International Relations Handbook

2019

International Relations Handbook

Introduction

In its Advocacy work, the GSMA engages with a wide range of international organisations, seeking to leverage their influence and public platforms to amplify mobile industry messaging, and engaging with their committees and working groups to represent mobile industry interests in policy debates.

Some of these organisations are intergovernmental institutions, while others are multi-stakeholder groups. Some freely welcome engagement with industry, while others require payment of a fee to participate.

This Handbook describes the nature of the relationships that the GSMA holds with each of them.
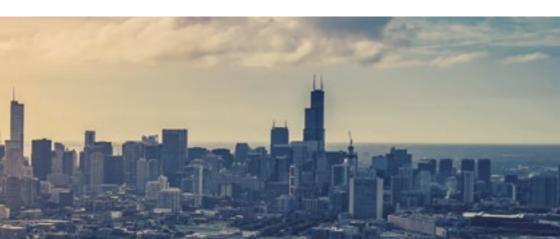
It also provides guidance for mobile network operators on how they can increase the level of their own engagement with these organisations — either directly or through the GSMA — so that together we can amplify the voice and maximise the impact of the mobile industry on the global stage.

Contents

Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)

What they do:

A4AI brings together businesses, governments and civil society actors from across the globe to deliver the policies needed to reduce the cost to connect and make universal, affordable internet access a reality for all. To achieve its goal, A4AI employs a combination of research, in-country engagement, and international advocacy — underpinned by a set of policy and regulatory good practices that have been agreed to by all A4AI members.

A4AI works on the ground around the world to advance the policies needed to make internet access more affordable. In each country of engagement, it works with the government and in-country partners to build strong national coalitions that work to develop the solutions needed to tackle local barriers to affordability. A4AI believe that robust evidence is critical to progress. Their advocacy work and country engagements are driven by qualitative and quantitative research — both their own original research and that of its members and partners.

From engagement at high-level events to on-the-ground work with A4AI national coalitions, A4AI works to identify key barriers to affordability, and to bring together the key stakeholders needed to change policy and drive solutions forward.

How the GSMA engages with the A4AI and the topics covered:

The GSMA has been a paying member of A4AI since its launch in 2013, and we collaborate closely with them on research – sharing GSMAi data and reports and sometimes undertaking joint research projects. We also see significant value in the A4AI national coalitions, which are built on A4AI's development of strong multi-stakeholder relationships with governments and regulators in specific markets. Where these countries align with GSMA priority markets we participate actively in meetings and development of outputs/guidance for governments. We try to ensure local operators are fully engaged in this work.

The GSMA currently holds an elected position on the A4AI Advisory Council (duration until end 2019) as one of two representatives from the private sector helping to shape A4AI strategy and execution.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs can engage directly with A4AI by becoming paid members of the Alliance. Local operators in the A4AI national coalition countries can participate in the work in those countries without paying a fee, and the GSMA can help to facilitate this engagement. MNOs' suggestions for new areas of focus for A4AI can be input for consideration through GSMA while it holds a position on the Advisory Council.

Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)

What they do:

AFI empowers policymakers to increase access to quality financial services for the poorest populations.

AFI is led by its members and partners, central banks and other financial regulatory institutions from developing countries. AFI's members serve to give voice to the opportunities and challenges facing the unbanked. The network includes members from more than 90 countries working together to accelerate the adoption of proven and innovative financial inclusion policy solutions with the ultimate aim of making financial services more accessible to the world's unbanked.

AFI's members are actively engaged in advancing financial inclusion policy at national, regional and international levels through partnerships and cooperative arrangements with other regulators, as well as with international organisations and private sector leaders. The network produces regulatory guidance, provides insights on innovative policy developments and highlights proven solutions in the field.

How the GSMA engages with the AFI and the topics covered:

The GSMA is one of five global and regional private sector institutions that contributes knowledge, resources and expertise to support AFI global and regional programmes and activities. The GSMA benefits from the opportunity to promote frank dialogue on the benefits of mobile money and knowledge sharing on financial inclusion with financial regulators and policymakers in the AFI Network.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Through the GSMA, members may participate in AFI global and regional Public Private Dialogue (PPD) meetings to share market insights on mobile money. GSMA members can work with the GSMA for the dissemination of case studies and best practices.

Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

What they do:

ITU and UNESCO set up the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in response to then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call to step-up UN efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Commission was established in May 2010 with the aim of boosting the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda, and expanding broadband access in every country as key to accelerating progress towards national and international development targets. It defines practical ways in which countries — at all stages of development — can achieve this, in cooperation with the private sector.

Following adoption of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, the Commission was re-launched as the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to showcase and document the power of ICT and broadband-based technologies for sustainable development. It continues the work of and builds upon the legacy of its predecessor by bringing together a high-powered community, including invited top CEO and industry leaders, senior policy-makers and government representatives, international agencies, academia and organisations concerned with development. Its multi-stakeholder model for promoting the roll-out of broadband represents a fresh approach to UN engagement with the private sector.

How the GSMA engages with the Broadband Commission and the topics covered:

The GSMA Director-General is a Broadband Commissioner, and we have led and/or participated in multiple Broadband Commission working groups, covering topics ranging from digital health, the digital gender divide, digital entrepreneurship, epidemic preparedness, child online protection and connectivity in Africa. In addition to attending Commission meetings to represent mobile industry interests, the GSMA also contributes information and data for case studies and co-chairs working groups.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

With GSMA support, member operators have the opportunity to engage in Broadband Commission working groups and contribute to case studies. Several MNOs are also represented directly by their CEOs who have accepted positions as Broadband Commissioners.

Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO)

What they do:

The CTO is the oldest and largest Commonwealth intergovernmental organisation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It has a diverse range of members including developed countries, developing countries, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries. Therefore its policies, decisions and actions try to cater to the needs of this wide range of countries. Activities in the CTO are implemented in a manner to reflect the changes in both the Commonwealth and the global telecommunications/ICT community.

Goals of the CTO include to:

• promote enabling regulatory environments in key areas such as licensing, spectrum management, quality of service and over-the-top operators;

• promote affordable universal and high-quality broadband connectivity via enabling policies and regulatory measures that facilitate the rapid rollout of broadband infrastructure;

• promote a culture of cybersecurity and effective cyber governance through the establishment of cybersecurity frameworks, standards and guidelines;

• promote the development and use of ICT applications for socio-economic development e.g. e-governance, e-health, e-education and e-agriculture, among others; and

• ensure effective coordination of Commonwealth countries at international ICT conferences and meetings.

How the GSMA engages with the CTO and the topics covered:

The GSMA is a paying member of the CTO and regularly provides speakers on Policy and M4D topics at its London-based workshops, which are attended by policy and regulatory professionals from a range of Commonwealth countries and whose attendance is funded by CTO fellowships. When relevant, we also speak at larger CTO events such as the annual CTO Forum and topic-specific seminars.

Our relationship with the CTO has proved particularly valuable in preparation for international ITU conferences such as WRC and the Plenipotentiary. This is because its member countries span different ITU regional groups; this provides an opportunity to try to develop and have adopted consensus Commonwealth positions that can then be fed into regional conference preparations in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs can join the CTO as associate members.

Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL)

What they do:

The Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) aims to unlock markets to deliver digital services to the most vulnerable, working with partners to overcome these challenges in order to create a more inclusive digital society. DIAL originated to bring the public and private sectors together to realise an inclusive digital society that connects everyone to life-enhancing and life-enabling technology.

DIAL addresses reach and capacity challenges, working to help digital service providers design and deploy their services faster, at a lower cost, and to a wider audience in developing markets. It also accelerates shared value scenarios in technology and economic models, working closely with MNOs and data holders. DIAL produces, curates, and disseminates evidence-based good practices packaged in easy to understand guidance so that governments, technology companies, the development community, and other implementers can quickly use it to inform ongoing efforts to fund, design, and deploy digital services to more people. DIAL then convenes these groups that share advocacy agendas to drive collective impact.

How the GSMA engages with DIAL and the topics covered:

The GSMA is a member of the Digital Principles Advisory Committee, an independent consultative body to DIAL. Most of our engagement with DIAL centres on collaboration, convening, partnerships, and knowledge and insights sharing to promote digital inclusion. We have previously signed a Non-Monetary MoU to establish an Advisory Panel to provide guidance to the Big Data for Social Good (BD4SG) framework.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members involved in BD4SG initiatives can partner with the BD4SG team through the Mobile Operator Taskforce to share knowledge and best practices with DIAL.

Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI)

What they do:

FIGI is a three-year programme funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to support and accelerate the implementation of country-led reform actions to meet national financial inclusion targets, and ultimately the global 'Universal Financial Access 2020' goal.

Financial inclusion is a critical enabler for poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Access to transaction accounts opens up a pathway to broader financial inclusion, whereby people and firms can make financial transactions more efficiently and safely, access funds (whether payments, credit, savings, or other) invest in the future, and cope with economic shocks. Access to transaction accounts also enables participation in the digital economy, and is a critical building block for digital development too.

FIGI is a collaborative initiative among the World Bank Group, the BMGF, the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI), and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) with broad participation from public and private sector partners in its activities. FIGI will enable national authorities in developing and emerging markets to better utilise the potential of digital technologies for financial inclusion, and to manage associated risks.

In particular, FIGI funds national implementations in three countries – China, Egypt and Mexico; supports working groups to tackle three sets of outstanding challenges for reaching universal financial access: (1) electronic payment acceptance, (2) digital ID for financial services, and (3) security; and hosts three annual symposia to gather national authorities, the private sector, and the engaged public on relevant topics and to share emerging insights from the working groups and country programs.

How the GSMA engages with FIGI and the topics covered:

Since FIGI began in 2017, the GSMA Mobile Money team has been participating in their working group meetings and global symposia on behalf of the mobile industry; the first meeting took place in Bangalore in December 2017, followed by Cairo in January 2019. The GSMA is also funded by BMGF, and much of the planned work with FIGI will involve promotion of financial inclusion through digital channels.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

With GSMA support, MNOs may participate in the annual symposia as speakers and observers in the various sessions lending their contribution to the high-level debate through insights and best practices. Through the GSMA, members can contribute input in the four working groups.

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

What they do:

The ICC is the world business organisation, helping businesses of all sizes and in all countries to operate both internationally and responsibly. It aims to promote international trade and investment as vehicles for inclusive growth and prosperity. The ICC supports multilateralism as the best way to address global challenges and reach global goals, from resolving disputes when they arise in international commerce to supporting global efforts to streamline customs and border procedures.

How the GSMA engages with ICC and the topics covered:

The GSMA works closely with ICC in New York to engage the UN and to liaise with other industry sectors, the international development community, and with governments. We are also paid members of ICC Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS), based in Paris, which was launched at the request of companies that realised the importance of global business coordination on Internet governance and ICT policy issues. We work closely with BASIS to coordinate mobile industry advocacy, engagement, and presence as one voice at internet governance fora such as ICANN, the IGF and ITU conferences.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs can engage with ICC without having to be ICC members, but ICC generally are looking to recruit members where possible. Companies can contact ICC NY to explore collaboration and/or join their Global Business Alliance for 2030. MNOs and other GSMA members can join ICC BASIS formally as individual paid members.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

What they do:

As the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), the ITU is a critical organisation for GSMA to engage with, not least because its World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) is responsible for determining the allocation of spectrum globally (see following section on ITU-R). The ITU's stated mission is to connect all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means and to protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate. Its key activities are: to allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits; to develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and to strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

How the GSMA engages with the ITU and the topics covered:

The GSMA is a paid Sector Member of all three ITU Sectors (see following sections on ITU-D, ITU-R and ITU-T). In addition, we have an MoU of cooperation, signed in 2007, which underpins joint activity. As well as participating actively in the work of formal ITU conferences and Study Groups, the GSMA has also taken on voluntary leadership roles in several ITU initiatives, such as Vice-chairmanships of the m-Powering Development Initiative and the EQUALS Steering Committee. We are regular attendees at the annual ITU Global Symposium for Regulators, ITU Telecom World and WSIS Forum events, which provide a good platform for advocating mobile industry messages to government and regulatory audiences.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs can join any of the three Sectors as Sector Members, which provides them with access to most ITU Study Group meetings and conferences (though it does not confer voting rights). MNOs can also contribute to the development of GSMA strategies and positions for ITU meetings by participating in the GSMA's International Institutions Taskforce (for ITU-D and ITU-T) and/or Spectrum Strategy Management Group (for ITU-R).

ITU Development Sector (ITU-D)

What they do:

The ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) fosters international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication and ICT equipment and networks in developing countries. ITU-D is required to discharge the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialised agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunications/ICT development by offering, organising and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

How the GSMA engages with ITU-D and the topics covered:

The GSMA Public Policy, GSMAi, and Mobile for Development teams engage with ITU-D in multiple areas. Public Policy and Mobile for Development most recently have engaged with ITU-D on mobile technology issues related to people with disabilities and disaster response. The GSMAi team regularly attend and speak at ITU-D events.

The GSMA also participates actively every year in the ITU-D flagship event, the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), which brings together heads of national telecom/ICT regulatory authorities from around the world to share their views and experiences on the most pressing regulatory issues they have identified. The GSMA typically provides a main-stage speaker at GSR, and also participates as a member of the Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues (IAGDI).

In addition, the GSMA currently holds the position of vice-chair of the mPowering Advisory Board, the governance committee for ITU-D's mPowering Development – an initiative that was designed to create a resource and an action plan to deploy mobile ICT services.

ITU-D has two Study Groups, each currently covering seven questions. Many of these questions are relevant for the work the GSMA does on policy, mobile for development, health and technology.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Members interested in the use of ICT in development contexts can work with the GSMA to disseminate their case studies and best practices by inputting them into the study group papers that are produced.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)

What they do:

The ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) plays a vital role in the global management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits - limited natural resources which are increasingly in demand from a large and growing number of services such as fixed, mobile, broadcasting, amateur, space research, emergency telecommunications, meteorology, global positioning systems, environmental monitoring and communication services - that ensure safety of life on land, at sea and in the skies.

Their mission is to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using satellite orbits, and to carry out studies and approve Recommendations on radiocommunication matters.

How the GSMA engages with ITU-R and the topics covered:

The GSMA Spectrum Policy team works with members through the GSMA Future Spectrum Group to prepare for activities of interest to the GSMA within ITU-R. Spectrum for IMT (mobile broadband) and preparation for World Radiocommunication Conferences comprise an important part of the relationship between GSMA and the ITU-R, vital to securing the future of 5G. GSMA attends ITU-R gatherings on behalf of our members and advocate their position, engage with governments, and obtain, analyse, and disseminate information useful to the mobile industry.

We cover the following Study Groups: Study Group 1 on spectrum management, Study Group 3 on propagation issues, Study Group 4 on satellite services, Study Group 5 on terrestrial services (including mobile broadband), Study Group 6 on broadcasting services, and Study Group 7 on space science services.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Members who participate in the GSMA's Future Spectrum Group have the opportunity to regularly contribute to policy positions developed in advance of ITU-R gatherings.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T)

What they do:

The Study Groups of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) assemble experts from around the world to develop international standards known as ITU-T Recommendations which act as defining elements in the global infrastructure of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Standards are critical to the interoperability of ICTs and whether we exchange voice, video or data messages, standards enable global communications by ensuring that countries' ICT networks and devices are speaking the same language.

How the GSMA engages with ITU-T and the topics covered:

The GSMA Technology and Public Policy teams work together to develop mobile industry positions that influence the development of new global regulations and standardisations by the ITU. The GSMA attends ITU-T study groups on behalf of our members to advocate pro-competition positions, engage with governments, and obtain, analyse, and disseminate information useful to the mobile industry.

We currently cover the following ITU-T Study Groups: Study Group 3 on Economic Policy, Study Group 5 on EMF and Health, Study Group 11 on Protocols (including IMEI databases), Study Group 17 on Security and Study Group 20 on IoT.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs can contribute to the development of GSMA strategies and policy positions for ITU-T meetings by participating in the GSMA's International Institutions Taskforce. Members who participate in the GSMA's Networks and Standards Development Group also have the opportunity to regularly contribute to technically-focused positions developed in advance of ITU-T gatherings.

International Trade Centre (ITC)

What they do:

The ITC is a multilateral agency that has a joint mandate with the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The ITC is the only development agency that is fully dedicated to supporting the internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This means that the agency enables SMEs in developing and transition economies to become more competitive and connect to international markets for trade and investment, thus raising incomes and creating job opportunities, especially for women, young people, and poor communities.

ITC's mission is to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development, and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. ITC works towards creating 'trade impact for good'.

How the GSMA engages with ITC and the topics covered:

The GSMA attends relevant events held by the ITC and invites ITC to GSMA events. Topics of interest that the GSMA engage with ITC on include digital, women, and entrepreneurship.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Members can consider joining one of the current projects for social development or ITC's 'e-Trade for Impact' initiative.

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

What they do:

The IGF serves to bring people together from various stakeholder groups as equals, in discussions on public policy issues relating to the Internet. While there is (deliberately) no negotiated outcome, the IGF is intended to inform and inspire those with policy-making power in both the public and private sectors. At annual meetings, delegates discuss, exchange information and share good practices with each other. The IGF facilitates a common understanding of how to maximise Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges that arise.

How the GSMA engages with the IGF and the topics covered:

The GSMA attends and contributes speakers to advocate and promote mobile industry messaging in areas including net neutrality, cybersecurity, connectivity, digital rights, and capacity building.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

By attending the annual IGF meeting, MNOs and other GSMA members have the opportunity to provide input on how the internet should be governed, speak to governments and regulators, and talk to other stakeholders in the digital ecosystem. Appointment on the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) that governs the IGF is determined by election and is open to all.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

What they do:

The mission of the OECD is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

How the GSMA engages with the OECD and the topics covered:

The GSMA works with the OECD through its Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC), with a major focus on understanding the impact of digital transformation through the emergent 'Going Digital' programme. Other areas on which the GSMA collaborates with OECD BIAC include: child online protection, internet of things (particularly dispersal and measurement in partnership with GSMA Intelligence and our Internet of Things team), privacy, security, trust, net neutrality, and telecommunications operations focusing on economic data.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Some GSMA members are also paid members of BIAC. In Argentina, the GSMA and members are conducting an analysis with OECD of the economic levers needed (more specifically fiscal schemes and taxation policies) for the digital economy to continue to grow.

UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

What they do:

UNCDF aims to make public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 47 least developed countries (LDCs). With its capital mandate and instruments, it offers 'last mile' finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development.

UNCDF's financing models work through two channels: financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives; and localised investments that show how fiscal decentralisation, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development.

How the GSMA engages with UNCDF and the topics covered:

Much of the work the GSMA undertakes with UNCDF involves promotion of financial inclusion through digital channels. The GSMA works with three UNCDF teams on the engagement with governments and regulators regarding financial inclusion:

1. Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands as the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA);

2. The Better Than Cash Alliance; and

3. Mobile Money for the Poor.

Another way that the GSMA works with UNCDF is through the latter's participation in the GSMA's Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation Programme (M4H) Advisory Group. Engagement with UNCDF includes information sharing, with UNCDF contributing to research the GSMA has conducted on humanitarian cash transfers.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members can engage with UNCDF by becoming signatories of the Mobile for Humanitarian Connectivity Charter. Involvement can include knowledge sharing, case study development, and partnership formation towards the acceleration of the delivery of a digital humanitarian future.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

What they do:

UNCTAD supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalised economy more fairly and effectively. UNCTAD helps equip these countries to deal with the potential drawbacks of greater economic integration. To do this, they provide analysis, facilitate consensus-building, and offer technical assistance. This helps developing countries to use trade, investment, finance, and technology as vehicles for inclusive and sustainable development.

Together with other UN departments and agencies, UNCTAD measures progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, as set out in Agenda 2030. UNCTAD also supports implementation of Financing for Development, as mandated by the global community in the 2015 Addis Ababa Agenda, together with four other major institutional stakeholders: the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, and the United Nations Development Programme.

How the GSMA engages with UNCTAD and the topics covered:

The GSMA has partnered with UNCTAD primarily to convene stakeholders around topics of thematic relevance to our members, including the eCommerce Week and Digital Trade for Africa events and its ETrade4All initiative. A partnership with the GSMA Capacity Building programme is currently being developed to provide free training in mobile telecommunications issues to UNCTAD member states. GSMA Mobile for Development are also working to explore collaboration with UNCTAD around digital inclusion initiatives.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Members can follow UNCTAD's research on e-commerce legislation, ICT policy reviews, ICTs and Women's entrepreneurship and measurement of the information economy. They can also join the e-Trade for All initiative. MNOs are often invited to speak at relevant UNCTAD events such as eCommerce week. GSMA can help to facilitate speaking engagements.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

What they do:

UN DESA acts as an interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. Its work is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with the 17 integrated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015.

UN DESA holds up the development pillar of the UN Secretariat. Its nine Divisions work together towards a common goal to promote development, together with its Capacity Development Office. UN DESA also collaborates closely with its partners at regional and country levels in helping countries to formulate and implement national development strategies.

How the GSMA engages with UN DESA and the topics covered:

The GSMA works most closely with the Sustainable Development Division, but also maintains engagement with other DESA divisions. We frequently partner with UN DESA to convene stakeholders and share GSMA content and knowledge with UN Member States. We also attend and contribute to high-level forums initiated by UN DESA, including the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum and the Business Forum.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs can engage directly with UN DESA on specific projects, or feed in content and knowledge through the GSMA.

United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC)

What they do:

DCG (formerly the Department of Public Information (DPI)), was established to promote global awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations; to interact and partner with diverse audiences; and to build support for peace, development and human rights for all. DGC undertakes these goals through radio, television, print, the Internet, video-conferencing and other media tools.

How the GSMA engages with DGC and the topics covered:

The GSMA considers DCG to be one of its main United Nations partners. We collaborate with them on awareness-raising activities such as the UN SDGs app and the Media Zone at the UN General Assembly.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

DGC welcomes private sector support in awareness raising and disseminating call to action around the SDGs.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

What they do:

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP assists countries in developing policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and in building resilience in order to sustain development results.

UNDP is instrumental in enabling action on the ground and ensuring that United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) have the support, guidance and impartial oversight required as they assist governments to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. UNDP also administers the UN Capital Development Fund, which helps developing countries grow their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital assistance by means of grants and loans.

How the GSMA engages with UNDP and the topics covered:

GSMA Mobile for Development has an active MoU with UNDP to promote digital development. We also attend relevant events held by UNDP as they arise.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Members can join UNDP's initiative Business Call to Action.

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

What they do:

ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN, responsible for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It serves as the central mechanism for the activities of the United Nations system and its specialised agencies, and supervises the subsidiary and expert bodies in the economic, social and environmental fields. ECOSOC is also a key platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

ECOSOC engages a wide variety of stakeholders – policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, major groups, foundations, business sector representatives and 3,200+ registered non-governmental organisations – in a productive dialogue on sustainable development through a programmatic cycle of meetings. The work of the Council is guided by an issue-based approach, and there is an annual theme that accompanies each programmatic cycle, ensuring a sustained and focused discussion among multiple stakeholders.

How the GSMA engages with ECOSOC and the topics covered:

The GSMA is in the process of applying for a consultative status with ECOSOC to be able to contribute more actively to ECOSOC's topics and deliberations.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs are entitled to apply for their own consultative status with ECOSOC. If and when GSMA obtains consultative status, we may be able to facilitate opportunities for operator engagement.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

What they do:

UNESCO seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. It develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance. UNESCO works so that each child and citizen has access to quality education. By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations. UNESCO fosters scientific programmes and policies as platforms for development and cooperation. UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression, as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt international standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing.

How the GSMA engages with UNESCO and the topics covered:

The GSMA has maintained formal engagement with UNESCO since 2011. We attend and speak at their high-level events, particularly Mobile Learning Week. Most recently, GSMA staff members have served as peer reviewers for major UNESCO reports and contributed relevant mobile indicators related to digital skills and training.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

As education for all is a sustainable development goal of interest to many GSMA members from public relations and corporate social responsibility standpoints, members can engage with UNESCO by coordinating a presence at Mobile Learning Week through exhibition, sponsorship, presentations, or policy forum input on mobile learning initiatives.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

What they do:

UN Women is the global champion for gender equality, working to develop and uphold standards and create an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential. They are trusted partners for advocates and decision-makers from all walks of life, and a leader in the effort to achieve gender equality.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life.

How the GSMA engages with UN Women and the topics covered:

The GSMA is a co-founder and current Steering Committee Vice Chair of the UN Women and ITU-led EQUALS initiative, as well as the lead of the EQUALS Access coalition. EQUALS is a global partnership for gender equality in the digital age. Through data collection, knowledge sharing, and direct actions, the partnership focuses on: affordable access to technology and the Internet; building skills to use and create technology, from basic digital literacy through the entire spectrum of STEM education; and continuing to improve lives by creating opportunities and environments for women to advance professionally through equal representation and leadership positions in the technology sector. The partnership provides a platform allowing for exchanges of experience and expertise to catalyse initiatives and activities.

The GSMA also attends the annual Commission on the Status of Women event convened by UN Women and performs mobile industry advocacy and outreach, including leading activities during the event.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members interested in being part of EQUALS are able to request to join any or all of the Coalitions as partners.

UN Foundation

What they do:

UN Foundation acts as a strategic partner to help the UN mobilise the ideas, people, and resources it needs to deliver, and grow a diverse and durable constituency for collective action. It focuses on issues at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals, builds initiatives across sectors to solve problems at scale, and engages influencers and citizens who seek action.

Over the years, the UN Foundation has focused on five core capabilities: Convene, Champion, Communicate, Collaborate, and Channel. It invests in strategic thinking and fresh ideas for tackling the global challenges that shape the world. It prioritises issues with transformative potential for the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action, and tracks emerging issues at the frontier of the UN's agenda so that the world can be better prepared for tomorrow's needs.

The UN Foundation connects global policymakers with evidence of what works, and seeks to stimulate new thinking about innovation and reform that can help modernise the UN's ability to deliver its core mission.

How the GSMA engages with UN Foundation and the topics covered:

The UN Foundation is one of the GSMA's main partners for awareness raising events and to liaise with the UN. Our advocacy work focuses around the mobile industry's contributions to realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

UN Foundation offers advocacy activities on different topics, including supporting the UN, gender and youth. Companies can support these initiatives by contributing financially or participating in advocacy campaigns.

UN Global Compact

What they do:

Global Compact is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. The Global Compact provides a principle-based framework, best practices, resources and networking events that have revolutionised how companies do business responsibly and keep commitments to society. By catalysing action, partnerships and collaboration, the Global Compact seeks to make transforming the world possible – and achievable – for organisations large and small, anywhere around the globe.

How the GSMA engages with the Global Compact and the topics covered:

The GSMA is a Global Compact participant. As such, we are required to report every two years on our progress in supporting the UN system and its goals in general. Representatives of the Global Compact are invited to participate in GSMA's events, and GSMA's Regional Teams have worked with Global Compact networks to further joint goals.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

MNOs can join the Global Compact directly.

UN Global Pulse

What they do:

Global Pulse is a flagship innovation initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Big Data. Its vision is a future in which Big Data is harnessed safely and responsibly as a public good. Its mission is to accelerate discovery, development and scaled adoption of Big Data innovation for sustainable development and humanitarian action.

The initiative was established based on a recognition that digital data offers the opportunity to gain a better understanding of changes in human well-being, and to get real-time feedback on how well policy responses are working.

To this end, Global Pulse is working to promote awareness of the opportunities Big Data presents for sustainable development and humanitarian action, forge public-private data sharing partnerships, generate high-impact analytical tools and approaches through its network of Pulse Labs, and drive broad adoption of useful innovations across the UN System.

How the GSMA engages with Global Pulse and the topics covered:

The GSMA's Big Data for Social Good (BD4SG) programme engages with Global Pulse, and works occasionally with the GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation Programme (M4H) programme on knowledge sharing around Big Data initiatives within the mobile industry.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members can partner with the BD4SG team through the Mobile Operator Taskforce to share knowledge and best practices with Global Pulse.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

What they do:

UNHCR, also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is a United Nations programme with the mandate to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

An important part of UNHCR's work is advocacy to help transform policies and services that affect displaced and stateless people on a national, regional and global level. In both countries of asylum and countries of origin, UNHCR work within national political, economic and social structures to bring policies, practices and laws into compliance with international standards. In times of forced displacement, they use advocacy to influence governments, non-governmental partners and the public at large to adopt practices that ensure the protection of those in need.

How the GSMA engages with UNHCR and the topics covered:

The GSMA has an MoU with UNHCR that covers joint research activities, joint advocacy, convening and information sharing around refugees, connectivity, and the broader Mobile for Humanitarian context. UNHCR also sits on the GSMA's M4H advisory group.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members can engage with UNHCR by:(a) becoming signatories of the Mobile for Humanitarian Connectivity Charter; involvement can include knowledge sharing, case study development, and partnership formation towards the acceleration of the delivery of a digital humanitarian future, and/or (b) supporting in-country joint-advocacy engagements with national regulators, for example on issues related to proof-of-identity compliance requirements affecting refugees (e.g. SIM registration and KYC for Mobile Money access).

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

What they do:

UNITAR is a principal training arm of the United Nations, working in every region of the world. It has the mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through diplomatic training, and to increase the impact of national actions through public awareness-raising, education and training of public policy officials.

UNITAR provides training and capacity development activities to assist mainly developing countries with special attention to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other groups and communities who are most vulnerable, including those in conflict situations. The Institute covers topics in the broad areas of Peace (promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies), and People and Social Inclusion (promote people's well-being and support equitable representation of countries in global decision-making fora).

It also conducts research on innovative learning approaches, methods, and tools, as well as applied research to address critical issues, such as disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies.

How the GSMA engages with UNITAR and the topics covered:

The GSMA is currently developing a collaboration to deliver our Capacity Building courses to the UN system and government representatives in New York City.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Once the Capacity Building partnership is established with UNITAR, GSMA members can support our work by referring policymakers and regulators in the countries where they work to participate in training courses.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

What they do:

UNICEF works in 190 countries and territories to protect the rights and wellbeing of every child. Together with their partners, UNICEF aim to translate this commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere. In all of its work, UNICEF takes a life-cycle based approach, recognising the particular importance of early childhood development and adolescence. UNICEF programmes focus on the most disadvantaged children, including those living in fragile contexts, those with disabilities, those who are affected by rapid urbanisation and those affected by environmental degradation.

UNICEF advocate for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future.

How the GSMA engages with UNICEF and the topics covered:

The GSMA works with UNICEF in both Geneva and New York City. In Geneva, the engagement is focused on private sector relationship management with the mobile industry and in New York City, engagement is focused on partnership development, data, and innovation in work to support the world's vulnerable children.

The GSMA has also engaged with UNICEF through information sharing and some project work at the country office level for digital identity with plans underway to conduct capacity building activities with relevant UNICEF stakeholders. Additionally, UNICEF is expected to be a participant in the Commonwealth Digital Identity Initiative, in which the GSMA also participates.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members can engage with UNICEF through knowledge sharing, case study development, and partnership formation towards support of the world's most vulnerable children.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)

What they do:

OCHA was designed to strengthen the UN's response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. It is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to such emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.

OCHA coordinates humanitarian action to ensure crisis-affected people receive the assistance and protection they need. It works to overcome obstacles that impede humanitarian assistance from reaching people affected by crises, and it provides leadership in mobilising assistance and resources on behalf of the humanitarian system. OCHA is not an operational agency directly engaged in the delivery of humanitarian programmes, and its added value is as an honest broker, facilitator, thought leader and global advocate, providing support to the humanitarian system. In fulfilling its coordination mandate, OCHA is guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

How the GSMA engages with UN OCHA and the topics covered:

UN OCHA is a supporter of the GSMA's Humanitarian Connectivity Charter, which aims to, with GSMA members, create a more coordinated and predictable response to disasters. Mobile for Development's Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation Programme (M4H) also works with UN OCHA as participants in humanitarian connectivity charter workshops, joint advocacy, and convening. UN OCHA also sits on the GSMA's M4H advisory group.

The BDSG programme at the GSMA also collaborates with UN OCHA to develop case studies where Big Data is used in humanitarian responses, knowledge sharing, and convening.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members can engage with UN OCHA by becoming signatories of the Humanitarian Connectivity Charter. Involvement can include knowledge sharing, case study development, and partnership formation towards the acceleration of the delivery of a digital humanitarian future.

United Nations SDG Action Campaign

What they do:

The SDG Action Campaign is a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General administered by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and mandated to support the UN system-wide and the Member States on advocacy and public engagement in the SDG implementation. Building on innovative and impactful engagement techniques deployed since 2002, the UN SDG Action Campaign intends to create awareness about the 2030 Agenda, empower and inspire people across the world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while generating political will, and help make the Goals attainable by 2030.

The UN SDG Action Campaign commits to:

• engage stakeholders and individuals to support member states and UN Country Teams in the SDGs implementation through direct people's engagement;

• encourage public ownership of the SDGs in every country through creative and innovative communications, campaigning and policy advocacy; and

• sponsor people-driven processes to strengthen accountability mechanism and monitor SDG progress through generation/collection of data, evidence, and sentiment about the impact of the SDGs.

How the GSMA engages with the SDG Action Campaign and the topics covered:

We do not have a formal engagement with the SDG Action Campaign, but given the mobile industry's commitment to the SDGs, we follow their activities closely to monitor potential opportunities.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

To be determined.

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

What they do:

Assisting 91.4 million people in around 83 countries each year, the WFP is the leading humanitarian organisation saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. WFP's efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations. Two-thirds of their work is in conflict-affected countries where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries without conflict.

WFP development projects focus on nutrition, especially for mothers and children, addressing malnutrition from the earliest stages through programmes targeting the first 1,000 days from conception to a child's second birthday, and later through school meals. Increasingly, WFP meets people's food needs through cash-based transfers that allow the people we serve to choose and shop for their own food locally. WFP also provides services to the entire humanitarian community.

How the GSMA engages with WFP and the topics covered:

The GSMA works with the WFP to pool convening power, support, insights, and knowledge sharing for agricultural work and nutrition-related humanitarian assistance. The WFP is a Humanitarian Connectivity Charter signatory and also sits on the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). The GSMA sit on the WFP's advisory group, and are currently working on a strategic partnership framework across both mobile for humanitarian innovation and digital identity.

The GSMA's Big Data for Social Good programme also works with the WFP to produce case studies in conjunction with mobile network operators.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

GSMA members can engage with the WFP by becoming signatories of the Humanitarian Connectivity Charter. Involvement can include knowledge sharing, case study development, and partnership formation towards the acceleration of the delivery of a digital humanitarian future.

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

What they do:

WHO is the specialised agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. WHO's primary role is to direct international health within the United Nations' system and to lead partners in global health responses.

Working with 194 Member States, across six regions, and from more than 150 offices, WHO strives to combat diseases – communicable diseases such as influenza and HIV, and noncommunicable diseases such as cancer and heart disease.

WHO's main areas of work are health systems; health through the life-course; noncommunicable and communicable diseases; preparedness, surveillance and response; and corporate services. WHO undertakes this work by:

- providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed;

- shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;

- setting norms and standards and promoting and monitoring their implementation;

- articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options;

- providing technical support, catalysing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and

- monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends.

How the GSMA engages with the WHO Action Campaign and the topics covered:

In regard to the electromagnetic field (EMF) topic the GSMA contributes to scientific and policy forums organised by the WHO and to public consultations. At the invitation of the WHO, the GSMA contributed expertise to the development of an international database of EMF exposure limits and to national activities promoting evidenced based harmonised EMF policies. The GSMA has represented the mobile industry as an observer in WHO scientific review activities. The GSMA M4D programme has also cooperated with the WHO to promote the benefits of mHealth solutions in developing countries.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Where mobile network operators are experiencing EMF challenges, the GSMA can act as a bridge between national authorities and the WHO for the provision of advice on scientific topics and policy development. The GSMA can also promote WHO awareness of operator mHealth initiatives.

World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

What they do:

With 189 member countries and offices in over 130 locations, the World Bank Group is a global partnership comprising five institutions, including the IMF, that are working for sustainable solutions that reduce poverty and build shared prosperity in developing countries.

The World Bank is one of the largest sources of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. It provide loans, credits, and grants to developing countries. These support investments in such areas as education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management. Some of these projects are co-financed with governments, other multilateral institutions, commercial banks, export credit agencies, and private sector investors.

The World Bank also offers support to developing countries through policy advice, research and analysis, and technical assistance. Their analytical work often underpins their financing and helps inform developing countries' own investments. In addition, they support capacity development in the countries they serve. World Bank also sponsors, host, or participate in many conferences and forums on issues of development, often in collaboration with partners.

The IMF works to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Their primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries and their citizens to transact with each other. The Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability.

How the GSMA engages with the World Bank and IMF, and the topics covered:

The GSMA has developed close relationships with several different teams in the World Bank Group:

We are one of two private sector members of the World Bank's Digital Development Partnership (DDP). This is a multilateral trust fund that was established to help operationalise the Bank's 2016 World Development Report on Digital Dividends and offers a platform for digital innovation and development financing. Current areas of DDP focus that the GSMA engages with through convening at events and knowledge sharing include mobile data and indicators, the digital economy enabling environment, cybersecurity, internet access for all, digital government, and mainstreaming digital services, solutions, and platforms.

World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

An MoU between the GSMA and WBG has been signed to advance financial inclusion work in emerging markets.

The GSMA and World Bank also have an MoU to underpin collaboration on digital identity in the context of the Bank's Identity for Development Group. Current activities include joint research advocacy, in-country engagement (e.g. joint roundtables, project implementation), co-convening, and research development on digital identity. The World Bank are also a partner with the GSMA in the Commonwealth Digital Identity Initiative.

The GSMA's Capacity Building Programme also has a partnership with the World Bank, under which GSMA online training courses for policymakers and governments are offered though the Bank's Open Learning Campus online eLearning portal.

The GSMA Tax advocacy team is in dialogue with the Fiscal Affairs Unit of the IMF regarding taxation of the mobile and digital sectors.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Members interested in the use of mobile for development can work with the GSMA to disseminate case studies and best practices to World Bank and IMF stakeholders. MNOs can also contribute to the development of GSMA strategies and policy positions for DDP engagement meetings by participating in the GSMA's International Institutions Taskforce. Members can also refer policymakers and regulators in their markets to participate in free training courses through the GSMA/WBG capacity building partnership.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

What they do:

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organisation for public-private cooperation that has committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971, the Forum is tied to no political, partisan or national interests and tries to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance. WEF structures its day-to-day activities around 14 global 'System Initiatives', under which specific activities and working groups are established.

In addition, WEF runs Global Future Councils which are networks of knowledge sharing amongst academia, government, business and civil society, grouped in expertise-based, thematic councils. It is an invitation-only community, and members are nominated for a one-year period.

More recently, WEF launched a Center for the 4th Industrial Revolution based in San Francisco and a Center for Cyber Security in Geneva. GSMA is not a member of those entities but monitors remotely any substantial outcomes.

How the GSMA engages with WEF and the topics covered:

GSMA is a paid member of WEF and is actively engaged in the System initiative on 'Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society' – a global platform for cooperation to build a digital economy that is sustainable, inclusive and trustworthy. For the last two years, GSMA's Director General has been appointed on the Board of Stewards for the Digital Economy. As part of our engagement in this initiative, GSMA contributes industry positions and/or best practices to working groups notably on Digital Identity; 5G; IoT and Internet for All.

In addition, GSMA's Chief Strategy Officer was appointed in December 2018 as Co-Chair of the 'Global Council of New Network Technologies', alongside the IFC.

GSMA participates actively in the annual WEF meeting in Davos, amplifying our industry engagement on key issues, as well as regional WEF Summits, in coordination with our members who are also WEF partners.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Only WEF members can engage directly in WEF activities. But MNOs can feed in relevant knowledge and content through the GSMA, where appropriate.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

What they do:

The UN General Assembly Resolution 56/183 created the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which initially occurred in two phases. The first phase took place in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and the second phase took place in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005. The objective of the first phase was to develop and foster a clear statement of political will and take concrete steps to establish the foundations for an Information Society for all, reflecting all the different interests at stake. The objective of the second phase was to put Geneva's Plan of Action into motion as well as to find solutions and reach agreements in the fields of Internet governance, financing mechanisms, and follow-up and implementation of the Geneva and Tunis documents. Progress by participants in Geneva and Tunisia was reviewed 10 years later in 2015.

Currently, the annual WSIS Forum is a global multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. The Forum provides an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, while identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships, taking into account the evolving Information and Knowledge Societies.

The WSIS Forum is constantly evolving and strengthening the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum will serve as a key platform for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, with due regard to the global mechanism for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

How GSMA engages with WSIS and the topics covered:

The GSMA attends and contributes speakers to the weeklong WSIS Forum to advocate and promote mobile industry policy positions and messaging in areas including internet governance, mobile for development, especially women's access to mobile, and capacity building.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

By attending the WSIS Forum, GSMA members have the opportunity to become visible, speak to governments and regulators, and talk to other stakeholders in the digital ecosystem.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

What they do:

The WTO is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. The WTO is run by its member governments. All major decisions are made by the membership as a whole, either by ministers (who usually meet at least once every two years) or by their ambassadors or delegates (who meet regularly in Geneva).

There are a number of ways of looking at the World Trade Organisation: It is an organisation for trade opening. It is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements. It is a place for them to settle trade disputes. It operates a system of trade rules. Essentially, the WTO is a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other. The WTO was born out of negotiations, and everything the WTO does is the result of negotiations.

How the GSMA engages with the WTO and the topics covered:

The GSMA began formal engagement with the WTO in 2017. We engage with the WTO through the ICC's trade working group. The ICC also has a pre-negotiation business group that meets and engages one-on-one with governments since formal WTO negotiations are limited to governments only. The topics covered in WTO engagements include digital commerce, cross-border data flows, and taxation.

Opportunities for MNOs to engage:

Through the GSMA, members have the opportunity to provide input to ICC engagements with the WTO.

List of Acronyms

AFI
Alliance for Financial Inclusion

BD4SG
Big Data for Social Good

BIAC
Business and Industry
Advisory Committee

BMGF
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

CEB
Chief Executives Board for Coordination

CTO
Commonwealth
Telecommunications Organisation

DDP
Digital Development Partnership

DIAL
Digital Impact Alliance

DPI
UN Department of Public Information

ECOSOC
Economic and Social Council

ETC
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

FIGI
Financial Inclusion Global Initiative

GSMAi
GSMA Intelligence

ICC
International Chamber of Commerce

ICC BASIS
International Chamber of Commerce
Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICTs
Information and
Communication Technologies

IGF
Internet Governance Forum

IoT
Internet of Things

ITC
International Trade Centre

ITU
International Telecommunication Union

ITU-D
ITU Development Sector

ITU-R
ITU Radiocommunication Sector

ITU-T
ITU Telecommunication
Standardization Sector

LDCs
Least Developed Countries

M4H
Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation

MDGs
Millennium Development Goals

MNO
Mobile network operator

MoU
Memorandum of Understanding

OECD
Organisation for Economic
Co-operation and Development

SDGs
Sustainable Development Goals

SIDS
Small Island Developing States

SMEs
Small and medium-sized enterprises

STEM
Science, Technology,
Engineering, Mathematics

UN
United Nations

UN DESA
United Nations Department
of Economic and Social Affairs

UN OCHA
United Nations Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs

UNCDF
UN Capital Development Fund

UNCTAD
United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

UNDP
United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organisation

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

UNICEF
United Nations International Children's
Emergency Fund

UNITAR
United Nations Institute
for Training and Research

UNSGSA
UN Secretary-General Special Advocate

WBG and IMF
World Bank Group and International
Monetary Fund

WEF
World Economic Forum

WFP
World Food Programme

WHO
World Health Organization

WSIS
World Summit
on the Information Society

WTO
World Trade Organization