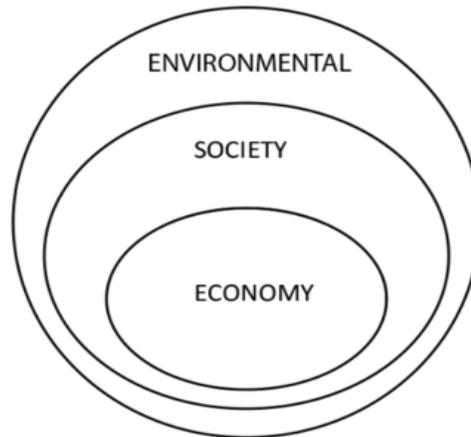


RESOLUTION R2-2019

Supporting the achievement of the global goals (17 SDGs) through ICTs for sustainable development



1.0 Background

Southern Africa Telecommunications Association (SATA) is a Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) subsidiary institution mandated to lead on regional and international cooperation as the voice of the ICT industry where the members are telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) service providers, suppliers and manufacturers. The membership has a global font print.

ICT is a catalyst for economic developing and is an enabler for all sectors and life such that the regional telecommunication and ICT players and around the world are crucial to global sustainable development. Therefore, it is natural that the association is an active part of the worldwide agenda for achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (17 SDGs) and it means business for the ICT industry.

According to Business and Sustainable Development Commission, embracing the global goals could generate US\$12 trillion of new business value a year – which is equivalent to 10% of Global GDP forecast by 2030.

The association contributes to sustainable development by providing regionally and internationally interconnected ICT infrastructure, services, solutions and devices. Some of the business areas include:

- terrestrial fibre backbone networks
- satellite networks
- mobile and fixed access networks
- Wi-Fi networks
- fixed, mobile and computing devices
- intelligent and location based Apps
- hosted cloud services and cloud-based voice systems

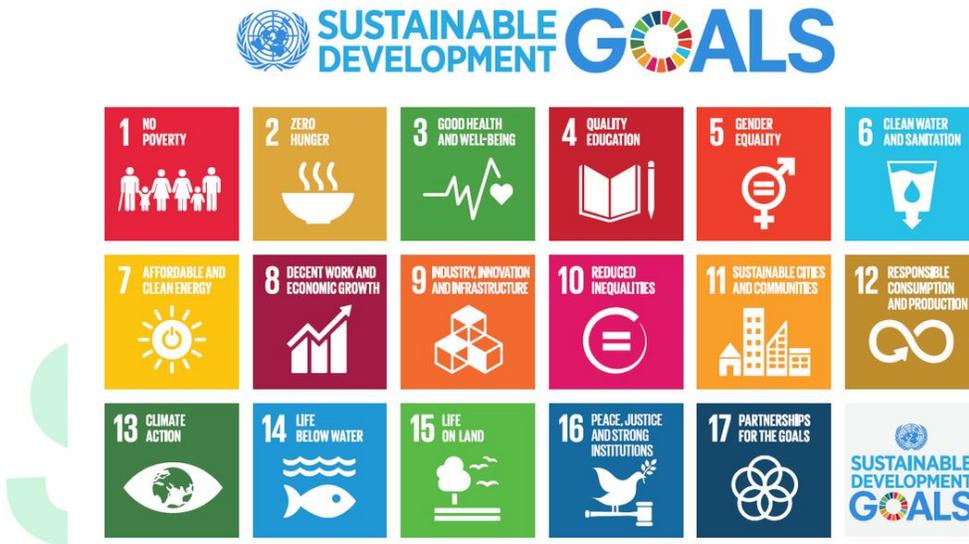
It is essential that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals rests on knowledge, new research, innovation and citizens where the programmes are people-centered. The Sustainable Development Goals clearly need strong societal actors, like the ICT sector, to ensure their success.

The regional initiatives for ICTs for Sustainable Development (ISD) are a culmination from our quest to understand possible links between exploitation of ICTs within our regional economies and society and the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) where ICT is expected to contribute to the attainment of the goals.

There are several initiatives being implemented by various countries in order to provide citizens with affordable ICT services. Globally, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development was adopted. The association guided by the Strategic Plan 2022, takes into account the implementation of the Connect 2020 Agenda in identifying programmes and projects to support the attainment of the SDGs.

1.1 Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)

The Sustainable Development Goals are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030 as a continuing of the expired Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs are part of Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly: "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"



- **Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- **Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- **Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- **Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- **Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- **Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- **Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- **Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- **Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- **Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- **Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The establishment of the SDGs (Agenda 2030), was driven by not only the urgency of the concerns, but also the realization that the international community has within its reach the means, the know-how and the tools to make the goals a reality. -- One such set of tools is information and communication technologies (ICTs) – technologies that can transform economies and improve socio-economic well-being of nations. ICTs, crosses all sectors, bringing increased efficiency and new opportunities to all business and life areas.

1.2 Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development

The global agenda to shape the future of the ICT sector was unanimously adopted at the ITU 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14), by Resolution 200 'Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development' setting out the shared vision, **goals and targets that Member States have committed to achieve by 2020** in collaboration with all stakeholders across the ICT ecosystem. ITU will contribute to Connect 2020 Agenda through its 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, which has also been adopted at PP-14.

Through the Connect 2020 Agenda ITU Member States committed to work towards the shared vision of "an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunication/ICT enables and accelerates socially, economically and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone" and invited all stakeholders to contribute with their initiatives and their experience, qualifications and expertise to the successful implementation of the Connect 2020 Agenda.

By adopting the Connect 2020 Agenda, ITU Member States commit to:

- Goal 1: Growth – Enable and foster access to and increased use of telecommunications/ICTs

Worldwide, by 2020:

55 per cent of households should have access to the Internet

60 per cent of individuals should be using the Internet

Telecommunications/ICTs should be 40 per cent more affordable

- Goal 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all

In the developing world, by 2020:

50 per cent of households should have access to the Internet

50 per cent of individuals should be using the Internet

In the least developed countries (LDCs), by 2020:

15 per cent of households should have access to the Internet

20 per cent of individuals should be using the Internet

Worldwide, by 2020:

The affordability gap between developed and developing countries should be reduced by 40 per cent by 2020

- Goal 3: Sustainability – Manage challenges resulting from the telecommunication/ICT development

Worldwide, by 2020:

Cybersecurity readiness should be improved by 40 per cent

Volume of redundant e-waste to be reduced by 50 per cent

Greenhouse gas emissions generated by the telecommunication/ICT sector to be decreased per device by 30 per cent

- Goal 4: Innovation and partnership – Lead, improve and adapt to the changing telecommunication/ICT environment

Telecommunication/ICT environment conducive to innovation

Effective partnerships of stakeholders in the telecommunication/ICT environment





In identifying the areas of focus centered on people development, the Association is guided by the provisions of the Connect 2020 Agenda.

2.0 Implementation of the People –Centered ISD Programmes

The ICT industry has a responsibility to support the achievement of the SDGs through the effective use of ICTs across all the 17 goals. In coming up with the regional initiatives, we asked ourselves the question:

“How can technology and ICTs contribute towards achieving the UN SDGs to drive sustainable economic growth”

Since the SDGs are about people and by people, the association decided to implement the following flagship regional initiative:

“For the next four years (2019/2022) the association will join forces to facilitate the implementation of ICT solutions and digital transformation of common areas of interest in three specific lines of action: IoT, Big Data and Digital Skills”

The following digital transformation programmes are some example which members will decide to champion at the countries levels.

People-Centered Digital Health and Social Care (DHSC)	People-Centered Inclusive and Quality Education (IQE)
<p>The programme through identified projects will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthen the role of knowledge, innovation and digital technology in the implementation of new demands for Health and Social Care delivery • advise the governments and the society on the benefits of people centred digital health and social care • facilitate and support the deployment of ICT projects contributing to the full implementation of the SDGs through various projects for accessing health and social care from anywhere within the countries 	<p>Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development.</p> <p>The programme through identified projects will support the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creation of digitally connected and collaborative schools, universities and the citizens • digital transformation of education and training • provision of affordable and reliable ICT access and devices • capacity building on digital skills • research in ICTs through postgraduate programmes (Masters and Doctor of Philosophy)
<p>Integrated ICT Infrastructure (Wholesale and Shared)</p> <p>Most countries have realized the need to optimize national resources coming from both the public and private sectors by creating a common wholesale and shared platform and avoid competing programmes resulting in inefficient investments. Developing integrated national ICT infrastructure based on open access principles will accelerate the ICT development and support sustainable development. The programme through various projects will transform the economies through:</p>	

- Fast Internet Access
- Flexible Work – the networks will connect the countries allowing a more flexible working environment. People can work from home, their main office, regional offices and have access to the same high speed internet connection
- Better productivity
- Cloud Services - cloud technology will be available to more business owners as increased internet speeds make it more accessible unleashing the freedom to work smarter, achieving more.
- New Opportunities - it opens the doors for more business opportunities domestically and internationally
- Integration - Fast internet access will allow businesses to adopt an integrated approach to their technology and communications.

People-centered development will be the approach used to focus on improving local communities' self-reliance and participatory decision-making.

The association has a shared view that technology has a role as a facilitator of the transformation needed to meet the challenges affecting the world. We chose the word ‘facilitate’ carefully, because the real power is in what our technology helps people to do: make lives better.

Countries are at different levels of ICT development and to support members in identifying niche programmes and projects, the association will commission a survey by 30 September 2019 to gather good practices so far implemented by the Members States on ICTs for Sustainable Development and show case the good practices for possible adoption by other countries.