

Partner2Connect Digital Coalition

Annual Report 2023



Partner2Connect

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Acknowledgements



ITU would like to acknowledge all **408**¹ pledgers of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) for their trust and the **845**² pledges submitted so far to our platform. We are especially grateful to the **143** pledgers³ who submitted their progress reports this year, thereby fulfilling their duty and contributing important data to assess impact.

We would also like to thank the [United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States \(UN-OHRLLS\)](#) for another year of excellent collaboration and the P2C champions for their vision, guidance and unconditional support.

1 As of 6 December 2023

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

Foreword



“

I believe in the transformative power of technology and a shared digital future for all. Universal, meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation can only be achieved with the right partnerships, policies, and programmes. Partner2Connect provides a unique multistakeholder platform where action-oriented collaboration can be enacted to leave no one behind and no one offline.”

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Secretary-General, ITU

The year 2023 marked a very important milestone for ITU, the United Nations and the world: the midpoint in the race to deliver the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). In New York on 17 September, the eve of the [SDG Summit](#), digital technologies came front and centre, demonstrating how game-changing digital solutions can accelerate progress in each of the 17 SDGs, and can impact progress on 70 per cent of the 169 SDG targets. Still, the opportunities that digital technologies and connectivity can bring to sustainable development remain elusive for a third of humanity. Approximately 2.6 billion people are still offline and though connectivity is progressing globally, the pace of that progress is uneven, leaving many people in low-income countries behind.

Two years ago, Partner2Connect was created as a global multistakeholder platform to address this challenge with an aim of mobilizing resources, partnerships, and commitments to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation. Since its launch, P2C has continued to grow, and as of today⁴ it has gathered a total of **845 pledges** valued at **USD 36.78 billion** from **408 entities** representing **138 countries** around the globe. This corresponds to an increase of **53%** in the **number of pledges** submitted when compared with last year's Annual Report figures, and an increase of nearly **55%** in the number of entities that have joined the Coalition. This year P2C mobilized an additional **USD 7 billion** worth of global connectivity projects and launched targeted pledging campaigns to address the connectivity needs of LDCs' citizens and displaced people, and pave the way for sustainable digital transformation. For these achievements, P2C was selected at [SDG Digital](#) as an example of a game-changing solution for SDG 17, with the strongest potential to strengthen partnerships for the goals through data access, knowledge exchange and remote collaboration. These achievements and recognition give the Coalition the impetus needed to expand and reach its goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion in P2C pledges by 2026⁵.

This publication summarizes the key milestones of the Coalition in 2023 and details the nature of the pledges submitted across its focus areas and pillars. The Annual Report goes beyond pledge mobilization and analyses the impact that the implementation of P2C pledges is having on the ground via the P2C pledgers' self-reporting process and the matchmaking opportunities created at the different [Regional Development Forums](#).

The results presented in this publication are aggregated and preliminary, as not all entities who have pledged have submitted a progress report. Of the **845 pledges** submitted by **408 entities** to date, **275 pledges** have been reported on by **143 entities**. This means **33%** of the total pledges have been reported on so far by **35%** of all pledgers. Though there are small proportional reductions when compared to last year's reporting rates⁶, the overall picture for implementation is still positive: **73%** of all reported pledges are in **progress** and **12%** are already **completed**. Data also indicate that approximately **USD 4.8 billion** has already been spent towards the implementation of those **275 pledges** that were reported on.

Though progress in implementation is happening, reporting rates need to increase in order to provide a better understanding of the impact on the ground, and to leverage the opportunities for partnership and collaboration. Many challenges remain to meaningfully connect every person in the world, and so I look forward to the future with optimism and confidence in the role that P2C can play. Bringing 2.6 billion people online is not an easy task and not an effort of a single entity. It is a duty for us all and a legacy we can leave to future generations. I thank all the pledgers of the Coalition and in particular the **143 entities** that submitted their progress reports. A special message of gratitude also goes to the P2C champions who have kept this Coalition alive thanks to their contributions, leadership and strategic vision.

⁴ As of 6 December 2023

⁵ [ITU Press Release. Geneva, 17 May, 2023.](#)

⁶ [P2C Annual Report 2022](#)

Message from the Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)



Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava

Director, ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau

The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition remains one of our key global multistakeholder initiatives over the past few years.

To help realize its noble mission, in 2023 the Telecommunication Development Bureau embarked on a series of regional matchmaking roundtables to ensure that the needs or priorities of individual countries and regions are matched with partner pledges as a way of operationalizing the many pledges that had been announced. These roundtables, which were held as part of ITU's Regional Development Forums and attended by a total of over 1,000 participants worldwide, also provided an opportunity for the announcement of new pledges.

The matchmaking roundtables are crucial for guaranteeing tangible impact on the ground and enhancing people's quality of life through universal meaningful Internet connectivity.

We are committed on translating promises into concrete actions that result in significant impact for the ordinary citizens, communities and countries across the globe as a result of digital transformation.

As mandated by the membership at ITU's 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) held in Kigali, Rwanda, the BDT is committed to get concrete results for the benefit of countries out of the Partner2Connect Coalition on a win-win basis. We are recording, monitoring, tracking and will regularly report on the milestones as our engagement evolves.

I look forward to strengthening our impact for a better world.



P2C champions provide strategic guidance to the Coalition, advising on the direction and focus of its activities including the mobilization and implementation of pledges at the country level in close coordination with the P2C Secretariat.

The champions are strong advocates of the principles of universal and meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation for all. They also advocate for the growth of Partner2Connect at the local, regional, and global levels.

P2C champions are therefore key to the amplification of the Coalition's message and activities through personal networks, platforms, and social media channels. The Secretariat would like to thank **ZTE**, **Amazon** and **Microsoft** for their contributions, continuous support, leadership and vision, without which the work of the Coalition would not be possible.

Amazon

“

Amazon is proud to be a P2C champion and shares the P2C Coalition's belief that digital technologies have the power to accelerate social and economic development. This includes providing meaningful broadband connectivity around the globe and helping to bridge the digital divide. We look forward to further collaboration with P2C in 2024.”

Brian Huseman

Vice President, Public Policy



In July 2021, Amazon announced an addition to its hallmark Leadership Principles. Titled **Success and Scale Bring Broad Responsibility**, the principle signifies a commitment for our company to “begin each day with a determination to make better, do better, and be better for our customers, our employees, our partners, and the world at large”. Two months later, in September 2021, ITU launched the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition.

Organizations such as ITU and Amazon recognize that they have a responsibility to help build a better, more inclusive world, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic reinforced the criticality of digital technologies and laid bare the enduring challenges faced by people on the wrong side of the digital divide.

In this regard, Amazon pledged for P2C to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to provide free cloud-computing skills training to 29 million people from all walks of life and all levels of knowledge, in more than 200 countries and territories around the world, by 2025. This free training is designed to meet a wide variety of schedules, learning preferences, and career goals. As of December 2023, we have trained 21 million people.

The power of cloud computing, or any digital technology for that matter, is predicated on accessible and meaningful broadband connectivity. To that end, Amazon is investing over USD 10 billion in [Project Kuiper](#), a network of thousands of satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO) linked to a global network of antennas, fibre, and Internet connection points on the ground. Kuiper will provide fast, affordable broadband to communities around the world that are currently unserved or underserved by traditional Internet and communications options. Amazon has the people and resources required to deploy and operate global satellite broadband services, and in keeping with the spirit of P2C, we will use our success and scale to help bridge the digital divide.

Microsoft

“

Digital transformation is a vital ingredient for addressing the challenges underlying the sustainable development agenda. And partnerships between governments, the private sector, and NGOs are more critical than ever. P2C therefore has a crucial role to play in mobilizing resources that will help us achieve the SDGs.”

Christopher Sharrock

Vice-President, UN and International Organizations, Microsoft



As set out in [Microsoft’s 2023 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Report](#)⁷, the world is at a critical juncture and far behind in implementing the SDGs, but the company is optimistic about the role of technology and the possibilities for it to make a positive impact in the lives of people around the world. Microsoft also considers that this potential can only be realized by working in close partnership with others. As a result, the company shares the vision of ITU’s Partner-2Connect Digital Coalition to expand meaningful connectivity globally, and to enable sustainable digital transformation to help achieve the SDGs.

Microsoft believes that meaningful connectivity is a fundamental right, which includes having access to affordable devices and the digital skills necessary to use them. Such connectivity is essential for enabling digital transformation and the economic growth that comes with it, and if implemented in a way that is inclusive and innovative, the scope for gains in quality of life and productivity is significant.

This belief led Microsoft to join P2C as a focus area leader in 2022, and to now become one of the founding P2C champions, combining an emphasis on inclusive and affordable Internet access with a commitment to empowering people with digital skills.

At the [March 2022 P2C launch event](#), Microsoft made one of the first pledges – to train and certify 10 million people from underserved communities with in-demand digital, foundational or technical skills by 2025.

[Microsoft’s Airband Initiative](#) has also lodged several P2C pledges. In 2022, it made two joint pledges focused on inclusive Internet access, with (i) USAID around our partnership to bring improved Internet access to women in five countries, including Guatemala (pictured) and (ii) [the Hunger Project](#) to expand broadband access for 70,000 people while also providing ICT training and jobs. More recently, at the SDG Digital event in September 2023, Microsoft announced a pledge to expand connectivity to 250 million people around the world by the end of 2025.

⁷ <https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/am/binary/RW1bqw2>



Despite all these uncertainties, we firmly believe in the power of human wisdom and collaboration. While making our way forward, we can, as always, seize opportunities amid challenges, thus bringing about a new round of evolution. To ride the digital wave, as a P2C champion, ZTE will stick to its role as a driver of the digital economy, and strive for excellence while tackling the hardest challenges.”

Ziyang Xu
CEO, ZTE



As a driver of the digital economy, ZTE remains committed to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals by increasing access to global digitalization and by empowering communities worldwide. Serving over a quarter of the global population with innovative technologies and integrated solutions, ZTE has learnt the value of joint efforts and partnerships that capitalize on the strengths of diverse stakeholders in achieving the vision of universal and meaningful connectivity. This is why ZTE is a strong believer in the power of ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition and is very proud to be one of its first champions. ZTE acknowledges the imperative and significance of the P2C platform and is willing to continue contributing to this great endeavour. Resolution 88 adopted at WTDC-22 last year gave the mandate to ITU to further advance the objectives of P2C. It is essential not only for ITU but also for all stakeholders to keep improving P2C's capability in catalysing concrete multiparty efforts that accelerate connectivity and bridge the digital divide in alignment with national strategies.

To date, ZTE has contributed three pledges to the Coalition. The first concentrates on bridging the digital divide by building USD 400 million worth of ICT infrastructure annually for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS by 2025. By the third quarter of 2023, ZTE had already achieved the annual target for this first pledge and progress in its implementation is ongoing.

The second pledge directly helps ITU to continue delivering its WTDC-22 mandate by supporting the activities of P2C as described in its Action Framework.

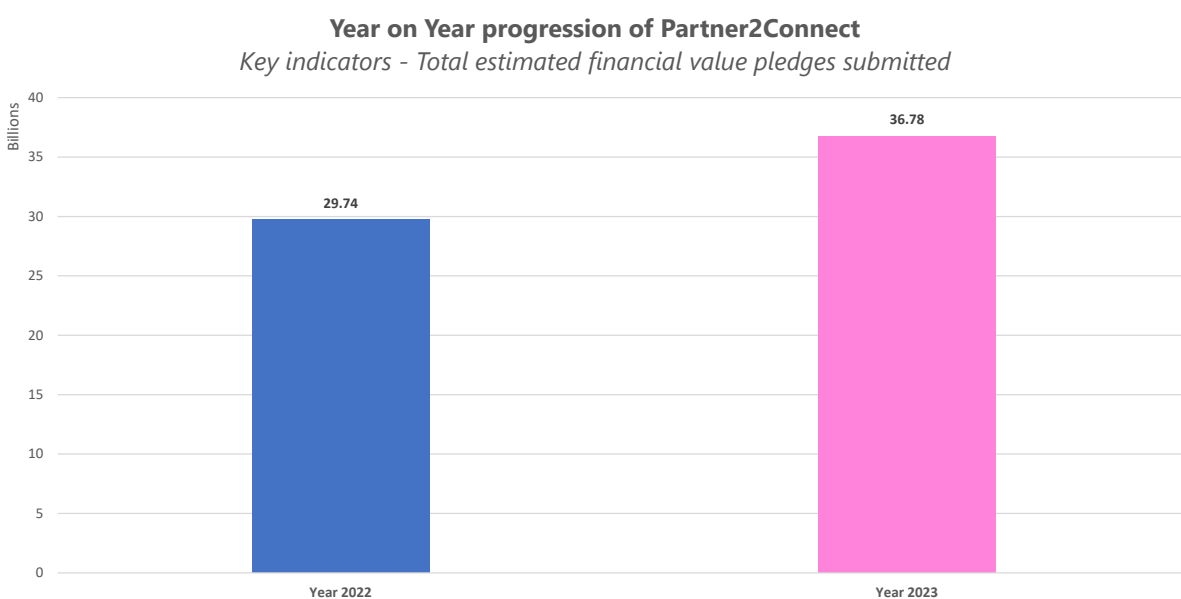
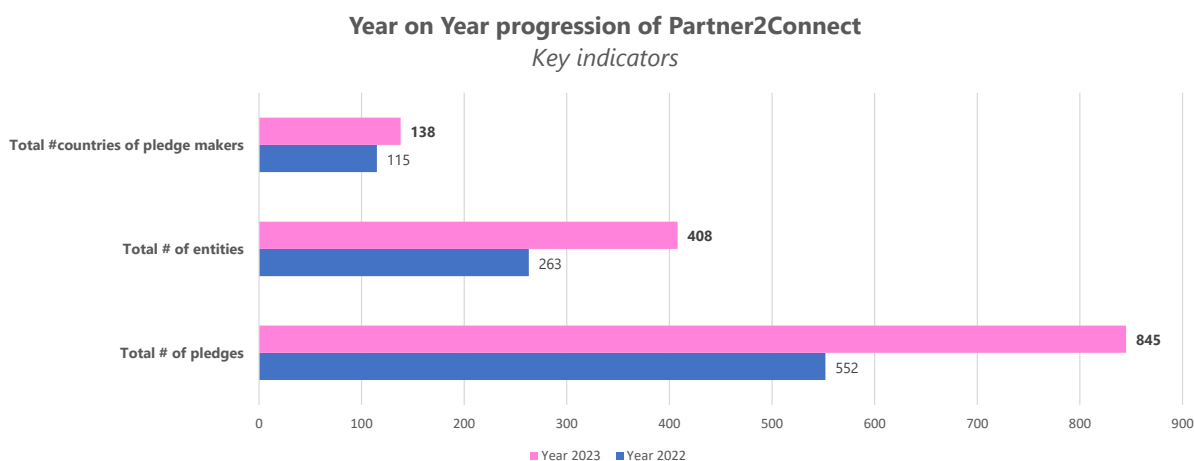
The third pledge, submitted to the P2C platform in September 2023, addresses the issue of digital skills, which ZTE considers crucial in optimizing the effectiveness of a well-built ICT infrastructure globally. Also in September, at the P2C session held during the SDG Digital event at the United Nations in New York, ZTE reaffirmed its commitment to advance digitalization and sustainable development, emphasizing the importance of accelerating this transformation in the world's most underserved regions.

Executive summary

ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition allows all stakeholders to mobilize and announce new resources, partnerships, and commitments to foster universal meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

Though focused on the hardest-to-connect communities in least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS), P2C is a Coalition for all. As of 6 December 2023, it has received a total of **845 pledges** valued at **USD 36.78 billion** from **408 entities** representing **138 countries** around the globe.

When compared with last year's [Annual Report figures](#), P2C has increased by **53%** the **number of pledges** received, **by 24%** the **financial resources mobilized**, by **nearly 55%** the total **number of entities** pledging, and by **20%** the **number of countries** engaged in the Coalition.



Pledges continue to be submitted under P2C's Action Framework, addressing specific pillars and issues. Of the four focus areas, which are ACCESS, ADOPTION, VALUE CREATION and ACCELERATE, most of the pledges are directed towards the first two.

Entities based in **Europe** are the most active, submitting most of the total pledges (**245**), followed by entities based in **Africa** (174) and the **Americas** (171). Regarding region of implementation, Africa is the region receiving most of the pledges (**274**, valued at **USD 17.24 billion**). Of the 845 total pledges submitted, **261 (31%)** target at least one LDC and are worth an estimated value of **USD 12.24 billion**; moreover, **52%** of the pledges include **women** as one of their beneficiary groups.

Government continues to be the sector submitting most of the pledges to the Coalition (**470 pledges** worth an estimated **USD 9.7 billion**). The **private sector** comes in second with **144 pledges** but remains the leader in terms of financial resources mobilized (**USD 24.46 billion**).

Turning to pledge type, **programmatic pledges** continue to dominate by number of pledges (**389** pledges worth **USD 20.76 billion**), followed by **policy-related pledges** (**177** submissions worth **USD 1.87 billion**). Advocacy pledges took third place (**143 pledges** worth **USD 63.98 million**), and financial pledges came in fourth (**136 entries** worth **USD 14.09 billion**). Important to note is the 75% increase vis à vis last year in the number of programmatic pledges, and that the financial value of the advocacy pledges has doubled when compared with last year.

Whilst P2C's pledge mobilization efforts advance, the Coalition continues to emphasize the importance of monitoring and reporting progress toward implementation. P2C's self-reporting process and online form allow pledgers to comply with the principles of accountability, transparency, partnership and action-oriented leadership established by the Coalition. The process is also intended to support adherence to the commitments made at WTDC-22 to monitor and report on pledge implementation. Self-reporting is a duty for all P2C pledgers. Progress reports enable the Coalition to automatically update dashboards, improve their analysis of the overall progress, and make aggregated results instantly available on P2C's online platform. Pledgers can always provide further regular progress reports to more accurately reflect how implementation activities are evolving.



Key findings of the P2C Annual Report

01

The year 2023 was one of growth for Partner2Connect. The **number of pledges** received **increased** by **53%**, the **financial resources mobilized** by **24%** and the **number of pledging entities** by **55%**. The Coalition also increased by **20%** the **number of countries** engaged.

02

A critical success factor in the pledge mobilization efforts continued to be the targeted campaigns and major pledge drives at global events like the [LDC5 Conference](#) and [SDG Digital](#). ITU's [Regional Development Forums](#) also proved to be a powerful engine for growth, accounting for most of the new pledge submissions.

03

The focus areas of **ADOPTION** and **ACCESS** received the majority of the **293 new pledges** submitted; **skills, digital inclusion** and **digital innovation and entrepreneurship** were the pillars most frequently targeted.

04

Programmatic pledges continued to be the most common among the **293 new submissions (58%)**; **advocacy**-related pledges came in second place (**21%**), putting policy-related pledges in third place (**12%**).

05

The **private sector** took first place in terms of the value of financial resources mobilized, pledging approximately **USD 6 billion** worth of new commitments in 2023. **Government** placed second with over **USD 900 million**.

06

The **top three SDGs** targeted through the pledges submitted this year were **SDG 9** (industry, innovation and infrastructure), **SDG 4** (quality education) and **SDG 10** (reduced inequalities).

07

Of the 845 total pledges submitted, **261 (31%)** target at least one LDC and are worth an estimated value of **USD 12.24 billion**.

08

Women are specified as one of the beneficiary groups in 47% of the 293 new pledges, and in **52% of all the pledges** in the P2C platform.

09

Most of the 845 total submitted pledges originate from **Europe (29%)**, followed by **Africa (21%)** and the **Americas (20%)**. Combined, these three regions have pledged a total of **USD 26.5 billion**, accounting for **72% of the total resources** mobilized by the Coalition.

10

About **83%** of the total pledges involve just one (**single**) implementing entity; **joint** pledges account for the remaining **17%**. Also, in 36 of the 275 pledges reported (**13%**), **new partnerships** were formed as a result of the pledge. Additional and new partners were sought to expand the outreach of programmes, extend the knowledge base, and increase the number of funding sources to help with localization efforts.

11

As of 6 December, of the total **845 pledges** submitted by **408 entities**, **275 pledges** had been reported on by **143 entities**. This means **33%** of the total commitments had been reported on by **35%** of all pledgers. The small proportional reduction relative to last year's reporting rates (37% and 38% respectively) can be partly explained by the high number of new pledges submitted this year, for which implementation activities are just getting started.

12

Approximately **USD 4.8 billion** was spent towards the implementation of those **275 pledges that were reported on**. This represents an **increase of USD 1.5 billion** in expenditure on implementation compared with 2022.

13

By the end of 2023, **73%** of the **275 pledges** reported on were in **progress**, **13%** were in the **planning phase**, **12%** had already been **completed**, and **3%** had **not started yet**. Of those in progress, **55%** were in the early to middle stages of implementation and about **19%** were close to completion.

14

Challenges described by pledgers included natural disasters, difficulties in fund-raising and capacity building, and delays in administrative procedures which hindered progress on the implementation of their pledges. They also highlighted some unexpected positive outcomes such as the growth of the digital economy in rural areas, improvements in educational quality and the living standards of families, and greater interest from policy-makers in upskilling.

15

Data indicate that most of the pledges reported on (**88%**) adhere to **at least one of the Coalition's targets**. Four of the top five targets are related to ADOPTION. Two new targets emerged as leading trends among pledgers in 2023, namely for 70% of connected individuals to possess basic digital skills, and 50% to have intermediate skills, by 2030.

P2C milestones

The year 2023 was a very important one for Partner2Connect. The Coalition continued to grow, mobilizing resources and partners to advance the cause of universal, meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation. In the spring, at the [LDC5 Conference](#) in Doha, Qatar, P2C set out once more its commitment to support the implementation of the [Doha Programme of Action](#) at the session held during the [Private Sector Forum](#). P2C also launched a pledging campaign to activate resources and connectivity projects specially targeted towards these countries. In March, P2C announced it had received its [600th pledge](#), which was submitted by the Digital Child Rights Foundation, and later in May at the [World Telecommunication and Information Society Day \(WTISD\)](#), the Coalition helped raise awareness on the importance of ICTs to support LDCs in addressing their development challenges.

At the regional level, efforts to highlight implementation and matchmaking continued throughout the year with the P2C roundtables held at the [Regional Development Forums](#) in Africa, Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and the Arab States.

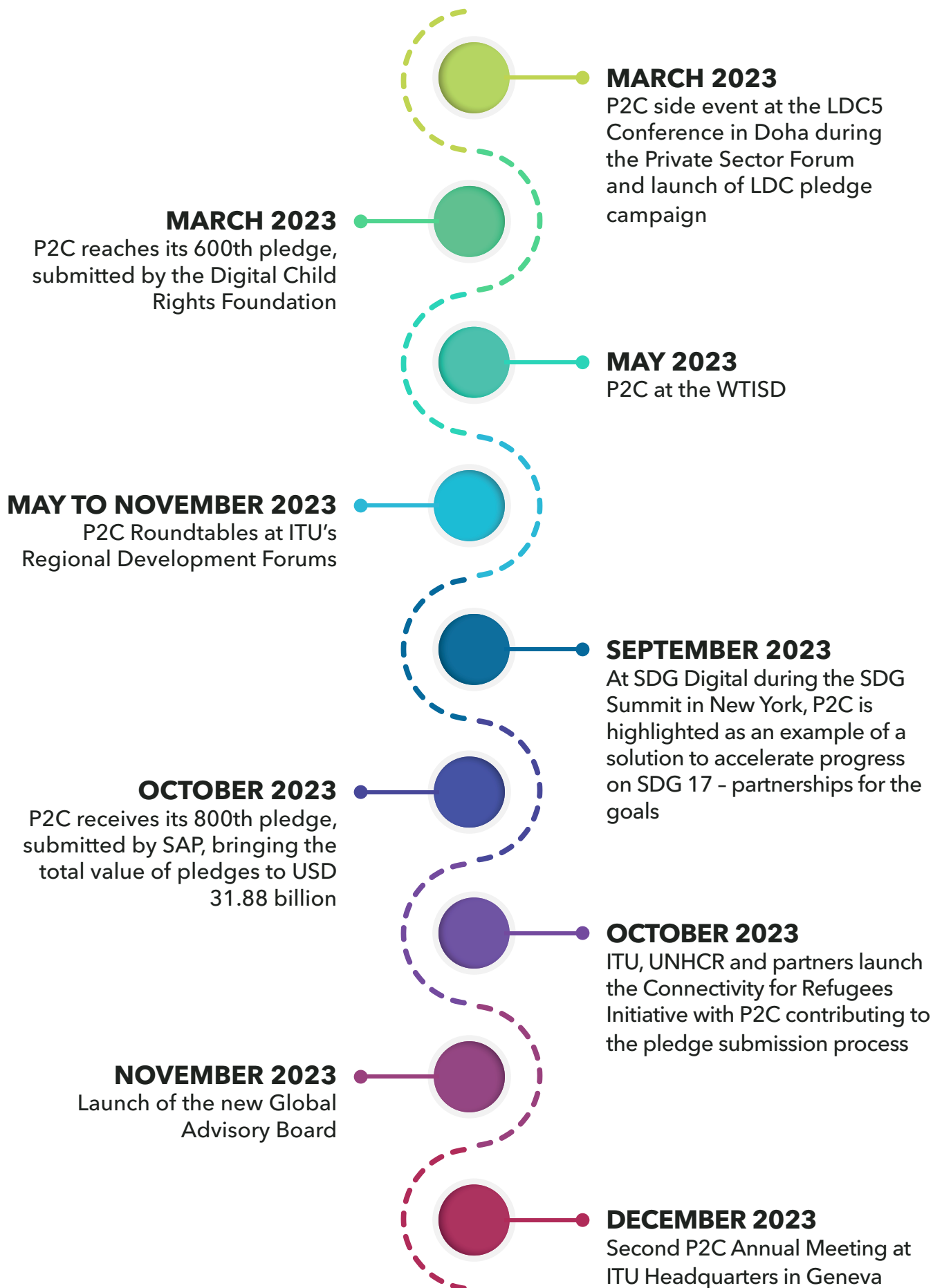
At the global level, on 17 September on the eve of the [United Nations SDG Summit](#), P2C was recognized as an example of a game-changing solution for SDG 17 - partnerships for the goals. In October, ITU reached pledge [number 800](#) at the Regional Development Forum in Africa. The pledge was submitted by SAP⁸, and brought the total financial value of pledges received by October 2023 to USD 31.88 billion.

Also in October, ITU together with UNHCR and partners launched the [Connectivity for Refugees Initiative](#), which seeks to advance the digital inclusion of more than 20 million displaced people and their host communities. P2C is a central part of this initiative, closely contributing to the pledge submission process.

The Coalition also launched the new Global Advisory Board in the autumn, whose inaugural members include the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the P2C champions ZTE⁹, Amazon and Microsoft.

⁸ SAP is a multinational software company based in Germany, formerly called System Analysis Program Development (Systemanalyse Programmentwicklung)

⁹ ZTE is a technology company in China formerly called Zhongxing Telecommunication Equipment Corporation.



P2C pledge mobilization and implementation

845

Pledges received

\$36.78bn

Estimated financial value (USD)

408

Entities

138

Countries of pledge-makers

By 6 December 2023, a total of 845 pledges worth USD 36.78 billion coming from 408 entities representing 138 countries had been submitted to the P2C platform

Analysis of new pledges submitted since the last P2C Annual Report

When compared against the figures presented in the [P2C Annual Report 2022](#), in 2023, the Coalition increased by

53%

the number of pledges received

24%

the financial resources mobilized

55%

the number of pledging entities

20%

the number of countries engaged in the Coalition

A critical success factor in the pledge mobilization efforts continues to be the targeted campaigns and major pledge drives at global events like the [LDC5 Conference](#) and [SDG Digital](#). ITU's [Regional Development Forums](#) also proved to be a powerful engine for growth, accounting for most of the new pledge submissions.

A majority of the 293 new pledges submitted are oriented towards the focus areas of **ADOPTION** and **ACCESS**, most frequently targeting the pillars of **skills, digital inclusion** and **digital innovation and entrepreneurship**. **Programmatic** pledges continued to be the most common among the new submissions (**58%**); **advocacy**-related pledges came in second place this time (**21%**), overtaking the policy-related pledges (**12%**).

As was the case last year, **government** continues to be the sector with the most new pledges submitted (**45%**). The **private sector** came in second with **19%**. However, when looking at financial value, the **private sector** took first place, pledging approximately **USD 6 billion**. **Government** was in second place with just over **USD 900 million**.

In 2023, on the occasion of SDG Digital, the Coalition introduced 'SDG' as a new field in the pledge-reporting tool. This field intends to help pledgers identify how their pledge is helping to address the SDGs. The five most frequently targeted among the new pledges submitted this year were:



Industry, innovation and infrastructure



Quality education



Reduced inequalities



Partnerships for the goals

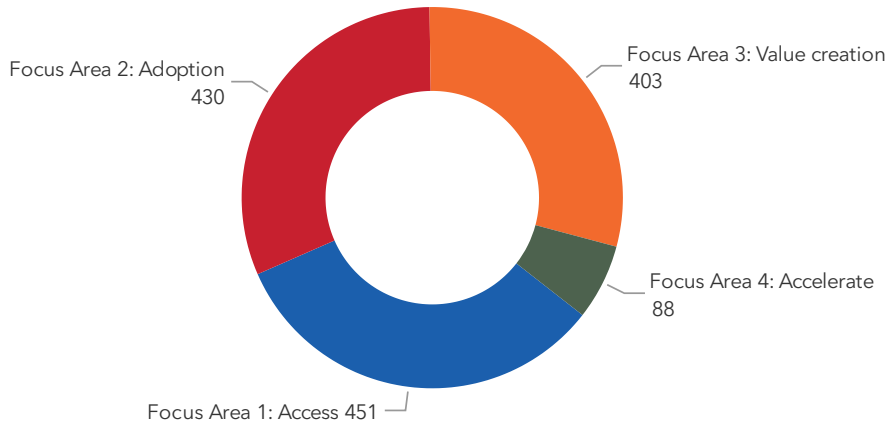


Gender equality (47% of all new pledges include women as one of their beneficiary groups)

Analysis of total pledges submitted to Partner2Connect

Pledges by focus area, pillar, and region of origin

Number of pledges by Focus Areas

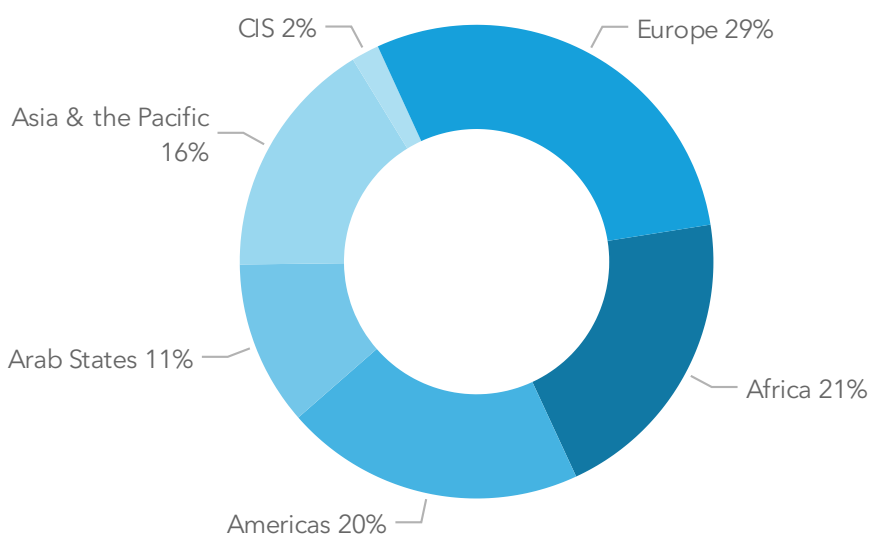


By 6 December, of the **845 pledges** submitted to the P2C platform, **451** worth almost **USD 25 billion** were directed towards the focus area¹⁰ of **ACCESS**. **ADOPTION** came in second with **430 pledges** worth nearly **USD 21 billion**, and **VALUE CREATION** was third with **403 pledges** at over **USD 18 billion**. A total of **88 pledges** worth an estimated **USD 8.3 billion** were related to the focus area of **ACCELERATE**.

¹⁰ Pledges submitted to the P2C platform can be associated with more than one focus area or pillar. For more information, visit the [P2C Action Framework](#).

When looking at the pillars inside each focus area, **connectivity and digital infrastructure** had the most pledges submitted with **337 entries** at **USD 14.5 billion**; **digital inclusion** took second place with **329 entries** at over **USD 20 billion**. Pledges addressing the pillar of **skills** came in third with **320 pledges** worth **USD 19 billion**.

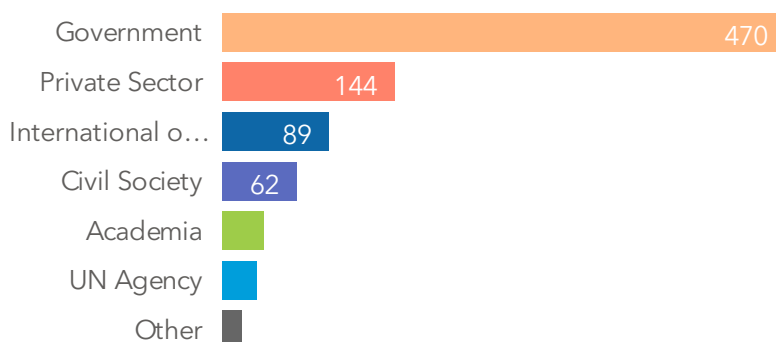
Pledges by region of origin



Europe is the region where most of the pledges submitted to P2C originated from (**29%**) followed by **Africa (21%)** and the **Americas (20%)**. Combined, these three regions pledged a total of **USD 26.5 billion**, accounting for **72% of the total resources** mobilized by the Coalition.

Pledges by sector and pledge type

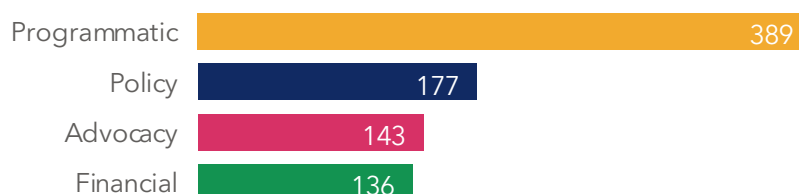
Number of pledges by sector



Government continued to be the sector making the most pledges to the Coalition (**470**, comprising **56%** of the total). The **private sector** was the second largest pledger by number with **144 submitted pledges (17%)**. Nevertheless, with respect to financial value, the **private sector** came in first with **USD 24.46 billion** pledged towards the Coalition; **government** pledges were worth **USD 9.75 billion**. These two sectors combined account for **93%** of the financial resources mobilized by P2C. It is also worth noting that government bodies (including regulatory authorities) make up **42%** of the entities that form the Coalition, while the **private sector** accounts for 23%.

By pledge type, most of the pledges submitted to P2C have been **programmatic** in nature (**389 pledges, 46%**), and **policy-related** pledges (**177**) account for **21%**. By value, programmatic pledges (**USD 20.76 billion**) make up **56%** of the total resources mobilized, followed by **financial** pledges (**USD 14 billion**) at **38%**.

Number of pledges by pledge type



Around **83%** of the **845 total submitted pledges** involve just one (**single**) implementing entity; **joint** pledges account for the remaining **17%**.

Finally, of this total, **443 pledges (52%)** include women as one of their beneficiary groups¹¹, **379** include children, and **322** include persons with disabilities. In the summer, on [World Refugee Day](#), P2C initiated a campaign to address the issue of connectivity for displaced people. In their submission form, pledgers now have the opportunity to select this group among the possible beneficiaries for a more targeted action. This change in the pledge submission form was made to support the recently launched [Connectivity for Refugees Initiative](#), an effort driven by ITU and UNHCR together with the GSM Association, the Government of Luxemburg, and other partners to ensure digital inclusion for 20 million of the world's forcibly displaced people and their local host communities.

The P2C platform remains open for the submission of new pledges under the Coalition's Action Framework. Data on all of the pledges are publicly available via the [interactive dashboard](#).

11 Pledges submitted to the P2C platform can be linked to more than one target groups.

Pledge implementation progress

In addition to pledge mobilization, Partner2Connect also follows very closely the progress made in the implementation of the pledges. To comply with the principles of accountability, transparency, partnership and action-oriented leadership, and the commitments made at WTDC-22, P2C has a self-reporting process and [online form](#) to help pledgers capture key updates and metrics on progress. All pledgers are required to complete this form and submit it at any point in time, and as often as desired. Reporting data are publicly available in an aggregated form via [interactive dashboards](#) on the P2C website. The findings are used not only to monitor progress, but also to prepare briefings and statistics, and publish the P2C Annual Report, which is presented at its annual meeting.

Given the preparations for the 2023 P2C Annual Meeting on 12 December at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, all pledgers were reminded to submit their progress reports by the end of November, a deadline that was later extended to 6 December. Responses submitted after this were not included in this publication but will be used for future reporting cycles and to update the online dashboards.

The results presented here are preliminary. Of the **845 pledges** submitted by **408 entities**, **275 pledges** had been reported on by **143 entities**, meaning that **33%** of the total commitments were reported on by **35%** of all pledgers. The small proportional reduction relative to the reporting rates in 2022 (37% and 38% respectively) can be partly explained by the large number of new pledges submitted in 2023, for which implementation activities are just beginning.

845 Total Pledges	275 Pledges Reported	33% Response Rate
408 Total Entities	143 Entities Reporting	35% Response Rate

Preliminary data also indicate that approximately **USD 4.8 billion** was spent towards the implementation of those **275 pledges that were reported on**. This represents an increase of **USD 1.5 billion** compared to last year's expenditure on implementation.

Self-reporting is a duty for all P2C pledgers. The P2C Secretariat will continue encouraging all pledgers to report on their commitments, so that it will be possible to capture more data and insights for the next reporting cycle. Only by gathering accurate data on pledges through frequent and precise reporting, will P2C be able to measure the true impact and overall success of the Coalition.

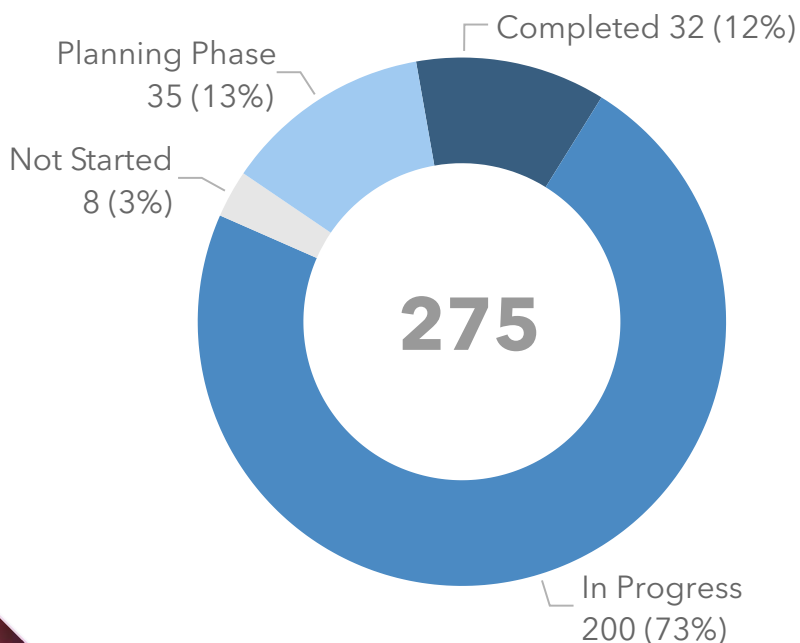
Overview of results

Aggregated data on reported progress

Pledges reported by implementation status

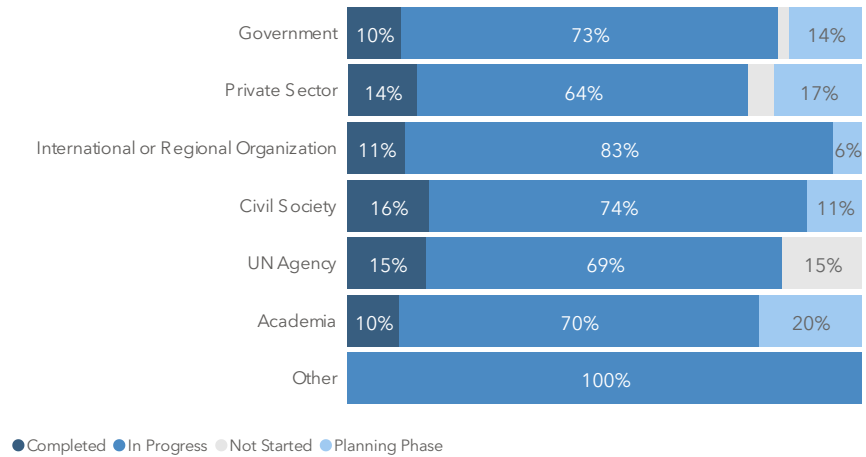
As of the end of 2023, **73%** of the **275 pledges** reported on were **in progress**, **13%** were in the **planning phase**, **12%** had already been **completed**, and **3%** had **not started yet**.

Of those in progress, **55%** were in the early to middle stages of implementation and about **19%** were close to completion. **78%** of pledgers who reported expect to **meet their target deadline** for implementation.

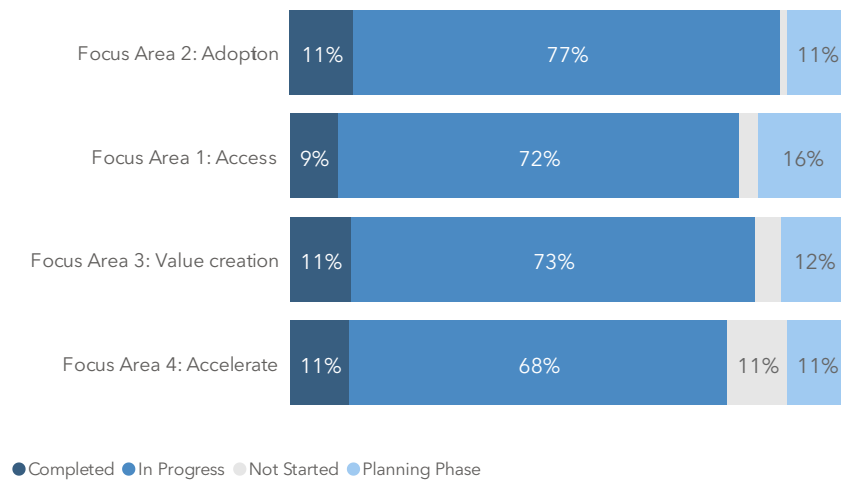


When looking at implementation by sector, **civil society** was leading these efforts with **16%** of pledges completed, followed by the private sector with **14%**.

Pledges reported - Implementation status by sector



Pledges reported - Implementation status by Focus Area

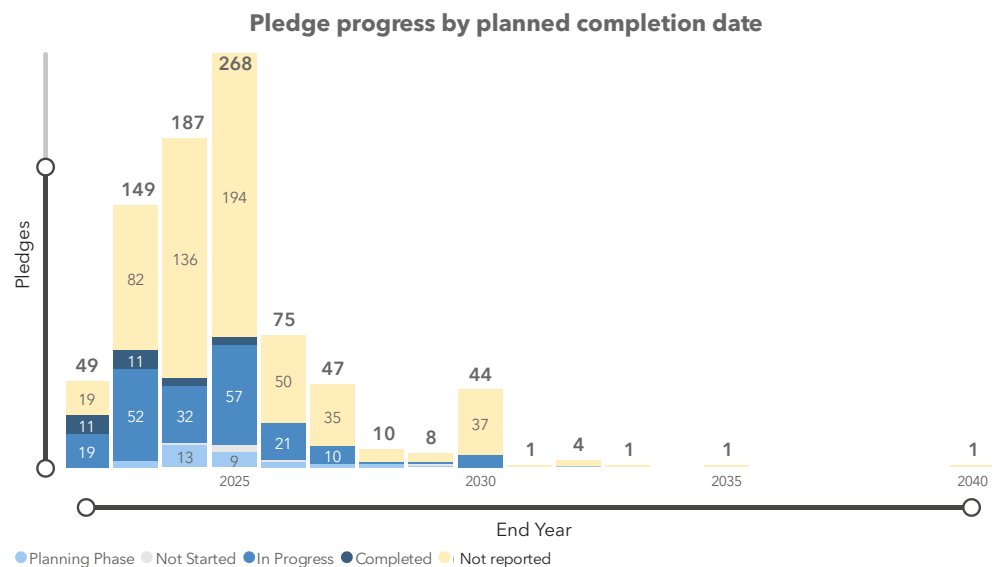


Similarly, when looking at the implementation status by focus area, pledges related to **ADOPTION, VALUE CREATION and ACCELERATE** were tied for first place with **11%** of pledges completed, followed by **ACCESS** with **9%**. The focus area that had the highest proportion of pledges in progress was **ADOPTION**, with **77%** of its reported pledges at that stage.

Among the **275 pledges reported, 97 pledges** had 2022 or 2023 as their planned completion date when they were initially submitted. Of these, 22 pledges (about 23%) were brought to completion and 71 (73%) were still in progress. The pledgers reported that some of the challenges they faced in their implementation progress included:

- Inadequate human resources and skills on the ground to implement the pledge fully
- Delays in the awarding of contracts and other administrative procedures affecting staff recruitment, the availability of facilities, funding disbursement and domestic policy implementation
- Conflict between training providers and recipients affecting the scheduling of training sessions
- Delays in the enactment of laws and policies impacting the execution of the pledge
- Natural disasters in the beneficiary countries and resulting internal administrative/financial difficulties
- Lagging consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in some beneficiary countries
- Fundraising not as successful as originally anticipated
- Fluctuating exchange rates and equipment import regulations

About 77% of the total pledges submitted are expected to be completed by 2025. However, 66% of these are yet to be reported on.



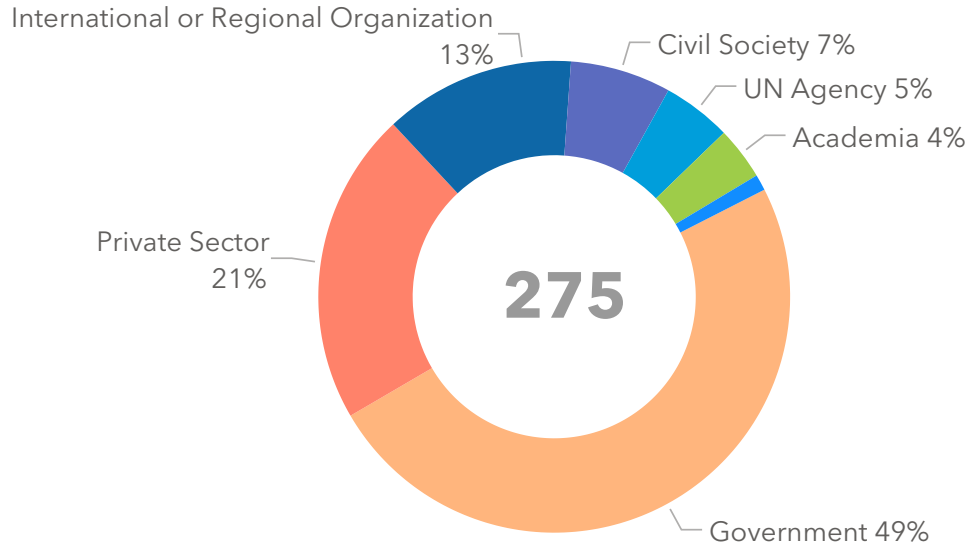
For 36 of the 275 reported pledges (13%), new partnerships were formed as a result of the pledge. Additional partners were sought to expand the outreach of programmes, strengthen the knowledge base, and increase the number of funding sources to help with localization efforts. These new partners mostly consisted of governments, telecom operators, international organizations and UN agencies (including ITU), private sector players, donors and local civil society organizations.

Progress by sector, focus area and pledge type

Sector

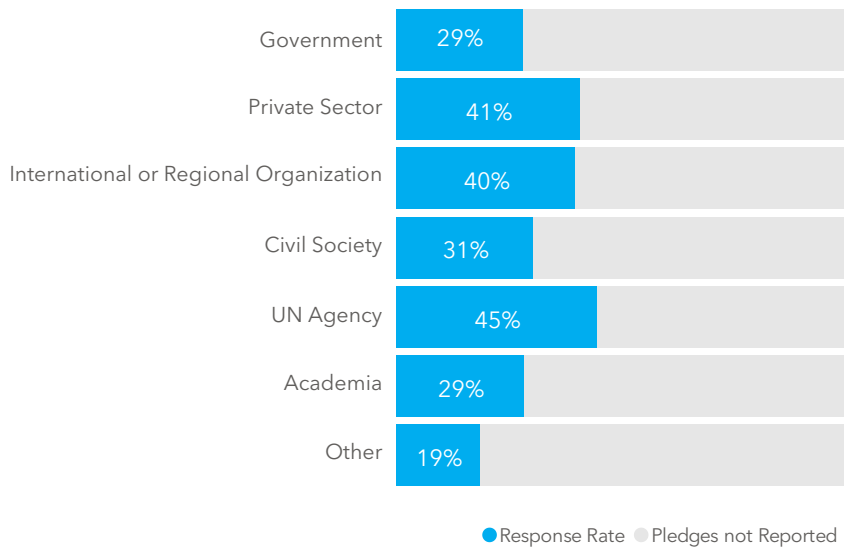
When analysing the total pledges reported on by sector, government came in first place with **135 (49%)** of the total reported pledges) and the private sector in second place with **59 (21%)**.

Pledges reported by sector



However, when it comes to response rates (pledges reported on as a proportion of pledges submitted), UN agencies had the highest rate (**45%**) followed by the private sector (**41%**) and international organizations (**40%**). All sectors apart from government and academia had a response rate above 30%.

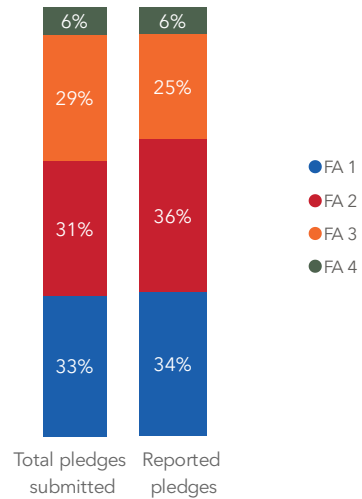
Pledges reported - Response rate by sector



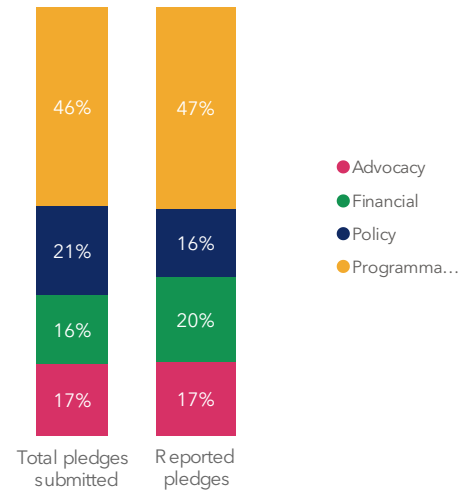
Focus area and pledge type

Regarding pledges reported on by focus area, there were similar reporting rates for ADOPTION (36%) and ACCESS (34%). VALUE CREATION was third (25%) and the area with the lowest rate was ACCELERATE (6%).

Share of pledges by Focus Area



Share of pledges by type



The pledges categorized as policy-related or programmatic highlight some of the key steps taken for implementation, which include:

The analysis by pledge type indicates that **47%** of the reported pledges were programmatic, **20%** financial, and **17%** advocacy-related, whilst policy pledges represented **16%**.



Some of the expected outcomes for policy and programmatic pledges as stated by the progress reports include:

- Empowerment of learners with technical and soft skills
- Creation of environments and fertile grounds for new partnerships
- Showcasing of innovation and projects
- Increased awareness of the gender digital divide
- Promotion of gender equality in mainstream ICT and coding through national curricula
- Adoption of digital public goods globally, including in the LDCs
- Improved cyber resilience and ability to respond to cyberattacks
- Increased awareness of the importance of technology standards
- Boosting of sustainable economic growth through technology.

Pledgers also reported on what they considered were positive unexpected outcomes in their implementation journey:

- Income generation through digital work
- Growth of the digital economy in rural areas
- Sharing of best practices with other pledgers and countries
- Improvement in educational quality and families' living standards
- Greater interest in upskilling from policy-makers, governments and regulatory bodies
- Valuable networking opportunities.



Alignment of pledges with P2C targets

The P2C self-reporting form includes a section that intends to determine whether pledges are aligned to the targets established by the Coalition: [ITU's Universal Meaningful Connectivity Targets 2030](#), the [UN Broadband Commission Advocacy Targets](#), and [ITU's Strategic Targets and Results Framework](#). These targets were grouped in categories as follows for easier reporting:

ACCESS targets

100% of individuals aged 15 and above use the Internet

100% of individuals aged 15 and above own a mobile phone

100% of households are connected to the Internet

100% of businesses are connected to the Internet

100% of schools are connected to the Internet

Every school has minimum download speeds of 20 Mbit/s

Every school has 50 kbit/s available per student

Every school has a minimum 200 GB of data allowance

Broadband-Internet user penetration has reached: i) 75% worldwide; ii) 65% in low- and middle-income countries; and iii) 35% in LDCs

All fixed-broadband subscriptions are 10 Mbit/s or faster

A country-level national broadband plan or strategy has been created

By 2025, entry-level broadband services are made affordable in low- and middle-income countries at less than 2% of monthly gross national income per capita

Cybersecurity preparedness and resilience has key capabilities (e.g. strategy, legislation, and national computer incident/emergency response teams)

ADOPTION targets

By 2025, 60% of youth and adults achieve at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills

By 2030, 70% of connected individuals possess basic digital skills (e.g. sending emails)

By 2050, 50% of connected individuals possess intermediate digital skills (e.g. installing new software or apps)

By 2030, there is a gender parity score of 1 (denoting equal access)

VALUE CREATION targets

40% of the world's population is using digital financial services

The connectivity of micro, small and medium enterprises has improved by 50%, by sector

The analysis of the data submitted indicates that most pledges reported on (**88%**) are adhering to at least one of the Coalition’s targets. This is an encouraging finding that demonstrates commitment towards the vision of a meaningfully connected planet outlined by the targets.

The top five targets currently being pursued by the pledges reported are:	Category
By 2025, 60% of youth and adults will achieve at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills	ADOPTION
By 2030, there is a gender parity score of 1 (denoting equal access)	ADOPTION
100% of individuals aged 15 and above use the Internet	ACCESS
By 2030, 70% of connected individuals will possess basic digital skills (e.g. sending emails)*	ADOPTION
By 2050, 50% of connected individuals will possess intermediate digital skills (e.g. installing new software/apps)*	ADOPTION

*New trend in 2023

Pledges alignment with P2C targets

Top Targets	Pledges Reported
By 2025, 60% of youth and adults will achieve at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills	117
By 2030, gender parity score of 1 (equal access)	104
100% of individuals aged 15 years and above use the Internet	101
By 2030, 70% of connected individuals will possess basic digital skills (e.g.: sending emails)	101
By 2050, 50% of connected individuals will possess intermediate digital skills (e.g. installing new software/apps)	97

Accomplishments at the ITU Regional Development Forums

In 2023, ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) organized 5 Regional Development Forums (RDFs), which attracted a total of over 1050 participants. These RDFs provided an opportunity for high-level dialogues amongst the Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, primarily on the implementation of the regional initiatives within the framework of the Kigali Action Plan and Resolution 88 on the P2C Digital Coalition as adopted by [WTDC-22](#). Each RDF featured regional P2C roundtables focused on matchmaking and partner announcements with concrete commitments to support the implementation of priorities in the respective region and countries.

Over **120 speakers** from government, the private sector, international and regional organizations, and academia took part at **25 regional P2C matchmaking roundtables**.

The roundtables allowed P2C pledges to be mapped onto and matched with actionable commitments to be implemented by the pledgers or jointly with beneficiaries at regional or country level. At each roundtable, the participants discussed and identified effective mechanisms for coordination and collaboration aimed at using resources more optimally to bring about sustainable development in the respective region and beyond. Many organizations provided an update on the implementation status of their pledges in line with **ITU-D's regional initiatives**. In addition, **more than 200 new pledges and concrete commitments** were announced at the roundtables with the objective to operationalize new and existing P2C pledges. The complete outcome reports of the RDFs can be found on the [BDT website](#).

[P2C Roundtables at RDF for Europe: 22-23 May 2023, Timisoara, Romania](#)

The Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR), held in Romania on 22 and 23 May 2023, welcomed over 200 participants from 40 countries to discuss priority development issues and identify ways to boost implementation in the region.

As this RDF took place earlier in the year than those mentioned above, this marked the first time that an RDF featured regional P2C roundtables aimed at matchmaking between partner pledges and countrywide/regional needs and priorities.

This series of roundtables at RDF-EUR offered a comprehensive understanding of the effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into scaled-up impact in Europe. The specific five roundtables on each ITU regional initiative for Europe unfolded coherent strategies and actions to advance digital infrastructure development, digital transformation for resilience, digital inclusion and skills development, trust and confidence in the use of ICTs, and digital innovation ecosystems.

The Forum was organized in close collaboration with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT) and hosted by the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania.

Some of the highlights of the RDF-EUR matchmaking roundtables include:

1. The commitment by **GIZ, Germany** to implement “Her CyberTracks” initiative in 8 beneficiary countries in Europe (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine) with the aim to promote the equal, full, and meaningful representation of women in cybersecurity for a more resilient cyberspace for all.
2. The commitment by the **Ministry of Digital Transformation, Slovenia** and the governments of **France** and **Montenegro** for the establishment of the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) to bring positive impact in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia.
3. The commitment by the **Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Montenegro** to implement an initiative on enhancing DAB implementation and development that will directly speed-up the digitalization of the audio broadcasting services in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia who will benefit from it and will trace the path for a wider deployment of ICT broadband services in the region.
4. The commitment by **antene KOM** to implement ‘Digital Twins technology’ in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, which would provide benefits for different industries in these countries such as manufacturing, healthcare, construction, and others.
5. The commitment by **SWGfL** to protect everyone online by supporting victims of online abuse, particularly women and girls from non-consensual intimate image abuse and protecting children from exploration across all countries in ITU Europe region.
6. The commitment by **Eastern Partnership Regulators for Electronic Communications (EaPeReg)** to develop technical and service infrastructure as well as capacity building in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine as part of its strategy under the EU4Digital initiative.
7. The commitment by **SPIDER, Stockholm University, Sweden** to provide ‘Peer-to-peer capacity building’ in ICT Regulation to 41 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as four regional regulatory organizations in Africa: CRASA, WATRA, EACO and ARTAC.
8. The commitment by **Digital Child Rights Foundation** to implement its Digital Child Rights Desk Project in Spain, Netherlands, Malawi, Jordan and other European countries with the objective to protect, empower and meaningfully connect children to the Internet.

Detailed information on the matchmaking sessions may be found in the official report of the [RDF-EUR](#).

P2C Roundtables at RDF for the Americas: 16-18 August 2023, San Salvador, El Salvador

The Regional Development Forum for the Americas (RDF-AMS), held from 16 to 18 August 2023 in El Salvador, welcomed over 250 participants from 22 countries to discuss key development issues for the region and identify avenues to scale up implementation of priorities including ITU’s regional initiatives for the Americas.

The RDF-AMS gathered together decision-makers from ITU Member States and Sector Members, including telecommunication/ICT policy-makers, regulators, industry, and academia, as well as regional and international development agencies, representatives of UN agencies, and other stakeholders in the Americas. The Government of El Salvador hosted the event, with support from the Ministry of Economy and the Superintendencia General de *Electricidad y Telecomunicaciones* (SIGET).

Some of the highlights of the RDF-AMS matchmaking roundtables include:

1. Matchmaking at the regional P2C roundtable, including projects in El Salvador, Guatemala and Argentina by the **IDB** in the fields of infrastructure and connectivity and the development of a digital ecosystem to boost employment, growth and social inclusion;
2. Activities by the **Development Bank of Latin America** in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador in the digitalization of services, telemedicine and AI;
3. Work in Bolivia by **ZTE** to help develop their 5G sector;
4. Activities by the **BBVA Microfinance Foundation** benefiting vulnerable communities in several countries;
5. An ITU Academy course by **SBA Communications** for government officials to meet the need of upgrading public employees' digital skills;
6. Activities by **COMTELCA** to help Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic upgrade their indexes in different aspects of digital development;
7. The Profuturo Digital Education Programme by **Telefonica** to narrow the digital education gap and improve the quality of learning in Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
8. An agreement valued at USD 150,000 for the financing of regional initiatives in the Americas, signed by **Huawei** and **ITU**, which represents a milestone in the implementation of Huawei's P2C pledge to address ICT priorities through partnerships and resource mobilization.

Detailed information on the matchmaking sessions and new pledges may be found in the official report of the [RDF-AMS](#).

P2C Roundtables at RDF for Asia and the Pacific: 13-15 September 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

The Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific (RDF-ASP) took place from 13 to 15 September in Bangkok, Thailand. Over 200 participants from 20 countries and partner organizations across the region came together to discuss strategies to address their regional and national digital needs and engage partners to commit resources towards the implementation of solutions.

The RDF-ASP, which welcomed several high-level officials from governments, the private sector, and UN agencies, focused on matchmaking the P2C pledges announced through commitments to address the needs on the ground, including regional initiatives. The event was organized by the BDT and hosted by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT).

Some of the highlights of the RDF-ASP matchmaking roundtables include:

1. The commitments of **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to help 29 million people grow their tech skills by 2025 in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam;
2. Investments worth USD 4.7 million by **BitSight** to help LDCs in the region accelerate improvements in their cybersecurity posture and reduce the cyber-capacity gap;
3. Commitments worth USD 25 million made by **Cisco** via their NetAcad and Skills for All programme, aimed at benefiting over 250,000 people across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu by 2027;

4. A commitment by **FAO (the Food and Agriculture Organization)** to empower farmers in Bangladesh with access to actionable information;
5. The provision by **Huawei** of 10,000 training opportunities for ICT professionals in Cambodia over the next five years and connectivity for about 120 million people in remote areas globally by 2025;
6. The provision by **Intelsat** of Wi-Fi Internet access solutions to connect 100 schools in rural and remote areas including in Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Mongolia, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Lao P.D.R., and Timor-Leste by 2025;
7. Investments worth USD 300 million by **Kacific** to connect 1 billion people across Asia and the Pacific by 2027 in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Micronesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Sri Lanka;
8. Commitments by **ZTE** to build USD 400 million worth of ICT infrastructure annually by 2025.

The seven new pledges that were announced at the RDF-ASP are as follows:

1. The **China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT)** committed to collaborate with all countries in the Asia-Pacific region to develop standards and projects on enablement indicators and methods of assessing ICT for sustainable development;
2. **IsDB** made a commitment to submit a new pledge by early 2024 to support its member countries in the Asia-Pacific region;
3. The **Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association** pledged to support the Pacific Girls for ICT Day programme, promote green energy and e-waste management, regularly organize the testing of emergency communications equipment, and enhance capacity building and cybersecurity cooperation in the Pacific;
4. **PT Indosat Tbk** made a commitment to provide free data packages and digital literacy and proficiency training modules to at least 100,000 citizens among the underserved communities in eastern Indonesia by the end of 2024;
5. **PT Mukti Mandiri Lestari** pledged to triple its contribution to e-waste management in Indonesia and collect 50,000 tonnes of e-waste annually by 2030;
6. **UNCDF** pledged to partner with ITU to set up an investment facility for the development of an inclusive digital economy in Asia and the Pacific, which has the ambition of mobilizing USD 25-40 million;
7. **Welchman Keen** committed to continue enhancing cybersecurity capacity and capabilities in developing nations and LDCs, and supporting the P2C Coalition by investing an additional USD 480,000 in-kind to continue these efforts in various regions.

Detailed information on the matchmaking sessions and new pledges may be found in the official report of the [RDF-ASP](#).

P2C Roundtables at RDF for Africa: 3-5 Oct 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR) was held from 3 to 5 October 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Africa through digital transformation”.

Hosted by the Government of Ethiopia, the RDF-AFR outlined priorities, challenges, and opportunities in the context of advancing digital transformation in Africa. The event welcomed around 300 participants from 41 countries.

The RDF-AFR also marked P2C's 800th pledge, submitted by a new ITU-D Sector Member, SAP. This was a celebrated milestone that brought the total financial value of pledges received to USD 31.88 billion.

Some of the highlights of the RDF-AFR matching roundtables include:

1. The provision by **Intelsat** of Wi-Fi Internet access solutions to connect 50 schools in rural and remote areas including in Burundi, Central African Republic, Mali, Malawi, Niger, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
2. The commitment by **ZTE** to build USD 400 million worth of ICT infrastructure annually by 2025, including in Ethiopia and Ghana;
3. The provision by **Qualcomm** of wireless technologies to 3 million people in underserved communities in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, and Tanzania by 2025;
4. The commitment by **Eutelsat** to invest USD 250 million through its next-generation KONNECT satellite with the objective of connecting more than 1 million people living in remote, rural, and unserved areas in 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa;
5. The provision by **ICANN** of support, via the Coalition for Digital Africa ccTLDs Track, to strengthen 10 African ccTLD registries in the next two years;
6. The commitment by the **Generation Connect Youth Representatives** to build strategies and tackle barriers to digital transformation in African countries including Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire;
7. The commitment by **Smart Africa** to implement a digital infrastructure financing strategy to broaden the base of contributors in 28 countries in Africa;
8. The commitment by the **United Nations Technology Bank** to scale up its Technology Makers Lab project aiming to enhance digital skills for adolescent boys and girls in Niger, Senegal, Togo and other countries over the next three years with an estimated budget of USD 45 million;
9. The commitments by **Liquid** to provide affordable, meaningful, ultra-high-speed connectivity to communities through its Hubs Connectivity Programme; to focus on connecting schools in Africa by mapping locations, linking sources of financing to large-scale university projects, and deploying infrastructure using Liquid's fibre access, wireless broadband, and last-mile ISP partners and satellites for the most remote locations; and to collaborate with Microsoft to deliver Internet access to 20 million underserved people in Africa by the end of 2025.

The seven new pledges that were announced at the RDF-AFR are as follows:

1. **SAP**, marking the 800th pledge of the Coalition, committed to invest USD 3 million in innovative educational models to enable pathways to employment and entrepreneurship in the digital and green economy for under-represented, underserved and underprivileged youth between the ages of 16 and 24 in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa;
2. **IPSDI-Burundi** committed to advance digital inclusion within rural areas and as a project to target a pilot school of 250 students (girls only) in the west of Burundi to provide them with basic digital skills and [Child Online Protection \(COP\) Guidelines](#);
3. The **Ethiopian Cybersecurity Association** committed to advocate for the establishment of a national forum for promoting cybersecurity awareness and cultural development;
4. The **Ministry of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda** pledged to take significant steps toward establishing a circular economy for electrical and electronic equipment (e-waste) management in line with the country's National Circular Economy Action Plan and Roadmap;

5. The **Ministry of Digital Transition, Post and Electronic Communications of Burkina Faso** committed to the development and extension of fibre-optic backbone across the country;
6. The **Ministry of Communications and Digitalization of Ghana** made a commitment to bridge the country's digital divide through ICT infrastructure and capacity building and to boost digital competencies through the Digital Transformation Centres project;
7. The **Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar, ASECNA**, pledged to set up innovative projects in line with its desire to work towards a Single African Sky in line with the AU's Agenda 2063.

Detailed information on the matchmaking sessions and new pledges may be found in the official report of the [RDF-AFR](#).

P2C Roundtables at RDF for the Arab States: 6-7 Nov 2023, Manama, Bahrain

The Regional Development Forum for the Arab States (RDF-ARB) was held in Bahrain on 6 and 7 November 2023. Its participants discussed priority development issues for the region and identified avenues to scale up implementation and advance meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

Hosted by the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the RDF-ARB welcomed over 100 participants from 19 countries and the State of Palestine.

Some of the highlights of the RDF-ARB matchmaking roundtables include:

1. The commitment by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (**UN-ESCWA**) to expedite the use of technology and innovation for enhanced operations in public institutions in the Arab States through its multistakeholder project ENACT in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen;
2. The commitment by **Vodafone** to continue implementing its USD 190 million connectivity pledge and further connect 60 million people in addition to the 20 million already connected;
3. The commitments by the **League of Arab States** worth a total of USD 160,000 to: a) implement the Arab Digital Capital initiative launched by Saudi Arabia; b) implement the Arab Strategy for Artificial Intelligence; and c) develop and implement the Arab ICT Strategy in all applicable countries;
4. The commitments by **Huawei** to bring connectivity to about 120 million people in remote areas globally by 2025, including in relevant Arab nations, and to build capacity through developing a cybersecurity maturity model;
5. The commitment by **UAE** to invest USD 1.4 million (AED 5 million) to support the I-Codi initiative, through hosting the I-Codi regional hub and providing training sessions and workshops to empower Arab Member States in digital innovation;
6. The commitment by **Oman** to further implement its pledge of USD 2.7 million for the establishment of the Arab Regional Cybersecurity Centre (ARCC);

7. The commitment by **BUGLOUD** to provide a variety of learning opportunities for participants in the region through its cybersecurity activities;
8. The commitment by **E-Space** to deploy services and resources in developing Arab nations, that will allow for the rapid building of highly advanced critical infrastructure, smart cities and environmental monitoring networks;
9. The commitment by **ICANN** to continue the implementation of its pledge and provide support to strengthen ccTLD (country code top-level domain) registries which will bolster the capacity development activities as well as technical and hands-on assistance;
10. The commitment by the **GSM Association** to further implement its pledge of providing free training to policy-makers and regulators on topics such as the humanitarian crisis response, IoT, 5G, big data, and bridging the mobile gender gap;
11. The commitment by **RIPE NCC** to continue supporting Arab nations in their efforts to cultivate and secure digital infrastructure and enhance workers' digital skills;
12. The commitment by **Access Partnership** to improve and promote policies and regulations in the Arab region that enable the use of new technologies;
13. The commitment by **Egypt** to further implement its pledge of training 500 people in the field of digital technologies and services in the Arab States and Africa by 2026;
14. The commitment by **Saudi Arabia** to spend USD 400,000 on enhancing capacity development in the realms of digital regulation and transformation until 2024.

The new pledges that were announced at the RDF-ARB are as follows:

1. **Egypt** pledged to promote digital inclusion for nearly 300,000 refugees nationwide in collaboration with the UNHCR, by ensuring equitable Internet access and SIM card availability;
2. **Somalia** made four pledges focused on: a) the establishment of CIRT, b) the development of a national cybersecurity strategy, c) regulating government services, and d) ICT development priorities;
3. **Djibouti** pledged to advance in its digital transformation including seven processes and activities which are in line with its national priorities: fostering a national digital strategy and a broadband development strategy, connecting schools and hospitals to broadband, improving the quality and affordability of telecommunication services, strengthening trust in digital technologies, establishing a legal and regulatory framework, and hosting an ITU event on business planning;
4. **Comoros** pledged to engage with willing partners toward the realization of a digital economy which will be based on developed digital infrastructure;
5. Members of **ITU Generation Connect Arab Region** pledged to help advance digital transformation in the region by creating strategies, addressing challenges and enhancing youth empowerment through dedicated activities.

Detailed information on the matchmaking sessions and new pledges is available in the official report of the [RDF-ARB](#).

P2C outlook - 2024 and beyond

Pursuant to P2C's core mandate to bridge the digital divide by mobilizing resources across the Action Framework and catalysing concrete joint efforts to accelerate connectivity, its three priority areas for 2024 include:

Pledge mobilization

- Continue efforts to mobilize new pledges, with the goal of achieving USD 100 billion in contributions by 2026.
- Continue to launch single-issue pledging campaigns with the aim of raising visibility and awareness on a particular key challenge. Two such campaigns are already planned, related to AI for good, and education/school connectivity.

Catalysing action and measuring impact

- Continue fostering awareness and matchmaking opportunities between pledgers, leveraging events in both ITU and broader UN platforms.
- Continue to actively monitor and track P2C commitments and engagements, and the impact that P2C pledges are making towards the overall objective of achieving universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.
- Develop an enhanced P2C pledging platform with additional functionality to ease usage and facilitate matchmaking.

Strengthening the P2C community and governance

- Continue to share input and guidance on the Coalition's activities through the P2C Global Advisory Board.
- Improve the facilities available on the P2C pledging platform for collaboration and evaluation.

We look forward to the P2C community's continued engagement and commitment and would welcome any further ideas and feedback at partner2connect@itu.int.

Annexes

3 Link	ARM Limited	Regulatory Authority (BOCRA)
7GES	ASECNA	BUGLOUD
A.O. Clubul Ingineresc Micro Lab (Engineering Club Micro Lab NGO), Republic of Moldova	Asian Institute of Technology	CAF - Development Bank of Latin America
Access Partnership Limited	Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development	Caribbean Telecommunications Union
The App Association (ACT)	Asociación Civil El Hormiguero	Center for Development and Food Security in Africa
Ada Lovelace Software Private Limited	Association for Progressive Communications	Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)
African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute	At House Limited	Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Rwanda
African Center for Advocacy	AT&T Inc	Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland
African Network Information Centre Ltd	atene KOM Albania	Chicos.net
African Telecommunications Union	Autoridad de Regulación y Fiscalización de Telecomunicaciones y Transportes (ATT), Plurinational State of Bolivia	Child Online Africa
AfricaNenda	Autoridad Nacional de los Servicios Públicos (ASEP), Panama	China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT)
AfriLabs	Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), Portugal	Cisco Systems Inc
Italian NRA for Electronic Communications, Media and Post (AGCOM)	Autoridade Reguladora das Comunicações de Moçambique	Coalition of Youth of Portuguese-speaking African Countries
Agence de Régulation des Postes et des Communications Electroniques (ARPE), Republic of Congo	Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications et des Postes (ARTP), Senegal	Comisión de Regulación de Comunicaciones (CRC), Colombia
Agence de Régulation et de Contrôle des Télécommunications (ARCT), Burundi	Autorité Nationale de Régulation des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (ANRTIC), Comoros	Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (CONATEL), Honduras
Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia	Axon Partners Group	Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (CONATEL), Paraguay
Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Montenegro	Banco Central de la República Dominicana	Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
All Global Giveaways	Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio & Communication	Communications and Media Commission (CMC), Iraq
Amazon Web Services Inc	Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)	Communications Authority of Kenya (CA)
American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)	BBVA Microfinance Foundation	Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA), Bosnia and Herzegovina
American Tower Corporation	Bharti Airtel Limited	Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
APNIC Foundation	BitSight Technologies Inc	Communications Regulatory Authority, Lithuania
ApplianSys	Boston Consulting Group	
ARED Group Inc	Botswana Communications	

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN)	Dreamlab Technologies AG	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Computer Incident Response Team of the Bahamas	Dubai Cares	Fortinet
Connect Humanity	Eastern Partnership Regulators for Electronic Communications (EaPeReg)	Fundación Gran Chaco
Connectivity Capital	East African Communications Organization	GÉANT
Convergence Partners	ECPAT International	General Inspectorate for Emergency Situation, Moldova
Coursera Inc	Electronics Communication Office of Latvia	Georgian National Communications Commission
Czech Telecommunication Office	ElengeAfrika	Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA)
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	EQUALS Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age	GitHub
Department of Electronic Communications, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Cyprus	EQUALS Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age	GIZ
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia	E-Space	Global Cities Hub
Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Philippines	E-Space Inc	Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
Department of Information and Communications Technology, Philippines	Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications	Global Partnerships Forum
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia	Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Global Satellite Operators' Association (GSOA)
Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India	Ethiopian Cybersecurity Association	GoCodeGreen
Digigaon Job Factory Foundation	European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC)	Google Inc
Digital Bridge Institute	European Union	Government of Sweden
Digital Child Rights Foundation	Eutelsat SA	Government Technology Agency, Bhutan
Digital Cooperation Organization	Everbridge One2many	Greek Ministry of Digital Governance
Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA)	Evercomm Singapore Pte Ltd	GSM Association
Digital Empowerment Foundation	Exponential Destiny	Guinean Ministry of Posts, Telecoms and Digital Economy
Digital Impact Alliance at the UN Foundation	EY	House of Africa
Digital Opportunity Trust	Federal Communications Commission, United States	HP Inc
	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany	Huawei Technologies Co Ltd
	Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, Nigeria	Hughes Network Systems LLC
	Fiber Connect Council MENA Region	Ignite
		iLabAfrica Research Centre, Strathmore University
		ImmuniWeb SA
		Inclusive Creation AS

Indian Institute of Management Kashipur	International Trade Centre	Members of Generation Connect Africa
Indonesia-ITU Concern Forum	International Trade Centre (ITC)	Members of ITU Generation Connect Arab Region
Indosat	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)	MFS Africa
InfoComm Media Development Authority, Singapore	Internet Society	Microsoft Corporation
Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK), Türkiye	Internet Society - Argentina Chapter	Millennium@EDU Sustainable Education Network
Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), Mauritius	Internet Society Foundation	Millicom International Cellular SA
INICTEL - UNI	IoT Academy	Ministère de la Communication et de l'Économie Numérique, Côte d'Ivoire
Inmarsat Global Limited	IPSDI-Burundi	Ministère de la Communication, des Technologies de l'Information et des Médias, Burundi
Instituto Dominicano de las Telecomunicaciones (INDOTEL)	Iridium Satellite LLC.	Ministère de la Poste et des Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information, Niger
Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones (IFT), Mexico	ISBAT University, Kampala, Uganda	Ministère de la Poste et des Télécommunications, Algeria
Instituto Nicaragüense de Telecomunicaciones y Correos (TELCOR)	Islamic Development Bank	Ministère de la Transformation Numérique, de l'Innovation et de la Modernisation de l'Administration, Mauritania
Instituto Tecnológico De Las Américas	iSpectrum SRL	Ministère de la Transition Digitale, des Postes et des Communications Électroniques, Burkina Faso
Intel Corporation	ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development	Ministère de l'Économie numérique et des Télécommunications, Senegal
Intelsat US LLC	ITU-UNEP-UNITAR	Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Souveraineté Industrielle et Numérique, France
Inter-American Development Bank	Jokkolabs Banjul	Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications, Cameroon
Inter-American Telecommunication Commission	Kacific Broadband Satellites Group	Ministère des Technologies de la Communication, Tunisia
International Bridges to Justice	KAMALEON	Ministère des Telecommunications et de l'Économie Numérique, Chad
International Chamber of Commerce	Kistpay Private Limited	Ministère du Développement Numérique, de la Transformation Digitale, des Poste et des Télécommunications, Madagascar
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions	Kostanay Engineering and Economics University named after M Dulatov (KINEU)	Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, Benin
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)	Kyoto University	
International Organisation of Employers	Kyrgyz Internet Society	
International Telecommunication Union Regional Office for Europe and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	League of Arab States	
	Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group	
	LTT Global Communications Sdn Bhd - MyMobileUniversity	
	Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA)	
	Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (MFWS)	
	Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (MDPA)	
	MeemAin for Education	

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, Spain	Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt	Technology, Tanzania
Ministerio de Comunicaciones, Ministerio de Comunicaciones	Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia	Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport, Kiribati
Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería - Dirección Nacional de Telecomunicaciones, Uruguay	Ministry of Communications and Technology, Syrian Arab Republic	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información (MINTEL), Ecuador	Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland	Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Moldova
Ministerio de Transportes y Comunicaciones, Peru	Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan
Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, Venezuela	Ministry of Digital Transformation, Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia
Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, Uzbekistan	Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine	Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications, Liberia
Ministry for Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bahamas	Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Romania
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland	Ministry of Economic Affairs - Department of Information and Communications Technology, Bahamas	Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea
Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia	Ministry of Economic Affairs/ Department of Communication and Information Technology, Bahamas	Ministry of Technology and Communication, Lao PDR
Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Solomon Islands	Ministry of Economic Affairs/ Department of Transformation and Digitization, Bahamas	Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology
Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT), Republic of Nepal	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	Ministry of Telecommunications & Broadcasting, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Dominica
Ministry of Communication, responsible for Posts and Telecommunications, Djibouti	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic	Ministry of Transport and Communications, Bulgaria
Ministry of Communications, Israel	Ministry of Health & Wellness, Bahamas	Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC), Timor-Leste
Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, Gambia	Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda	Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania
Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies, South Africa	Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China	Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Oman
Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana	Ministry of Information and Communications, Bhutan	Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, Bahrain
Ministry of Communications and Informatics, Indonesia	Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Republic of North Macedonia	Mobile & Wireless Forum IVZW
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Samoa	Ministry of Information, Communication and Information	Moldova E-Governance Agency
Ministry of Communications and		Mozilla Corporation
		National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security Council of Ministers

National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania (ANCOM)	Liechtenstein (Amt für Kommunikation)	Secretaría de Estado de Telecomunicaciones e Infraestructuras Digitales Gabinete, Spain
National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), Thailand	Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland	Secretaría de Infraestructura, Comunicaciones y Transportes (SICT), Mexico
National Communications Authority (NCA), South Sudan	Office of the Government, Chief information Officer, Prime Minister's Office, Government of the Republic of Vanuatu	Secretariat for Technological Innovation of the Public Sector of Argentina
National Communications Authority of Somalia	Office of the Regulator, Samoa	Selby Technology Ghana Limited
National Cybersecurity Center, Dominican Republic	Oficina Gubernamental de las Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación (OGTIC), Dominican Republic	SinQtel Corp
National Information & Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), Papua New Guinea	Omnispace LLC	Smart Africa Secretariat
National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan	One Planet Education Network	SmartPhilm and Zeleman Communications
National Institute of Telecommunications, Poland	Orange	SoftBank Corporation
National Institute of Telecommunications, Poland	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)	Space Exploration Technologies Corp (SpaceX)
National Media and Infocommunications Authority, Hungary	Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association	Speedchecker Ltd
National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt	Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)	Spider, Stockholm University
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), United States	Partnership for Central America	Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies
National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ)	State Authority for Geospatial Information (ASIG), Albania
Netflix Inc	Posts and Telecommunications Division of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh	State Communications Agency under the Ministry of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic
Network of Women in ITU-D (ITU-D NoW)	Powertel Communications Pvt Ltd	SUE "UNICON.UZ" under the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic Of Uzbekistan
New America	PT Mukti Mandiri Lestari	Superintendencia de Telecomunicaciones de Guatemala
Nexlogic Telecommunications	Qualcomm Inc	SWGfL
NGO Doing Business Together	Republic of Slovenia	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
NGO MINZMIN Ukraine	Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)	Switzerland (Confederation of)
Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT)	Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co KG	Tallinn University of Technology
Nokia Corporation	SAMENA Telecommunications Council	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)
NRD Cyber Security (CS)	SAP Asia Pte Ltd	Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, United Arab Emirates
Ofcom, United Kingdom	Satcom Industry Association	
Office for Communications,	SBA Communications	

Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority, Sudan	UN-ESCWA	USTTI
Telecommunications Regional Technical Commission, Honduras	Union of Operators of Armenia	Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA), Bahamas
Telefon AB - LM Ericsson	Unit F5, DG INTPA, European Commission	Verizon Communication Corporation
Telefónica SA	United Nations Brussels Team	Viamo Inc
Telenor ASA	Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs (UNBT Digital TF) chaired by UNESCO and ITU	Vodafone Group Services Ltd
Telesat	United Nations Capital Development Fund	Wastezon
Telkom University	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Welchman Keen Pte Ltd
The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority, Kuwait	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Whizz Education Ltd
The Ministry of Communications and Technology (MoCT) of the Federal Government of Somalia	United Nations Development Programme	Wireless World Research Forum
The Walt Disney Company	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	WMO
TOMi	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	Women in Technology in Nigeria (WITIN)
TRC Jordan	United Nations Foundation (Digital Impact Alliance)	Women's WorldWide Web (W4)
Türk Telekom AS	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Serbia	World Bank
Turkcell İletişim Hizmetleri AS	United Nations Technology Bank for LDCs	World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)
US Department of State	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	World Mobile Group Ltd
UAE Cyber Security Council	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	World Pulse
Uganda Communications Commission (UCC)	Universal Service Fund, Pakistan	Youth 2 Youth Cameroon
Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology	Université numérique Cheikh Hamidou Kane (UNCHK), Sénégal	Zambia Information & Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA)
UK Government	University of Applied Sciences Konstanz (HTWG)	Zambia Telecommunications Company Limited (ZAMTEL)
UN Brussels	University of Montenegro	ZESA Enterprises
UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (UN-DTG4ECA)	University of Pennsylvania	Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (Pvt) Ltd
UN Women	University of Science, Malaysia	ZTE Corporation
UNDP, Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNU-MERIT	
UNESCO Chair in ICT4D, Royal Holloway, University of London		
UNESCO Regional Office Nairobi		

