

“Para. 77. In order to ensure that every person has safe and affordable access to the Internet by 2030, including meaningful¹ use of digitally enabled services, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations will ...” Report of the Secretary General (A/74/821) on Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

(Ver. 29 March 2021, Continually updated)

Key Actions	Operational Definition	Outputs / Deliverables / Activities	Success criteria	Existing Work to Leverage	Key Orgs (WG Members)	Next steps	Deadline
<p>Key Action 1</p> <p>Establish a baseline of digital connectivity that individuals need to access the online space, as well as a definition of “affordability”, including universal targets and metrics</p>	<p>Define key data inputs and metrics to evaluate the expansion of digital connectivity (i.e. including financial and social costs and returns). Digital inclusion baselines should also be included to support the WG on Digital Inclusion. Develop a database and open-source platform for mapping key data inputs.</p>	<p>1.1 Establish a baseline set of data inputs and metrics needed to evaluate the cost and return (e.g. a user’s need, access level, megabytes per day) of meaningful digital connectivity</p> <p>1.2 Provide connectivity targets and metrics, which address risk factors and vulnerable and marginalized groups, to form the basis of cost and investment estimates focusing on tailored country plans.</p> <p>1.3 Develop comprehensive connectivity plans, based on data and local and regional participation and assessments of connectivity needs, focusing on improving the conditions for investment for digital mobile and fixed infrastructure deployment, and maximising the opportunity to fairly share and reuse existing assets. (In line with Key Action 4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globally accepted baseline/ definition of ‘affordable & meaningful’ digital connectivity: aimed to be presented at CEB, UNGA, WTDC, WSIS, WTIS, IGF, GSMA MWC, WEF Davos etc. Include affordability and digital connectivity metrics to national ICT and digital development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadband Commission 2025 Targets and flagship reports and research including WG like: Digital Infrastructure Moonshot for Africa Broadband Commission Manifesto for Universal Connectivity 2020 ITU Connect 2030 Strategy ITU Statistics Thematic Priority / the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development ITU Connecting Humanity 2030 / input to DEFT of G20 A4AI’s Meaningful Connectivity targets EU’s DESI index Smart Africa Smart broadband 2025 	<p>ITU, GSMA, and others TBC</p> <p>WG Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EC (DG CNECT) - Vodafone - Microsoft - Viasat - GSMA - ISOC - A4AI - WEF - UNDP - UNCDF - ESOA - (Members of RT on Digital Inclusion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITU to chair this Action item (other chairs welcome) to establish the baseline, targets and metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITU WTIS meeting 1-3 Dec. 2020 (initial set of data) 1Q 2021- the concept and framework of the baseline to be completed.

¹ *Proposal for a ‘meaningful connectivity’ framing from the State of Broadband report 2019: The concept of ‘meaningful universal connectivity’ has emerged as the focus of efforts to promote the benefits of online participation while mitigating the potential downsides of digital connectivity. It encompasses broadband adoption that is not just available, accessible, relevant and affordable, but that is also safe, trusted, empowering users and leading to positive impact.



<p>Key Action 2 Convene a global group of investors and financing and community experts to consider the development of a financing platform and find other new models for investment in connectivity, including hard-to-reach and rural areas</p>	<p>Identify a group of experts across public and private financing to advise on the development of an investment framework, process, and model for expanding digital connectivity</p>	<p>2.1 Convene a global group of investors and financing experts, including public and private/industry players, to discuss accelerating investment for universal connectivity and to examine existing market-led models</p> <p>2.2 Set up a platform (connectivity investment initiative) to provide a flexible, transparent, [ISOC] incremental and fast financing solution</p> <p>2.3 Develop financing models for measuring the impact of investments targeting connectivity</p> <p>2.4 Connect investors to high-potential connectivity projects and initiatives, especially supporting connectivity in hard-to-reach and rural areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of platform • Meet initial target amount \$ pledged • Attendance of investors & accelerators • No. of investment opportunities • Success stories & measuring Impact of investment • focus on and transparency in financing for digital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband Commission Working Group on 21st Century Financing Models (ongoing work in 2020 and expected outcomes in 2021) • Broadband Commission’s Working Group reports, incl. School Connectivity, Broadband for All, [WB] Broadband Commission’s Digital Infrastructure Moonshot for Africa • Giga Finance Pillar, including work to develop investment packages for connectivity and innovative financial instruments to fund country projects • Complementary access solutions (i.e. Community Networks) • Private corporations making \$1 billion + investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unicef, ITU, USG office + BB Commission <p>WG Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vodafone - Microsoft - ISOC - A4AI - UNCDF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITU, UNICEF and USG office will convene the meeting for the investors (to align the discussions between Giga, UN system, and BB Com WG on Financing Models) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1Q 2021- the concept for convening the investors to be completed
<p>Key Action 3 Promote new and potentially transformative models to accelerate connectivity, such as the Giga initiative of ITU and UNICEF</p>	<p>Develop methods for evaluating technology options and implementing sustainable operating models for the maintenance of technology. Introduce innovative methods for measuring the impact of connectivity post-implementation.</p>	<p>3.1 Introduce new and potentially transformative models and technology to accelerate connectivity</p> <p>3.2 Promote more use of emerging technologies to provide, monitor and finance internet connectivity</p> <p>3.3 Accelerate the GIGA initiative of ITU and UNICEF, to more nations and regions</p> <p>3.4 [WFP] Promotion and expansion of ETC’s “Services for Communities” activities (https://www.etcluster.org/services/etc-services-communities),</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giga (No. of schools connected in no. countries, Increased % of connectivity) • Success stories or solutions that fit country needs for connectivity • Keep-it-alive information platform • Integration of UNV program into Giga as a pilot for UN Digital Service Corps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giga • Connect2Recover • Complementary access solutions (i.e. Community Networks) • [Viasat] Telehealth initiatives, Precision agriculture initiatives • [Verizon] IFIs on financing for new models of rural network deployment in Africa • [Verizon] Use of OpenRAN technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncief, ITU, WB <p>WG Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vodafone - Microsoft - ISOC - A4AI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giga to continue to provide updates on initiative progress and invite interested WG members to get involved • All WG members to share examples of other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ongoing



		<p>which enable affected populations to get connected during onset emergencies and in protracted conflicts</p> <p>3.5 Conduct assessment to evaluate how the Giga model and lessons learned from it can be translated to other transformative sectors, e.g., healthcare, agriculture</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [WFP] Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) community hub and “Services for Communities” working group • [Vodafone] Upcoming 	<p>transformative models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG will capture examples of new technology solutions that will accelerate Universal Connectivity. 	
<p>Key Action 4 Promote the development of enabling regulatory environments for smaller-scale Internet providers, along with local and regional connectivity assessments</p>	<p>Develop a methodology for assessing regulatory environments for digital connectivity expansion, including affordability that minimize the costs of network deployments; promote widely acknowledged best practices; and identify key policy “levers” that can enable safe investments in expanding connectivity and foster competition and market-entry for smaller-scale Internet providers.</p>	<p>4.1. Identify regulatory and policy trends and measures (elements including taxation, market competition; infrastructure sharing spectrum licensing etc.) supporting conditions for investments in digital mobile and fixed network expansion including by smaller-scale Internet providers</p> <p>4.2. Support Member States policy makers (ICT Ministries and Regulators) by providing technical assistance and capacity building to design and implement flexible and agile regulatory measures for new smaller entrants and non-profit internet providers</p> <p>4.3. Support nations to develop enabling regulatory environments or frameworks, along with data-driven local and national connectivity assessments (I.e. underserved population characteristics)</p> <p>4.4. Measure the impact of regulation and regulatory policy with metrics defined in Key Action 1 supporting network expansion by large scale providers as well as complementary, smaller-scale non-profit internet providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify enabling regulatory environments implementation by policy makers • Promote success stories shared with the interested nations • No. of cases to support governments to develop regulatory environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITU/WB Digital Regulation Platform • ITU policy and regulation thematic priority research and reports, GSR Best Practice Guidelines, ICT Regulatory Metrics, REG4COVID, COVID • ITU Last Mile Connectivity Guide (upcoming) • Giga country implementations • BBCom’s State of Broadband Report/ Recommendations • ISOC, IGF Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion, APC • GSMA work on expanding coverage • [MS] Accelerating Digital Connectivity in the Wake of COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft • WB • All partners involved <p>WG Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microsoft - Vodafone - ISOC - ESOA - UNCDF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work of the ITU, BB Com and relevant stakeholders • ITU/WB/WEF/ GSMA discussion on regulatory frameworks in Dec. 2020 • Ongoing work and cooperation in 2021 • Develop briefing for UN Resident Coordinators by 1Q 2021



- 4.5. smaller-scale internet providers, and identify the success stories Promote the best practices, success stories and partnerships for sustainable competitive national network investment at scale with the interested governments/nations
- 4.6. Briefing materials /package with all work on the universal connectivity, digital inclusion and capacity building for the UN Regional Coordinators

Key Action 5

Accelerate discussions on connectivity as part of emergency preparedness, responses and aid, including working through the inter-agency Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Identify opportunities and partnerships to support countries with emergency preparedness and response, including critical government services and applications platforms. Define a process for mobilization across stakeholders.

- 5.1. Work with ETC to support countries to improve emergency preparedness and response process, by improving communication methods and minimizing preparedness disparities.
- 5.2. Share the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic responses (i.e. data, network resilience, cooperation)
- 5.3. Accelerate discussion on the benefits and urgency of connectivity (Internet accessibility and engagement) and emergency communication protocols (Resilient, affordable, and safe connectivity with non-emergency safety and security matters critical for global connectivity)

- Connect2Recover, ETC
- Collaboration with partners to define success criteria for this action
- Development of emergency preparation and response protocols
- No. of countries completing emergency preparedness and response training programs

- ITU work on National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs)
- ITU Connect2Recover
- Program on Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Responses (TAM, ISM, UN-SPIDER, PG Diploma in Satellite Telecommunication, Course in GNSS)
- UNHCR’s Connectivity for Refugees and Connected Education work
- ISOC work
- [WFP] ETC’s regular programme of work

- ITU
 - WFP
 - UNHCR
 - GSMA
- WG Members:**
- Vodafone
 - ESOA
 - UNCDF

- Call for leaders to chair this subgroup and develop the action plan (e.g. ITU, UNHCR, and WFP) – TBC

- December 2020: Secretariat to reach out to the leaders: WFP, UNHCR and ITU