[Leveraging ICTs critical to achieve Global Goals, UN highlights in new report](#)

13 July 2017 – Underscoring the importance of information and communication technologies (ICT) in today's world, the heads of over 20 United Nations agencies and offices have called for leveraging those technologies to &#8220fast forward&#8221 implementation of the [2030 Agenda](#) for Sustainable Development.

In a [new report, launched today](#), the senior officials also highlighted the critical link between information and communication technologies and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)).

&#8220The 2030 Agenda […] recognizes the great potential of global connectivity to spur human progress,&#8221 noted UN [Secretary-General](#) António Guterres in his foreword to the publication, [Fast-forward progress: Leveraging tech to achieve the global goals](#).

&#8220This report presents evidence of how UN agencies are adopting &#8211 and adapting &#8211 ICTs to maximize their impact and help communities and people in need,&#8221 he added, highlighting efforts underway to extend telecommunication networks and ICTs into remote areas; train and equip workers with new digital skills; and ensure that schools, hospitals, clinics and whole cities are smarter, more energy efficient and safer.

The [five key areas](#) highlighted as the &#8220take aways&#8221 in the publication include ensuring that no one is &#8220left offline;&#8221 recognizing the catalysing factor of ICTs for innovation and change; putting people first; importance of prompt action to leverage ICTs; and creating new .innovative partnerships.

The report, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)), was written as a collaborative effort between top officials from UN entities and international organizations, with each leader selecting one Goal and explaining why ICT is important for it, including drawing on their personal insights.

&#8220As UN leaders have identified […], ICTs must be leveraged to advance achievement of all 17 of the [SDGs](#) &#8211 and we at ITU look forward to partnering with other UN agencies to facilitate this,&#8221 said Houlin Zhao, the Secretary-General of ITU, said at the report's launch, in Geneva.

The report's release coincides with the ongoing 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development ([HLPF](#)), the main UN platform dealing with sustainable and inclusive development.