GCBI Work (2023-2026) – Directions & Group Structure

Background

In navigating the contemporary challenges of the digital era, a collective effort is necessary, and can be guided by global frameworks such as the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, and the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Kigali Action Plan. For instance, the high-level panel on digital cooperation, within the UN SG's Roadmap, underscores the need for greater coherence and coordination in capacity-building efforts and a concerted push to scale up solutions. The ITU-D priorities outlined in the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) strategically approach digital capacity activities. Among the five KAP priorities, the acceleration of affordable connectivity and digital transformation, with the promotion of inclusiveness in mind, along with resources assessment, efficiency, and mobilization, and the establishment of partnerships for impactful projects, are highly in line with the role and scope of work of the GCBI, whose mandate encompasses digital skills and capacity building and development, guidance on effective pathways, and identifying efficient directions to achieve overarching goals.

Proposed Directions & Targets

Considering the above, the proposed strategic orientations for the GCBI work during this 2023-2026 cycle can hence be focused into two main directions:

1) Elaboration of a dynamic and forward-looking strategic approach to enhancing the effectiveness of the existing initiatives and programs under the BDT, and emphasizing their continuous improvement. Such a strategy should target efficiency (by optimizing processes, workflows, and resource utilization within existing programs), impactfulness (through the correct identification of beneficiaries, and relevant measurement of quality of experience, program success, and impact), and innovation (at technological, human, obstacle overcoming, and procedural levels);

2) Extension and scaling of successful initiatives and programs and new partnerships. This, on one hand, includes horizontal and vertical geographical expansions to cover a more extensive and diverse base of beneficiaries, increasing the magnitude/intensity and funding of successful models and, on the other hand, targets building and strengthening cross-sectoral collaborations and partnerships from various sectors, such as academia, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, industry and private sector entities, and local communities, to mutualize capabilities, mobilize new resources, and amplify the impact of initiatives.

Group Structure

To make the group's work more efficient, it is suggested to create two parallel sub-groups, each working on one of the proposed directions:

1) The work of the first sub-group can be focused on the effectiveness of the ongoing initiatives and programs, and can be organized in time in three steps: 1) identification of heterogeneity within ITU's BDT regions themselves and proposition of new and more efficient sub-regional clusterings, 2) identification and prioritization of regional specificities/obstacles impacting current activities, and 3) suggestion of solutions/alternatives to identified obstacles.

2) The work of the second sub-group can be oriented towards the mobilization of resources and partnerships, and be organized in time in three steps: 1) identification or update of the list of regional partners, 2) identification of potential reasons behind limited partnership interest, overlaps, program redundancies, …, etc, and 3) suggestion of "coopetition" schemes to deliver more impactful outcome.

Outcomes/Deliverables

The work timeline, expected outcomes, and formats of deliverables, will be discussed by the group members in break out room sessions during the online meeting.