Video
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for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
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This Forum takes place at no ordinary times for our globe and shared humanity.

The past years have witnessed ever increasing access to information and communication technology and applications at increasingly speedy pace.

ICT connects millions across the globe. ICT is that digital world offering new, innovative opportunities for improved governance, learning, health and labour markets. Improvements not for the sake of improvement but to service our goal of Agenda 2030 to "leave no one behind ".

The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, the 91 most vulnerable countries which my office advocates for, have also made progress in expanding access to ICT.

This does include an increased access to mobile telephones.

BUT, these most vulnerable countries continue to account for much of the world's digital gap.

As member of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, I had the opportunity to chair a Working Group on leveraging broadband investments for vulnerable countries.

One of our working group deliverables covered what we call knowledge production. That is how LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS can leverage investment in broadband connectivity.

Allow me to highlight the following suggestions we made:

to be able to compete in the digital economy, vulnerable countries must have access to fast internet, a broad reach and a critical mass of digital-literacy.

and then it is equally important to build country capacity to develop relevant local content and applications.

Technology after all is only useful if used!!

We are clearer than ever about the challenges ahead but in order to fulfill the promise we made of leaving no one behind, we must work harder and faster to unlock the development potentials associated with increased digitalisation.

this is why meetings such as the WSIS Forum are so important.

We all must come together, governments, private sector, education specialists supported by international cooperation.

This is the way forward as partners to meet the challenges of integrating ALL into the digital economy for the purpose of scaling up the implementation of the SDGs in ALL countries for ALL people.