

BROADBAND COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2025 Targets: “Connecting the Other Half”

Half the world’s population is expected to be connected to the Internet by the end of 2019 at the latest. This leaves the other half – an estimated 3.8 billion people – unconnected and unable to benefit from key social and economic resources in our expanding digital world.

In response, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development has set seven ambitious targets for 2025.

2025 TARGETS:



1. By 2025, all countries should have a funded National Broadband Plan or strategy or include broadband in their Universal Access and Service (UAS) Definition

This builds on the Commission’s existing target for national broadband plans, with an increased emphasis on implementation capacity through the specification that plans/strategies are funded.

Since the Commission set its initial target in 2011 for the establishment of national broadband plans, these measures have been undertaken by a majority of countries.



2. By 2025, entry-level broadband services should be made affordable in developing countries at less than 2% of monthly Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

This lowers the Commission’s existing affordability threshold target, from less than 5% to less than 2% of monthly gross national income per capita – enabling broadband services (fixed or mobile) to be affordable to a much greater number of people.

While affordability has improved significantly since the Commission set its initial target in 2011, costs remain high in many countries. This new target will particularly assist lower income groups in developing and least developed countries to gain connectivity.



3. By 2025, Broadband-Internet user penetration should reach:
 - a) 75% worldwide
 - b) 65% in developing countries
 - c) 35% in Least Developed Countries

These ambitious values set targets aimed at connecting everyone, everywhere – with a special focus on developing country and least developed country populations, which are the most vulnerable to being unconnected.

Combined with the gender equality goal of Target 7, the results will be 75% of women worldwide using the Internet, as well as 65% in developing countries, and 35% in least developed countries.



4. By 2025, 60% of youth and adults should have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills

People need digital skills to access, use and benefit from broadband / Internet resources; while an increase in people with digital skills is necessary to enable broadband / Internet user penetration to increase.

Additionally, digital skills are becoming increasingly critically important to accessing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.



5. By 2025, 40% of the world's population should be using digital financial services

Digital financial services present a tremendous opportunity to swiftly increase the number of people using broadband and the Internet, and realizing the social and economic benefits of these digital resources.

Currently, two billion adults are still without access to a bank account, and yet some 1.6 billion of them have access to a mobile phone, creating the potential for e-finance access – and with this access to economic empowerment.



6. By 2025, overcome unconnectedness of Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) by 50%, by sector

This target is particularly ambitious for MSMEs in those sectors that remain largely unconnected, and incentivizes well-connected sectors to close the final gap. As an example, a sector in which MSMEs are 80% unconnected, will have only 40% unconnected by 2025, and a sector in which MSMEs are 30% unconnected will have only 15% unconnected by 2025.

Currently, MSMEs have lower levels of connectivity than large enterprises in the same sectors. Making sure that MSMEs are connected improves their competitiveness in expanding digital economies where online business transactions are increasingly the norm.



7. By 2025, gender equality should be achieved across all targets

In all areas of broadband accessibility and use, women and girls are left behind. Gender equality must be realized in order to achieve all 2025 Targets – including Internet users, digital skills, digital financial services and MSMEs – and bring broadband and Internet connectivity to everyone, everywhere.

In 2013, the Broadband Commission drew attention to the importance of gender equality among Internet users, by introducing an additional target, so that the benefits of broadband Internet reach everyone. As a result, from 2013 onwards, important disaggregated data has been collected to inform effective decision-making by policy makers.

While the gender gap has decreased in many developed countries, it has expanded in many developing countries – creating a specific need to support digital gender equality in these countries.

The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development was launched in May 2010 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), comprising top industry leaders, government leaders, international agencies and development organizations. Commission members work together to devise strategies that advocate for higher priority to be given to the development of broadband infrastructure and services, to ensure that the benefits of these technologies are realized in all countries, by all people.

www.broadbandcommission.org/about



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