

## THE BROADBAND COMMISSION INPUTS TO ECOSOC HLPF2020

Draft 2.0 - March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020

“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

1. *Guidelines from UNDESA and the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC):*
  - a. *This input should highlight how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways so as to realize the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*
  - b. *The input should focus on the body’s area of responsibility but also reflect the interrelations with other SDGs and targets, and highlight how it is contributing to accelerating SDG progress.*
  - c. *This input could identify four or five action points that the HLPF could address in its ministerial declaration.*

Different themes:

- **Advancing human well-being:** *This session will focus notably on various trade-offs and synergies related to improving human well-being, and more particularly ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions. The most closely related SDGs include SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 16, and SDG 17.*
- **Ending hunger and achieving food security for all:** *This session will address policies related to strengthening the livelihoods of the poor, ensuring sustainable and healthy food production systems and improving the lives of all. The most closely related SDGs are SDG 2, SDG 3, and SDG 17.*
- **Protecting the planet and building resilience:** *The key focus in this session will be pursuing policies, investments and innovation to address disaster risk reduction and protect the Planet from degradation. The most closely related SDGs are SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 17.*
- **Ensuring access to sustainable energy:** *This session will be on ensuring access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all and making energy sustainable. The most closely related SDGs are SDG 7, SDG 12, and SDG 17.*
- **Sharing economic benefits:** *This session will discuss policies to address inequality within and among countries, decoupling growth from environmental degradation, and achieving sustainable development for future generations. The most closely related SDGs are SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 10, and SDG 17.*
- **Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation:** *This session will address measures to empower and support cities, local authorities and communities, as well as issues related to sustainable urban development, infrastructure and people-centered services. The most closely related SDGs are SDG 9, SDG 11, and SDG 1*

2. Proposed language and areas of inputs of the Broadband Commission (drawing from the existing reports, publications and contributions approved by the BB Commission community) presenting the cross cutting role of ICTs and the broadband technology with the SDGs especially the following - SDG 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17 :
  - a. The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development from its inception in 2010 and re-launch in 2015 reflects the principles of the 2030 Agenda: *to leave no one behind*. The Commission recognizes that the digital divide is more than simply technological, and that the gap in access to broadband networks and new technologies is a significant contributor to persistent and widening disparities across economies and societies.
  - b. For nearly a decade now, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development has been advocating for policies and programmes to expand access and adoption of high-speed, high capacity broadband connections, so that the entire world can take advantage of the benefits that broadband can offer in areas like health, education, environmental management, industrial and agricultural production, energy management, food distribution chains, gender empowerment, and much more.
  - c. It is the Commission’s contention that digital technologies are the key to radically accelerating progress towards all 17 SDGs. In this final Decade of Action, concerted efforts to connect the billions of people still without meaningful online access are **urgently** needed. From fully connected communities, all else will follow.

#### *Broadband*

- d. Broadband connectivity is a critical enabler for efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, providing a basic building block in programmatic efforts to drive faster progress towards the 17 goals and 169 targets.
- e. Broadband infrastructure is now vital infrastructure, as essential as water and electricity networks, but it is also becoming more invisible and integrated in utility networks in ‘smart’ infrastructure.
- f. The benefits of today’s information-based economy depend on ubiquitous broadband connectivity encompassing broadband technologies, which need to be made universally available, accessible, relevant and affordable. Connectivity that also provides for safe, trusted, meaningful and user-empowerment leading to positive impact and delivery of digital services more quickly and reliably, with implications for the future of e-health, transportation, education, and disaster relief.

#### *Meaningful universal connectivity*

- g. ‘Meaningful universal connectivity’ focuses not only on infrastructure and supply-side initiatives, but also on thoughtful approaches to demand side issues, meeting the needs and expectations of those who aren’t connected, while ensuring individuals who are already online continue to see value in continued participation.
- h. In today’s interconnected world, the benefits of internet connectivity have never been greater. Broadband connectivity does not merely transform individual human



potential, it also underpins national efforts to develop knowledge economies, foster digital transformation in government services and digital transition across economic sectors, expand opportunities for enterprises, and provide greater value for citizens and consumers.

- i. Efforts to meaningfully connect the remaining 47 per cent of the world’s population will require bold new approaches and innovative financing models to support both network roll-out and service uptake. It will require new strategies based on whole-of-government approaches that break down silos created by individual agencies or government ministries; that include truly innovative public-private partnerships – particularly targeting underserved and marginalized communities – that are sustainable and people-centric; and encouraging new modes of thinking, including welcoming and testing both sustaining innovations as well as disruptive kinds.
- j. The COVID-19 outbreak demonstrates the vital role that broadband connectivity plays in protecting people’s health, keeping them safe and economies and societies working,