular all the efforts to turn ITU into a multi-stakeholder organization… Governments and companies are more and more taking part in our work which is excellent".

Gabonese Republic

"We have made the digital economy one of the principal drivers of the development and growth of our country. We are part of the central African backbone, which will be about 4,000-kilometers… At the end of this project, Gabon will be able to offer to civil society and corporations the tools they needs in order to benefit from the huge potential of the digital economy".

Georgia

"In 2014 we approved the concept of access to the Broadband Internet for every citizen. According to the concept, an open access infrastructure must be developed all over the country, in the nearest future, which will connect all the populated areas to the 100GB/S backbone. During the process of creating of the mentioned infrastructure, the government will provide a positive environment for interested investors as much as possible".

Germany (Federal Republic of)

"The German Digital Agenda is central to our economic and innovation policy. We live in a world that is digitally pervaded and becoming even more interconnected. This development is having a direct impact on our everyday lives, on the way we interact with each other, on our interdependence, on our work, and on our participation in the society. These are all changes that offer major opportunities for Germany – for long-term prosperity and a good quality of life for the people in our country. The German Government seeks to actively promote and shape the transition into the digital era".

Ghana

"ICT/Telecommunication sector in Ghana is indeed undergoing significant transformation… it is the fastest growing sector, benefiting from increased investment, enhanced competition, improved regulatory oversight, determined policy application and above all, involving the participation of the citizenry and stakeholders in the policy implementation.".

Grenada

"We have built an Internet exchange point, which, although it is only now entering its fourth year of operation, is already producing 70 megabits of bandwidth, or more than 600 bits per capita. This puts Grenada on the path to Internet bandwidth self-sufficiency and protects the privacy of Grenadian citizen's traffic from foreign interception".

Hungary

"We are all proud that two important initiatives related to the sector have been launched recently: the National Infocommunications Strategy and the Digital Nation Development Programme. Both strategies are built on four pillars – fully aligned with ITU's strategic thinking. These elements will ensure that the ICT sector will be at the service of job creation, research and development, sustainable economic growth and social solidarity. After carefully identifying industry trends and horizontal development targets a series of objectives were defined perfectly matching the four complementary goals of Connect 2020".

India (Republic of)

"The new Government has launched an ambitious programme aimed at providing more than 100 million people with the technology of broadband highways. An ambitious project of laying the optical fiber to connect all the villages with the support of the Government funding has been initiated. This object is to ensure access to e-health, e-commerce, e-education, e-governance, e-entertainment through broadband highways".

Indonesia (Republic of)

"Indonesia continues to align its national ICT policies to ITU's vision and global ICT targets for 2020, in order to create an informative, prosperous society through several milestones in the ICT sector and hope that ICT advances may accelerate our technological competitiveness, and economic growth".

Iran

"Iran's geographical location is strategic in establishing East-West and South-North connections. I am happy to emphasize our commitment to encourage and facilitate establishment of partnerships for ultra-broadband corridors across Iran to facilitate and create such connections to complement existing facilities. I invite all interested parties to become partners in such projects".

Iraq (Republic of)

"We are trying to foster the transfer of information. We are trying to develop the Information Society, information which is transferred can allow knowledge to be transferred. So that information can be transmitted to society".

Israel (State of)

"Our fixed and wireless markets are about to make the transition from a facility-based competition to a wholesale market, where the "legacy operators" will share their networks with others. This way, new players can compete and succeed thanks to their service offerings. By removing the last barrier to a competitive market, consumers will enjoy its benefits".

Italy

"We are about to make our National Broadband Plan stronger by developing a National Strategy that will serve as a coordination tool for achieving the necessary synthesis between the implementation of the infrastructure and the service development".

Jamaica

"We are focused on achieving new paradigms in telecommunications and ICT's. As such we will be seeking to further modernize and transform the ICT framework in Jamaica through the implementation of new and proactive policies as well as the enactment of new laws which support our bourgeoning digital economy".

Japan

"Our mission is to use the "Global space" for the prosperity of humankind… We have faced global challenges such as global warming, large-scale natural disasters, infectious diseases and energy problems. Only ICT, which connects the wisdom of humankind, can solve those challenges in a cross-cutting manner.

Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of)

"A new Policy, to promote development of the ICT sector by improving its participation to the socioeconomic sectors of the economy, to improve our GDP and productivity, and to increase jobs… To provide ICT services, high quality services, at reasonable prices throughout the Kingdom of Jordan… We have to take into account the following considerations: Free, open and efficient competition… We have to ensure access to broadband, and we should also update our policies in the area to follow up on the ever changing landscape of the ICT Sector".

Kazakhstan (Republic of)

"The information-communication technology is a major factor of economic competitiveness and increasing quality of life in society. Kazakhstan fully comprehends this and supports it".

Kenya (Republic of)

"Government in partnership with the private sector players is now actively involved in developing innovative approaches in the delivery of public service. Some of the projects already initiated towards

achieving this objective include; the Presidential Digital Transformation project that has led to the creation of a Citizen portal dubbed Huduma Centre, that provides government services to all cadres of our citizens , the implementation of the National Digital Registry Services that creates a master database of all Kenyans to provide a platform for managing our demographics, and the Government Shared Services project that will enhance coordination and greater transparency in government.

Korea (Republic of)

"We strongly believe that benefits from ICT must be shared by all human beings, and we are working hard to make this possible. The Korean government will keep making its utmost effort to improve the ICT capabilities of developing countries through cooperation with ITU under the vision of connecting the world by 2020".

Kuwait (State of)

"The State of Kuwait has endeavored to build capacities throughout society, especially for young people, women, the elderly and persons with specific needs. We are building capacity of these persons and making them more autonomous; our vision is to combat digital illiteracy."

Kyrgyzstan (Republic of)

"Today we have the commercial exploitation of the fourth generation network. We are building optical fiber links and operating them over 5,000-kilometers of line. Over the next two years we will lay 7,000-kilometers".

Laos

"I would similarly like to reiterate the full support of my Government for the Korean initiative "Korea-ASEAN ICT Partnership Project" that covers infrastructure, new technology, the development of human resources, and sharing knowledge. This initiative has allowed us to have a fruitful cooperation in these areas, in particular between Laos and Korea throughout the last years".

Lebanon

"We are providing all resources possible to provide connectivity, and thanks to the help of the league of Arab States and others, we are providing our citizens with everything necessary for e-Governance, and we have a long-term vision on ICTs".

Lithuania (Republic of)

"Effective radio spectrum management and use is an important area for us, contributing to the goals of growth and inclusiveness of the Connect 2020 Strategy. By utilising our expert capacities, we intend to continue with constructive inputs to the work of ITU radiocommunications sector".

Malawi

"Malawi has embraced all aspects of the Connect 2020. The various efforts made by our country will facilitate bridging the digital divide in line with the Connect 2020 vision, goals and targets".

Malaysia

"We are determined to do our part to intensify efforts for ICT to play an even bigger role in the aviation industry. Malaysia stands steadfastly behind the ITU to facilitate an open, multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder and performance-based approach, towards the establishment of international standards, for the use of an aviation cloud, for real-time monitoring of flight data".

Mali

"We have developed a national strategy document for the development of the digital economy. It is the 2020 Digital Mali Plan. The vision in this plan is to make the digital economy a vector for social development and a source for productivity and added value for enterprises and public administration…

In addition to investments by the state and private operators in order to build over 6,000-kilometers of optical fiber which enables Mali to have broadband connection with four of its seven neighboring countries, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Core d'Ivoire, and Senegal, we have followed with technical and financial institutions the implementation of 3,000-kilometers of optical fiber in addition…".

Mauritania (Islamic Republic of)

"We are currently deploying optical fiber networks to connect all of the inland Provinces, and we hope that over 1600 kilometers of optical fiber cable will be connected through cooperation between our Government, The World Bank, and the European Investment Bank".

Mexico

"The principal axes for the development of our telecommunication regulation are as follows: Increasing access to free Internet, ensuring digital access in all areas of the country and access of persons with disabilities to the Internet, increasing free access in more than 250,000 locations based on the Connected Mexico programme, with more than 40,000 already functioning".

Mongolia

"We are currently developing our strategic policy objectives of ICT that span for the next 10 years. By defining and implementing these policy objectives, we aim, among others, to: realize the implementation of National Satellite Program, extend broadband services to all citizens and raise our global ICT competitiveness by building human capacity and nurturing talents".

Mozambique

"Mozambique, beside the implementation of the digital migration process, is committed to expand communications in remote areas and the provision of Universal Service Access. This is a priority in our national Agenda".

Myanmar (Union of)

"A new telecommunication law enables market competition in the Telecom Sector which was limited only to state owned enterprises. Today two new operators have already launched their commercial services. Therefore, I am proud to announce that the days of monopoly are effectively over in Myanmar Telecoms Sector. Our citizens now have the ability to choose operators and services based on the quality of services and affordability".

Namibia

"The Namibian Government has prioritized universal access and service with respect to a wide range of electronic communications networks and services. To this end, the closing of the digital divide between the rural and urban areas will be accelerated".

Nepal (Federal Democratic Republic of)

"We need to make special efforts to increase the internet penetration particularly broadband penetration. It is expected that the implementation of the proposed National Broadband Policy, plan and National

broadband networks will help expedite the increase in the broadband penetration and subsequent adoption of e-applications and services in all the sectors of socio-economic development of the country in a sustainable manner".

Niger (Republic of the)

"In order to bridge the digital divide and bring broadband to all, our Government is building national fiber optic backbone of over 5,000 kilometers in accordance with our land management policy to ensure digital inclusion and achieve cross-border broadband connectivity".

Nigeria (Federal Republic of)

"Nigeria is using ICTs to build a more inclusive society. Our broadband initiatives which have been implemented across technologies and at various levels of governance are cognizant of the needs of women and girls as well as the marginalized segments of society…

Our policy focus in Nigeria is in step with the reality of the mobile internet revolution in the country: We are looking to create a viable environment for the proliferation of lower priced devices, increased investment in network infrastructure and increased availability of spectrum for mobile broadband".

Pakistan (Islamic Republic of)

"We appreciate that 'Innovation' is directly linked with the quality and skills of HR. The Telecom industry funded 'Research and Development Fund' of the Government is setting up scaled up program to nurture innovative ideas and to incubate entrepreneurial attitude and viable business around these ideas. The R&D Fund is encouraging the ICT industry to bring out proposals that facilitate e-agriculture, e-health, e-learning, e-security, e-connectivity and e-commerce…

The 60% population of Pakistan composed of young people under age 25 is at the heart of all ICT related policy activities that we are undertaking, be it awarding free laptops and tablets to hundreds of thousands of bright young students, subsidizing top class IT education for enterprising students of disadvantaged areas or supporting of innovation and entrepreneurship for young Pakistanis through startup incubation or seed funding".

Palestine

"We are very aware of the importance of ICTs and we adopted a number of legislative and regulatory frameworks in cooperation and partnership with private sector, Civil Society organizations, academic institutions; with all of these we have set up a national plan to meet the needs of our people".

Papua New Guinea

"A rural communications program is currently being implemented as part of the universal access program of our Government aimed at bringing ICT services to underserved communities of PNG. In late 2013, another key ICT policy, the National Broadband Policy, was adopted. The policy recognizes the role of broadband accelerating economic and social development objectives".

Paraguay (Republic of)

"The full participation of the private sector of our country has been essential for development. We need infrastructure for telecommunications that should be larger, comprehensive, and we have therefore been carrying out public private partnership, PPPs, in order to achieve it".

Peru

"We are designing regional optical fiber networks, which will link to the national network, and which will allow us to provide broadband in 21 regions, connecting many districts and several thousand localities reaching 4 million inhabitants, and we will build many more kilometers before 2027".

Philippines

"Philippines was one of the first to liberalize its telecommunication industry that is now rapidly deploying 4th generation mobile technology and laying new optical fiber both domestic and to our neighbors, with spending for e-Government increased fourfold in recent years and a national Free Wi-Fi project to start next year in the poorest half of our country's towns, with Cybercrime Prevention and Data Privacy legislation enacted, and with an ICT-enabled services industry recognized as one of those top tier in the world".

Poland (Republic of)

"More than 10 million households enjoy broadband access and by 2020, this number will have doubled. In addition, more than 56 million mobile cards are active, with penetration at the level of over 148%, making mobile broadband through 3G or 4G technologies accessible and affordable to all".

Qatar (State of)

"We will certainly have to work on the ambitious goals derived from connecting the world in 2020, and we're counting our strategies and partnerships in order to achieve these objectives. In 2016, we believe that 95% of families in Qatar will be able to have access to broadband and high speed services, with a speed of 100 megabits".

Romania

"The government of Romania is dedicated to deploy broadband internet and massively invests to this end".

Russian Federation

"In February 2014, Russia signed amendments to the Russian Federal Law on Communications, guaranteeing provision of fiber-optic communication bands in all Russian regions with the population of at least 250 people. It is the largest fiber-optic project in the world, with the total length of communications bands of more than 200 thousand kilometers. We plan to complete this project in 3-5 years, and it will provide 97% of Russian citizens with access to the high-speed Internet".

Rwanda (Republic of)

"The Smart Africa Manifesto puts ICT at the center of national socio-economic development agenda. African leaders rightfully acknowledged ICT's transformative power to increase productivity of other sectors like agriculture, education, healthcare, government effectiveness and transparency, business and other key sectors".

Saint Lucia

"Saint Lucia, instinctively promotes the collaboration with all other countries in the Caribbean in the fulfillment of our visions of ensuring the ICT is the new engine of growth… The Caribbean Infrastructure Broadband Project (CARCIP) will extend broadband infrastructure for e-government, e-commerce and e-governance, as well as modernizing the regulatory frameworks for open access. Broadband has moved beyond being the buzz, it is now action".

Samoa

"In the area of climate change and disaster risk reduction, Samoa recently launched its national siren network to alert its citizens on tsunamis and major disasters like cyclones and earthquakes… Broadband connectivity and cyber security are two of the areas the Government of Samoa treats as high priorities… For improving international connectivity, Samoa is doing final negotiations for a new submarine cable connection, for implementation within the next 18 months".

Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of)

"The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has emphasized the opening of Internet services to all citizens in our country, and also those in remote regions to ensure that they can develop. We have not limited ourselves to opening up markets to competition, but we have also financed large-scale projects in order to ensure high quality voice and Internet services at affordable prices".

Senegal (Republic of)

"I will call upon the international community and members of the ITU to continue to combat the digital divide, and show greater solidarity with the developing world, which places a great deal of confidence in ICTs for their own development".

Singapore (Republic of)

"A key critical component of Singapore's Smart Nation Vision is our Smart Nation Platform. The Smart Nation Platform is a nationwide network providing pervasive connectivity across Singapore for a host of sensors and devices. This will revolve around three key concepts: ICT infrastructures to "Connect", sensor network to "Collect" & analyses to "Comprehend". The first phase will be available by 2015".

Somalia (Federal Republic of)

"Our current focus is on infrastructure, connectivity and content. Fiber optics has landed, 3G and access to the internet is showing a steep upward trend and online content has increased. It is our goal to build the necessary infrastructure to deliver Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) and Giga Internet before the next ITU plenipotentiary".

South Africa (Republic of)

"In 2013 South Africa adopted SA Connect, South Africa's broadband policy. SA Connect gives clear direction on how we aim to reach our target of 100% broadband access by 2020. Our priority is to modernize and increase the affordability of ICT infrastructure and electronic communications services and implement programmes of digital and financial inclusion".

South Sudan

"We are collaborating with our neighbors in Eastern Africa and other African countries in what we call "the Northern Corridor" and "Transform Africa" programs, respectively, to construct our broadband infrastructure. We believe these strategic steps will ensure affordable access by our large rural population in order to improve their livelihood".

Spain

"The next quadrennium aims for measures to facilitate broadband for all. The digitization of Spain has allowed for universal broadband access in our country and our administration would like to cooperate actively with the Development Sector in order to share our experience on a global level".

Sri Lanka

"Under the Government strategy "unstoppable Sri Lanka 2020" we hope to achieve broadband for all. We have also engaged in a very aggressive IPv6 network readiness plan for all network providers. We have adopted a Next Generation Network regulatory and policy framework which is currently being implemented".

Sudan (Republic of the)

"Communications and information play vital roles in all economic and development programs and contribute in reducing poverty. We have included the infrastructure of ICTs in the developmental strategies in order to ensure the ICTs reach all remote and rural areas".

Suriname

"The digitalization of the Government administration: a national datacenter is being constructed. This datacenter will facilitate the interaction between government entities and the citizen. Crucial is therefore the modernization of the Government administration which must result in more transparency, efficiency of the services and ultimately in minimizing the gap between the consumer and the government…

The ministry of Education together with other national entities created in more than half of the schools at secondary level computer labs, where next to donating devices, free internet was provided to the schools. This will lead to more than 29.000 students having access to modern and high speed Internet and ICT services".

Swaziland

"The country has set itself a task of drafting its broadband strategy. This will encompass expanding the reach of the country's communications backbone to include rural areas".

Switzerland

"Switzerland upholds the principle that women who work can play a key role in a competitive ICT Sector. Growing demand in the world for ICT skills is a unique occasion to be able to position women no matter their age in the industry, and to provide them with the necessary tools for them to succeed".

Tanzania (United Republic of)

"Tanzania has established a Universal Communications Access Fund (UCAF) since 2007. To date the Fund has managed to connect 316 villages with population of 730,000. Extension of telecommunication coverage to 1,268 rural villages with total population of 1,949,200 is under implementation so as to provide rural communities with access to mobile phones and internet by the end of 2014".

Thailand

"Connect 2020 goals and targets are perfectly aligned with the new policy of the Thai Government to formulate strategies on digital economy. The major objectives of digitizing the economy aim at extending opportunities for our people, businesses and social services through information technology. To achieve this, the Thai government plans to increase investment in both physical infrastructure, such as the expansion of the national broadband network, and the readiness of related laws and eco-system".

Tunisia

"In implementing our national strategy, we have to develop a range of programs to allow Tunisia to add value to the digital sector, which will be $600 million per year, an increase in digital services which is to be multiplied by four, to reach $3 billion per year, as well as the creation of 80,000 jobs by 2018".

Turkey

"Turkey is focused on achieving a major set of goals within her Strategic Vision 2023. These goals include expanding the economy to rank among the global top ten; transformation to knowledge-based society; building an intercontinental hub for ICTs; providing an ICT-based economic growth, enhancing high speed broadband access for all".

Uganda (Republic of)

"The Strategic Plans of our long-term national development goals are set out in our Vision 2040, which assumes the existence of a vibrant knowledge economy, enabled by the widespread use of ICT and broadband in particular".

Ukraine

"The outcomes of this Conference will obviously have far-reaching implications for the international community in the coming years. In the course of our work we will try to implement new strategic solutions in the context of the ITU Strategic Plan Connect 2020".

United Arab Emirates

"Our Government has adopted a Telecoms strategy for the period until 2021. Speed, infrastructure, teaching, and creativity are the pillars of that strategy, and each of these elements is linked to a number of initiatives".

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

"The Union's Strategic goals should focus on enabling and fostering the growth and sustained development of telecommunication networks, application and services, including through innovation, development and fair competition, through projects on the ground to support enhanced connectivity and access, and in sharing best practice in policy and regulation to support this essential telecommunication infrastructure, as well as promoting the use of telecommunication technical/ standards information where needed".

United States of America

"We believe in the ITU. We believe it plays a vital and important role in enabling Member States to build bridges between nations. And we are committed to ensuring that the work we do contributes to the advancement of all our people…

We should continue to move toward the full engagement and inclusion of all non-governmental stakeholders in all of the activities and work of the ITU over the next four years. We have nothing to fear from doing so, and much to gain".

Vanuatu

"In support of our Universal Access initiatives, we have identified 3 market development programs to: connect all 514 schools to broadband internet, distribute tablets to 80,000 students and install internet cafes in unserved areas to increase access hence achieving our 98% target".

Viet Nam (Socialist Republic of)

"Viet Nam Government has set up a National Broadband Strategy to ensure universal, sustainable and affordable access to broadband services for all Vietnamese"

Zambia (Republic of)

"Zambia will accelerate programmes aimed at fostering access and increased use of telecommunications/ICTs through the construction of more than 400 GSM communication towers in targeted rural chiefdoms to ensure 100% coverage in un-served areas…

Zambia is committed to supporting the establishment of ICT incubation programmes in the private sector in order to promote innovative and progressive start-ups with promising technologies, products and/or services targeting mainstream business sectors on each market".

Zimbabwe (Republic of)

"The Zimbabwean Government is using low cost satellite solutions for the provision of broadband services in previously excluded, rural and remote areas of the country. In order to ensure that these technologies are affordable for disadvantaged people, we have on-going e-programs on education, health, government and services".