

**BROADBAND COMMISSION**  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



# BROADBAND COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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*Overview*

# UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE WORLD

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The Commission's **mission** is to bridge the digital divide and bring the goal of universal connectivity to the forefront of policy discussions through the facilitation of impactful public-private partnerships, thought leadership and actionable policy recommendations.

The Commission acts as a UN advocacy engine for the implementation of the UNSG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and leverages the strength of its membership and collective expertise to advocate for meaningful, safe, secure, and sustainable broadband communications services that are reflective of human and children's rights.

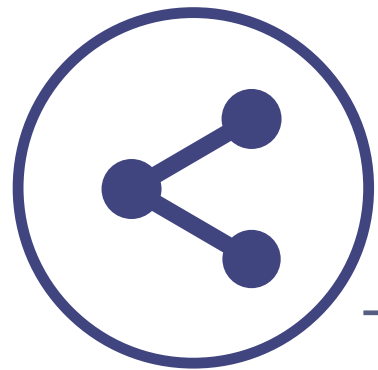
PURPOSE



# OUR MISSION

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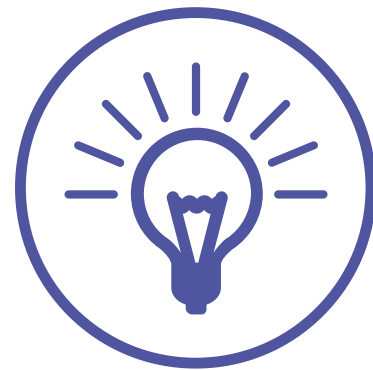
## OUR FOUR DEFINING PILLARS:



### CONNECTIVITY

Universal & resilient connectivity

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### KNOWLEDGE

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

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### ACCESS

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

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### SKILLS

Continuous development of digital competencies and capacity building

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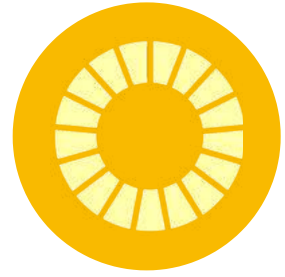


## OUR VISION

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**We envision a fully connected world that harnesses the power of broadband to achieve the SDGs by 2030.**

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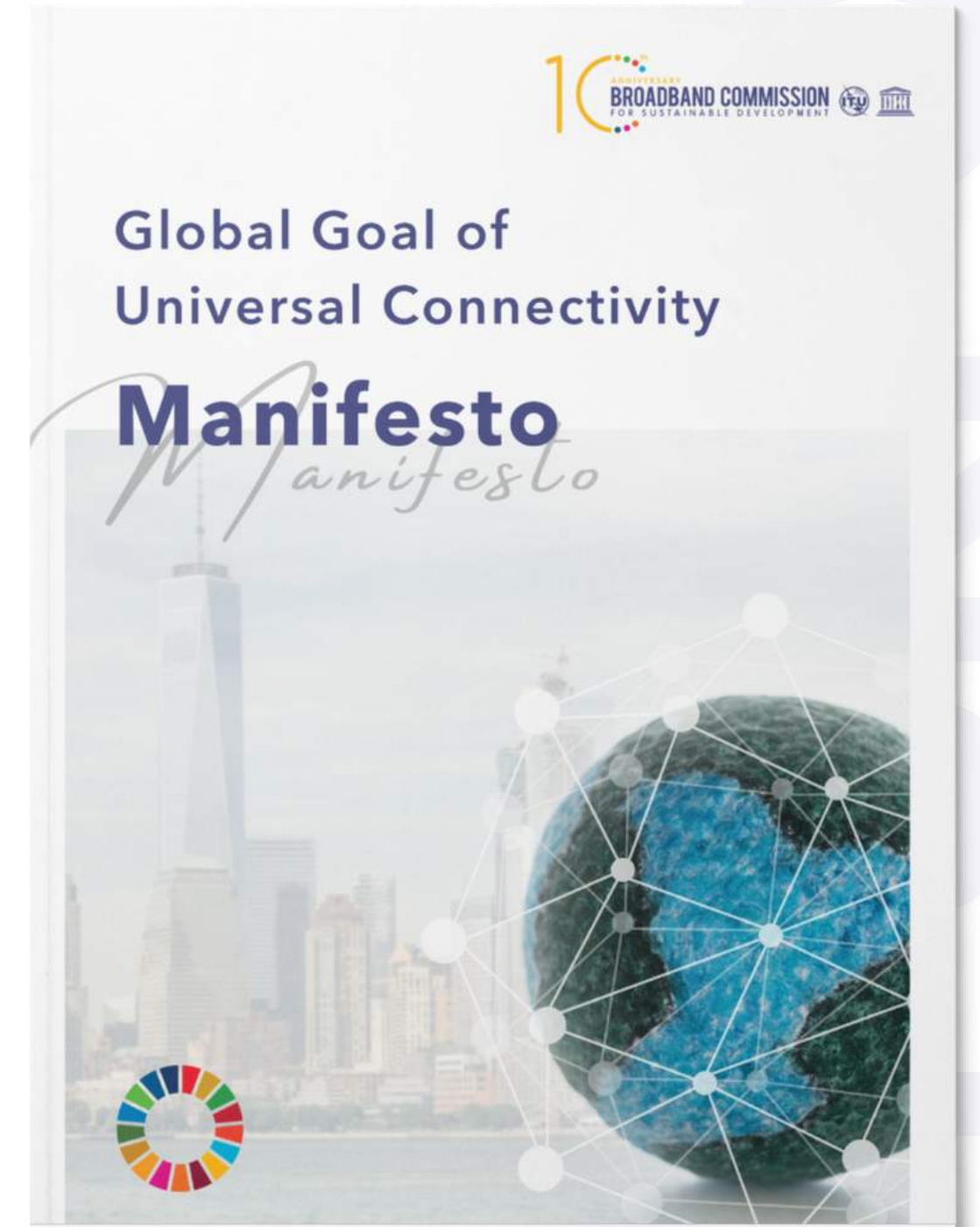


# GLOBAL GOAL OF UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY

Ensure Access to Affordable, Meaningful, and Trustworthy Digital Services

The Commission is convinced that achieving affordable universal connectivity is essential for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and making good on our pledge to Leave No-one Behind. We are committed to mobilizing efforts to achieve the 'Global Goal of Universal Connectivity' in support of the UNSG's Roadmap and other connectivity initiatives by:

- Establishing a baseline for universal digital connectivity
- Identifying and supporting public-private financing of universal broadband, pioneering innovative hybrid and/or complementary, replicable and sustainable financing and investment models for all types of networks, and catalyzing impactful partnerships
- Advocating for enabling ICT regulatory environments, ICT capacity building and online safety and security, especially for children, as integral to efforts to achieve the Global Broadband Targets 2025 and the SDGs.





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The Broadband Commission for Sustainable is led by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Carlos Slim Helù of Mexico and is co-chaired by ITU's Secretary-General Houlin Zhao and UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. Launched by ITU and UNESCO in 2010 to advocate for the power of broadband to drive sustainable development, it is comprised of over 50 Commissioners representing a cross-cutting group of top CEOs and industry leaders, senior policymakers and government representatives, and experts from international agencies, academia and organizations concerned with development.

BROADBAND

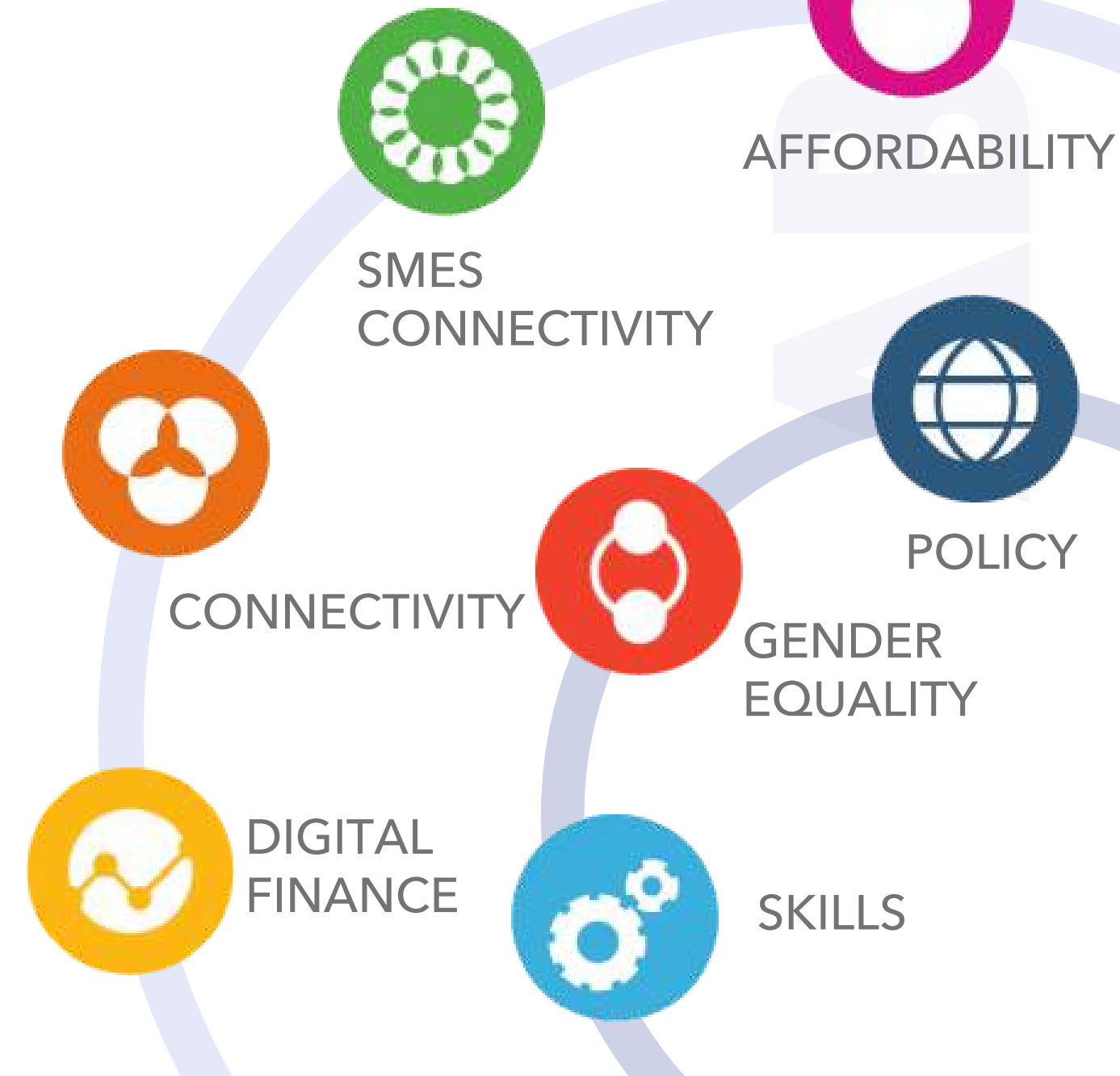


# OUR TARGETS

With 49% of the world population still unconnected in 2020, the Broadband Commission is committed to strengthening global digital cooperation and addressing this massive gap that leaves nearly half of the world's population - in both developed and developing nations - unable to benefit from a connected world for human and community development.

In order to connect the unconnected, the Commission has established 7 ambitious targets for 2025, which seek to expand broadband infrastructure, and internet access and use by populations around the world, as necessary intermediate steps towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Progress towards achieving these targets is tracked through the annual flagship publication: The State of Broadband Report.

The Commission's targets are aligned with the UNSG's Roadmap and consistent with, and mutually reinforcing of, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 9(c) on universal connectivity.





# A DECADE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

As the Commission marks its tenth anniversary in 2020, its sustained advocacy efforts over the past decade have borne fruit across the global community as mindsets have changed in recognizing that ICTs and broadband are critical 'prerequisites' for economic and social development, rather than just mere potential 'enablers'.

The Commission has also been instrumental in launching global initiatives:

- 1) EQUALS: the ITU, UNESCO, ITC, GSMA and UN Women Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age
- 2) Giga: the ITU and UNICEF Global Initiative to Connect Every School to Internet by 2030
- 3) Child Online Safety Universal Declaration

Since 2010, the Commission has been on the leading edge, advocating for policies that can lead to universal and affordable broadband Internet access. The State of Broadband reports from 2012 to 2019 have presented 76 recommendations for stakeholders to take action. The range of unique messaging cover the following critical areas:

**POLICY AND ICT ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS** 

**ICT SKILLS AND USE** 

**CONNECTIVITY AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE** 

**INVESTMENT AND FINANCING**  

**EQUAL ACCESS & DIGITAL INCLUSION**  





# HOW WE OPERATE

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 bases its work in the following principles:

- **Inclusivity & Equality:** We are open, inclusive and respectful in our engagement, aiming to be representative of all communities. We believe that access to safe and strong broadband connection is fundamental to sustainable and equitable global development.
- **Innovation:** We commit to seeking practical and pragmatic ideas and solutions to relevant, complicated and multi-faceted challenges, utilizing the ingenuity and innovative spirit of our diverse membership.
- **Collaboration:** We recognize that everyone needs to be present at the table to create practical and pragmatic solutions to global issues, to support this we facilitate these conversations among the private sector, governments and civil society.
- **Continuous Learning:** We understand that as the world evolves so do its needs and values. As a Commission we commit to continuously reevaluating our actions and goals so that they reflect the needs of the global community.
- **Accountability:** We take responsibility for being as forward-thinking as possible in both our research and proposed solutions. We count on the subject-matter expertise and diversity of our high-level Commissioners to provide leadership and accountability in all outputs of the Commission.





# AT A GLANCE

## Commission Composition and Working Processes

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- The size of the Commission is between 50 and 55 Commissioners.
- New Commissioners are executive level representatives. The term of a Commissioner is 4 years.
- The Commission strives to have a balanced representation across a variety of stakeholders.
- Under normal conditions, Commissioners will attend, in person, at least one of the two Broadband Commission annual meetings (Spring Meeting, Fall Meeting).
- The Commission uses a consensual/unified approach as the mechanism to reach and endorse its collective decisions (for example with the outcomes of the Working groups, the advocacy position papers, recommendations of the State of Broadband report).
- A suitable and practical number of Working Groups is defined annually, with four being best practice, according to the workload of the Commission on relevant matters and subjects of importance for the Commission.

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# AT A GLANCE

## Commission Organization

Co-Chairs & Co-Vice Chairs

Membership Committee

Steering Committee

50-55 Commissioners

Working Processes

Working and Expert Groups

Biannual meetings, advocacy and campaigns

Partnerships, spin-off projects

Task forces and advisory boards: Fundraising, communications, etc.

Secretariat, Focal Points, Broadband Commission Community

ABOUT