BROADBAND COMMISSION

Bringing the goal of universal connectivity to the forefront of global policy discussions

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> broadbandcommission.org
The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development is a high-level advocacy platform and public-private partnership fostering digital cooperation and developing actionable recommendations for achieving universal connectivity.
Established in 2010 by ITU, UNESCO, H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and Mr. Carlos Slim Helú of Mexico, our mission is to boost the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda and expand broadband access and use to every country.

Today, the Commission is composed of around 50 members who represent a cross-cutting group of top CEOs and industry leaders, senior policy-makers and government representatives, and experts from international agencies, academia and civil-society organizations concerned with development.

**OUR MISSION**

**OUR FOUR DEFINING PILLARS**

- **Connectivity**
  - Universal & resilient connectivity

- **Knowledge**
  - Equal access to digital services to inform, educate and enable knowledge societies

- **Access**
  - Affordable (services and devices), safe, secure and sustained access for all

- **Skills**
  - Continuous development of digital competencies and capacity building
OUR VISION

The Commission envisions a fully connected world that harnesses the power of broadband to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
Our Leadership

H.E. President Paul Kagame
President of Rwanda,
Co-Chair of the Commission

Mr. Carlos Slim Helú
Founder of the Carlos Slim
Foundation and Grupo Carso,
Co-Chair of the Commission

Mr. Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General, ITU,
Co-Vice Chair of the Commission

Ms. Audrey Azoulay
UNESCO Director-General,
Co-Vice Chair of the Commission

H.E. Ms. Paula Ingabire
Minister of ICT & Innovation, Rwanda,
Commission Focal Point

Dr. Carlos M. Jarque
Executive Director, International Relations,
Corporate and Government Affairs, America Movil, Commission Focal Point

Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director of ITU Development Bureau,
Executive Director of the Secretariat

Dr. Tawfik Jelassi
Assistant Director-General for
Communication and Information of
UNESCO, Commission Focal Point
The Commission brings together top global leaders and visionaries in ICT, representing all sectors and interests, to reach consensus on inclusive and sustainable recommendations for reaching universal broadband connectivity. Commissioners are invited to serve as members, attend collaborative meetings, contribute to Working Groups research, provide insight to policy recommendations and actively lead the creation of, and advocate for, the outcomes of the Commission.

Commissioners are praised for their passion and commitment to advancing innovative broadband solutions for development challenges, recognizing digital connectivity as a foundational element to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda.

Meet our Commissioners >

ICT Industry Leaders working together to close the digital divide
How we work

Through the engagement of the Commissioners and their teams, the Broadband Commission fully leverages the expertise and the intellectual capital of its collective membership. The Commission conducts all work under the following principles:

- **We abide by our core values** of social inclusion, safety and equality.
- **We are open**, inclusive and respectful in our engagement.
- **We commit to seeking practical and pragmatic ideas** and solutions to complicated and multi-faceted challenges.
- **We recognize that public-private collaboration is essential** to achieving desired outcomes.
- **We seek consensus** and advocate for our ideas and actionable recommendations clearly and concisely.
- **We develop implementation strategies** and track progress towards our targets.
Consensus is the foundation of the work of the Broadband Commission.

The Commission uses a consensual and unified approach as the mechanism to reach and endorse its collective decisions, including but not limited to the outcomes of the Working Groups, the advocacy position papers, and recommendations of the State of Broadband Report.

Key Reports and Thought Leadership contributions are submitted by Co-Chairs and Co-Vice Chairs to the UNGA, other UN Agencies and processes, G20, Head of States meetings, and the HLP on Digital Cooperation. As advocates, Commissioners promote these reports and contributions through their own channels using the promotional material prepared for dissemination.

The advocacy role of Commissioners is also to foster relationships with international organizations and global platforms such as WEF, OECD, International financial and development institutions and other world recognized foundations.

The Commission jointly organizes events with Commissioners and key partners such as WEF and UN HLPF.
Stakeholders engaged

This year, the Broadband Commission community engaged 50 Commissioners, including 7 new members, 150+ external experts of the Working Groups, and 15 strategic partners. In addition, we gained 600+ newsletter subscribers, 11,000+ combined followers on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook, and 26,000+ readers that have downloaded our reports this year.

Advocacy: Events

2 In-person meetings hosted by the Commission
- A Spring meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda
- A Fall meeting held in New York

The Commission also participated in
10 UN agency led events
6 Private sector conferences
- Commissioner participation in global strategic events

Thought Leadership: Publications

1 State of Broadband Report
4 Working Group & Interim Reports
3 Open Statements to UN processes and events
1 SDG4 research compilation

Working Groups: Completed & Active

3 Completed Working Groups on AI capacity building, smartphone access, and virtual health and care
2 Working Groups in progress on data for learning and connecting MSMEs
2 Action Taskforces on smartphone access in progress

2022 Funders

Mr. Carlos Slim Helú
Founder of the Carlos Slim Foundation and GRUPO CARSO, Co-Chair of the Commission

Mr. Hans Vestberg
CEO, Verizon Communications Inc.

Mr. Ziyang Xu
Executive Director and CEO, ZTE Corporation

Dr. Hyeonmo Ku
Chief Executive Officer, KT Corporation

Mr. Pekka Lundmark
President and CEO, Nokia

Dr. Hessa Al Jaber
Chairperson, Es’hailSat

Mr. Ziyang Xu
Executive Director and CEO, ZTE Corporation

Dr. Hessa Al Jaber
Chairperson, Es’hailSat
OUR MANIFESTO

Global Goal of Universal Connectivity

The Broadband Commission’s Manifesto calls on the global community to recognize digital connectivity as the foundational element of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Manifesto affirms the commitment of the Broadband Commission to mobilize efforts to achieve the ‘Global Goal of Universal Connectivity’ in support of the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and other connectivity initiatives.

This Broadband Commission’s Manifesto is a rallying cry, calling for collaboration in:

- Establishing a baseline for universal digital connectivity.
- Identifying and supporting public-private financing of universal broadband.
- Advocating for enabling ICT regulatory environments, capacity building & online safety.

Read the Manifesto >
The seven Advocacy Targets of the Broadband Commission reflect ambitious and aspirational goals and function as a policy and programmatic guide for national and international action in broadband development. Starting initially with four connectivity goals established in 2011, the Targets were expanded to five in 2013, with the addition of the gender equality goal, and eventually to seven in 2018.

How is progress tracked?

The Commission tracks progress on the Targets in its annual flagship State of Broadband Reports. Utilizing a variety of data sources, progress is estimated on these goals and multistakeholder policy recommendations are developed to suggest how to achieve them. The Commission’s Working Groups also address themes related to these targets to provide more in-depth analysis and detailed recommendations for all stakeholders. The Targets map directly onto the UN Secretary-General’s Digital Cooperation Roadmap areas of actions.
What does the Broadband Commission do?
The Commission in Action

Thought Leadership
With more than 35 groups to date, the Commission’s Working Groups convene stakeholders to address issues and develop policy recommendations relating to broadband access, affordability and use.

Learn more

Annual State of Broadband Report
Each year, the Broadband Commission assesses the global state of broadband in its flagship State of Broadband Report.

Learn more

Leadership Platform for Digital Transformation
Broadband Commissioners convene twice annually at its Fall and Spring Broadband Commission meetings and contribute to relevant events like the High Level Political Forum, TES, and the WEF.

Learn more

Advocacy Campaigns
Through educational social campaigns, the Commission continues to illustrate the importance of broadband in everyday life.

Learn more

Multistakeholder Policy Recommendations
For over a decade, the Broadband Commission has tasked its diverse membership to develop holistic policy recommendations.

Learn more

Fostering Public-Private Initiatives
The Commission’s Working Groups have incubated several impactful initiatives. Additionally, the Commission works with over 15 strategic partners.

Learn more

Leadership Platform for Digital Transformation

Learn more

Learn more

Learn more

Learn more

Learn more

Learn more
Working Groups are at the heart of the work being done at the Broadband Commission. With more than 30 groups to date, the Broadband Commission’s Working Groups convene industry leaders, government officials and civil society to address prominent issues affecting broadband access, affordability and use. These groups are proposed, chaired, funded and led by Commissioners, with the support of external experts.

View all Working Groups >

2022 Working Groups

- **Smartphone Access**
  - Co-chaired by Vodafone, ITU, and UN-OHRLLS

- **AI Capacity Building**
  - Co-chaired by Nokia and UNESCO

- **Virtual Health and Care**
  - Co-chaired by Novartis Foundation and WHO

- **Data for Learning**
  - Co-chaired by UNESCO

- **Connectivity for MSMEs**
  - Co-chaired by ITC and GSMA

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**FOCUS AREAS**

- Education & Online Safety
- Digital Health
- Digital Inclusion & Vulnerable Populations
- Finance & Business
- Climate, Science & Technology
STATE OF BROADBAND 2022
Accelerating Broadband for New Realities

The State of Broadband annual report is a unique, global snapshot of broadband network access, use, and affordability. It is written through a consensus-driven framework that draws on the insights of the Commission’s high-level, multistakeholder membership.

Download the report

Inside the 2022 Report:

1. The Broadband Landscape: The New Normal
   Overview of the latest trends in digital connectivity, including access, adoption and use.

2. Addressing the Post-Pandemic Missing Links
   Approaches for addressing digital supply and demand side, as highlighted by the pandemic.

3. Policy Recommendations
   Concrete steps and policy recommendations for enabling broadband adoption and accelerating digital inclusion.

4. Commissioner Insights
   Commissioners provide their unique perspectives on actions needed to reach universal connectivity.
Since 2010, the Commission has been on the leading edge, advocating for policies that can lead to universal and affordable broadband Internet access. The annual flagship State of Broadband reports have presented over 75 recommendations for stakeholders to take action.

Recommendations address the following critical areas:

Policy and ICT enabling environments
Recommendations for achieving Target 1: Make Broadband Policy Universal

Connectivity and digital infrastructure
Recommendations for achieving Target 3: Get Everyone Online

Equal access & digital inclusion
Recommendations for achieving Target 3, Target 6: Get MSMEs Online, Target 7: Bridge the Digital Gender Divide

ICT skills and use
Recommendations for achieving Target 4: Promote Digital Skills Development

Investment and financing
Recommendations for achieving Target 2: Make Broadband Affordable and Target 5: Increase Use of E-Finance
Annual Meetings

Commissioners convene twice annually, in the Spring and in the Fall, to review next steps for meaningful universal connectivity. Spring meetings are hosted around the world at the generous invitation of Commissioners, while Fall meetings are held in New York City on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

View all events >
Advocacy Campaigns

Through educational campaigns focused on defining connectivity, bridging the urban-rural divide, connecting MSMEs, and exploring how broadband has transformed lives, the Commission continues to illustrate the importance of broadband in everyday life.

View all campaigns >

**What is Universal Connectivity?**
The Commission’s Universal Connectivity Campaign helps explain the term and provides concrete examples of the benefits of broadband, reinforcing the importance of the Commission’s global goal of Universal Connectivity.

**How can Broadband Transform Lives?**
The Commission’s Broadband Transforming Lives Campaign and video series illustrates the everyday power of broadband for people around the world.

**How can we address key barriers to Universal Connectivity?**
Commissioners provide their sector’s perceptive on bridging the urban and rural divide & the benefits of broadband for supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses.
Impactful Multistakeholder Partnerships

The Commission has been instrumental in launching global initiatives:
- EQUALS: the ITU, UNESCO, ITC, GSMA & UN Women Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age
- Giga: the ITU & UNICEF Initiative to Connect Every School to Internet
- Child Online Safety Universal Declaration

The Commission also coordinates and partners with other relevant international leader level platforms such as:
- UNSG Roadmap for Digital Cooperation
- ITU Partner to Connect (P2C) and Connect2Recover
- Office of UNSG’s Envoy on Technology
- WEF EDISON Alliance
- The Education Commission

Contributing to UN Processes

The Broadband Commission provides inputs to the UN Transforming Education Summit, UNSG’s Our Common Agenda 2021, 5th UN LDC5 Conference, UN-HLPF, and WSIS
The Broadband Commission and our members are actively involved in global initiatives and events contributing to ICTs for sustainable development. We welcome the sharing of relevant events and resources so that we may share them broadly with the greater broadband community through our newsletter, webpage and social media channels.

The Broadband Commission Secretariat has offices in Geneva, Switzerland, Paris, France, and New York, New York.

Since 2010, the Broadband Commission has been advocating for Universal Broadband Connectivity. It has launched numerous campaigns focused on bridging the urban-rural divide, connecting MSMEs, and exploring how Broadband has Transformed Lives. However, it cannot achieve universal connectivity alone.

The Broadband Commission calls on all interested stakeholders to join the Commission in bringing broadband to the forefront of policy discussions.

Get Involved

Join our Advocacy Efforts

Subscribe to our newsletter

View our calendar

Follow us on social