Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Unlocking the Full Potential of ICT

Jointly organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI)

United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 11

Wednesday 6 June 2018, 8.15 to 9.30 am

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The potential contribution of ICT to the achievement of the SDGs is tremendous. Research from the Global e-Sustainability Initiative demonstrates that ICT solutions will be indispensable to the achievement of all the Goals, and over 50% of the related targets. This event will discuss practical examples of successful sustainable solutions powered by ICT, the barriers to address in order to reap the full benefit of the technology, and the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Case studies will be provided to illustrate successful projects in the areas covered by this year’s Focus SDGs (in particular water management, energy, and smart cities). Speakers will also discuss what barriers currently exist to a wider adoption of the technology, and the measures to be taken in order to remove those barriers and accelerate uptake.

Programme:

8.00-8.15  Breakfast

8.15-8.35  Welcome and opening remarks
Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU
H.E Mr. Fodé SECK, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations

8.35-8.45  Statement on ICT for the SDGs
Jim Gowen, Chairman, GeSI

8.45-9.00  A company perspective
Owen Rodgers, Chief Architect, AT&T

9.00-9.15  A company perspective
Birgit Klesper, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and Corporate Communications, Deutsche Telekom

9.15-9.30  Panel discussion

9.30  Closing
Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU
Speakers' biography

Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU
Malcolm Johnson was elected Deputy Secretary-General of the ITU on 24 October 2014 and started his mandate on 1 January 2015. From 2007 to 2014 he served as Director of ITU’s Telecommunication Standardization Bureau where he spearheaded activities in cybersecurity, climate change and accessibility, considerably increasing the involvement of developing countries and academia in ITU’s standards activities. Between 2003 and 2006, Mr Johnson was International Coordinator at the United Kingdom’s Office of Communications (Ofcom), where he had lead responsibility for the United Kingdom in ITU and in CEPT. From 1992 to 2003, he was Director of the United Kingdom’s Radiocommunications Agency and between 1988 and 1992, he worked in the European Commission’s Telecommunication Regulations Division, where he represented the Commission in the Council of the European Union, EU Parliament, CEPT and ITU.

H.E Mr. Fodé Seck, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations
Since February 2014, Mr. Seck has served as his country’s Ambassador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. From November 2007 to September 2010, he was Senegal’s Ambassador to Brazil.
From December 2006 to September 2007, he was Charge d’affaires at the Senegalese Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, having served previously as General Secretary of the Government in Charge.
From March 2002 to December 2006, he was Chief Technical Adviser to the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, after serving in several other posts in the Ministry since 1986.
From 1981 to 1986, he was a First Counsellor at the Senegalese Embassy in Nigeria, following a stint from 1978 to 1981 in the same capacity at his country's embassy in the former Soviet Union.
Mr. Seck has a Master of Arts degree in English from the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar.
Born on 1 September 1950, he is married and has six children.

Jim Gowen, Chairman, GeSI
Jim Gowen holds the complementary roles of vice president of Supply Chain Operations and Chief Sustainability Officer for Verizon. As Verizon’s Chief Sustainability Officer, Gowen is responsible for setting the direction of the company’s sustainable growth strategies and for reducing its carbon footprint. He also oversees initiatives being implemented across Verizon including fuel and energy reduction, paper suppression, waste reduction and recycling, and management of end-of-life-cycle material recovery. In his supply chain role, Gowen leads centralized operations and the global customer premises equipment program with responsibility for more than $2.5 billion in annual through-put and half a billion dollars in annual inventory. He oversees Verizon’s regional distribution centers, purchasing and materials management, investment recovery, international supply chain and centralized fleet operations. Gowen earned his master’s degree in business administration from Long Island University and his bachelor’s degree from Manhattanville College.
Owen Rodgers, Chief Architect, AT&T

Owen Rodgers is AT&T’s senior architect for US Federal and international public safety agencies. He assists AT&T public sector clients in defining their technical vision and strategy, leveraging his telecommunications subject matter expertise and in-depth knowledge of government operational and technical environments. A 20-year telecommunications industry veteran, Rodgers has developed and deployed solutions with the United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Justice, Postal Service, and Census Bureau, as well as public safety agencies overseas.

Birgit Klesper, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and Corporate Communications, Deutsche Telekom

Birgit Klesper is Senior Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and Corporate Communications, for Deutsche Telekom in Bonn, Germany. Prior to assuming this position in 2006, Ms. Klesper was Senior Vice President for Corporate Communications (worldwide) and Spokesperson of the Wella Group. Following Procter & Gamble's take-over of Wella AG in 2004, she took additional responsibility as Director of Communications for Procter & Gamble. She has also held various positions in corporate communications and public relations with Philip Morris and Tchibo Coffee Company.

Luis Neves – Managing Director, Global e-Sustainability Initiative

Luis Neves is MD of the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI), and served until recently as Climate Change and Sustainability Officer, Executive Vice President at Deutsche Telekom Group. With over thirty years of experience at national and international level in the field of telecommunications and Information Society, Mr Neves has played a fundamental role in promoting the role of ICT in relation to climate change. He was the driving force and chairman of the steering committee of the acclaimed GeSI SMART series of reports. He held positions and participated in a range of international projects and initiatives including GeSI, the United Nations Global Compact Group and Steering Committee of the United Nations Caring for Climate Initiative.