ICTs for Inclusive Social and Economic Development

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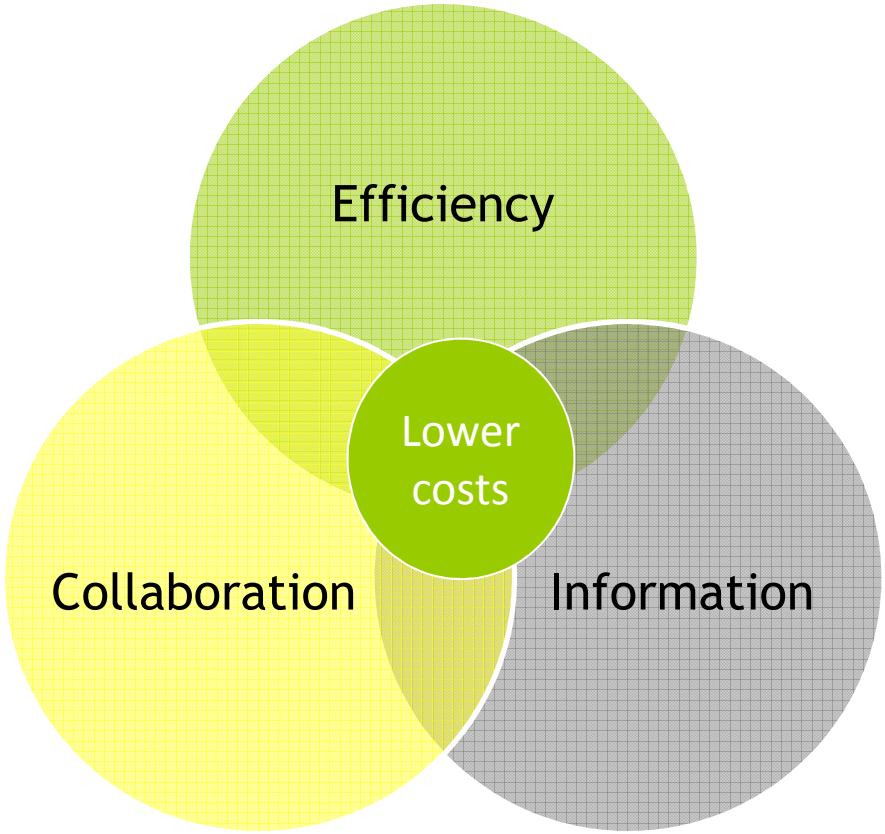
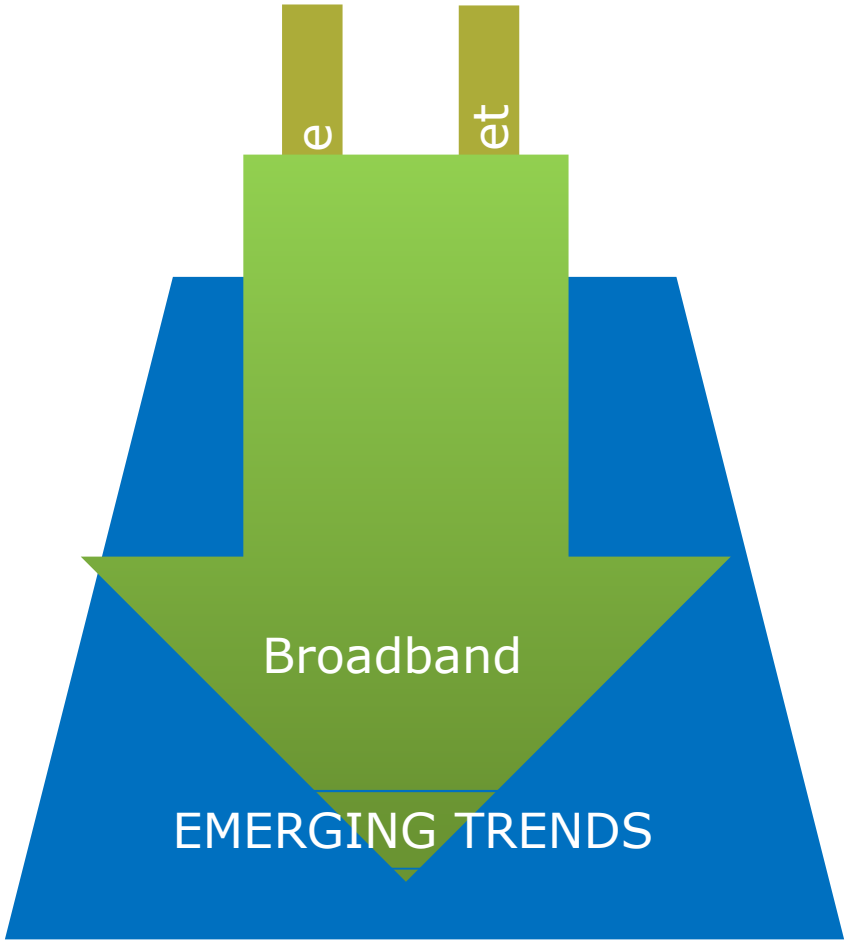
Opportunities arising from ICTs

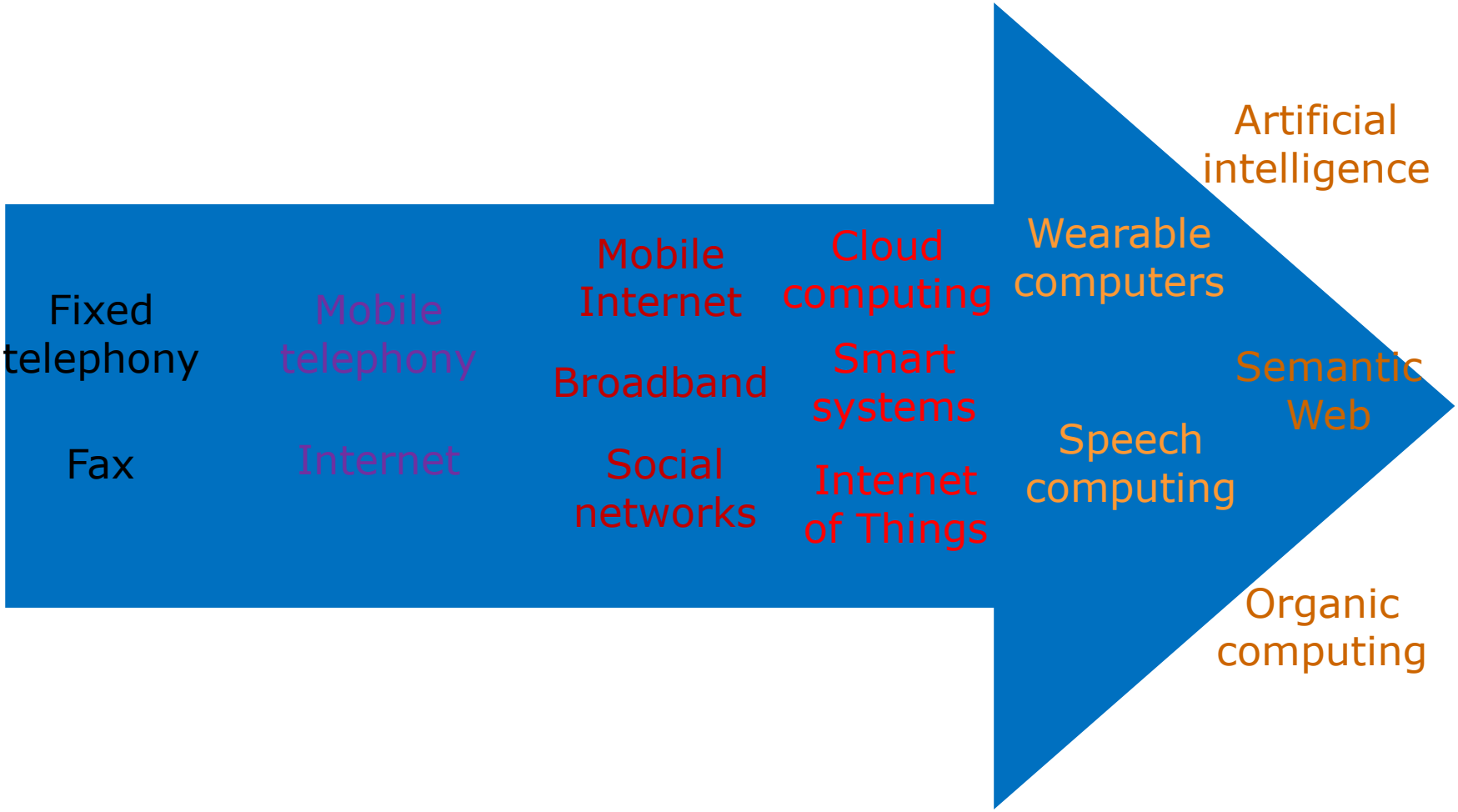




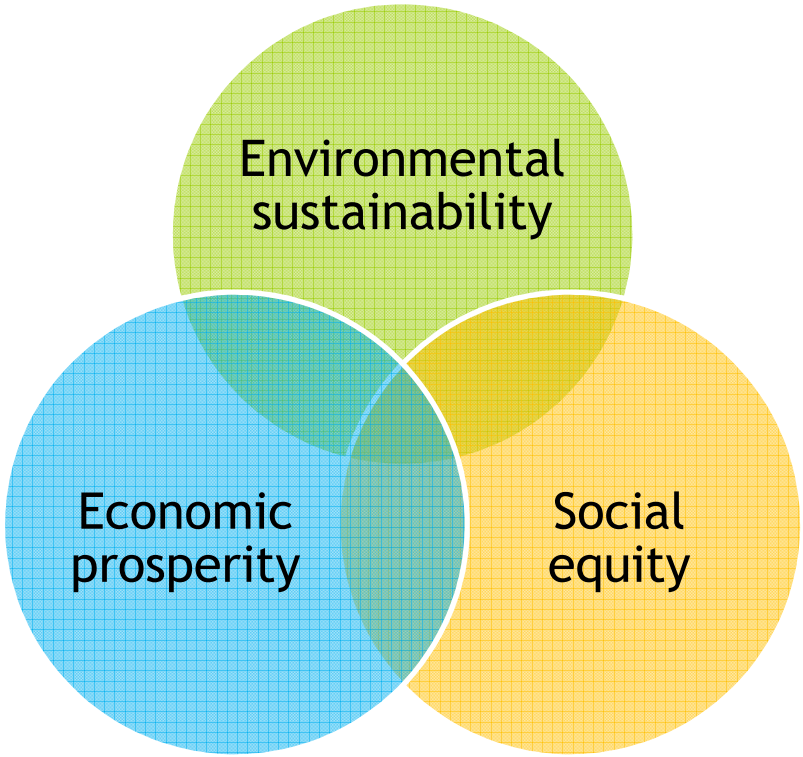
Presentation sequence

1. Emerging trends in the evolution of ICT4D and the Information Society
2. Impact of emerging trends on social and economic development, including the digital divide
3. ICTs, emerging trends and the post-2015 development agenda

The trajectory of communications innovation



Impacts of ICT to date



- Globalisation of production, distribution and consumption
- Growth of ICT sector in global GDP
- Virtualisation of products and behaviour

- Increased access to information
- Freedom of expression and association
- Changed relationships between citizen and state
- New kinds of interpersonal interactions

- Higher levels of waste
- Higher levels of CO_2 emissions
- Potential mitigation of environmental impacts through smart systems

Summary of potential impacts of emerging trends

- **Datafication** can enable governments to improve the efficiency and coordination of government administration and the logistics of public service delivery.
- The accumulation of information and better understanding that emerge from **big data** analysis and other data methodologies can improve the quality of both short-term decision-making and long-term development planning.
- **Open data** and more open means of data gathering and analysis can extend participation in decision-making, enabling people to have more influence on decisions that affect their lives.
- The enhanced data-handling and analytical capacities of **cloud computing** can contribute to the quality of data analysis, while cloud-based interfaces provide innovative ways of maximising information access and interaction between governments and citizens.
- The **Internet of Things** can extend capabilities to monitor the natural environment, the exploitation of natural and human resources, pollution levels, and behavioural impacts, enabling earlier, more effective and cost-effective intervention.
- **Smart systems** can improve the efficiency of utility and industrial sectors, including power generation and distribution, reducing CO_2 emissions and enabling more efficient exploitation of water and energy resources.

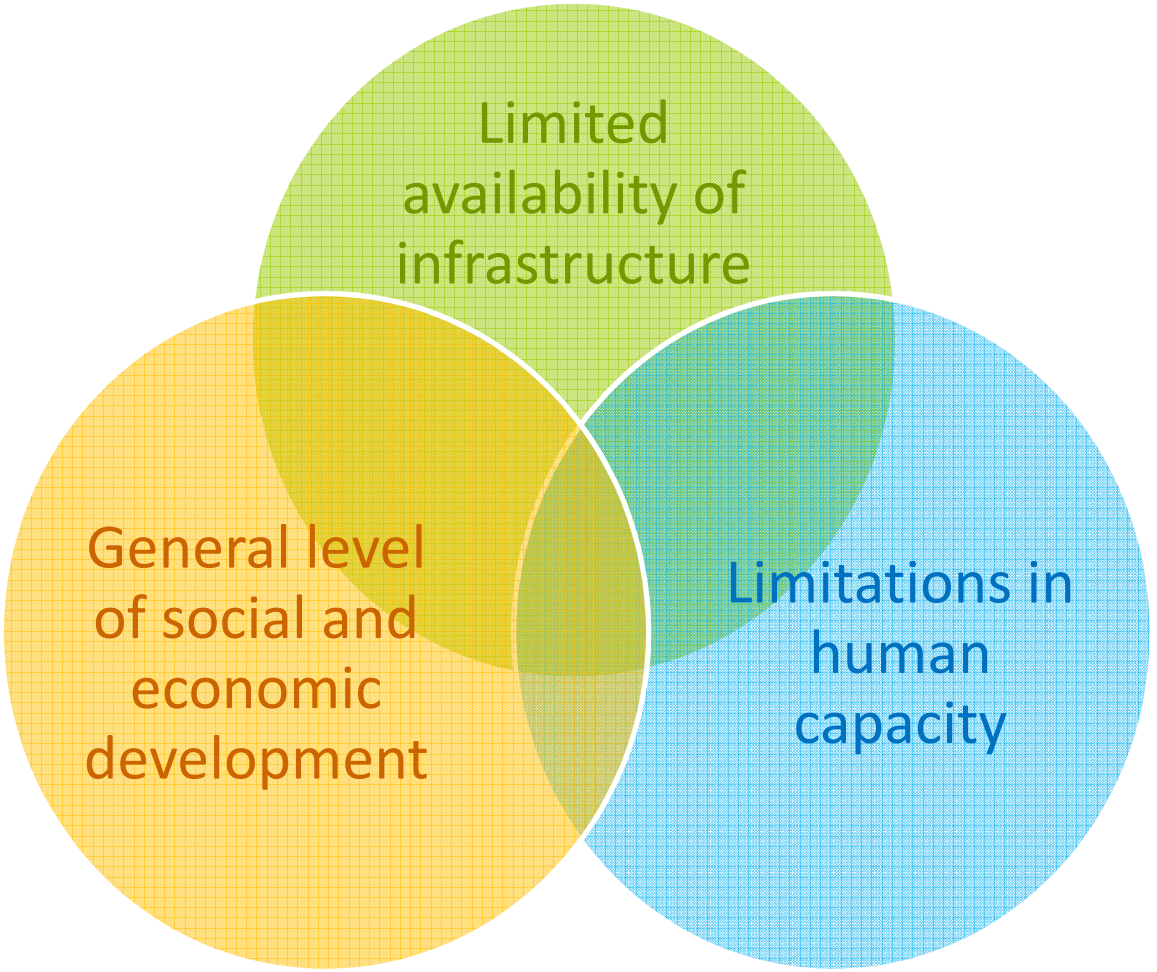
Assessing the impact of new developments

- How big a difference will these trends make in social, economic and cultural life?
  - A. Existing ICTs have had a profound impact on economy, society and culture where they are highly prevalent.
  - B. The trends illustrated in this presentation are likely to exacerbate those impacts, and enable new impacts, but:
  - C. They are dependent on the prevalence of ICT infrastructure and devices, and on human capabilities.
  - D. More data and more data analysis are not necessarily better than less.

Policy implications – The 'digital divide'

- The 'digital divide' has shifted from basic to broadband infrastructure in recent years (from access to quality of access).
- The trends discussed in this presentation are likely to exacerbate the digital divide *and its impact* in the short to medium term.
- The most important digital divide may in future be that between LDCs and emerging market countries.
- We will continue to face a 'digital divide' in a sector which experiences high rates of innovation in technology and markets, as innovations are adopted first in markets which can afford or use them most.
- The critical challenge is to create an enabling environment for rapid adoption of innovation, where it is beneficial, in all economies – reducing the 'digital delay'.

Constraints on impact



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Policy implications – Enabling infrastructure

- The new trends identified in the presentation require the availability of reliable, high quality infrastructure.
- This requires investment, preferably from the private sector, but IFI and PPP support is likely to be needed in LDCs and other contexts.
- As well as being available, infrastructure must be:
  - affordable
  - reliable and
  - of sufficient quality.

Policy implications – 2
An enabling legal environment

E-commerce legislation (digital transactions and exchanges)

Data protection, data sovereignty and cybersecurity

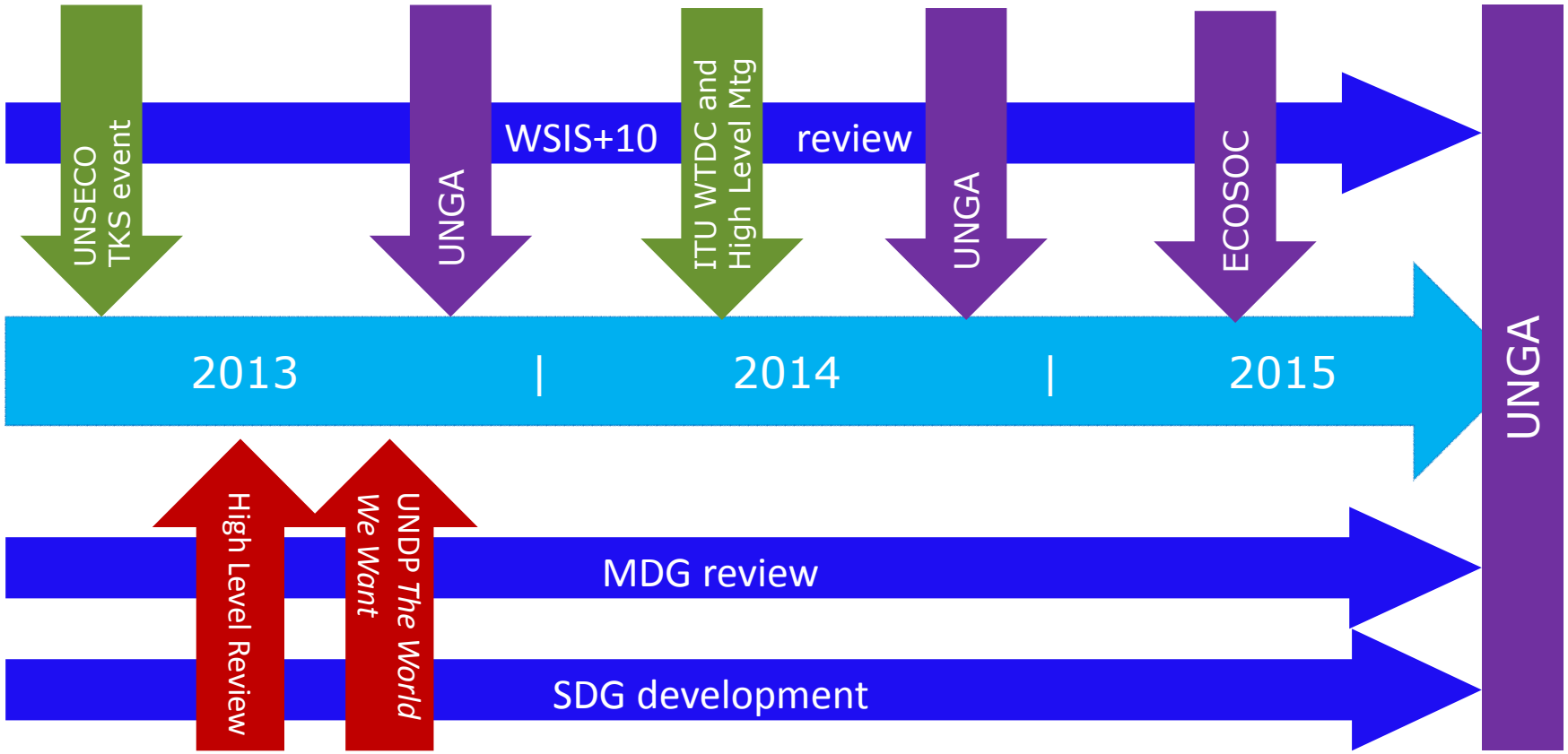
An enabling environment for business innovation and development

Open standards and pro-competitive regulation

Policy implications – 3
The wider development dimension

- Contextualisation in the wider development agenda – consistency with national circumstances and development strategies
- Availability of human expertise – e.g. in ICT procurement and contract management, statistical analysis, policy design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Financial resources – for operational as well as capital costs

ICTs and the post-2015 development agenda



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Goals sought by the Secretary-General's High Level Panel

1. End poverty
2. Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality
3. Provide quality education and lifelong learning
4. Ensure healthy lives
5. Ensure food security and good nutrition
6. Achieve universal access to water and sanitation
7. Secure sustainable energy
8. Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth
9. Manage natural resource assets sustainably
10. Ensure good governance and effective institutions
11. Ensure stable and peaceful societies
12. Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance

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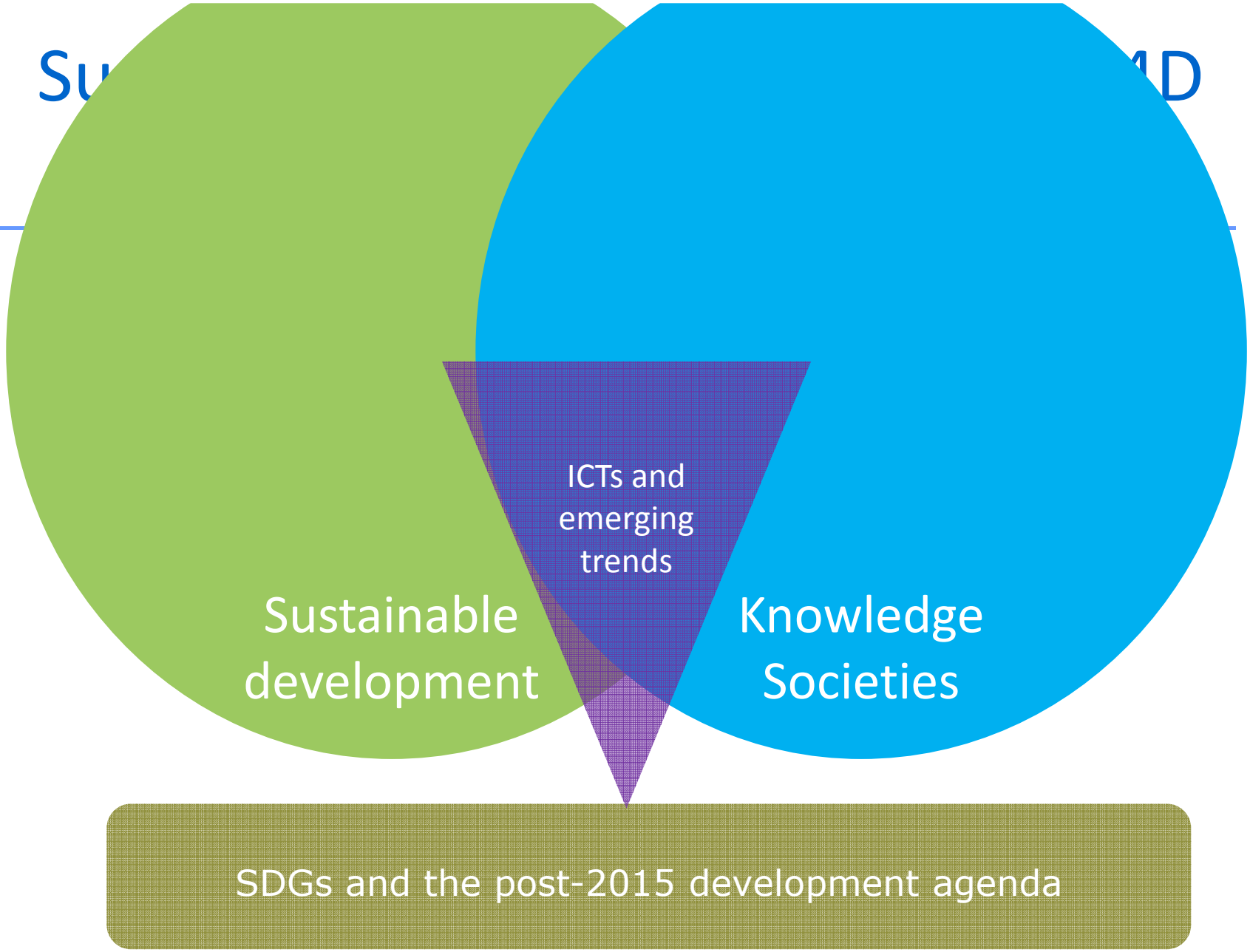

SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda

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Thankyou

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