Connectivity and the pandemic: Challenges related to the digital divide

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ITU Development

The state of connectivity: Where are we today?

What are the challenges?

What are we doing about them?

Where do we want to go?

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2.9

billion people offline in the world in 2021

4.9

billion people online in the world in 2021

Source : ITU, *Facts and Figures 2021*

Note : being *online* means having used the Internet in the last three months

Global gender gap

Individuals using the Internet in 2020

Male **62%**

Female **57%**

	Male	Female
Developed Countries	89%	88%
Developing Countries	57%	50%

Source : ITU, *Facts and Figures 2021*

Global generational gap

Individuals using the Internet in 2020

Youth (15-24 years old) **71%**

Rest of the population **57%**

	Youth (15-24 years old)	Rest of the population
Developed Countries	99%	87%
Developing Countries	67%	51%

Source : ITU, *Facts and Figures 2021*

Global urban/rural divide

Individuals using the Internet in 2020

Rural **39%**

Urban **76%**

	Rural	Urban
Developed Countries	85%	89%
Developing Countries	34%	72%

Source : ITU, *Facts and Figures 2021*

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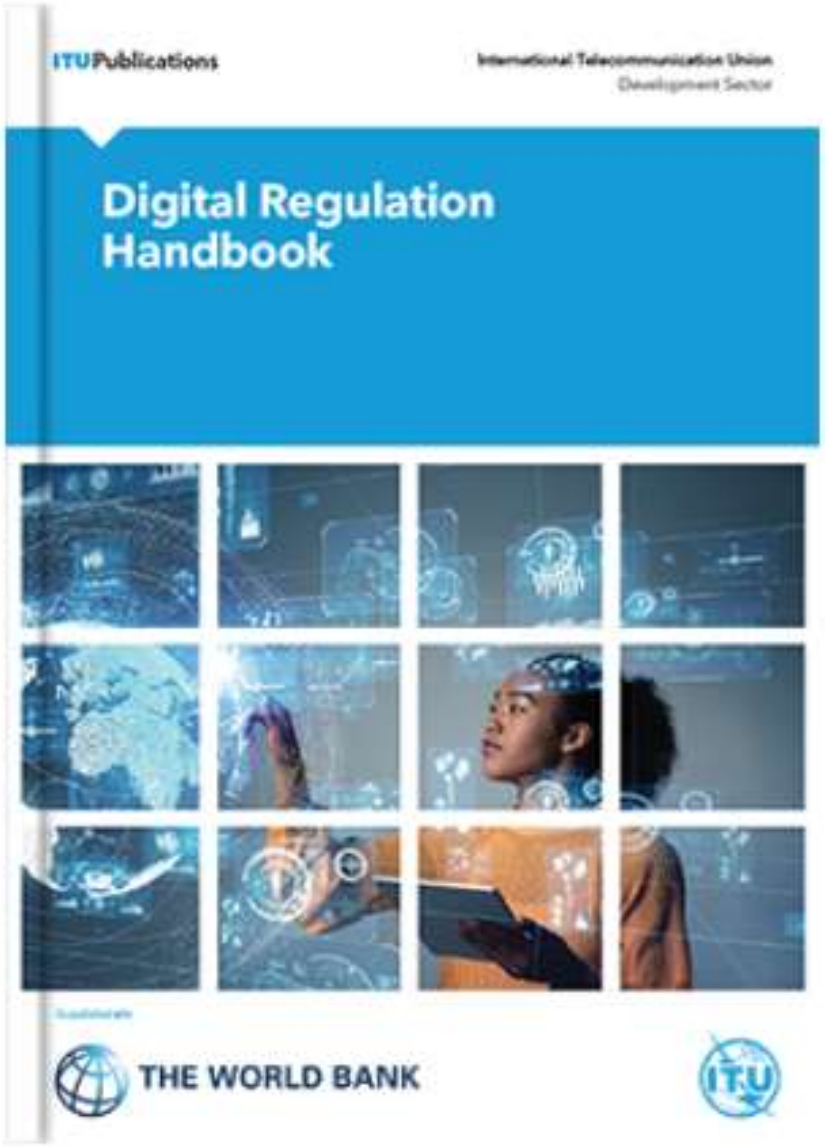
Challenges

TECHNICAL

- New infrastructure deployment
- Limited access to international bandwidth capacity
- Allocation of spectrum needs to be quicker
- High reserve prices for spectrum auctions
- Blocking of innovative broadband solutions
- Speed, quality of connections
- Cybersecurity
- Limited access to cloud services and lack of domestic cloud services to support demand

POLICY AND REGULATION

- Lack of regulation and effective policies
- Borderless digital environment
- Lack of collaborative approaches
- Enforcement
- Legal and regulatory barriers which limit rapid and effective regulatory responses
- Lack of data



CONSUMER

- Affordability
- Digital skills
- Digital media literacy
- Digital devices
- A lack of content, services, resources, in local languages
- Gender digital divide

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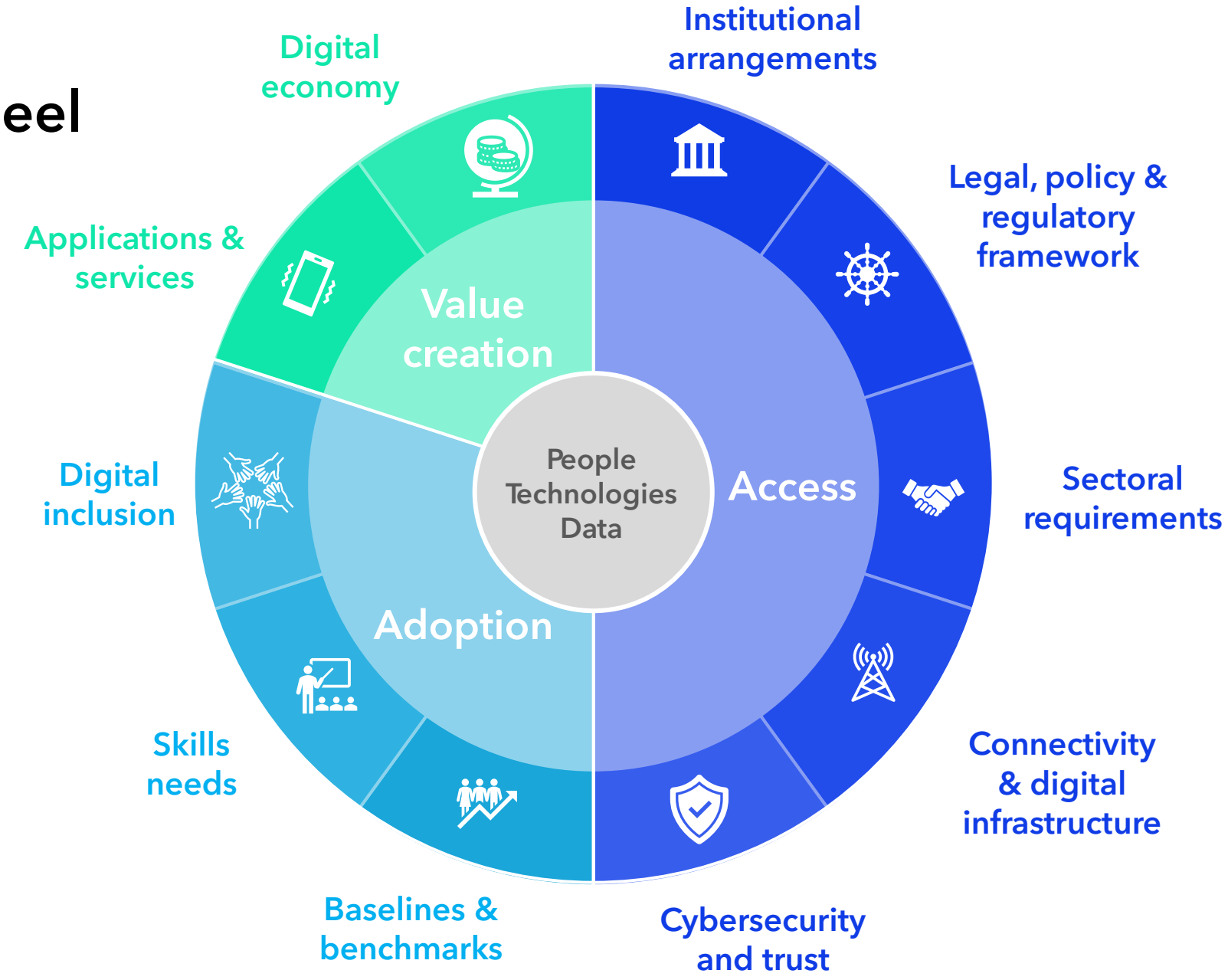
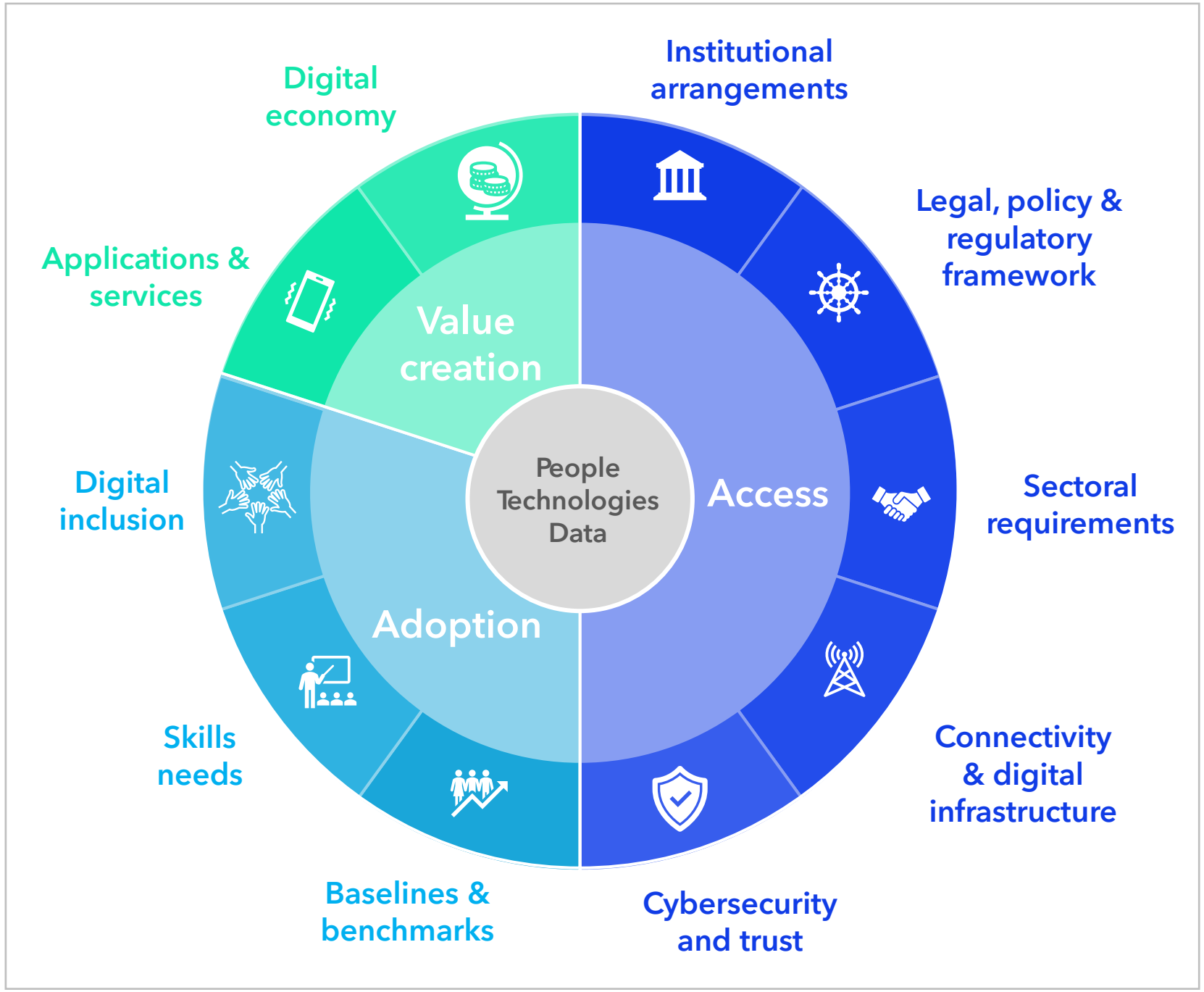
Our Digital Transformation Wheel



CONSUMER



TECHNICAL

POLICY & REGULATION

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Launched on 19 April 2022 in New York, the targets reflect the spirit and ambitions of the **SDGs**,
the **UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**, and the **ITU's Connect2030 Agenda**, and contribute
towards the forthcoming **Global Digital Compact,** as proposed in the UN Secretary-General's **Our Common Agenda** report.

Aspirational targets for 2030

Universality targets

100%	of population aged 15+ uses the Internet
	of households have Internet access
	of businesses use the Internet
	of schools are connected to the Internet
	of population aged 15+ owns a mobile phone
	of population is covered by a mobile network of the latest technology [1]
>70%	of population aged 15+ has basic digital skills
>50%	of population aged 15+ has intermediate digital skills
Gender parity	for Internet use, mobile phone ownership and use, and digital skills [2]

Technology targets

100%	of fixed-broadband subscriptions are 10 Mb/s or faster [3]
20 Mb/s	Minimum download speed at every school
50 kb/s	Minimum download speed available per student [4]
200 GB	Minimum data allowance for every school

Affordability targets

2%	Entry-level broadband subscription costs less than 2% of gross national income per capita
	Entry-level broadband subscription costs less than 2% of average income of the bottom 40% of population

Notes 1 *Mobile network of the latest technology* is the most advanced technology available in the country with at least 40% of the population already covered. | 2 Parity is deemed reached when the share of women using the Internet/owning a mobile phone/using a mobile phone/with specific digital skills, among the female population is equal to the share of men. | 3 Download speed. Mb/s = megabits per second. | | 4 kb/s = kilobits per second.

United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology

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World Telecommunication Development Conference

- Leading quadrennial policy conference to shape the future of digital development.
- Setting strategies & objectives.
- Developing innovative models of collaboration.
- **6 – 16 June 2022, Kigali, Rwanda**
- Preceded by the **Generation Connect Youth Summit** from 2 to 4 June 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda
- Will feature the **Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable** from 7 to 9 June 2022

ITU WTDC KIGALI2022

Thank you!