Broadband for development:

bridging the digital divide through mobile broadband

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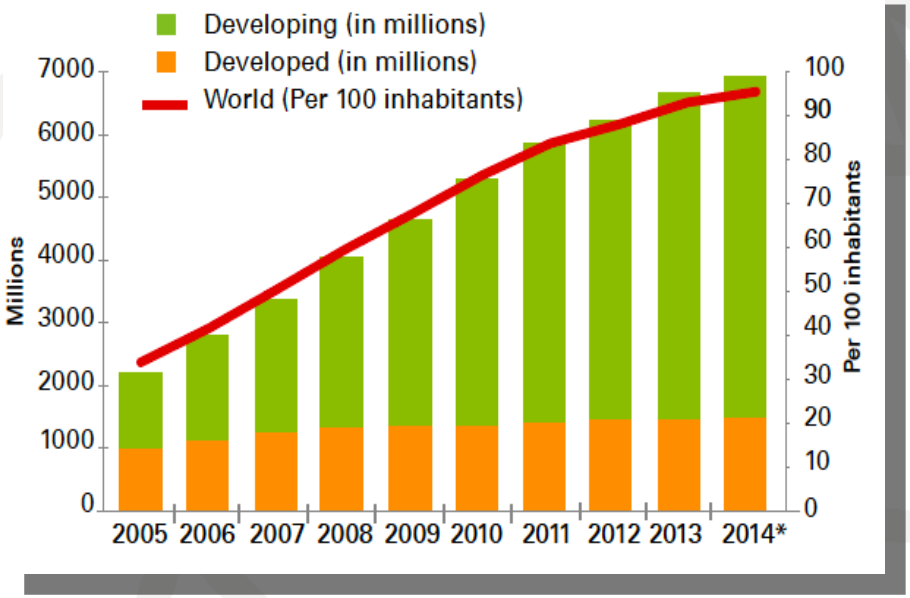
International Telecommunication Union

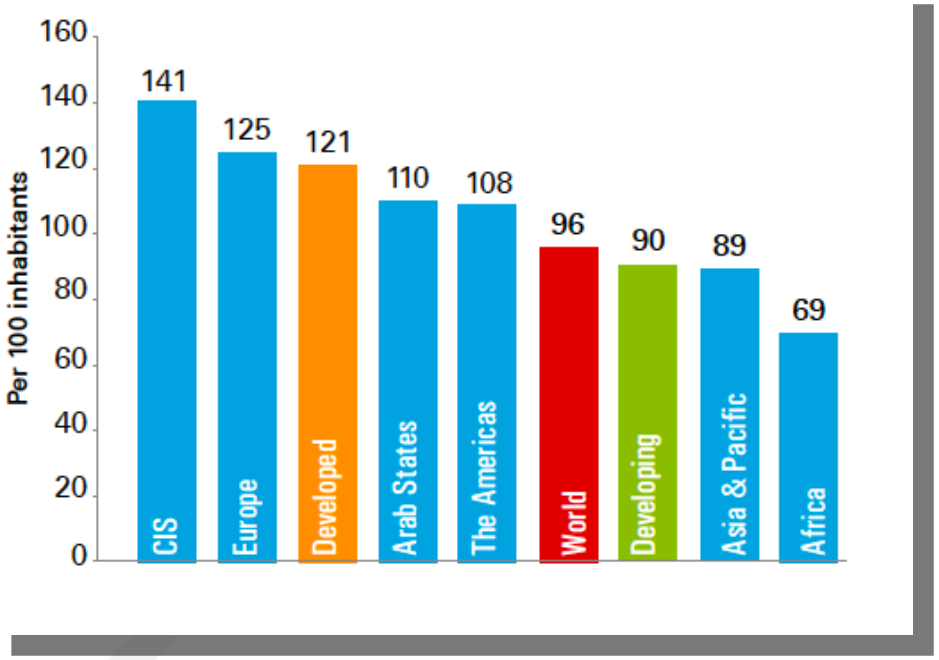
Committed to connecting the world

ALMOST 7 BILLION MOBILE-CELLULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS WORLDWIDE

The developing countries are home to more than three quarters of all mobile-cellular subscriptions

Mobile-cellular subscriptions, total and per 100 inhabitants, 2005-2014*, and by region, 2014*

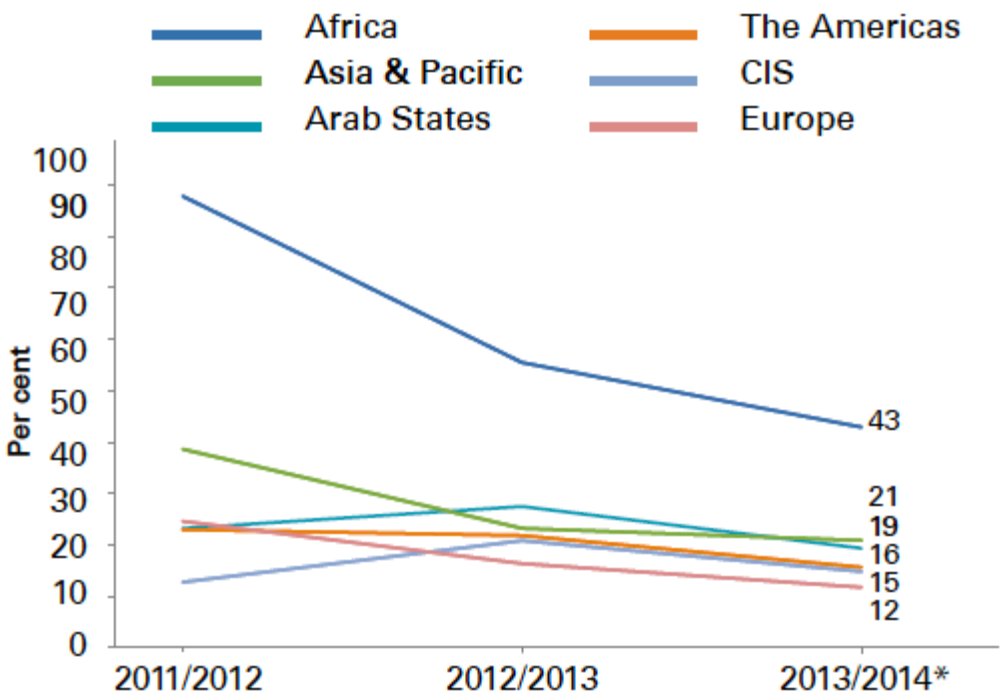




Source: ITU

AFRICA LEADS IN MOBILE-BROADBAND GROWTH

Mobile-broadband penetration in Africa reaches close to 20% in 2014, up from 2% in 2010



All regions continue to show double-digit growth rates but Africa stands out with a growth rate of over 40% – twice as high as the global average. By end 2014, mobile-broadband penetration in Africa will have reached almost 20%, up from less than 2% four years earlier.

Source: ITU

ITU – the specialized UN agency for ICT

ITU coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, works to improve telecommunications infrastructure in the developing world and assists in the development of worldwide technical standards.

The ITU is active in areas including broadband Internet, latest-generation wireless technologies, aeronautical and maritime navigation, radio astronomy, satellite-based meteorology, convergence in fixed-mobile phone, Internet access, data, voice, TV broadcasting, and next-generation networks.

SPECTRUM (ITU-R) **STANDARIZATION (ITU-T)** **DEVELOPMENT (ITU-D)**

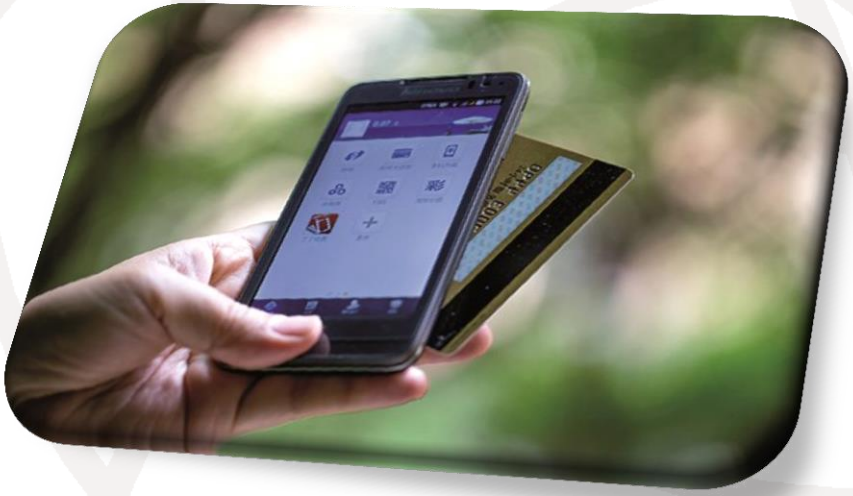
The role of ITU in bridging the digital divide and supporting mobile broadband growth:

Ongoing allocation of spectrum for mobile broadband

Through regular planning at World Radio Conferences (WRCs):
ITU Members agree by consensus on the use of frequency bands for radiocommunications, such as mobile broadband, update the International Radio Regulations and carry out the technical studies to support these allocations and updates.

The role of ITU in bridging the digital divide and supporting mobile broadband growth:

Promoting harmonization of frequency plans



For countries to benefit from economies of scale, it is necessary to align markets through spectrum harmonization. This means that when a large number of countries decide to plan their frequency use in a similar way, mobile broadband equipment can be manufactured at much lower costs, providing a direct cost benefit to service providers and end users.

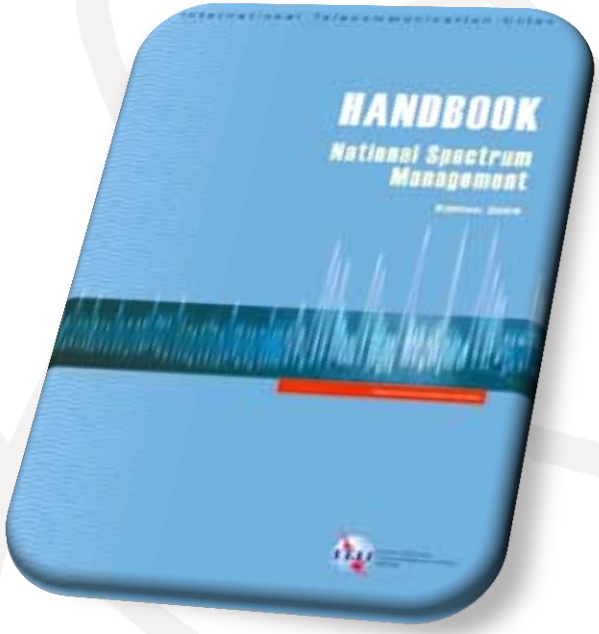
The role of ITU in bridging the digital divide and supporting mobile broadband growth:

Standarization

Internationally accepted equipment standards provide industry and users with proven technical specifications to guarantee the operational robustness of communication networks and the best technical performance to support user demands. Standards, as well as interoperability and conformance testing, also provide a clear progression path to continuously improve networks technically.

The role of ITU in bridging the digital divide and supporting mobile broadband growth:

Promoting internationally agreed best practices



ITU also engages in the ongoing development of technical recommendations developed by international experts, handbooks and other publications to provide up-to-date knowledge and know how. Through this, stakeholders find the required guidance in the implementation phases for deployment of national broadband networks (technical and regulatory)

The role of ITU in bridging the digital divide and supporting mobile broadband growth:

Providing technical assistance to Member States, specially developing countries

Led by the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D), the Union's priority to support its membership is carried out in a collaborative manner, harnessing the technical expertise in standards (ITU-T) and spectrum matters (ITU-R). This work is extremely important, specially in assisting developing countries in the implementation of ICT initiatives and regulatory advancement to meet their local needs in a global context.

Examples of ITU activities to support mobile broadband growth

Development of the IMT-2000 (3G). IMT- advanced standards for mobile broadband beyond 3G.

Assistance to member states in Africa (ITU Region 1) to implement the transition to Digital Television, to subsequently benefit from the Digital Dividend.

Promotion of the uptake of harmonized frequency plans for mobile broadband (Digital Dividend in 700 and 800 MHz), to be used by IMT mobile networks, specially for rural broadband.

Further spectrum allocations for IMT mobile broadband are currently under study, and expected to materialize at WRC-15 (approx. a 50% addition in relation to spectrum currently available)

The implementation of the Digital Dividend for mobile broadband is of particular importance for developing countries, given the economies of scale arising from the uptake of harmonized band plans in the 700 and 800 MHz spectrum and its wider area coverage capabilities.

A final note…

Harmonization, standardization and ongoing planning are needed in order to grow mobile broadband sustainably, in front of the growing demand.

Government policies oriented towards long term outcomes are vital, considering the limited nature of the **spectrum resource** from which mobile broadband is sustained.

International agreements through the ITU have this purpose, made under consensus, ensuring in this way a stable regulatory platform for securing the **long term investments** needed to deploy resilient, scalable and reliable national broadband networks.

Thank you…

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