ITU Partner2Connect
Digital Coalition

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Today, 2.6 billion
people are still offline!
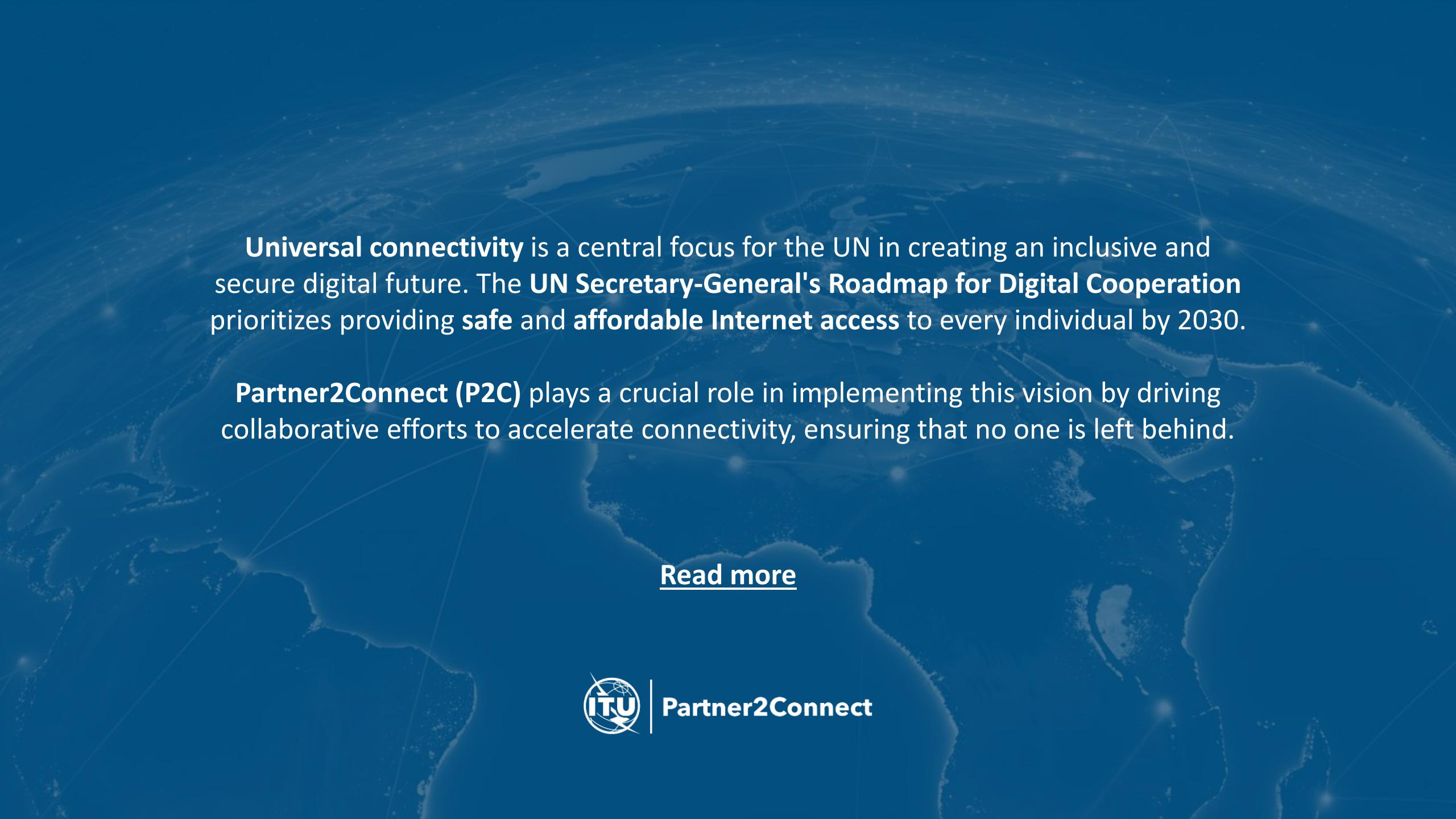
Universal connectivity is a central focus for the UN in creating an inclusive and secure digital future. The **UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation** prioritizes providing **safe** and **affordable Internet access** to every individual by 2030.

Partner2Connect (P2C) plays a crucial role in implementing this vision by driving collaborative efforts to accelerate connectivity, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Read more

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Background

- Partner2Connect (P2C) is a global **multistakeholder alliance** launched in 2021 by ITU in close cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States (UNOHRLLS)

- P2C aligns with the UN SG Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the Kigali Action Plan, ITU's Regional Initiatives, the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- P2C uses the Action Framework to highlight the key elements that need to be addressed to achieve universal, meaningful connectivity and digital transformation for all. The Framework also gives a guideline to pledgers on the Focus Areas under which pledges can be submitted

Objective

Serve as a leadership level platform that **engages all stakeholders** to **mobilize and announce new resources**, partnerships, and commitments to **foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally**. P2C outreach is of a global nature with a focus on hardest-to-connect communities in Least Developed Countries (**LDC**s), Landlocked Developing Countries (**LLDC**s) and Small Island Developing States (**SIDS**)

Partner2Connect - Digital Coalition

Action Framework – Focus Areas and Pillars

ACCESS
Connecting people everywhere

- Infrastructure
- Affordability
- Cybersecurity

ADOPTION
Empowering Communities

- Skills
- Inclusion
- Local Content/ Services

VALUE CREATION
Building Digital Ecosystems

- Innovation/ Entrepreneurship
- Apps & Services
- Digital Economy

ACCELERATE
Incentivizing investment

- Innovative Financing
- Project Viability
- Investor Constellation

Find additional information here

P2C Pledges Globally[1]

- Currently, P2C has received over **875 pledges** worth **46 USD Billion**

- P2C engages **426 entities** from government, private sector, UN agencies and other international or regional organizations (including multilateral development banks), civil society, academia, and youth groups

- Of the 426 entities participating in the Coalition, **177 are of governmental nature**[2]

- The **private sector (97 entities)** represents about **23%** of the entities participating in the Coalition

- **22 UN Agencies** are currently involved with the Coalition

875
Pledges

426
Entities

141
Countries of pledge-makers

$46.07bn
Estimated financial values (USD)

1 As of 28 February 2024

2 Government or Regulatory Agency

P2C in Europe and Central Asia

- **221 P2C pledges** worth nearly **10 USD Billion** will be partially or entirely implemented in Europe and Central Asia region

- **125 entities** coming 48 different countries are already implementing their pledges on the ground

- CIS Regional Development Forum and its **Partner2Connect Roundtables** will take place on 26-27 March 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan with the objectives to:

  - Take stock of the implementation of current P2C pledges in line with ITU-D Kigali Action Plan and CIS Regional Initiatives

  - Give opportunity of different actors for submission of new pledges and commitments

  - Provide ground for matchmaking between pledgers and beneficiaries

1 As of 28 February 2024

221
Pledges

125
Entities

48
Countries of pledge-makers

$9.97bn
Estimated financial values (USD)

Why Pledge?

- Join a vibrant community of like-minded people and be part of the changemakers who will bring meaningful connectivity for all

- Expose your commitments to a wide variety of stakeholders such as governments, private sector, civil society and academia.

- Get invited to meetings and events to meet with other P2C pledgers. Making a pledge qualifies you for speaking opportunities during our events throughout the year

- Partner up with other organizations in different parts of the world to achieve your goals

Make your pledge at https://www.itu.int/partner2connect-pledges

Who can make a Pledge?

- **Governments** (including local governments and municipalities)

- **Private Sector** (including philanthropic organizations)

- **UN Agencies** and other international or regional organizations (including Multilateral Development Banks)

- **Civil Society**

- **Academia** and **Research Associations**

- **Youth Groups**

- **Media** and Entertainment organizations

Make your pledge at https://www.itu.int/partner2connect-pledges

Criteria for a Strong Pledge

1. Addresses **key pillar(s)** of the four Focus Areas

2. Helps drive **transformational change** towards universal meaningful connectivity and the digital transformation of societies

3. Directly **impacts a population** that is still offline

4. It is **time-bound** for execution

5. Mobilizes **new resources**

6. Can be **easily quantified**, **monitored** and **tracked**, and its impact can also be **measured and reported** over time

Explore pledges at https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/pledges/explore-pledges/
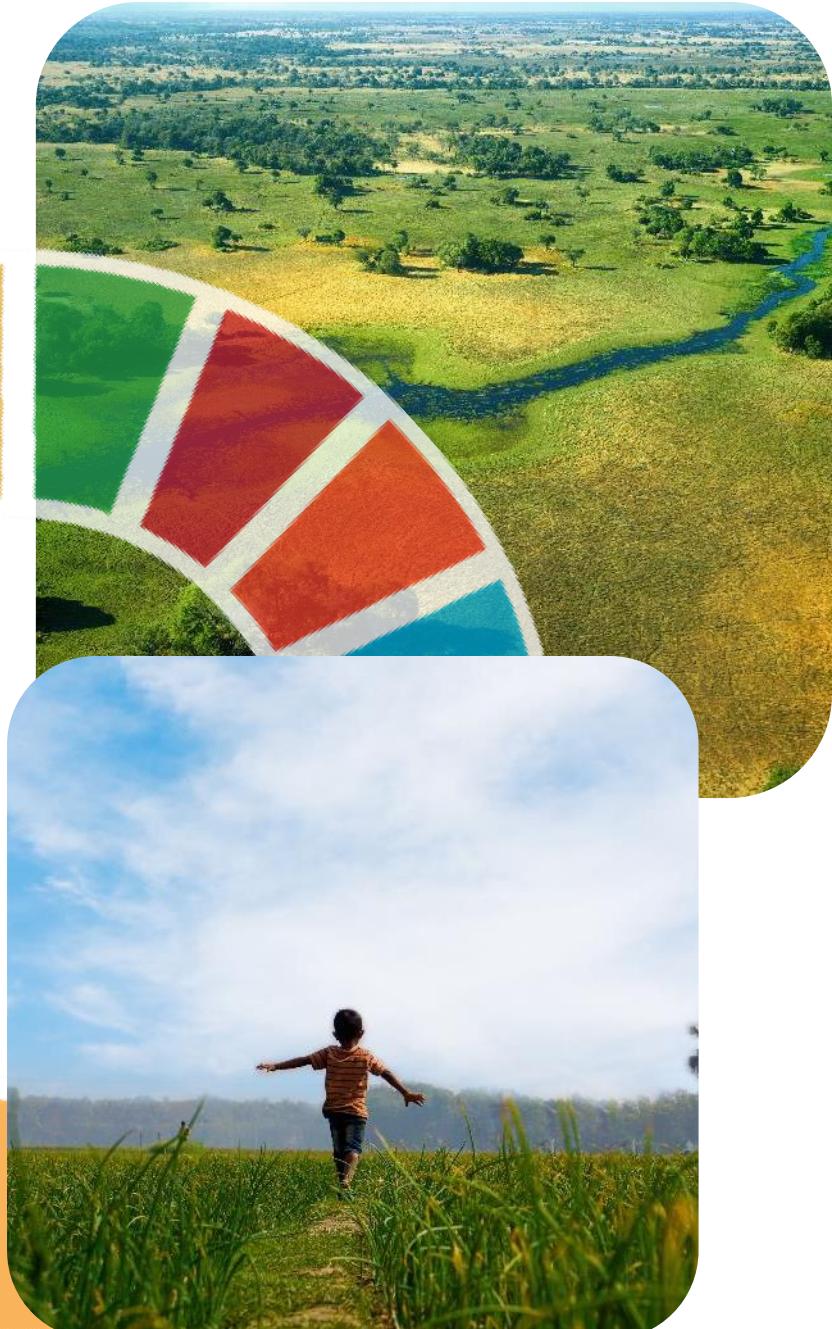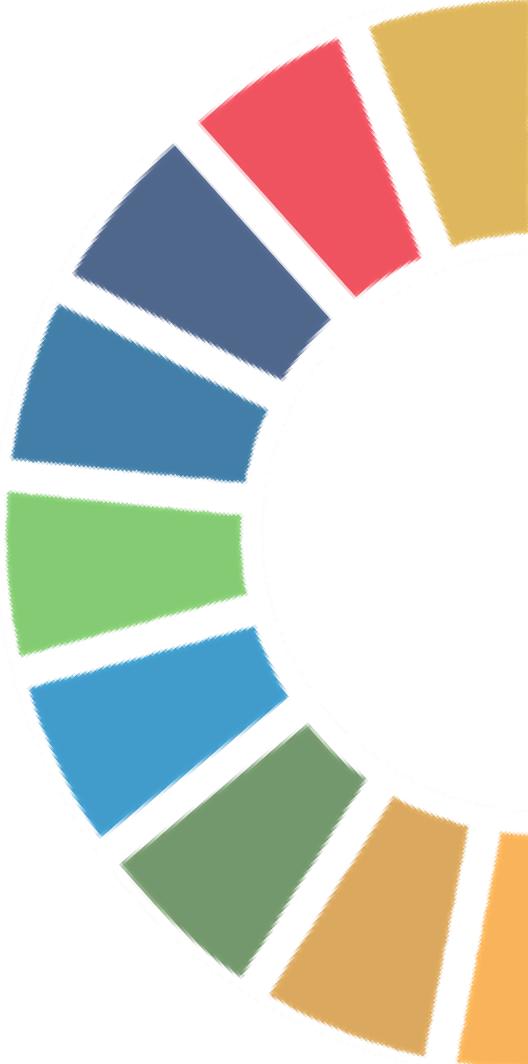
Types of Pledges

Financial

A financial pledge consists of an entity or groups of entities announcing a monetary contribution in line with the objectives of the P2C Digital Coalition and/or a specific P2C Focus Area

Policy

A policy pledge is one where a legislative or regulatory reform or policy change is proposed or enacted to advance the objectives laid out by the P2C Digital Coalition and/or the P2C Action Framework

Advocacy

An advocacy pledge is one where an entity or group of entities publicly supports, recommends, or promotes (e.g., through research, MOUs) the objectives laid out by the P2C Digital Coalition and/or the P2C Action Framework in their industry, network, events, or publications

Programmatic

A programmatic pledge regards the creation or expansion of existing programs that are in line with the P2C Focus Areas

Make your pledge at https://www.itu.int/partner2connect-pledges

Examples of Pledges
Access - Infrastructure

Private Sector

- **Orange** will invest EUR 5.6 Billion in 16 countries in Middle East and Africa over the period 2021-2025; 66% of this investment will be dedicated to increase voice and data coverage as well as connectivity

- **Inmarsat** pledged $1.2 Million of satellite airtime for use in developing nations facing natural and man-made disasters

- **Convergence Partners** will invest more than **$250 Million** over the next 5 years to improve availability, quality, capacity and affordability of digital infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa for over 1 billion people

Member States

- The **Government of Kenya** will invest $258.8 Million towards achieving its goal for "A Digitally Transformed Nation" through the establishment of infrastructure, connectivity services, capacity building and innovation within the ICT sector

Examples of Pledges Adoption - Skills

Private Sector

- **Microsoft / Cisco / Rohde & Schwarz / Verizon** have committed to provide digital skills training for millions mainly in LDCs and LLDCs in Africa

- **BBVA Microfinance Foundation**'s (BBVAMF) microfinance institutions have the intention to invest $8 Billion in financing vulnerable entrepreneurs and provide digital solutions, development programs, digital skills and Internet access for 14 million people in vulnerable communities in the Americas.

Member States

- The **Government of Uganda** pledged $10 Million for the digital skilling of SMEs, persons with disabilities, women and girls, persons living in poor communities, youth and students, targeting a total of 5 million people by 2024.

P2C Annual Report

| Annual Report 2023 | Interactive Progress Reporting Dashboard |
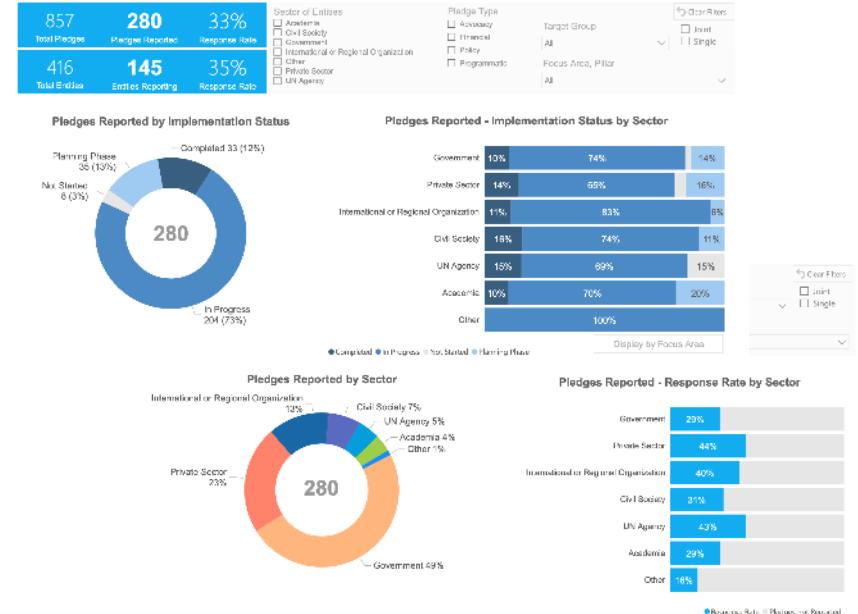
*More information can be found in the **P2C Annual Progress Report 2023**. The latest LIVE info can always be accessed online through the P2C Pledges dashboard*

ITU | Partner2Connect

*Foster meaningful Connectivity and digital transformation globally. Help us connect the **2.6 billion People** still offline!*

Take action and pledge now