

United Nations Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

17 May 2014

Message of H.E. John W. Ashe President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, celebrated each year on May 17, marks a significant opportunity for the United Nations family to focus global attention on bringing the enormous benefits of the digital revolution in information and communication technologies to the world's inhabitants. The commemorations on this day aim to raise awareness of the vast potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) and broadband Internet connectivity to bridge the digital divide and achieve the broader goals of sustainable development – economic growth, social inclusion and environmental balance.

This year, I encourage Member States and other stakeholders to promote the theme: "Broadband for Sustainable Development." Broadband infrastructure development is a critical element in ensuring that ICTs are used innovatively as delivery vehicles for health, education, governance, trade and commerce. And technology can serve to empower young people and enhance overall academic performance.

Modern communication tools make it possible to connect the remotest communities and endow people with information and knowledge so they can realize their social, cultural and economic aspirations. ICTs are the powerhouses of the global economy, offering real answers to today's problems and creating genuine improvements in the lives of citizens everywhere.

As we look to advance the Post-2015 Development Agenda through North-South, South-South cooperation, to use ICT to advance our development goals, and to set the stage for a more technologically inclusive world, I encourage us to seek every solution that information and communication technologies offer to create a better future for all.