



INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

27 - 28 October 2023– Friday, Saturday

New Delhi, India

In Collaboration with India Mobile Congress (IMC)

Overview

The World is 7 years away from the Sustainable Development Goals and many countries are behind.

In a rapidly changing global economy and technology landscape, achieving inclusive digital transformation of society presents a paradigm shift, especially in developing countries. The world is entering a new digital era where technology such as AI, IoTs, 5G, quantum computing, green technologies, space technologies, and other emerging technologies are changing faster than policy can adapt.

Much can be done to enhance the readiness of our digital ecosystems to ensure a positive digital transformation that accelerates achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is why countries need rethink their approaches to guarantee they can safely navigate a digital world that is increasingly Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) to achieve the SDGs.

Unfortunately, there is a growing digital innovation divide among countries. While many countries continue to struggle, others have appropriate, socially adequate and ready-to-scale innovation that can be transformed into economic opportunities in their quest to create jobs and social economic development.

While events such as the pandemic served as a catalytic boost to digital ecosystems, the underlying gains and principles from this boost are quickly fizzling out, and the challenges of having sustainable and competitive ecosystems remain unresolved.

There is an opportunity to discuss and take stock of the achievement of the SDGs using ICTS, understand the challenges and opportunities to achieve national, regional and global ambitions, and build the capacity to chart a path toward meeting the SDGs.

This is why ITU, in conjunction with the India Mobile Congress, is organizing the Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development Goals event as track during IMC 2023. This hybrid event will take place in New Delhi, India and online. The event will benefit from the frameworks of the newly launched ITU initiative, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development, and ITU's newly established Global Center in India.

The event is a two-day immersive experience that will take the participants on learning journeys to learn the "why," "what," and "how" of building innovation capacity that ensures that communities are ready for digital futures that are resilient, sustainable and benefit all society.

The following topics will be covered during the forum under the theme: "**Readiness for our digital futures**":

- Day 1: The event will highlight the inflection point reached with SDGs and the impact emerging technologies and discuss best practices to prepare our ecosystems to accelerate achievement of the SDGs.
- Day 2: The event will bring stakeholders' to experience and build capacity with practical tools and frameworks to understand strategic foresight and how to shape their digital ecosystems to accelerate achievement of the SDGs.

The event is targeted at all stakeholders with a keen interest in digital and its cross-cutting impact among sectors, including digital change-makers, policymakers, the private sector, academics, entrepreneurial support organizations, entrepreneurs, financiers, community development managers, international organizations and media, and United Nations Agencies. It will benefit from the exposure of the deep tech ecosystem, and experts present around the India Mobile Congress.

Draft agenda

Day 1 (27 October 2023)	
09:30-12:30 IST	<p>Opening & Launch of India Mobile Congress</p> <p><i>To attend the event opening, registration badges must be collected from the event venue before 26 Oct. If you'd like to attend rest of the event, the badges can be collected from the venue on the day itself after registration.</i></p>
12:30-13:30 IST	Lunch
13:30-15:00 IST	<p>Developing open innovation ecosystems and the role of policy to achieve the SDGs</p> <p>Venue: Hall 2</p> <p><i>Session type: Panel – open to all</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy, APAC, GSMA • Dr. Lovneesh Chanana, SVP and Regional Head, Government Affairs, SAP Asia Pacific & Japan • Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, DDG & Senior Advisor to ITU, Department of Telecommunications • Dr. Tavpritesh Sethi, Founding Head at Centre of Excellence in Healthcare, IIIT Delhi • Mr. Sahil Kapoor, Technology & Innovation Specialist, UNFPA <p>Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Ba, Senior Coordinator, Digital Innovation Ecosystem, ITU, Geneva</p> <p>Overview</p> <p>During the session, panellists will discuss the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an open innovation ecosystem? • How can we leverage an open innovation ecosystem to solve local problems? • What specific mechanism can be established to democratize open innovation ecosystems? • How do you develop an anticipatory policy and engage stakeholders in policy experimentation? • How do you accelerate your policy cycle?
15:00 -15:30 IST	Tea/Coffee
15:30-17:00 IST	<p>Fostering Small and medium businesses in the new digital era to achieve the SDGs</p> <p>Venue: Hall 2</p> <p><i>Session type: Panel Discussion – open to all</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Magnus Ewerbring, Chief Technology Officer, Asia Pacific, Ericsson • Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Sr. Manager and Head - Incubation, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer, IIT Delhi • Dr. Surabhi Gupta, Senior Manager, Startup India • Ms. Kachina Chawla, Chief, Division for Health Systems Strengthening, USAID • Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Adviser Digitalisation, NRM and Agroecology, GIZ

	<p>Moderator: Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia & Pacific, Bangkok</p> <p>Overview: During the session, panellists will discuss the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do we leverage the informal sector in the digital age?• What platform models can accelerate digital transformation across industries?• How do we engage our ecosystems to ensure the competitiveness of these platforms?
17:00-18:00 IST	Networking activities

Day 2 (28 October 2023)

Venue: Hall 2

09:30-10:00 IST	Futures Thinking - Strategic Foresight <i>Session type: Capacity Building – open to all</i> Overview Understand the fundamentals of future thinking and its relevance in decision-making in a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world and introduce foresight as a discipline for anticipating and preparing for future scenarios to accelerate the SDGs.
10:00 -11:00 IST	Framing and scanning <i>Session type: Capacity Building – open to all</i> Overview Workshop Part I - Framing & Scanning: Gain a comprehensive understanding of the context, priorities, and macro/micro environment through mind mapping and scanning to set the stage for strategic foresight.
11:00 -12:30 IST	Mapping <i>Session type: Capacity Building – open to all</i> Overview Workshop Part II - Mapping the signals and exploring the scenarios: Identifying trends, drivers, and uncertainties to explore opportunities and challenges for the possible futures
12:30 -13:30 IST	Lunch
13:30 -15:30 IST	Visioning <i>Session type: Capacity Building – open to all</i> Overview Workshop Part III: Visioning: Prioritising and deep diving into the desired scenarios
15:30 -17:00 IST	Takeaway and closing <i>Session type: Closing – open to all</i> Overview Understanding the steps to building roadmaps and systems to support implementation and readiness for equitable digital futures