



**United
Nations**



HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
ENERGY
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2021

Ministerial Thematic Forums

21 – 25 June 2021

Event name: International Standards and Sustainable Green & Innovative Power Solutions to bring Broadband Internet Connectivity to Rural and Remote Areas

Event date and time: 22 June 2021, from 12h00 to 13h00 CEST

Organizers: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Number of participants: Approximately 40

Main speakers and brief summary [max 300 words]:

This event pointed to the importance of electricity for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) services and applications, from recharging devices, powering mobile base stations, to running data centres. Energy is essential for the ICT sector to help connect the world's people, to deliver the benefits of ICTs, and to improve peoples' quality of life. Access to reliable and affordable electricity remains a major constraint especially in the world's Least Developed Countries, where people stand to benefit most from the opportunities of ICTs, but where grid electricity is rare and incomes low. Electricity networks may also be leveraged to extend broadband backbones. Infrastructure sharing and re-use can be an important tool to save costs and expand services, highlighting the importance of cooperation between ICT and energy sectors and in particular for power line communications (PLC). At the same time, innovations in ICTs help build sustainable supply of electricity and distributed energy sources, which is vital to address the challenges of energy, climate change and environmental degradation.

The main speakers of the event were Reyna Ubeda (ITU), Alexis Mutware (Rwanda Utility Regulatory Authority, RURA), Vida Rozite (International Energy Agency, IEA), Paolo Gemma, (ITU-T Study Group 5: Environment, climate change and circular economy) and Charlotte Aubin (Green Wish Group)

Speakers discussed the importance of energy for ICTs, including for the [ITU/UNICEF Giga initiatives](#), which aims at connecting every school in the world to the Internet by 2030. They further highlighted ITU's work on developing greener ICTs, green communities and smart grids and standards that can build more controllable and efficient energy systems and reduce carbon emissions, and for green solutions for example those developed by [ITU-T Study Group 5: Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy](#). The event emphasized the importance of international standards and sustainable and innovative power solutions for connectivity, to upgrade networks and integrate modern and more energy-efficient networks. Speakers pointed to the importance of behavioural change, in particular for environmental protection, but also data protection and cyber security issues that arise with new and innovative systems. Since not all initial investments are covered by public funds, the session discussed new and innovative business and financing solutions, but also regulatory tools, and the importance of data and monitoring. One model is the smart community concept, which sets up a shared infrastructure with a power

community and create multiple value chains and monetizing on the private sector who can benefit to deliver digital services.

Key outcomes [max 100 words]:

The session highlighted the importance of energy and pointed to a number of steps that can be taken to make energy available, reliable, affordable and green. It also highlighted the importance of international standards. Governments can put in place strategies and policies to encourage the roll-out of electricity and encourage private sector investments; and set and monitor targets to assess progress. Governments, electricity providers and users are encouraged to develop energy solutions, including ICT-related networks and supported services, that are flexible, de-centralized, and can be adapted to the location, income and consumption level, and to identify innovative business and finance models to bring energy to remote and rural areas.

Links to livestream recording/website/social media:

See: <https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Pages/Side-event-International-Standards-and-Sustainable-Green-%26-Innovative-Power-Solutions.aspx>

Tweet: <https://twitter.com/ITU/status/1407236233110114310?s=20>

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