Information and Communication Technology for Peace and Partnership

Highlights

■ The challenges of the 21st century are daunting: global economic growth per person led by emerging economies and a population that topped 7.3 billion in 2015 put great stress on Earth's ecosystems, even as the agenda of the Millennium Development Goals remains unfinished. So, the Sustainable Development Goals aim for change at the level of the planet, a veritable seismic shift.

■ The revolution in information and communication technology (ICT) provides the most powerful tool yet. Properly deployed, directed, and extended, ICT can be a tool for common good and accelerate action on the global goals.

■ "World peace is not something that can be realized simply by politicians signing treaties, or by business leaders creating economic cooperation. True and lasting peace will be realized only by forging bonds of trust between people at the deepest level, in the depths of their very lives," said Daisuke Ikeda, a Buddhist philosopher. ICT for peace and partnership can promote peace, justice, and strong institutions and strengthen partnerships for the global goals.
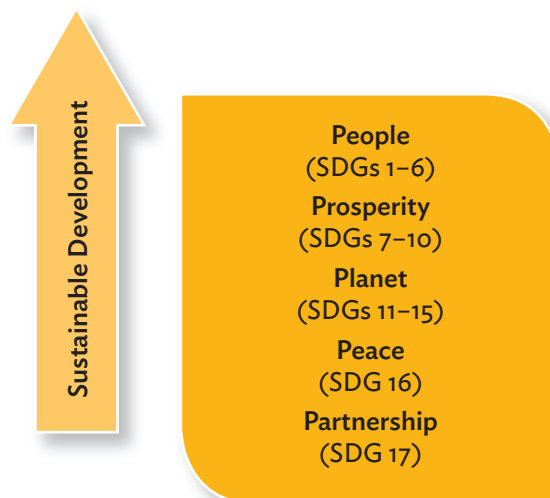
THE 5 Ps

On 25–27 September 2015, the 193-member United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will guide national actions and development cooperation over the next 15 years.[1] The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (and 169 targets) will stimulate action in five areas—the 5 Ps. Citing,

- **People.** [...] to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.
- **Prosperity.** [...] to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social, and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.
- **Planet.** [...] to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.
- **Peace.** [...] to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.
- **Partnership.** [...] to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders, and all people.

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Information and communication technology (ICT) are technologies that facilitate by electronic means the processing, transmission, and display of information: ever faster and

The 5 Ps

Sustainable Development

People (SDGs 1–6)

Prosperity (SDGs 7–10)

Planet (SDGs 11–15)

Peace (SDG 16)

Partnership (SDG 17)

SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals.
Source: ADB.

cheaper, they condense or elide temporal and spatial distances. ICT has transformed the financial services, media, retail, and telecommunications sectors; through the globalization it simultaneously feeds on and accelerates, it is now reshaping societies, economies, and governments worldwide.

Because ICT can help achieve the global goals' aspirational, transformational, and universal objectives, four targets of the SDGs refer directly to it.[2] But ICT can without doubt find direct and multiple applications across each SDG: it is an existing and already widely deployed set of technologies that can be mobilized to both boost and scale improvements; it ought to be a crucial enabler, particularly if it helps poorer countries leapfrog development milestones.

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[1] United Nations. 2015. _Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development._ New York. sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld

[2] The related goals are Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. Implicitly, Goal 17 recognizes ICT as essential to the achievement of all SDGs and their associated targets.

Source: International Telecommunication Union.

ICT for Peace and Partnership (SDGs 16–17)

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	**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**
	ICT can play an important role in crisis management, humanitarian aid, and peacebuilding. When natural or human-made disasters occur, ICT helps obtain, communicate, and transmit accurate and timely information, triggering appropriate responses. Through crowdsourcing, ICT has helped monitor elections. In general, open data increases transparency, empowers citizens, and drives economic growth; data mining and big data analysis should make increasingly better use of the vast amount of data already openly accessible online. ICT is also essential to keep records on local demographics.
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**
	ICT can help achieve all the SDGs because it integrates and accelerates economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability—the three pillars of sustainable development—and provides innovative and effective means to act in today's interconnected world. ICT is unique in its capability to specifically develop capacity, enable and improve data monitoring and accountability, enhance international cooperation and coordination, forge multistakeholder partnerships, and promote technology transfer.

ICT = information and communication technology, SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals.

Notes: ICT heightens efficiency, enlarges scale, reduces risks, and informs decision making. This table illustrates applications of "ICT for Peace and Partnership" to promote further discussion and research.

Source: Adapted from 2016. International Telecommunication Union. www.itu.int/

ICT FOR PEACE AND PARTNERSHIP

"World peace is not something that can be realized simply by politicians signing treaties, or by business leaders creating economic cooperation. True and lasting peace will be realized only by forging bonds of trust between people at the deepest level, in the depths of their very lives," said Daisuke Ikeda. SDGs 16–17 see to peace and partnership: they mean to promote peace, justice, and strong institutions and strengthen the partnerships for the global goals. Athwart all related actions, ICT can quicken upscaling; cut deployment costs; augment awareness, inclusiveness, and engagement; stimulate connectivity, productivity, efficiency, and innovation; and raise quality.

Related Links

ADB. 2016. *Ramping Up ADB's Role in Information and Communication Technology for Development—ICTD Team Work Plan, 2016–2017*. Manila.

ADB. 2016. *Road to 2030: Information and Communication Technology in ADB's Corporate Strategy and Operations*. Manila. www.adb.org/projects/documents/helping-transform-asia-and-pacific-support-for-adb-new-corporate-strategy-jul-2016-dpta

KNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTOR

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