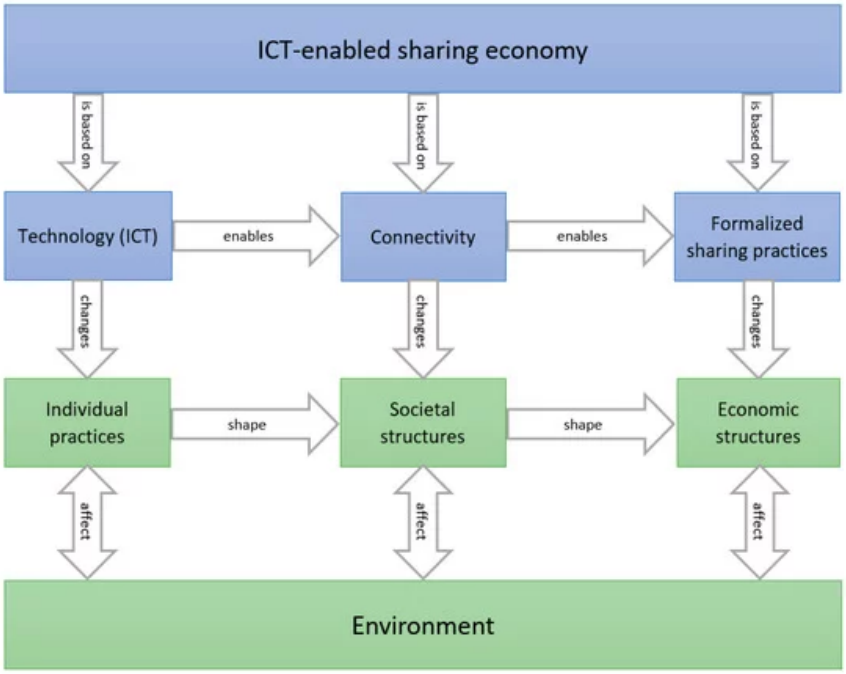
RESOLUTION R3-2019

Coordinating and facilitating the adoption, development and implementation of people-centered ICTs for sustainable development to improve people's lives and attain the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The adoption of the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, underlined the implementation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change challenges by 2030. The Agenda 2030 is underpinned by a strong commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ and to reach the furthest behind first. As implementation of the 2030 Agenda unfolds, the demand for effective national institutions, systems, policies as well as reliable quality data emerges. Thus, underscores the importance of building capacities to enable countries to plan, implement, monitor and report on their National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Collaboration, partnerships and sharing of good practices around the globe will make ensure that no country is left behind.

According to the International Telecommunication Union,

1. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are accelerators, amplifiers, and augmenters of change. They make it feasible to more flexibly and dynamically reconfigure, and hence transform all aspects of how resources are produced and used, fundamentally restructuring economies and redefining how we interact with each other and the world around us.
2. ICTs facilitate real-time communications, data analysis and decision-making, accelerating the pace of economic change and increasing market volatility.
3. "Developing countries need the right ICT infrastructure, skilled workers, and institutional and policy frameworks that reflect best-practice learning but also are responsive to local context constraints and opportunities."
4. The capabilities ICTs empower have the potential to drive significant economic and jobs growth for those that are able to harness ICTs effectively and embrace the new modes of operations required.
5. However, the realization of benefits is not guaranteed. The social and economic adjustment costs of responding to the forces of digital transformation are significant and may exacerbate inequalities between haves and have-nots. While ICTs can expand labor force inclusion, they may also accentuate the importance of skills gaps and undermine traditional policy safeguards based on legacy employment models.
6. The forces ICTs unleash have global impact that affects all nations, all sectors, and everyone – regardless of whether one is actively engaged or merely a spectator in the digital transformation underway. For example, everyone on the planet is affected by global climate change which will be accelerated if less developed countries follow in the footsteps of the developed world with similar energy consumption behaviors predicated on abundant use of fossil fuels.
7. For a brighter future, ICTs have to be part of the solution, enabling more efficient and greener energy generation and usage models.
8. The right infrastructure, policies, and skills are key to success
9. With their potential to facilitate the rapid re-organization of how production and consumption are organized within firms, across industries and markets, and globally, ICTs can help developing countries leap-frog legacy growth trajectories.
10. However, too often the promise is unrealized because inadequate attention is paid to ensuring that the requisite complementary elements for success are in place.

11. Selecting and sustaining a welfare-enhancing growth trajectory for developing economies in a more turbulent and volatile global economy is a difficult dynamic challenge.
12. Developing countries need the right ICT infrastructure, skilled workers, and institutional and policy frameworks that reflect best-practice learning but also are responsive to local context constraints and opportunities. Effective ICT-fueled development strategies need to be continually learning and adapting.
13. Better information for better decisions
14. ICTs expand options, but they also increase uncertainty. They have the potential to provide society with expanded tools to impact our destiny, but making good choices requires having access to high-quality research to inform our collective decision-making.
15. In confronting these challenges, the global academic community needs to build capacity and promote capabilities for multidisciplinary, cross-cutting expertise to identify and manage the implementation of successful strategies within nations and across the global community of nations.
16. Our understanding of how to best make use of ICTs to ensure sustainable growth is expanding, but our collective knowledge gaps are large and new developments bring new questions.
17. This calls for the need for regional and international cooperation, collaboration and partnership to collectively mitigate the challenges and identify new opportunities.

Following on this, the association will organize a conference that will bring together the ICT industry, scholars and development stakeholders to discuss and share good practices and identify ICT programmes and projects with a catalytic effect to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).