

Updated Nov 2023

BROADBAND COMMISSION

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

broadbandcommission.org





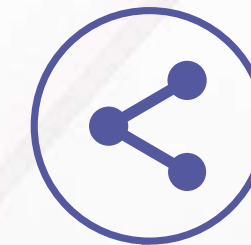
The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development is committed to helping achieve universal connectivity, recognizing digital as a fundamental element of an inclusive and sustainable world.

OUR MISSION

Established in 2010 by ITU, UNESCO, H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and Mr. Carlos Slim Helú of Mexico, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development is a global partnership that works to bring broadband affordability, access, and use to the forefront of global policy discussions.

Comprised of high-level experts from academia, international organizations and civil society, along with CEOs, industry leaders and senior policymakers, the Commission develops policy recommendations and advocates for the use of broadband technologies as a means of achieving the SDGs.

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

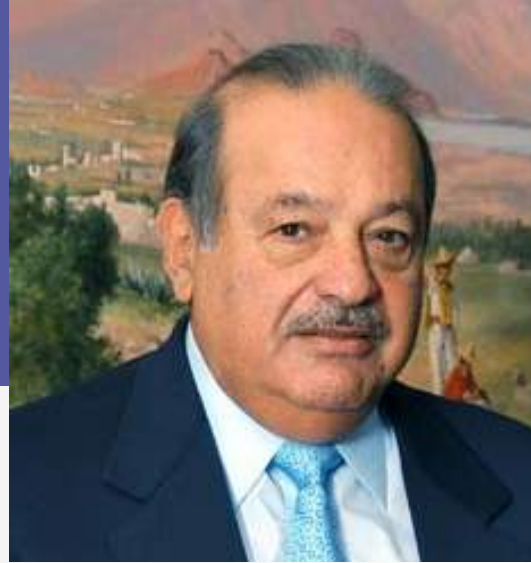
The Commission envisions a fully connected world that harnesses the power of broadband to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



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



Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General, ITU,
Co-Vice Chair of the Commission



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

Focal Points



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



Dr. Tawfik Jelassi
Assistant Director-General for
Communication and Information of
UNESCO, Commission Focal Point

Our Commissioners

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 >](#)



50+

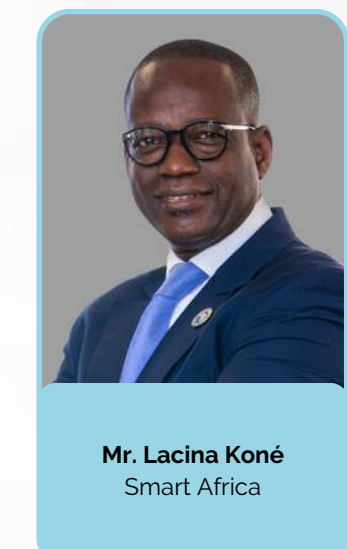
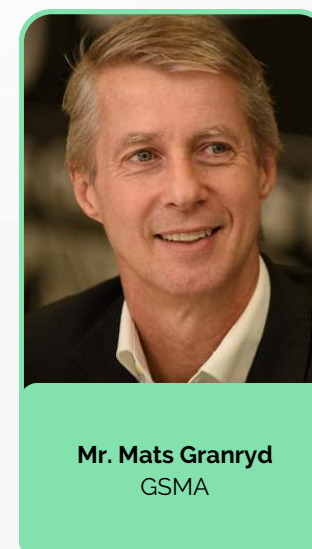
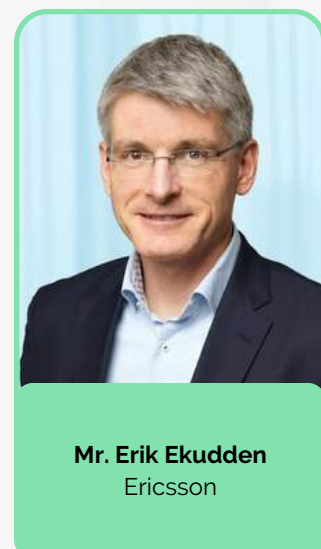
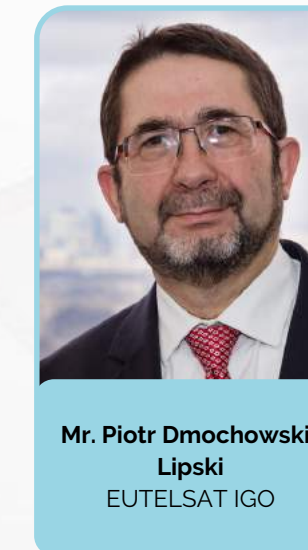
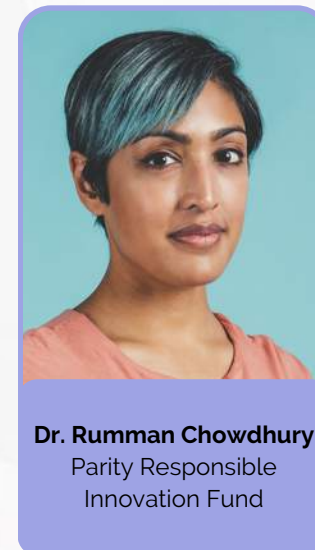
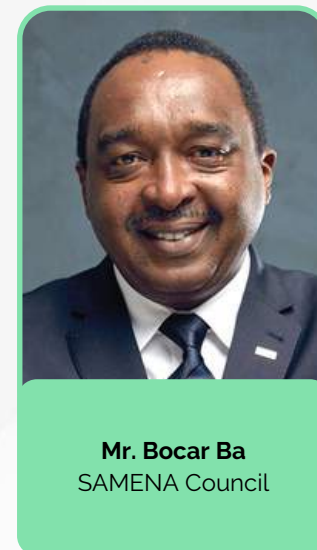
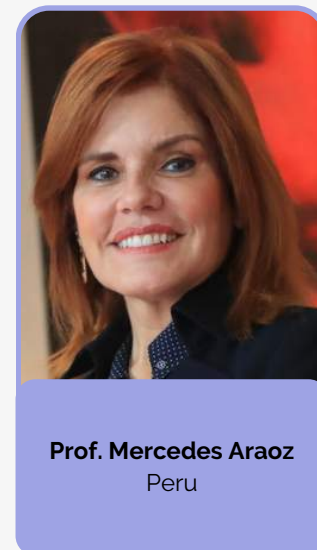
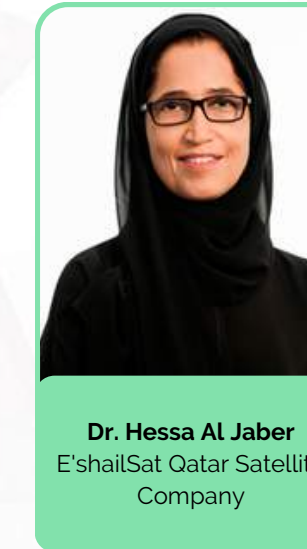
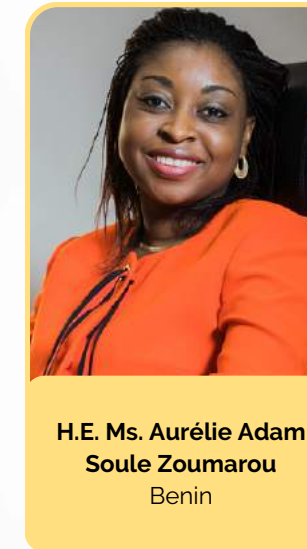
*ICT Industry Leaders
working together to
close the digital divide*

Our Commissioners*

Key

- Civil Society
- International Organizations
- Senior Policymakers
- Top CEOs & Industry Leaders

The following roster was updated Nov 2023. Please refer to broadbandcommission.org/commissioners for the latest information.



Our Commissioners



Mr. Pekka Lundmark
Nokia Corporation



Mr. Kevin Martin
Facebook



Mr. Patrick Masambu
ITSO



Mr. Sunil Bharti Mittal
Bharti Airtel Limited



Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Umlambo Foundation



Hon. Ms Mia Mottley
Prime Minister, Barbados



Mr. Ralph Mupita
MTN Group Limited



Mr. Denis O'Brien
Digicel Group



H.E. Mrs Ursula Owusu-Ekuful
Ghana



Mr. Mauricio Ramos
Millicom



Ms. Catherine M. Russell
UNICEF



Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
Columbia University



Ms. Sima Sami Bahous
UN Women



Mr. Achim Steiner
UNDP



Mr. Andrew Sullivan
ISOC



Mr. Hans Vestberg
Verizon



Mr. David Wajsgras
Intelsat



Mr. Ziang Xu
ZTE Corporation



Ms. Sun Yafang
Huawei Technologies

BROADBAND COMMISSION

Our History Timeline

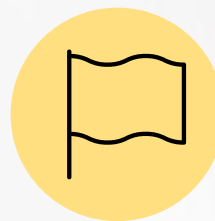
Founding

In **May 2010**, the ITU and UNESCO established the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in response to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call to step-up UN efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

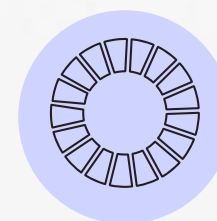
Broadband Targets for 2015

In **2011**, the Commission launched its first Strategic Framework: Broadband Targets for 2015, which included four targets focused on making broadband policy universal and increasing affordability and broadband use. In **2013**, Targets 5 and 6 were added to recognize the need for the increased use of e-finance services and improvement of connectivity for MSMEs for inclusive and sustainable development.

2010



2015



Thematic outputs

Between **2010 and 2015**, the Commission published **five annual** State of Broadband Reports, **three open letters** to HLPF, G-20 Meeting, and PP-14, **one call to action** to Rio+20 Conference, one Manifesto, and **12 Working Group reports** on the topics of Multilingualism, LDCs, Broadband & Science, Climate Change, E-Government, Digital Health, Gender, Education, Broadband Taskforce, Finance & Investment, Youth Platforms for the SDGs. The Commission hosted **10 Annual meetings** and participated in special advocacy sessions.

Aligning with the SDGs & Extending Advocacy Targets to 2025

In **September 2015**, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the international policy framework for socio-economic development and poverty reduction. In 2016, the Broadband Commission recognized broadband as a fundamental element for achieving all 17 goals and extended its timeline to 2025.

Thematic Outputs

Between 2016 and 2020, the Commission published **5 annual** State of Broadband Reports, **4 Open Statements** to World Humanitarian Summit, HLPF, UN Habitat III, COP-22, and **16 Working Group reports** on the topics of: Demand, Digital Health, Child Online Safety, Digitalization Scorecard, Digital, Gender Divide, Education, Vulnerable Countries, Tech in Space, Entrepreneurship, Digital Health, Epidemic Preparedness, Moonshot for Africa, School Connectivity, Disinformation and AI & Health. The Commission hosted **8 Annual Meetings** and participated in special advocacy sessions.

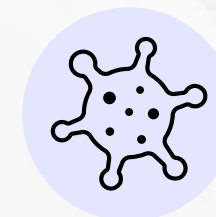
Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

In June 2020, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres presented the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, outlining practical policy approaches for a digitally interdependent world. The roadmap references the 2025 Advocacy Targets of the Broadband Commission, as well as the "Connecting Africa through Broadband" Working Group report.

Thematic Outputs

From 2020-2022, the Commission published **3 State of Broadband** reports, **3 Open Statements**: Inputs to HLPF, LDC5 and the Transforming Education Summit, **6 thematic Working Groups reports** on the topics of: Smartphone Access, AI Capacity Building, Virtual Health and Care, 21st Century Financing Models, Digital Learning, and Epidemic Management, **5 videos in its Broadband Transforming Lives advocacy campaign**, and an **Advocacy Pledge** to Partner2Connect (P2C).

2020



Digital Gender Equality Initiatives Catalyzed

In **2017**, the Working Group on Digital Gender Divide recommended collaborative, multistakeholder action through engagement in the Global Partnership to Bridge Gender Digital Divide - **EQUALS**. In the same year, **Advocacy Target 7 on Gender Equality was introduced** with the goal of achieving gender equality across all targets.

School Connectivity Initiatives Catalyzed

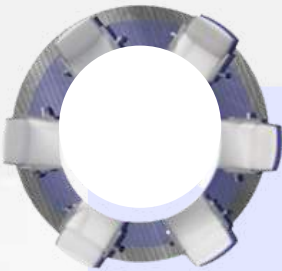
In **2019**, the Working Group on School Connectivity provided advice for the development of two global initiatives aimed at connecting schools to the Internet: **Giga and UNESCO's e-schools Initiative**.

Response to COVID-19

In **2020**, the Commission published the **Agenda for Action**, a repository of tangible short- and medium-term approaches for leveraging connectivity to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and ease the immediate adverse impacts for economies and societies.

10th Anniversary & Manifesto

In **2020**, the Broadband Commission celebrated its 10-year Anniversary with the publication of a Special Edition of its flagship State of Broadband Report, in which it reexamined its historical policy recommendations and purpose. The Commission also published a **Manifesto to establish and have the Commission endorse its goal of Universal Connectivity**.



28 Events

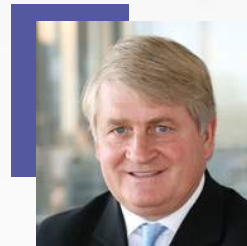
[Learn more >](#)

- Annual Fall Meeting of the Commission in New York
- AI for Good Webinar
- AI for Good Summit
- COP28
- CSW67
- Earth Day
- Geneva Digital Atlas
- Gitex Global
- Global Digital Compact
- GMBBF
- GSR
- HLPF
- Internet of Trust
- LDC5
- MSME Day
- MWC Barcelona
- MWC Kigali
- P2C Meeting
- SAMENA Leaders' Summit
- SDG Digital
- Spotlight on Latin America
- STI Forum
- Transform Africa Summit
- UNCTAD eWeek
- WBG Meeting
- WEF Summit
- WSIS
- WTISD

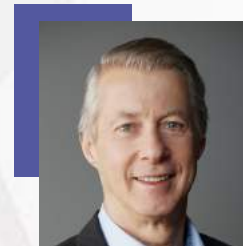
2023 Funders



Mr. Hans Vestberg
CEO, Verizon Communications Inc.



Mr. Denis O'Brien
Chairman of Digicel Group



Mr. Mats Granryd
Director General of the GSMA



H. E. Engineer Majed Sultan Al Mesmar
Director General of TDRA, UAE

2023 Year in Review



Thought Leadership

20 Articles

www.broadbandcommission.org/news

2 Working Groups

Data for Learning: Chaired by UNESCO

- 2 Event - WSIS virtual session & UNESCO Digital Learning e-week
- 20 External experts

8 Newsletters

www.broadbandcommission.org/newsletter

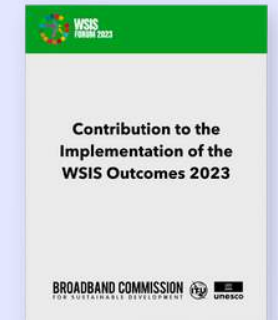
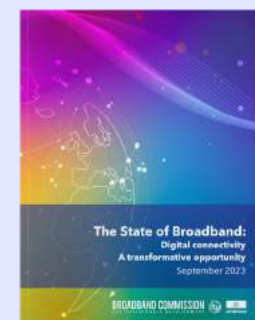
[Learn more >](#)

Connectivity for MSMEs: Co-chaired by ITC and GSMA

- 2 Events - MSME Day webinar & UNCTAD eWeek webinar
- 4 External experts

7 Publications

[Learn more >](#)



3 Original Campaigns



Earth Day: Digital Spring Cleaning (April)



MSME Day: Connectivity Impact Story Series and Webinar (June)



SDG Digital Video Contributions (September)

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.

COMMISSION ORGANIZATION

Co-Chairs, Co-Vice Chairs

Steering Committee,
Executive Director

Commissioners

WORK STREAMS

Thought Leadership:

Annual State of Broadband Report, Thematic Working Groups, Taskforces, Inputs to UN Processes

Advocacy:

Biannual Meetings, Advocacy Campaigns, Multistakeholder Conferences, Communications Taskforce

Partnerships:

Incubation of Cross-sectoral Initiatives, Spin-off Projects

Secretariat, Focal Points, External Experts, Partners,
Broadband Commission Community

Collective expertise and collaborative efforts done by multi-stakeholder membership

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 to the UNGA, other UN agencies and processes, G20, Head of States meetings, and other multi-stakeholder processes focused on digital cooperation. As advocates, Commissioners promote the outcomes and recommendations through their own channels and platforms, nationally, regionally and globally.

The advocacy role of Commissioners is also to foster relationships, engagement and partnerships with international organizations and global platforms such as WEF, OECD, international financial and development institutions and other world recognized entities and experts from all regions.

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

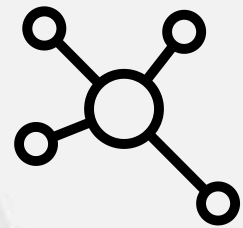
The Commission leverages its diverse set of stakeholders to advocate for its findings and recommendations

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:



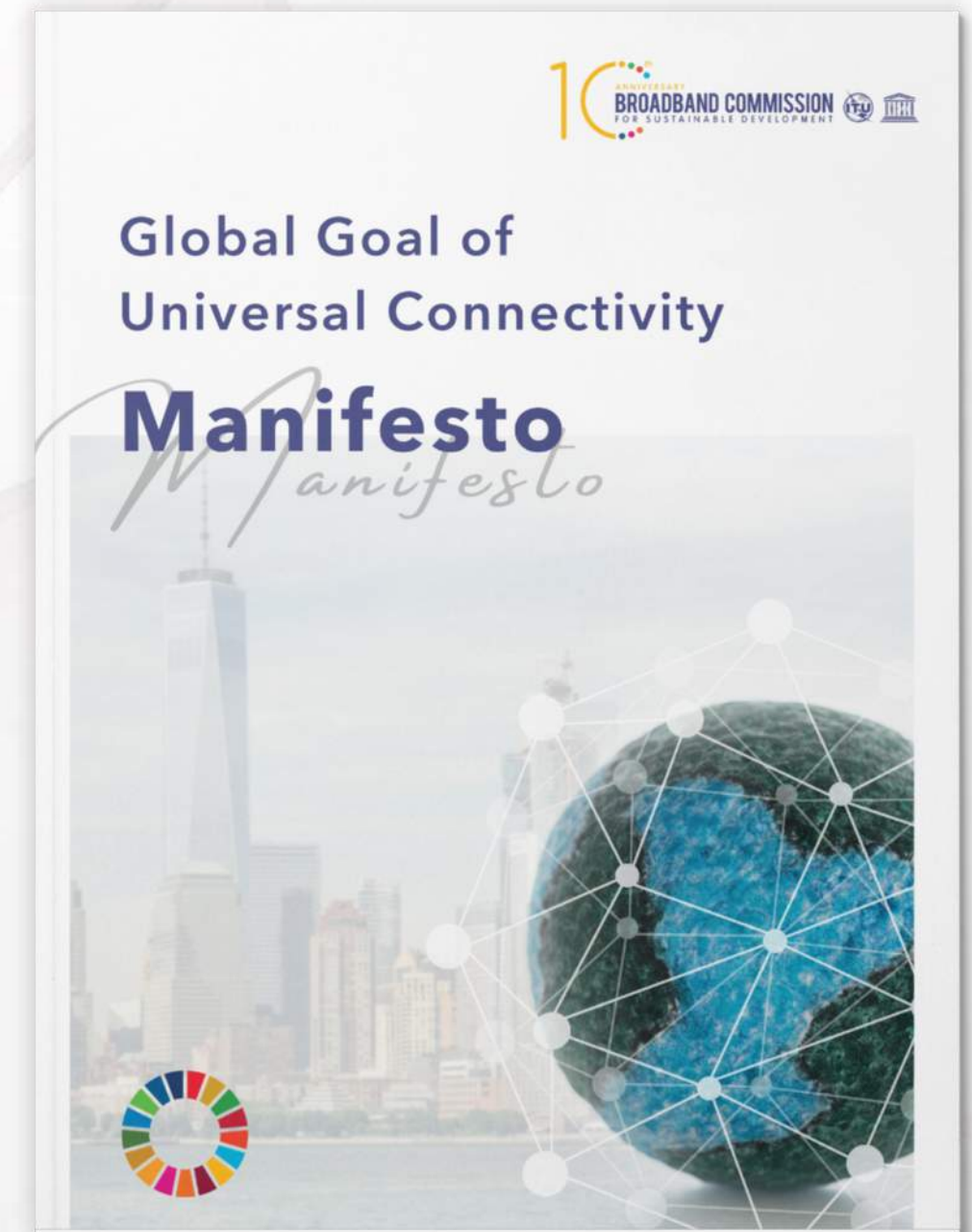
Establishing a baseline for universal digital connectivity.



Identifying and supporting public-private financing of universal broadband.



Advocating for enabling ICT regulatory environments, capacity building & online safety.



[Read the Manifesto >](#)

2025 BROADBAND ADVOCACY TARGETS

Tracking Progress Towards Achieving Universal Connectivity

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.

[View the latest progress >](#)

MAKE BROADBAND POLICY UNIVERSAL

Target 1: By 2025, all countries should have a funded National Broadband Plan (NBP) or strategy, or include broadband in their UAS Definition

MAKE BROADBAND AFFORDABLE

Target 2: By 2025, entry-level broadband services should be made affordable in low- and middle-income countries at less than 2% of monthly GNI per capital

GET EVERYONE ONLINE

Target 3: By 2025, broadband-Internet user penetration should reach: i) 75% worldwide; ii) 65% in low- and middle-income countries; and iii) 35% in least developed countries

PROMOTE DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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

INCREASE USE OF E-FINANCE

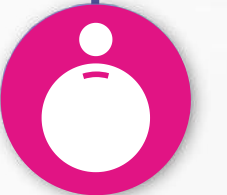
Target 5: By 2025, 40% of the world's population should be using digital financial services

GET MSMEs ONLINE

Target 6: By 2025, improve connectivity of micro-, small- and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) by 50%, by sector

BRIDGE THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE

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





**What does the
Broadband
Commission do?**

The Commission in Action



Thought Leadership

With close to 40 groups to date, the Commission's Working Groups convene stakeholders to address issues and develop policy recommendations relating to broadband access, affordability and use.

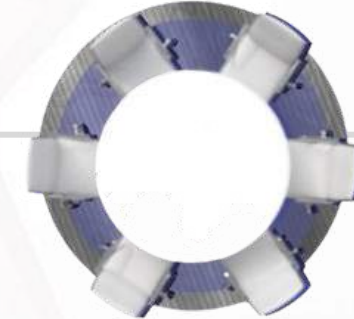
[Learn more](#)



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

Commissioners convene during the Annual Spring and Fall Broadband Commission meetings, and contribute to relevant events like the High Level Political Forum, the WEF Davos Agenda, and more.

[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. As of April 2023, the Commission has engaged with over 500 external experts in the field of ICT for development.

[Learn more](#)

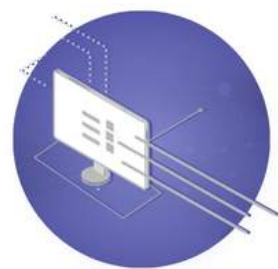


Thematic Working Groups

Working Groups are at the heart of the work being done at the Broadband Commission. With almost 40 groups to date, the Broadband Commission's Working Groups convene industry leaders, government representatives and civil society to address prominent issues affecting broadband access, affordability and use. These groups are led and funded by Commissioners, with the participation of external experts in the field of ICT for development.

[View all Working Groups >](#)

2023 Working Groups



Data for Learning

Co-chaired by UNESCO

The Working Group report, along with its accompanying "Job Board for Data Governance and Management in the Education Sector," contribute to our common understanding of how to close the digital data divide, providing five recommendations to improve the education data landscape.



Connectivity for MSMEs

Co-chaired by ITC and GSMA

The Working Group aims to identify challenges and opportunities for bringing more MSMEs in LMICs online and engaging in online trade. The outcome report "Making Digital Connectivity Work for MSMEs," presents a five-part framework and four core recommendations for stakeholders to support MSME connectivity.

FOCUS AREAS



*Education &
Online Safety*



Digital Health



*Digital Inclusion &
Vulnerable
Populations*



Finance & Business



*Climate, Science &
Technology*



STATE OF BROADBAND 2023

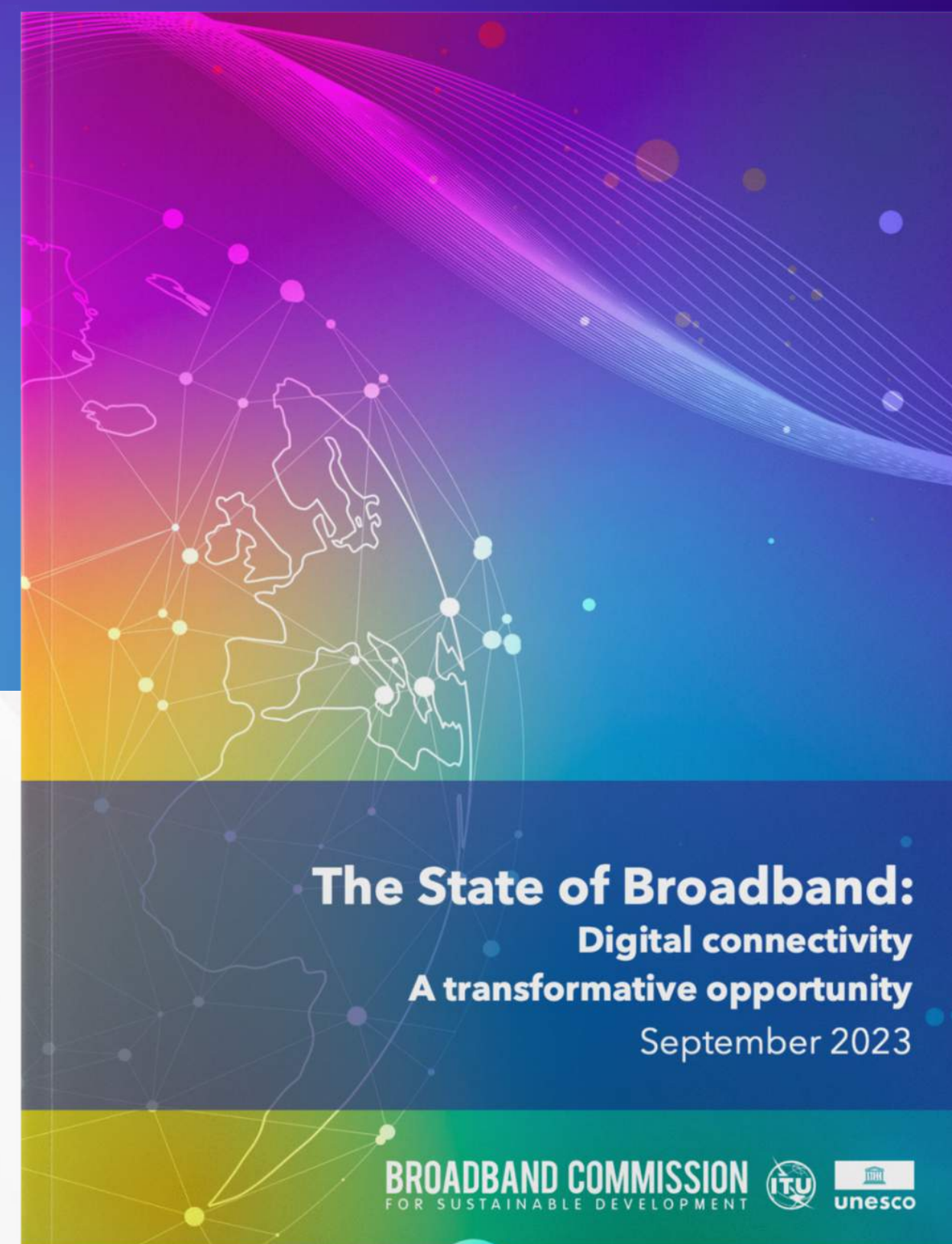
Digital connectivity: A transformative opportunity

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 >](#)

The 2023 Report examines the shift from supply-driven to demand-driven communication access, providing insights into the financing and funding considerations required to support the next stage of connectivity for digital transformation. It includes:

- (1) a snapshot of global progress on reaching universal connectivity;
- (2) updates on the 2025 Broadband Advocacy Targets; and
- (3) impact stories from Commissioners on the actions needed to reach universal connectivity.





Policy Recommendations

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. The Commission is pioneering and leading knowledge products on ICTs and SDGs and has a proven model for collaborative and consensus driven outcomes done by multi-stakeholder membership

[View all recommendations >](#)



Recommendations address the following critical areas:

Policy and ICT enabling environments

Recommendations for achieving Target 1: Make Broadband Policy Universal



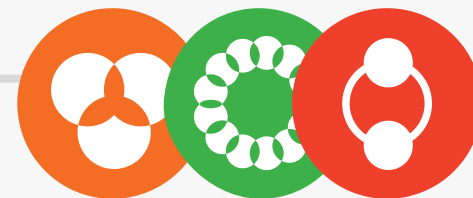
Connectivity and digital Infrastructure

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

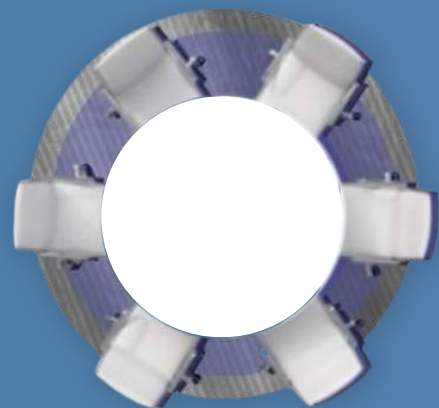
Recommendations for achieving Target 4: Promote Digital Skills Development



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 >](#)

Past Spring Meetings

Geneva, Switzerland, 2010
Paris, France, 2011
Ohrid, Macedonia, 2012
Mexico City, Mexico, 2013
Dublin, Ireland, 2014
Paris, France, 2015
Dubai, UAE, 2016
Hong Kong SAR, 2017
Kigali, Rwanda, 2018
California, USA 2019
Virtual, 2020, 2021
Kigali, Rwanda, 2022





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 >](#)



How do our digital habits impact the environment?
This Earth Day campaign engaged Commissioners and the global broadband community to delete over 1 million emails and educate on how to minimize future digital impact from emails.
April 2023

[View](#)



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.
2022

[View](#)



How has digitalization improved business for MSMEs?
In celebration of MSME Day on June 27th, the Broadband Commission spotlighted MSMEs who have used digital tools and connectivity to grow their businesses.
June 2023

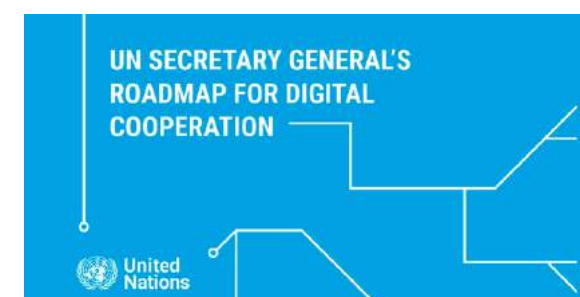
[View](#)



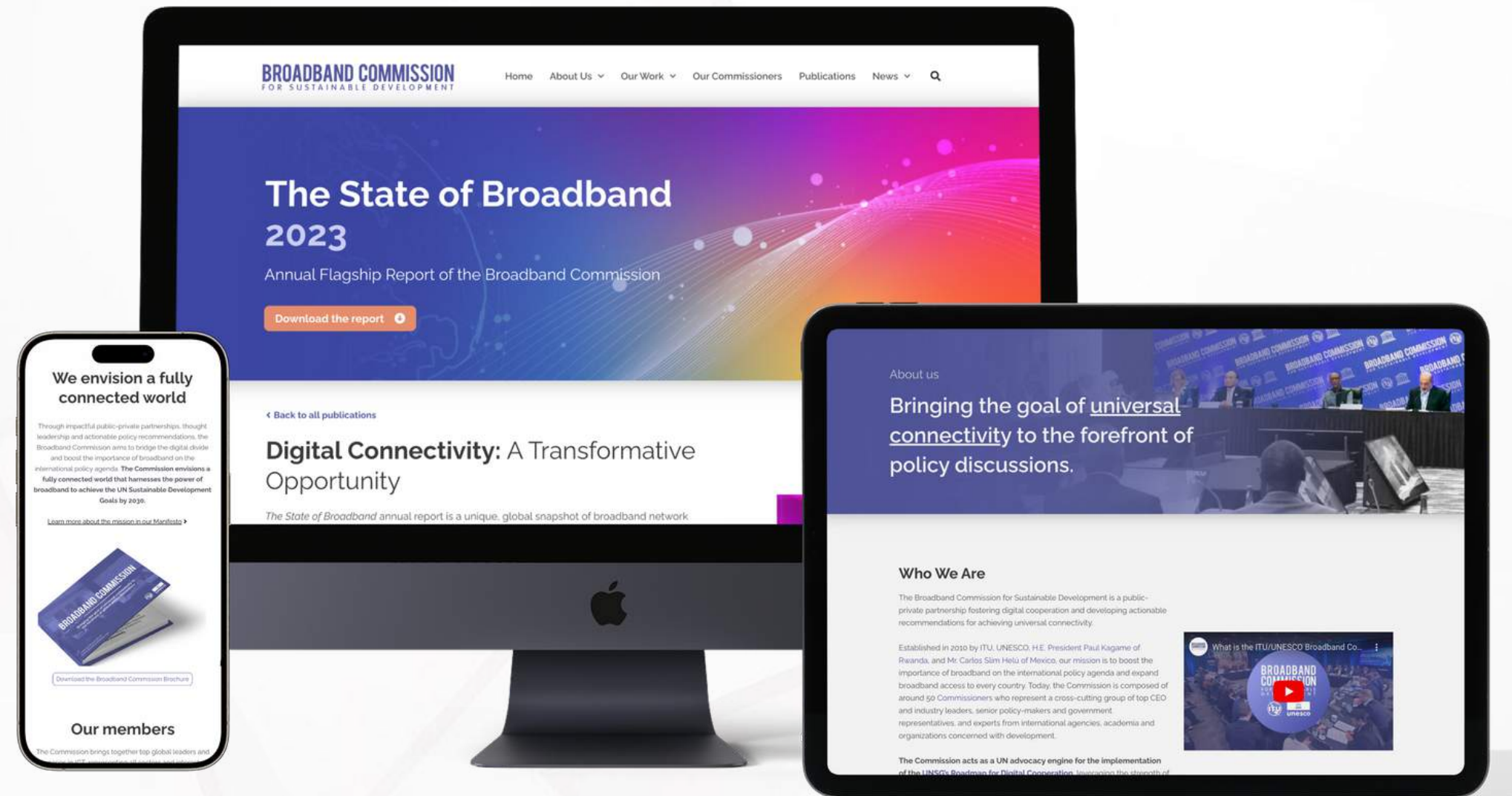
Impactful Multistakeholder Partnerships

The Broadband Commission collaborates with a variety of partners to support our work and fulfill our common goal of advancing universal connectivity. The Commission also provided inputs to the Global Digital Compact, 5th UN LDC5 Conference, UN-HLPF, and WSIS. Find below some of the platforms and initiatives the Commission has recently worked with.

[View all partners >](#)



Get Involved



Contact Us

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



bbcommission@itu.int

Join us

Join our advocacy efforts in bringing broadband to the forefront of policy discussions.



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Subscribe to our
newsletter



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