

Partner2Connect Digital Coalition

Annual Report 2024



Partner2Connect

Table of contents

Acknowledgements	03
Foreword by the ITU Secretary-General	04
Message from the Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)	05
P2C Champions	06
Amazon	07
IDB	08
Microsoft	10
USAID	11
ZTE	13
Executive summary	14
Key findings of the P2C Annual Report	18
P2C milestones	20
P2C pledge mobilization and implementation	22
Analysis of new pledges submitted since the last P2C Annual Report	23
Highlights of 2024 new pledges	25
Analysis of total pledges submitted to Partner2Connect ..	30
Pledge implementation progress	33
Overview of results	34
Progress by sector, focus area and pledge type	36
P2C impact on the ground	40
P2C outlook - 2025 and beyond	41

Acknowledgements

ITU would like to acknowledge all **452 entities**¹ who have pledged to the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) for their trust and the **956 pledges**² submitted so far to our platform. We are especially grateful to the **182 pledge-makers**³ who submitted their progress reports, thereby fulfilling their duty and contributing important data to assess impact.

We would also like to thank our Member States, Sector Members, and UN system partners for another year of excellent collaboration, and a special thanks to our P2C champions for their vision, guidance and unconditional support.

1 The data presented refers to pledges validated as of 31 December 2024. Pledges that may have still been undergoing the validation process at the time of writing this report are not included.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

Foreword by the ITU Secretary-General

The past year has seen Partner2Connect transform a growing list of commitments into a thriving community of action-oriented leaders and organizations bridging the digital divide and enabling sustainable digital transformation.

Today, the Coalition has mobilized over USD 54 billion in pledges, driving projects and partnerships that are already making a difference on the ground. More than numbers, these pledges represent lifelines and pathways for people to access healthcare, education, financial services, and economic opportunities.

The long-awaited adoption of the UN Global Digital Compact has brought new urgency to our mission. A flagship initiative for SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, P2C is uniquely positioned to accelerate progress by fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and connecting partners to deliver on the promise of universal and meaningful connectivity.

In 2024, we continued to highlight the power of collective action through matchmaking sessions, targeted campaigns, and regional forums. The results have been remarkable, from increasing connectivity in underserved regions to empowering communities with digital skills and infrastructure. Yet, reaching our ambitious goal of USD 100 billion in pledges by 2026, will require the same energy, perseverance, and "One ITU" spirit that have brought us this far.

This Annual Report captures the progress we have made together, including milestones, impact stories, as well as potential still to be unlocked. I thank every P2C pledger, partner, and Champion who contributed to this journey. Your commitments are shaping a brighter, more inclusive digital future for generations to come.



Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General, ITU



Partner2Connect was created to mobilize resources and partnerships for universal, meaningful connectivity. Today, P2C is an action-driven, multibillion-dollar coalition accelerating SDG progress through digital transformation –a beacon of partnership, collaboration, and global leadership.”

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

Matchmaking pledges to translate promises into concrete actions for impact



**Dr. Cosmas Luckyson
Zavazava**
Director, ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau

In 2024, the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition continued to play a key role in our efforts to mobilize partnerships and resources to advance universal and meaningful connectivity, in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the rest of the Member States.

Out of the 956 pledges submitted so far, worth an estimated value of USD 54.27 billion, USD 18.99 billion target the LDCs group of countries, while USD 19.55 billion are targeted at LLDCs and USD 25.54 billion for the SIDS.

Our work continued to focus on matchmaking country and regional needs and the announced pledges to ensure that the pledges become commitments, and commitments are transformed into impactful projects.

Matchmaking Roundtables were held during the ITU Regional Development Forums. In 2024, a matchmaking roundtable was held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 26 to 27 March. This followed a series of matchmaking roundtables held in 2023 in Timisoara (Romania) from 22 to 23 May, in San Salvador (El Salvador) from 16 to 18 August, in Bangkok (Thailand) from 13 to 15 September, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 3 to 5 October, in Manama (Bahrain) from 6 to 7 November.

In total, during the six Regional Development Forums we have held 30 Matchmaking Roundtables, featuring 155 speakers and over 1,150 participants resulting in a total of 106 commitments and 222 pledges. Further, we organized and held in 2024 matchmaking events in Cambodia, in Mongolia, and China.

We look forward to continuing our efforts, through P2C, to drive universal and meaningful connectivity across the world and ensure that no one is left behind.

P2C Champions

[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 **Amazon** and **ZTE** for their continuous support, and welcome **Microsoft**, **USAID** and the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** as new P2C Champions in 2024. Without their contributions, leadership and vision, the work of the Coalition would not be possible.



Amazon

Amazon is proud to be one of the early Champions of the P2C Digital Coalition. Through our original P2C pledge, Amazon Web Services committed to investing hundreds of millions of dollars to provide free cloud computing skills to 29 million people by 2025 across over 200

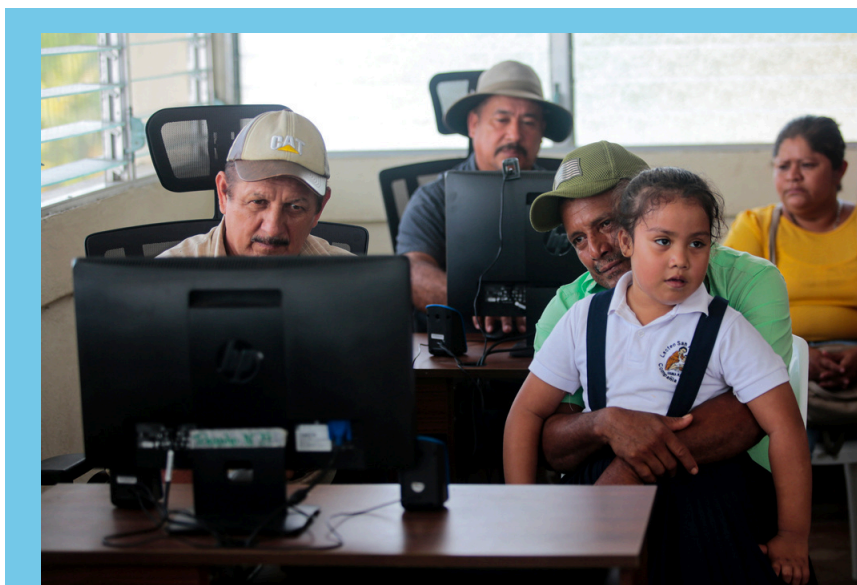


countries. We are thrilled to announce that, to date, we have trained more than 21 million people.

Last year, Amazon launched a new initiative called AI Ready, which is a commitment to providing free skills training to 2 million people globally by 2025. This program includes free AI classes and university scholarships. These capacity-building initiatives are a cornerstone of P2C's mission to foster the adoption of digital transformation.

Universal and meaningful access to broadband connectivity, another critical pillar of P2C, is also a priority for Amazon. With that in mind, we have invested over 10 billion U.S. dollars in Project Kuiper, our initiative to provide low Earth orbit satellite broadband connectivity worldwide. We are incredibly excited about the transformative potential of Project Kuiper to connect unserved and underserved communities globally. The project will deliver high broadband speeds with low latency at an affordable price, offering impactful solutions to bridge the digital divide.

We are proud to continue making significant progress on Project Kuiper and look forward to collaborating with the ITU and the broader multi-stakeholder community as a P2C Champion to help close the digital divide.



IDB's core strategic principles on digital connectivity, aligned with ITU's vision for universal and meaningful connectivity, are rooted in ensuring access to reliable, affordable, and enriching digital experiences for all. IDB prioritizes financing solutions that trigger relevant development impact, when needed, by empowering the private sector and leveraging

partnerships with local development banks to reach underserved communities. Through collaboration with national and subnational governments, IDB focuses on advancing critical digital infrastructure, enhancing institutional capacities, and fostering regional integration. Central to this approach is a commitment to regulatory evolution and sustainable practices, addressing climate challenges while driving inclusive digital transformation. This vision underscores a shared commitment with ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition to bridge the digital divide and achieve sustainable growth. To date, IDB has made three pledges to the Coalition.

The first pledge focuses on funding digital infrastructure with a social and economic purpose. IDB fosters higher and more efficient investments in infrastructure and connectivity by applying principles of environmental, social, financial, and institutional sustainability. This includes promoting economic integration by supporting policy reforms, strengthening institutions, and advancing dialogue to improve transparency, integrity, and the ease of doing business across the region.

The second pledge emphasizes promoting digital ecosystems with a holistic approach. Recognizing the transformative potential of digital technologies, IDB is committed to helping its member countries develop enabling ecosystems. These efforts include increasing investments in connectivity, designing regulatory frameworks, enhancing human capital, adjusting public procurement systems, leveraging disruptive technologies, and supporting innovative start-ups. By addressing these areas, IDB aims to create inclusive and sustainable opportunities for employment and growth.

The third pledge highlights the Digital Infrastructure Map, a groundbreaking tool co-developed by IDB and the International Telecommunication Union. This platform allows governments and investors to identify connectivity gaps and design cost-effective projects to address them. It provides a detailed view of populations, institutions, and productive sectors lacking access to connectivity across 26 countries in the region. Policymakers and investors can use this tool to prioritize impactful projects and maximize socioeconomic benefits.

IDB's pledges reflect its steadfast commitment to advancing social inclusion and resilience through innovative digital solutions. Having become a P2C Champion in 2024, IDB proudly collaborates with P2C and other stakeholders to bridge the digital divide and empower communities across the region.

Microsoft



Microsoft has demonstrated its commitment to digital inclusion through five pledges under the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. These initiatives include training and certifying underserved individuals in digital skills (covered in this story), addressing the gender digital divide, extending high-speed Internet to 250 million underserved communities globally, and advancing disability representation in AI systems.

In 2022, Microsoft launched the Skills for Jobs programme with a bold goal to train and certify 10 million individuals worldwide by 2025, helping them to attain in-demand certificates or credentials in digital, foundational, or technical skills. The programme focused on six high-demand jobs, offering free access to 350 courses and Career Essentials Certificates. By the end of July 2024 - one year earlier than expected - Microsoft exceeded its target, certifying 14.1 million people across 197 countries with the support of 430 community partners.

This milestone was made possible by collaboration with organizations, governments, and nonprofits closest to the people looking to reskill and upskill. Through these partnerships, Microsoft has trained over 155,000 trainers equipped to lead computing and AI courses in their communities. This ecosystem fosters inclusive economic growth and expands opportunities for people around the world.

The Skills for Jobs program had a transformative impact and contributed to a more inclusive and resilient AI-enabled workforce, with over 80% of learners coming from groups often furthest from opportunity who were enabled to participate meaningfully in the digital economy. Building on the success of this programme, Microsoft has launched new programmes and resources, such as the new AI Skills Navigator tool, with partners across the globe to support learners in gaining free access to AI Skills. Additionally, Microsoft has become a founding member of ITU's AI Skills Coalition, which aims to equalize access to AI training worldwide.

As a funding P2C Champion, Microsoft looks forward to further collaboration with P2C while continuing to drive digital transformation, build capacity, and champion initiatives to close the digital divide globally. By working together, we can ensure that AI not only drives economic growth but also addresses global challenges. A collaborative approach will help build trust, accelerate adoption, and create a more prosperous future for all.

USAID



Infrastructure in Yumbe, Uganda.

Credit: Kendra Helmer

USAID has made significant strides through its five key pledges under the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, including expanding rural Internet access in Kenya, closing the gender digital divide through WiDEF, empowering youth mappers globally, developing digital public goods, and scaling the Digital Invest programme. Aligned with P2C's mission of fostering meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation, USAID has proudly joined as a P2C Champion, reaffirming its commitment to advancing these shared objectives.

This story highlights how USAID's Digital Invest programme empowers people and businesses with technology to thrive in the digital economy and access life-changing opportunities.

Since its launch in 2022, Digital Invest's 16 public-private partnerships have leveraged USD 16.95 million in U.S. government funding to raise an initial USD 320 million in investment

capital, with a collective goal of over USD 1.2 billion. This has supported more than 70 digital finance and Internet service providers (ISPs) operating across 40 countries, reaching over 18 million consumers and small businesses and catalysing over USD 1 billion in follow-on financing from external investors.

In Uganda, where fewer than 30% of residents have Internet access, Digital Invest partnered with Roke Telkom to build new Internet infrastructure in Yumbe, providing network coverage to over 200,000 people, including those in Bidi Bidi, one of Africa's largest refugee settlements. Now, connectivity is enabling students to learn using local Hello World Hubs - a solar-powered Internet station with free WiFi. Beyond Yumbe, USAID and Roke are improving Internet infrastructure in 11 more under-connected districts, bringing more safe, secure, and affordable Internet for Ugandans.

Digital Invest has also bolstered entrepreneurship by supporting Lendable's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Fintech Credit Fund, which has raised over USD 110 million for financial technology (fintech) companies in 15 countries. Through this partnership, over 80,000 MSMEs and 900,000 individual consumers have been supported. Numida, a fintech company operating in Uganda and Kenya, offers digital loans processed within 24 hours, empowering entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and achieve their goals.

In Liberia, where roughly 70% remain offline, Digital Invest partnered with CSquared to build the country's first open-access backbone. Spanning 350 kilometres from Monrovia to the Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire borders, this infrastructure connects 13 towns and enables up to 1 million Liberians to connect to the Internet, about 20% of the population. It also enables ISPs to connect health centres, schools and local government to the Internet at lower costs. In Ganta, for instance, CSquared partnered with Telecel to pilot free Internet service, connecting over 5,000 residents to services like virtual health care and e-commerce.



ZTE, as a key driver of the digital economy, remains steadfastly dedicated to advancing global digitalization and empowering communities.

Believing in the power of collaboration for universal connectivity, ZTE is proud to be among the first P2C

Champions, supporting the Coalition's mission of fostering meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.



To date, ZTE has made five significant pledges to the P2C Coalition, spanning critical dimensions such as building ICT infrastructure, enhancing digital skills, strengthening the AI ecosystem, and committing to carbon neutrality. ZTE has proudly achieved key milestones across all pledges. In particular, ZTE's pledge to bridge the digital divide in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS has delivered tangible results. Through the Signal Reach Programme, launched in Africa in close collaboration with local stakeholders, ZTE has made significant progress in improving connectivity across the continent. This initiative provides efficient infrastructure, sustainable power solutions, and affordable devices to communities in need, accelerating their path to digital inclusion.

ZTE's 2024 AI Pledge to collaborate with over 1,000 industrial partners to boost the global AI ecosystem has already made significant strides. At the end of 2024, ZTE launched the Open Intelligent Computing Industry Alliance (COIA Alliance), an initiative designed to build an open and collaborative ecosystem for the future of intelligent computing and the AI industry. This alliance reflects ZTE's belief in the transformative potential of AI and the importance of collaboration in shaping its development. ZTE warmly invites all interested stakeholders to join this journey as we work together toward a smarter and more inclusive digital future.

Looking ahead, 2025 marks the 160th anniversary of ITU, celebrating a legacy of global collaboration in telecommunications and technology. As a leading provider of innovative technologies and integrated solutions serving over a quarter of the global population, ZTE is honoured to be a proud member of the P2C Coalition. ZTE remains fully committed to supporting P2C's achievements and ITU's pivotal role in fostering global connectivity.

Executive summary

The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) serves as a leadership-level platform that engages all stakeholders to mobilize and announce new resources, partnerships, and commitments to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally.

Launched in 2021 by ITU in close cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States (UNOHRLLS), P2C is in alignment with the UN Global Digital Compact and the WSIS Action Lines, and aims to help accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). P2C seeks to mobilize stakeholders, resources and commitments to drive meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in the hardest-to-connect communities. P2C is focused on, but not limited to, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

P2C provides a unique opportunity for organizations to announce commitments and build partnerships to connect those still offline. P2C aims to provide:

- A global community of individuals and organizations dedicated to bringing universal and meaningful connectivity to all.
- A platform to celebrate successes: showcasing milestones and progress, we create opportunities to highlight achievements and inspire others to act.
- A space for building partnerships, fostering connections, and strengthening collaborations to accelerate impact.
- A global network of commitments. As the objective of P2C is to mobilize commitments and facilitate matchmaking between pledgors, P2C is not a direct funding mechanism and does not provide direct financial grants or investments.

To achieve these objectives, the P2C secretariat's activities are focused on four core areas:

1. Pledge mobilization

- Building on our progress, we will continue to mobilize new pledges with the goal of reaching USD 100 billion in contributions by the end of 2026.
- Targeted campaigns will further engage stakeholders and highlight the transformative potential of collaboration through the P2C platform.

2. Reporting and implementation

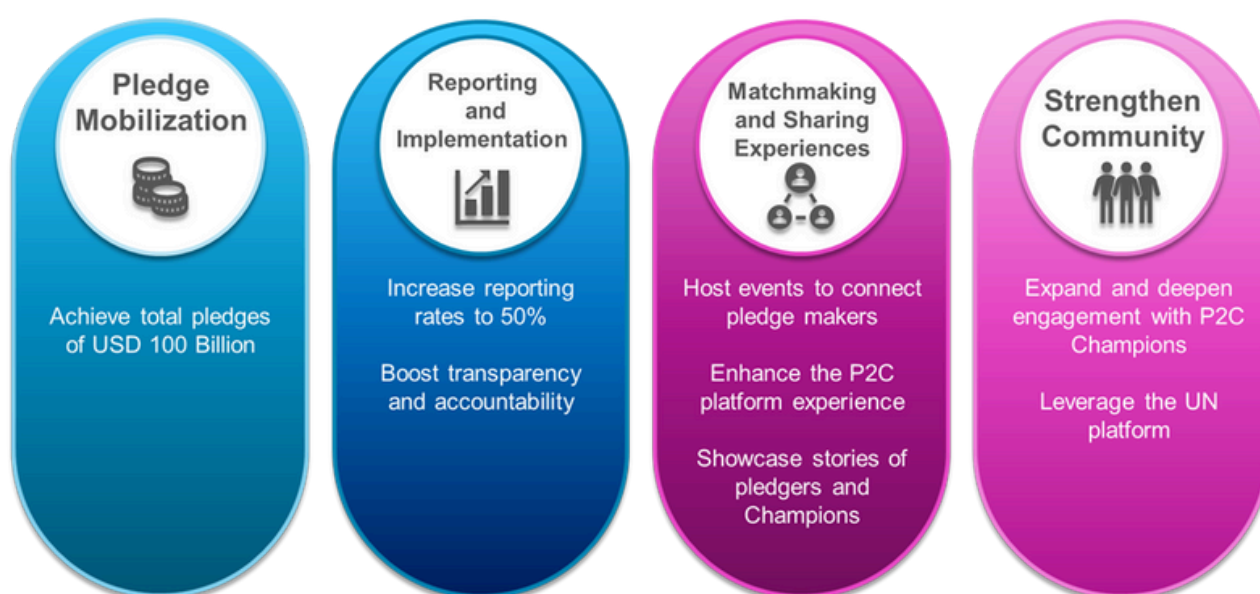
- Increasing transparency and accountability will remain a core focus. We aim to raise the reporting rate to 50% by the end of 2026, ensuring better insights into the impact of pledges on the ground.
- Regularly tracking and monitoring P2C commitments will allow us to celebrate progress and refine strategies for greater efficiency and reach.

3. Matchmaking and partnerships

- High-level events will foster connections, enabling stakeholders to share best practices, form partnerships, and accelerate implementation.
- The P2C pledging platform will be further enhanced to improve the user experience and facilitate matchmaking opportunities.
- Compelling storytelling, through communication materials and success stories from pledge-makers and P2C Champions, will amplify awareness and inspire action globally.

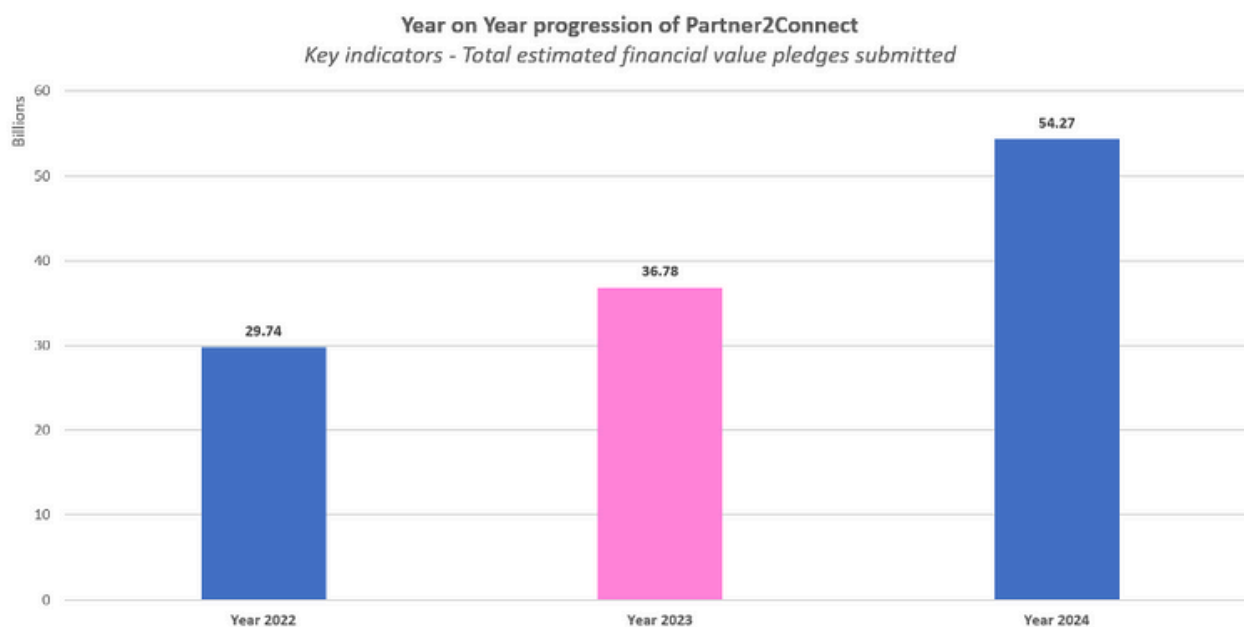
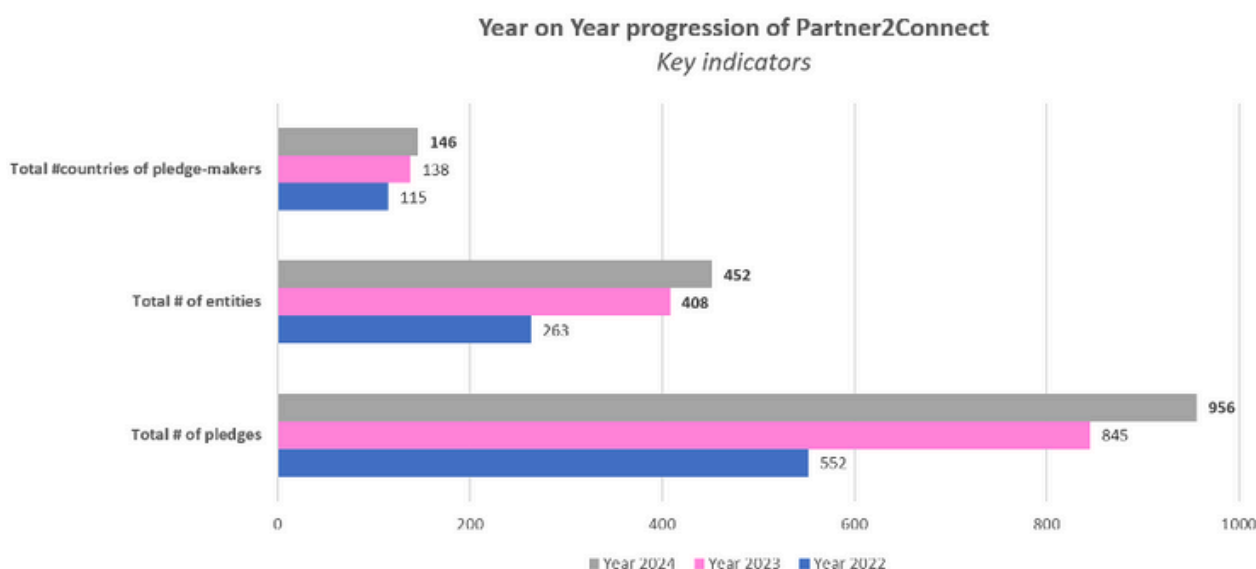
4. Strengthen Community

- Expanding and deepening engagement with our P2C Champions community.
- Leveraging the UN platform and activities to maximize the coalition's reach and impact.



As of 31 December 2024, P2C has received **956 pledges**, valued at **USD 54.27 billion**, from **452 entities** across **146 countries** worldwide.⁴

Compared to last year’s [Annual Report](#) figures from December 2023, P2C has achieved a **13%** increase in the number of pledges, a growth of almost **48%** in **financial resources** mobilized, a rise of nearly **11%** in the total **number of entities** participating, and an increase of nearly **6%** in the **number of countries** involved in the Coalition.



⁴ This data refers to pledges validated as of 31 December 2024. Pledges that may have still been undergoing the validation process at the time of writing this report are not included.

Pledges continue to be submitted under P2C's Action Framework, targeting specific pillars and issues. Of the framework's four focus areas—ACCESS, ADOPTION, VALUE CREATION, and ACCELERATE—most pledges remain focused on the first two.

While entities based in **Europe** have, so far, submitted the highest number of pledges (**261**), followed by entities in the **Americas (191)** and **Africa (187)**, in 2024 it was **Asia & the Pacific** and the **CIS regions** that contributed the most pledges. In terms of implementation, of the 956 pledges received, **323 (34%)** include Africa as one of the regions of implementation, making it the region associated with the highest number of pledges, valued at **USD 25.52 billion**. Of the total 956 pledges submitted so far towards LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, **298 (31%)** target at least one **LDC**, with an estimated value of **USD 18.99 billion**; **146 (15%)** target at least one **SIDS**, valued at **USD 25.54 billion**; and **254 (27%)** target at least one **LLDC**, with an estimated value of **USD 19.55 billion**. Data also shows that almost **53%** of the pledges include **women** as one of their beneficiary groups.

Government remains the sector that has submitted the highest number of pledges to the Coalition to date, with **500 pledges** valued at an estimated **USD 12.32 billion**. The **private sector** comes in second with **179 pledges**, but continues to lead in financial resources mobilized, with an estimated **USD 39.15 billion**.

By pledge type, **programmatic** pledges continue to dominate with **463** submissions worth **USD 33.65 billion**, followed by **policy**-related pledges with **183** submissions valued at **USD 1.89 billion**. **Advocacy** pledges rank third with **164 pledges** worth **USD 103 million**, while **financial pledges** come in fourth with **146** entries totalling **USD 18.62 billion**.



Key findings of the P2C Annual Report

01

The year 2024 saw a **13% increase** in the **number of pledges** received, a nearly **11% rise** in the total **number of entities** engaged, and a significant growth of almost **48%** in **financial resources mobilized**.

02

Targeted campaigns and major pledge drives at global events such as Mobile World Congress (MWC), the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event, and SDG Digital remained critical to the success of pledge mobilization efforts. Additionally, the ITU Regional Development Forum for CIS and the Partner2Connect National Roundtable in Cambodia constituted a key driver of growth, generating an important portion of new pledge submissions.

03

The focus areas of **ADOPTION** and **ACCESS** remained the most targeted by the new pledges received in 2024. **Digital inclusion, skills, and connectivity and digital infrastructure (infrastructure)** were the pillars most frequently targeted.

04

In 2024 the **private sector** submitted the highest number of new pledges, accounting for **40%**, followed by **government** at **21%**. In terms of financial value, the **private sector** retained its top position with **USD 14.55 billion pledged**, while **government** ranked second with **USD 2.33 billion**.

05

Of the 956 total pledges submitted so far, **298 (31%)** target at least one **LDC**, with an estimated value of **USD 18.99 billion**; **146 (15%)** target at least one **SIDS**, valued at **USD 25.54 billion**; and **254 (27%)** target at least one **LLDC**, with an estimated value of **USD 19.55 billion**.

06

Europe has contributed the most pledges to P2C so far (261), followed by the Americas (191) and Africa (187). In terms of estimated financial value, Europe also holds the top position, followed by the Arab States and Asia and the Pacific. Since the start of P2C, these three regions have collectively pledged USD 39.96 billion, accounting for almost 74% of the Coalition's total resources mobilized.

07

Of the 956 pledges submitted by 452 entities, **363 pledges have been reported** on by 182 entities, meaning that **38%** of the total commitments were reported on by **40%** of all pledgers. This is a positive increase from the 33% reporting rate in 2023.

08

Approximately **USD 6.7 billion** was spent towards the implementation of the **367 pledges** that were reported on. This represents an increase of about **USD 1.9 billion** compared to last year's expenditure on implementation.

09

As of the end of 2024, **67%** of the 363 pledges reported on were in progress, **12%** were in the **planning phase**, **19%** had already been **completed**, and **2%** had not yet started. **33%** of the total pledges submitted are expected to be completed by 2025. However, almost **70%** of these are **yet to be reported on**.

10

Data indicates that most pledges reported on (87%) 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.



P2C milestones

The year 2024 was a remarkable one for Partner2Connect (P2C), as the Coalition continued to expand its impact, mobilizing resources and fostering partnerships to advance its mandate. Throughout the year, P2C achieved significant milestones.

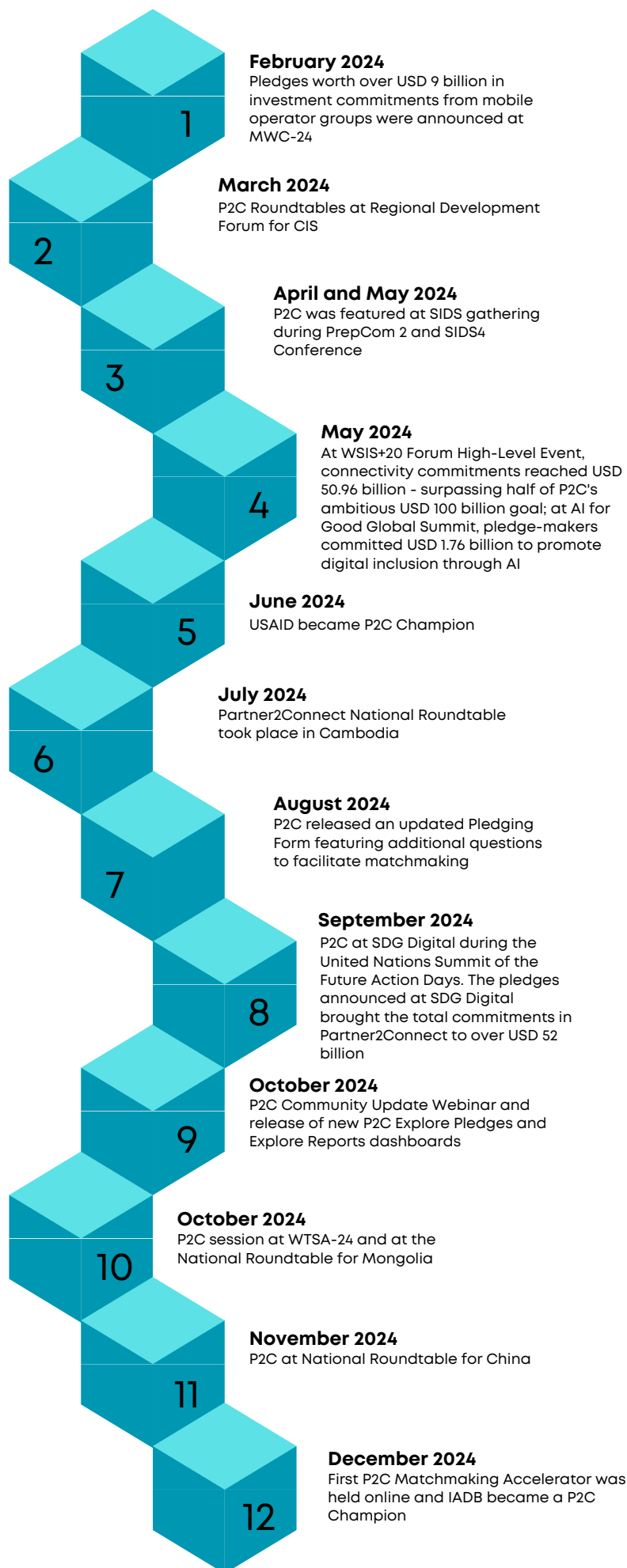
In February, at MWC, P2C announced pledges worth over USD 9 billion from mobile operator groups. In March, the Regional Development Forum (RDF) for CIS completed the cycle of RDFs started in 2023. By May, connectivity commitments had reached USD 50.96 billion—surpassing half of P2C's ambitious USD 100 billion goal for 2026. This achievement was celebrated during the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event. At the AI for Good Global Summit, pledge-makers committed an additional USD 1.76 billion in pledges to advance digital inclusion through AI.

P2C's visibility on the global stage continued to grow with its presence at key international events, such as the SIDS gathering during PrepCom 2 and the SIDS4 Conference in April and May. In September, during SDG Digital at the United Nations Summit of the Future Action Days, P2C announced new pledges that brought total commitments to over USD 52 billion.

At the national level, P2C held its first Partner2Connect National Roundtable in Cambodia in July, providing a platform for global and national stakeholders to understand Cambodia's needs and collaboratively identify effective strategies for its digital transformation. In October, P2C organized a session at WTSA-24. Efforts to highlight implementation and matchmaking continued at the National Roundtable for Mongolia, which was followed in November by the National Roundtable for China.

In October, P2C hosted a Community Update Webinar and unveiled the new Explore Pledges and Explore Reports dashboards, providing stakeholders with tools to better consult pledges. In December, the first P2C Matchmaking Accelerator was held online. Finally, in 2024, Partner2Connect was thrilled to welcome IDB and USAID as new P2C Champions.

Throughout 2024, P2C's efforts demonstrated the power of collaboration, innovation, and shared commitment to bridging the digital divide. With an ever-growing community of partners, the Coalition continues to lead the charge toward universal connectivity and meaningful digital transformation.



P2C pledge mobilization and implementation

Pledges submitted - Overview

As of 31 December 2024, the P2C platform had received a total of **956 pledges**, valued at **USD 54.27 billion**, from **452 entities** across **146 countries**.⁵



956

Pledges received



\$ 54.27bn

Financial value (USD)



452

Entities



146

Countries

⁴ This data refers to pledges validated as of 31 December 2024. Pledges that may have still been undergoing the validation process at the time of writing this report are not included.

Analysis of new pledges submitted since the last P2C Annual Report

Compared to the [P2C Annual Report 2023](#), the Coalition in 2024 has seen a:



13%

Increase in the number of pledges



48%

Increase in financial resources mobilized



11%

Increase in the number of pledging entities



6%

Increase in the number of participating countries

Targeted campaigns and major pledge drives at global events such as MWC-24, the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event, and SDG Digital remain critical to the success of pledge mobilization efforts. Additionally, the ITU Regional Development Forum for CIS and the Partner2Connect National Roundtable in Cambodia constituted a key driver of growth, generating an important portion of new pledge submissions.

The focus areas of **ADOPTION** and **ACCESS** remain the most targeted by the new pledges submitted since the last report. **Digital inclusion** has taken the top position as the most targeted pillar, overtaking **skills**, which is now in second place, while **connectivity and digital infrastructure (infrastructure)** has moved up to third place. **Programmatic** pledges continued to be the most common among the new submissions, followed by **advocacy**-related pledges.

In contrast to previous years, in 2024 the **private sector** submitted the highest number of new pledges, accounting for **40%**, followed by **government** at **21%**. However, in terms of financial value, the **private sector** retained its top position with **USD 14.55 billion** pledged, while **government** ranked second with **USD 2.33 billion**.



Highlights of 2024 new pledges



e&

e& is committed to providing accessible and affordable network connectivity and digital services across their countries of operations in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. They intend to invest at least USD 6 billion to achieve these objectives and plan to serve 20 million incremental customers between 2024 and 2026.

AT&T

AT&T is committed to bridging the digital divide by pledging USD 3 billion more, totalling USD 5 billion since 2021, to connect 25 million underserved people by 2030, focusing on affordability and adoption. It will also open 50 more Connected Learning Centres (100 total by 2030), offering digital literacy and workforce readiness programs for students, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.



VEON Group and their Ukrainian subsidiary Kyivstar commit to investing USD 600 million over the next three years to build Ukraine’s digital infrastructure and to keep Ukraine connected. VEON is committed to providing connectivity and digital services in the emerging world, supporting resilience and economic growth in their markets.



Government of Canada

The Government of Canada has committed to invest over USD 1.4 billion in made-in-Canada compute infrastructure to help support AI businesses and researchers. The Government of Canada has also committed to invest USD 257 million to scale up the adoption of artificial intelligence across Canada's economy. This includes critical sectors like health care, agriculture, and manufacturing. The Government also invests towards helping small- and medium-sized enterprises; protecting workers in industries where AI is having a big impact; and in the creation of a new Canadian AI Safety Institute.

China Telecommunications Corporation

China Telecom actively undertakes the task of universal telecommunication service. By laying optical cables and deploying base stations, it continuously improves network coverage in remote and border areas of China, bridging the "digital divide" between regions. It pledges to invest over CYN 10 billion between 2024 and 2029 to construct more than 27 million FTTH (Fiber to the Home) ports, providing high-quality information and communication services to over 80 million people in remote administrative villages across China.





China Mobile Communications

China Mobile has always adhered to the people-centered development philosophy, continuously increasing investment in network construction in remote and border areas, continuously improving network coverage in border areas through wired broadband coverage and deployment of base stations, helping narrow the digital divide, laying a solid foundation for digital rural revitalization, and building an information bridge for rural areas. China Mobile promises to invest more than CNY 9 billion between 2024 and 2026 to build 50,000 4G/5G base stations and more than 60 million Fiber to the Home (FTTH) ports, providing high-quality information and communication services for more than 75 million households in remote administrative villages in China.

Ooredoo Group



Ooredoo continues to improve its access and coverage across North Africa, the Middle East and Indian Ocean. Building upon network roll outs in previous years, Ooredoo will further invest a cumulated USD 1.1 billion in Algeria, Tunisia, State of Palestine, Iraq and the Maldives over the period 2024-2026, working to improve and increase mobile coverage, quality of service and digital transformation, with a potential to benefit a cumulative population of 109m.

Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações - ANATEL

Brazil is investing BRL 3.1 billion to enhance broadband connectivity in over 39,197 public elementary schools by December 2026, as part of the National Strategy for Connected Schools (ENEC). This initiative, aligned with Brazil's Digital Transformation Strategy (E-Digital) 2022-2026, aims to provide quality connectivity for educational and administrative use in urban and rural schools, equipping them with digital technologies to prepare society for the future workforce and foster innovation.



Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT)



NTT has been contributing to India's economic growth and improving quality of life by expanding data centre construction and information infrastructure since 2012. Operating 19 data centres as of May 2024, with nine more under construction, NTT supports the rising demand for data communication driven by generative AI, e-commerce, and social media. To

meet the need for reliable, high-quality data centres, the company is investing USD 400 million to further develop India's data centre market.

Smart Axiata

Smart Axiata committed to equipping 200 mobile towers with renewable solar energy as a supplementary source to improve reliability for existing customers (514,200) by the end of 2025. The approval for this investment will be in accordance with the local regulations of the Electricity Authority of Cambodia.

The company also committed to building 400 new 4G mobile towers and transmission backbones in 2024 and 200 additional sites by the end of 2025 to enhance connectivity and reduce the digital divide in the country. Installation approval will be in accordance with local regulations.



Elle International

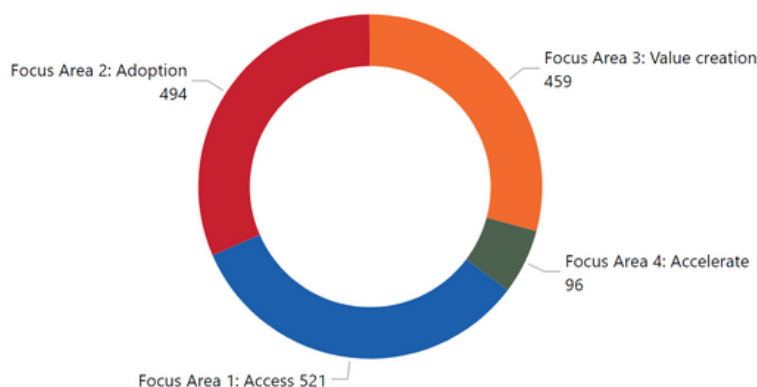
Elle International provides innovative women's health solutions for sub-Saharan Africa through four key platforms. The Womany app offers a menstrual and fertility calendar, AI-driven health diagnostics, and connections to verified care for conditions like endometriosis, PCOS, and fibroids, while also addressing mental health and lifestyle factors. ElleHealth enables secure, patient-controlled health data collection for AI-based precision healthcare. ElleStudies facilitates trusted data sharing to improve menstrual health disorder management and

fosters collaboration among stakeholders. Elle Diagnostics, in partnership with experts, develops AI-enhanced non-invasive diagnostic tools, including assays and biosensors, for at-home endometriosis detection, with plans to integrate diagnostics into sanitary products.

Analysis of total pledges submitted to Partner2Connect

Pledges by focus area, pillar, and region of origin and implementation

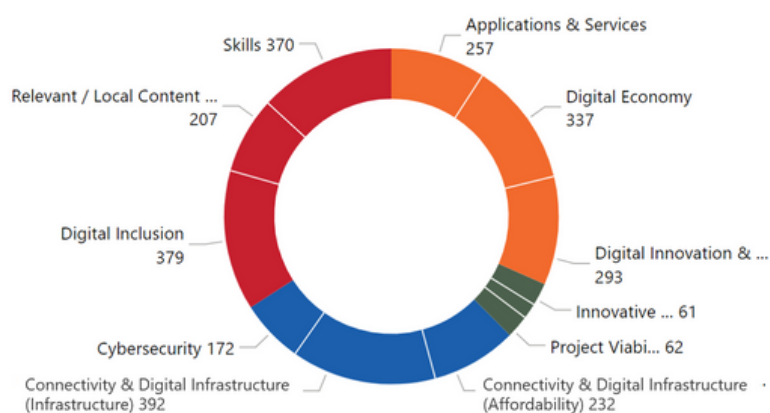
Pledges by P2C Focus Areas



By 31 December 2024, of the **956** pledges submitted to the P2C Pledging Portal, **521** pledges valued at an estimated **USD 43.21 billion** were directed towards the focus area **ACCESS**.

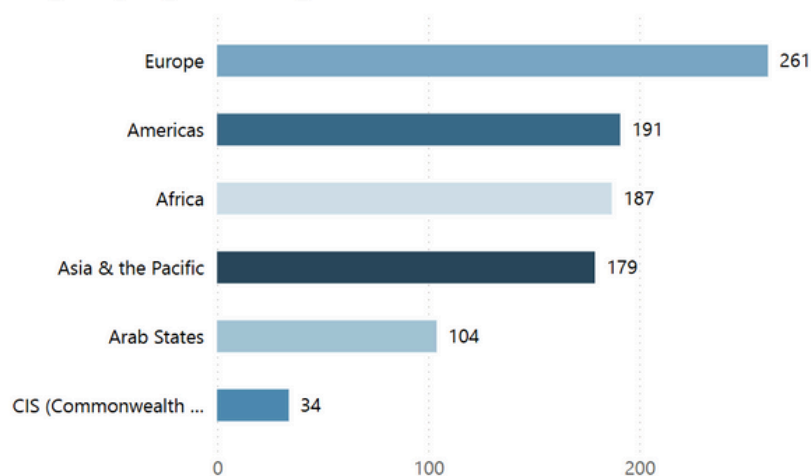
ADOPTION ranked second with **494** pledges worth **USD 30.60 billion**, followed by **VALUE CREATION** with **459** pledges valued at **USD 26.03 billion**. Lastly, **96** pledges, estimated at **USD 17.10 billion**, were related to the focus area **ACCELERATE**.

Pledges by Focus Areas and Pillars



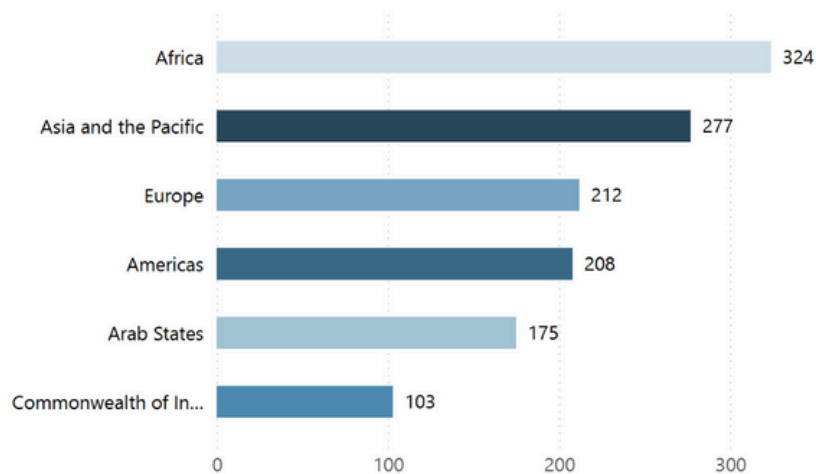
In terms of the pillars within each focus area, **connectivity and digital infrastructure (infrastructure)** had the most pledges, with **392** entries worth an estimated **USD 29.85 billion**. **Digital inclusion** followed with **379** pledges worth an estimated **USD 30.34 billion**. **Skills** came in third with **370** pledges at an estimated **USD 28.52 billion**.

Pledges by region of origin



Europe has contributed the most pledges to P2C so far (**261**), followed by the **Americas (191)** and **Africa (187)**. In terms of estimated financial value, **Europe** also holds the top position, followed by the **Arab States** and **Asia and the Pacific**. Since the start of P2C, these three regions have collectively pledged **USD 39.96 billion**, accounting for almost **74%** of the Coalition's total resources mobilized.

Pledges by region of implementation



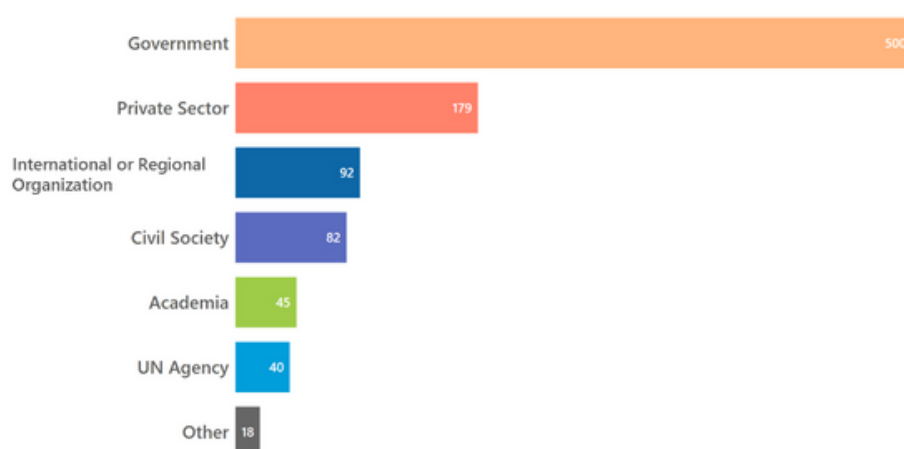
The majority of pledges submitted so far have **Africa** as one of the region of implementation, followed by **Asia and the Pacific**, and **Europe**

Of the **956** pledges received, **323 (34%)** indicate Africa as one of the regions of implementation, making it the region associated with the highest number of pledges, valued

at **USD 25.52 billion**. Asia and the Pacific ranks second, with **277** pledges valued at **USD 18.78 billion**, followed by Europe, which is indicated as a region of implementation in **212** pledges worth **USD 10.16 billion**.

Pledges by sector and pledge type

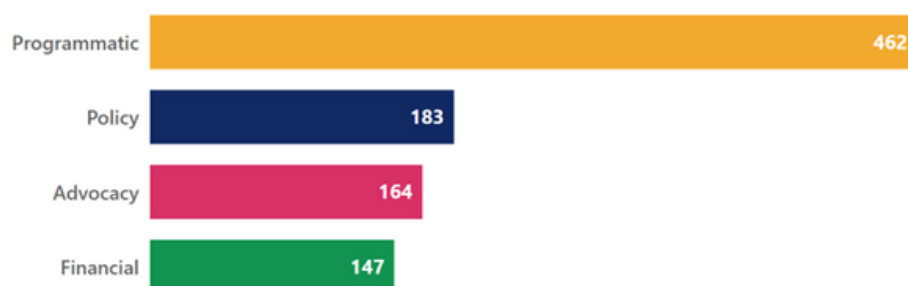
Number of pledges by Sector



By the end of 2024, the **government** sector maintained the highest total number of pledges (**500**, representing **52%** of the overall total). In 2024, the **private sector** submitted the highest number of new pledges across all sectors, bringing its total to **179** (nearly **19%** of the Coalition's pledges).

These **179** private sector pledges accounted for the highest estimated financial value, totalling **USD 39.15 billion**, compared to **USD 12.32 billion** from government pledges. Together, these two sectors contributed nearly **95%** of the resources mobilized by P2C. Notably, government bodies constitute nearly **39%** of the entities in the Coalition, while the private sector accounts for **24%**.

Number of pledges by Pledge Type



By pledge type, most pledges submitted to P2C were **programmatic (462 pledges, 48%)** and **policy-related (183 pledges, 19%)**. In terms of estimated financial value,

programmatic pledges accounted for **USD 33.65 billion**, representing **62%** of the total resources mobilized, followed by financial pledges at **USD 18.63 billion (34%)**. The majority (**83%**) of the **956** total submitted pledges involved just one single implementing entity, while joint pledges accounted for the remaining **17%**.

Finally, of the total **956** pledges submitted so far to the P2C platform, the majority (**505, 53%**) included women as one of their beneficiary groups, **435** included children, and 375 included persons with disabilities.

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

Pledge implementation progress

Beyond pledge mobilization, Partner2Connect closely monitors pledge implementation progress through a self-reporting process aligned with the principles of accountability, transparency, partnership, and action-oriented leadership, as well as the commitments made at WTDC-22. Pledgers are required to use an online form to submit updates and metrics at any time and as often as desired, but at least once a year. Aggregated reporting data is publicly accessible via [interactive dashboards](#) on the P2C website and informs progress monitoring, briefings, statistics, and the P2C Annual Report, which is presented annually.

In preparation for the 2024 P2C Annual Meeting on 30 January 2025 at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, pledgers were reminded to submit their progress reports by the end of November, with the deadline later extended to 31 December 2024. Submissions received after this date were excluded from this publication but will contribute to future reporting cycles and online dashboard updates.

Of the **956 pledges** submitted by **452 entities**, **363 pledges** have been reported on by **182 entities**, meaning that **38%** of the total commitments were reported on by **40%** of all pledgers. This is a positive increase from the 33% reporting rate in 2023.



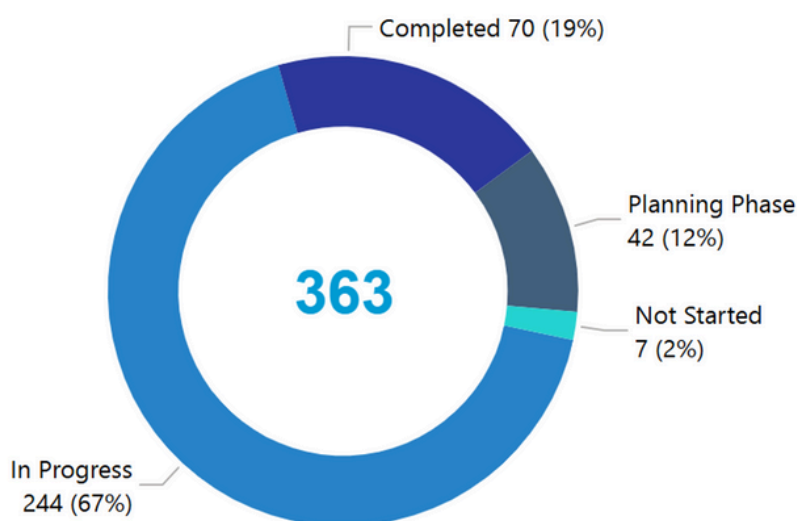
Data also indicate that almost **USD 6.7 billion** was spent towards the implementation of the **363 pledges** that were reported on. This represents an increase of nearly **USD 1.9 billion** compared to last year's expenditure on implementation.

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

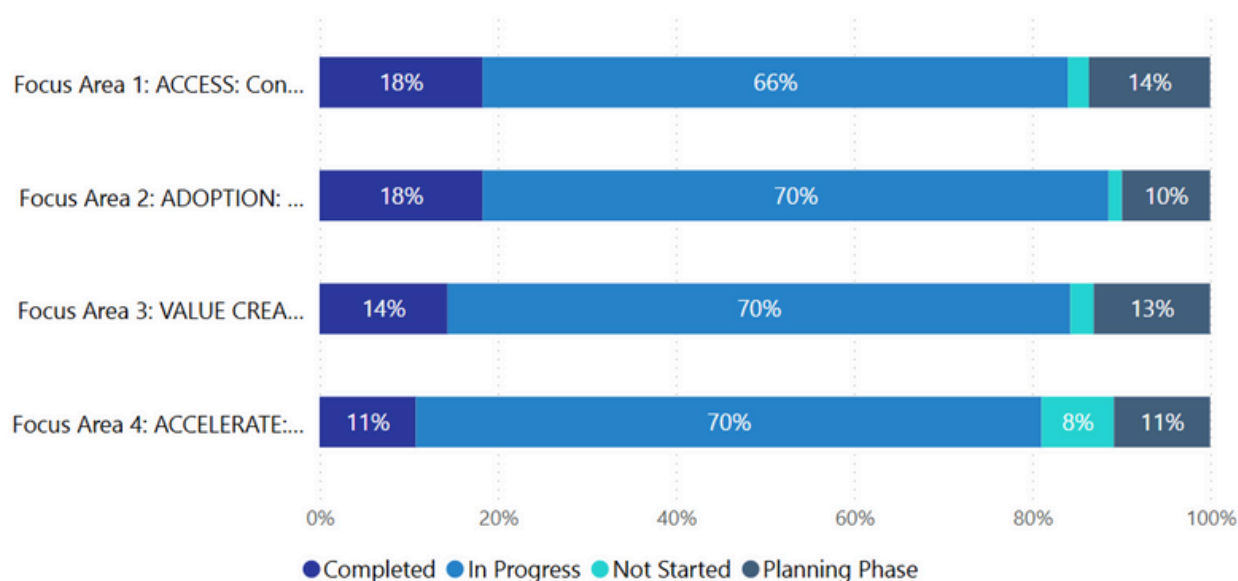
As of the end of 2024, **67%** of the **363 pledges** reported on were in progress, **12%** were in the planning phase, **19%** had already been completed, and **7%** had not yet started.

Pledges reported by implementation status



Of those in progress, **50%** were in the early to middle stages of implementation and **20%** were close to completion. **77%** of pledges reported are expected to meet their target deadlines for implementation.

Pledges reported - implementation status by P2C Focus Area

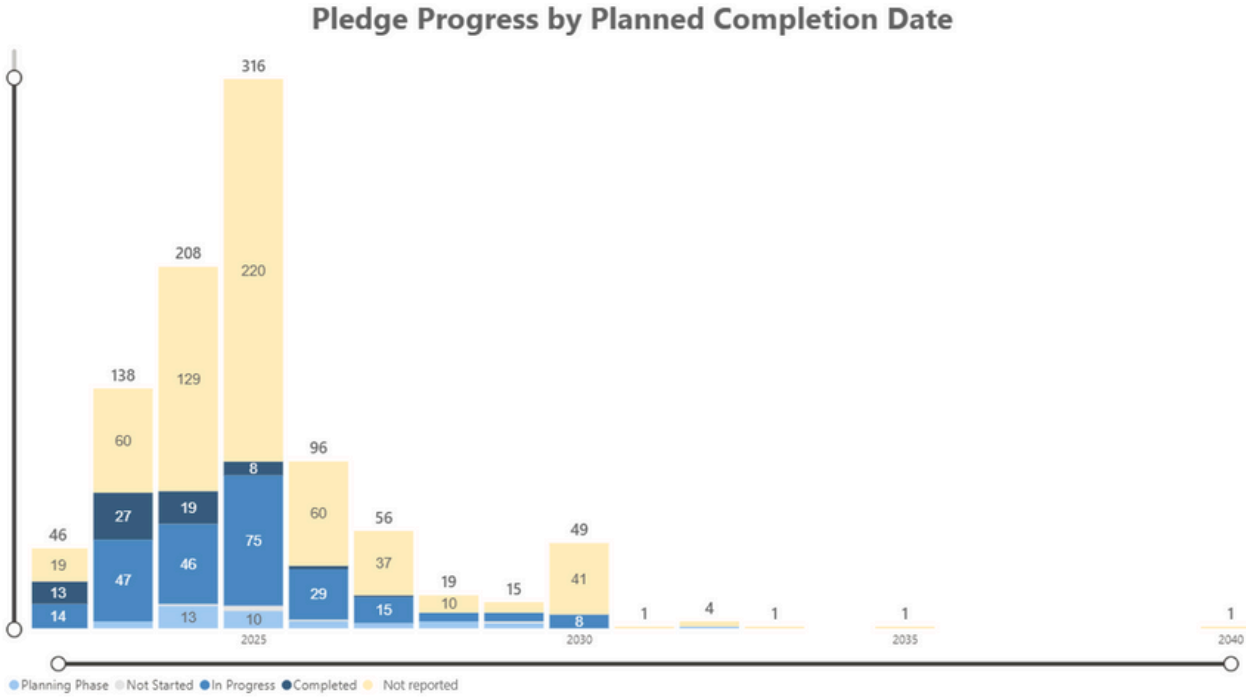


In terms of implementation status by focus areas, pledges related to ACCESS and ADOPTION were in the first place with **18%** of pledges completed, followed by VALUE CREATION with **14%**. The focus areas of ADOPTION, VALUE CREATION and ACCELERATE had the highest proportion of pledges in progress, with **70%** of reported pledges within each focus area at that stage.

Among the **363** pledges reported, **184** had **2022, 2023, or 2024** as their planned completion date when they were initially submitted. Of these, **59** pledges (**about 32%**) were brought to completion, and **107 (58%)** were still in progress. The pledgers reported that some of the challenges they faced in their implementation progress included:

- Limited human resources, skilled trainers, and technical expertise
- Lack of investment and funding for long-term project sustainability
- Delays in project timelines due to natural disasters, administrative issues, or the involvement of numerous partners
- Complex bureaucratic norms, redundant procedures, and rigid regulatory frameworks
- Resistance to change and lack of openness among stakeholders to embrace digital advancements

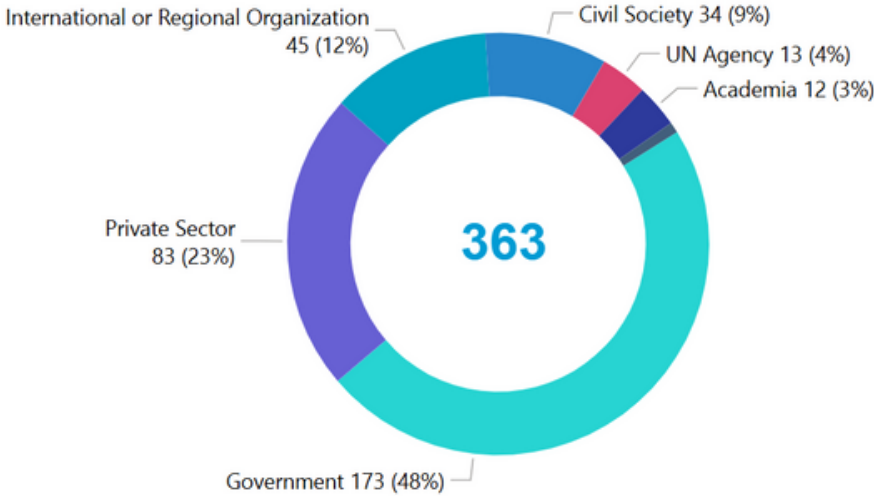
33% of the **956 pledges** submitted are expected to be completed by 2025. However, **almost 70%** of these are yet to be reported on.



Progress by sector, focus area and pledge type

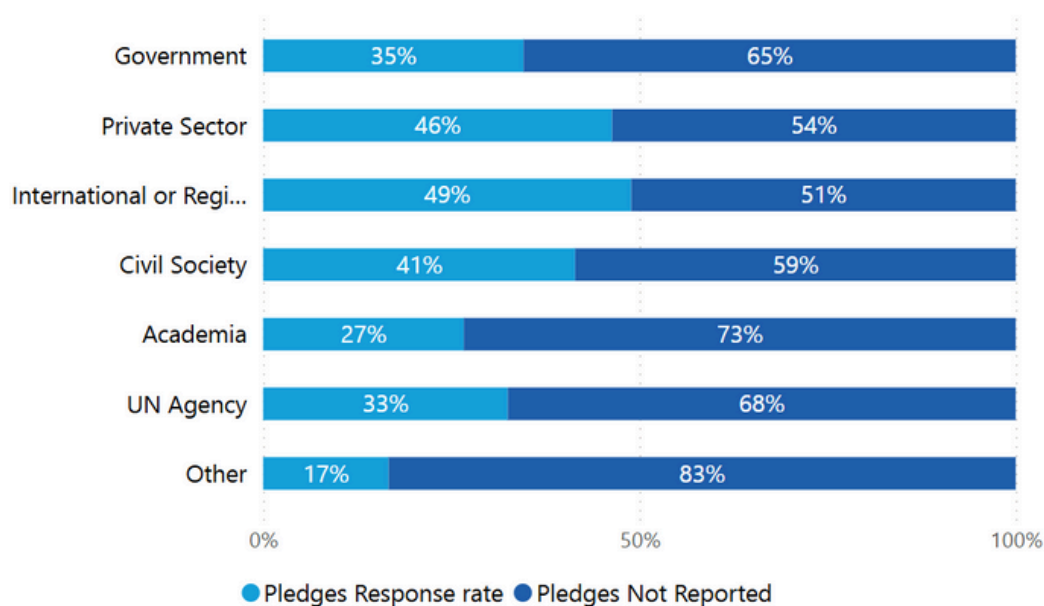
When analyzing the total pledges reported on by sector, government came in first place with 173 (48% of the total reported pledges), and the private sector was second with 83 (23%).

Pledges Reported by Sector



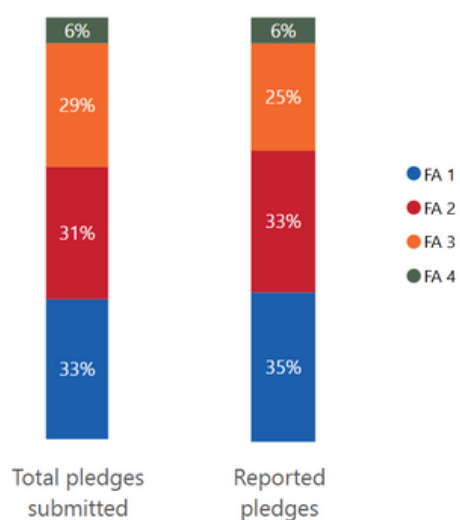
However, when it comes to response rates (pledges reported on as a proportion of pledges submitted), international or regional organization and the private sector had the highest rate (**49%** and **46%** respectively), followed by civil society (**41%**).

Pledges Reported - Response Rate by Sector

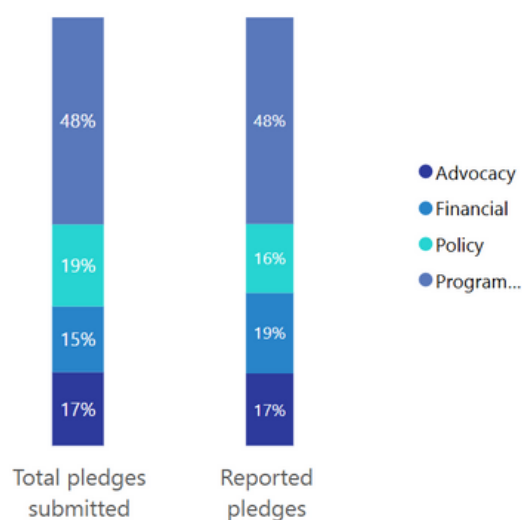


Pledges reported on by focus area, showed similar reporting rates for ACCESS (**35%**) and ADOPTION (**33%**). VALUE CREATION was third (**25%**) and the area with the lowest rate was ACCELERATE (**6%**).

Share of pledges by Focus Area



Share of pledges by type



The analysis by pledge type indicates that **48%** of the reported pledges were programmatic, **19%** financial, and **17%** advocacy-related, whilst policy pledges represented **16%**.

In terms of expected outcomes of policy and programmatic pledges, the majority of reports indicated an **increase in the number of beneficiaries of an existing policy/regulation/programme (43%)**, followed by the **expansion of an existing programme (38%)**, and the **creation of a new programme (24%)**

Alignment of pledges with P2C Targets

The P2C self-reporting form includes a section designed 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 are 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 **(87%)** 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:

Targets	Category	Pledges reported
By 2025, 60% of youth and adults achieve at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills	ADOPTION	153
By 2030, 70% of connected individuals possess basic digital skills (e.g. sending emails)	ADOPTION	138
100% of individuals aged 15 and above use the Internet	ACCESS	136
By 2030, there is a gender parity score of 1 (denoting equal access)	ADOPTION	129
By 2050, 50% of connected individuals possess intermediate digital skills (e.g. installing new software or apps)	ADOPTION	124



P2C impact on the ground

P2C's objective extends beyond announcing pledges; it serves as a platform to facilitate matchmaking, enabling pledgers to connect, share resources, and foster meaningful partnerships. By catalysing collaboration, P2C amplifies the impact of individual pledges, encouraging joint efforts to drive sustainable and inclusive digital transformation.

In 2024, P2C reaffirmed its commitment to fostering collaboration by leveraging ITU's regional platform under the leadership of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, which organized the Regional Development Forum (RDF) for CIS (26-27 March 2024, Astana, Kazakhstan). As in the RDFs held in 2023, the RDF for CIS featured regional P2C roundtables that focused on the announcement of new pledges, significantly contributing to the 103 pledges worth an estimated USD 7.36 billion received for the CIS region to date. The roundtables also aimed to align the needs and priorities of CIS Member States with other stakeholders and operationalize pledges announced through the P2C platform. Detailed insights from this forum are available in the official [outcome report](#).

Additionally, the Partner2Connect National Roundtable for Cambodia took place from 8-9 July 2024 in Phnom Penh, offering a unique platform for global and national stakeholders to understand Cambodia's needs and determine effective responses for its digital transformation. P2C pledging organizations participated in the roundtable, where new pledges were also mobilized, contributing to the 54 pledges worth an estimated USD 543.31 million received for Cambodia to date.

National roundtables were also held in Mongolia and China, showcasing inspiring pledges from national and global stakeholders committed to meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation. These events contributed to the 19 pledges worth an estimated USD 56.58 million for Mongolia and the 16 pledges worth an estimated USD 2.74 billion for China submitted to the P2C platform today.

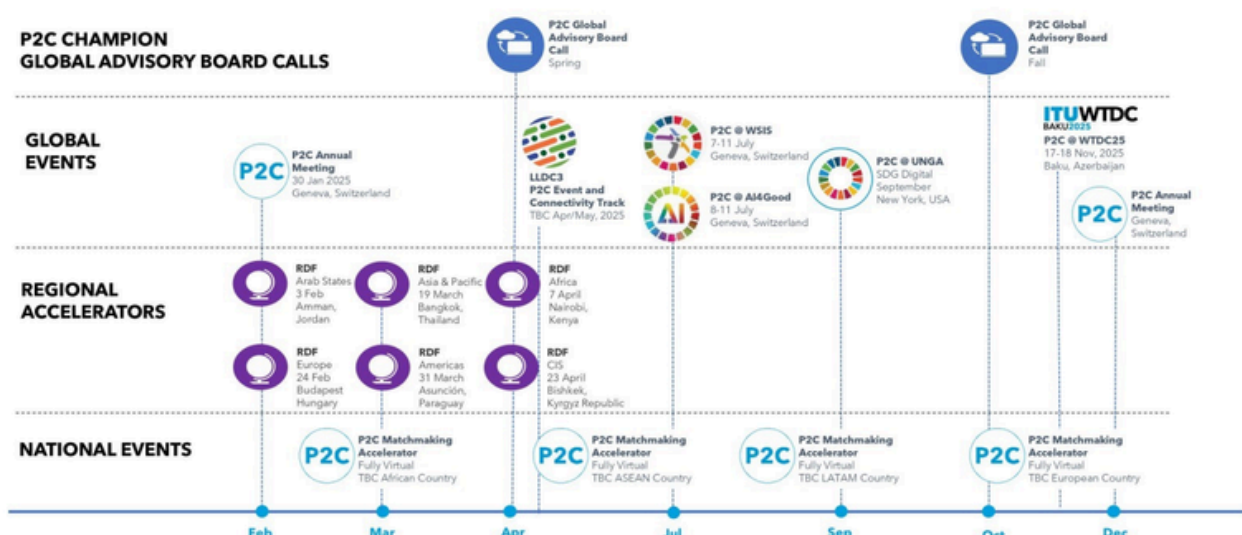
To complement these efforts, P2C, in collaboration with ITU's BDT Regional Offices, launched a series of virtual Matchmaking Accelerator sessions. The first session, co-organized with the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU) in December 2024, focused on aligning pledges with the long-term digital transformation strategies of Caribbean countries, accelerating implementation through collaboration, addressing challenges, and identifying partnership opportunities.

This focus will continue to be a priority in 2025, with Regional Development Forums (RDFs) planned across various regions and additional virtual matchmaking sessions at the country and regional levels.

P2C outlook - 2025 and beyond

As we look to 2025, the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition remains steadfast in its mission to empower digital inclusion worldwide by connecting stakeholders, amplifying their commitments to foster meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation. We aspire to create a global hub for digital inclusion - a space where every initiative, investment, and partnership can come together to inspire action and celebrate progress. By uniting efforts from all corners of the world, we can ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age.

P2C Calendar 2025 (preliminary)



A Shared Legacy

Bringing 2.6 billion people online is a challenge that no single entity can solve alone. It requires collective perseverance, shared vision, and bold action.

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