

Partner2Connect

Overview
November 2021

#Partner2Connect
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Partner2Connect

Why Now?

Recognizing the importance of digital connectivity as a key enabler for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for countries to leap-frog in various areas, including **education, health, government services, trade**, and also acknowledging its enormous potential to deliver innovative services and applications and catalyse new business opportunities,

Realizing that despite the 2011-2020 Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that recognizes ICT **networks as an infrastructure priority**, meaningful digital connectivity remains a major challenge for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS),

Recognizing that progress can only be made through a **multistakeholder and partnership-based approach** and that the direct leadership of governments, policy makers, and the regulator community will be essential,

Coordinating and partnering with other relevant international leader level platforms such as the **Broadband Commission**, the **UNSG Roadmap for Digital Cooperation** and its call to use digital technologies to connect, respect and protect the online world, and the upcoming **5th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5)**,

Leveraging ITU's neutral and impartial platform as the UN specialized agency for ICTs and its mandate to “**connect the world**” through programs such as **Giga**, Connect2Recover, and GovStack as well as the programs and activities from over 300 ITU-D Sector Members....

Objective

To serve as a leadership level platform to engage all stakeholders to mobilize and announce new resources, partnerships, and commitments to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in the hardest-to-connect communities, with a focus on, but not limited to, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



Focus Areas

Building on the outcomes of the *Road to Addis Digital Development Series*, which started in 2020 to create momentum towards the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), and in close cooperation with the *Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology*, Partner2Connect will support the implementation of the *United Nations Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation* and the United Nations Secretary General's report: "Our Common Agenda" through four **Focus Areas**:

1. **CONNECTING PEOPLE EVERYWHERE**
2. **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**
3. **BUILDING DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS**
4. **INCENTIVIZING INVESTMENTS**



Connecting people
everywhere



Empowering
communities



Building digital
ecosystems



Incentivizing
investments

Focus Area Leaders

Each Focus Area will be represented by 5 entities (Governments, Private sector, UN agencies and other international/regional organizations, Civil Society/Foundations, and Youth Leaders) who will serve as the **Focus Area Leaders**.

Focus Area Leaders will:

- Provide **evidence of commitment** in the Focus Area
- Actively **engage in the design** of the Focus Areas Action Framework
- Be ready to make a **major commitment or pledge** to move the needle on the given Focus Area
- **Appoint 2 Senior Executives/Senior Representatives** to the Working Group calls with Members of P2C
- Commit to **participate as a speaker** at the **Partner2Connect Global Dialogues** (one per Focus Area)
- Commit to **participate at the Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable** in June 2022



Focus Area Details

1. CONNECTING PEOPLE EVERYWHERE – Affordable, resilient, and trustworthy connectivity for all.

Objective: Facilitate attainment of universal and affordable connectivity through resilient infrastructure deployments that ensure ubiquitous network coverage including “last mile” and hardest-to-connect uneconomical areas.

➤ *“Supply side” focus on infrastructure (incl. policies and regulations that facilitate infrastructure deployment), innovative new solutions to reach uneconomical areas (incl. shared rural networks/network sharing, co-investment models with governments/IOs, satellite connectivity), as well as smart phone accessibility and affordability.*

UNSG Roadmap Roundtable Areas:



Achieving universal, affordable, connectivity by 2030

—everyone should have access to the internet.



Promoting digital trust and security

—calling for a global dialogue to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.



Connecting people
everywhere

Confirmed Focus Area Leaders

- **Nick Read.** CEO, Vodafone
- **Government of Ghana**
- **Pamela Coke-Hamilton.** Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- **Mmabatho Motsamai.** Founder, The Afrolutionist, and Generation Connect Visionaries Board Member
- **Adrian Lovett.** President and CEO, World Wide Web Foundation

Focus Area Details

2. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES – Inclusive, equal and safe access and use of ICTs for all.

Objective: Taking a people-centred approach by ensuring communities are digitally skilled and empowered to use digital technologies, content and e-government services safely, inclusively and equally

- *Inclusion, Digital Skills, and relevant Content with focus on making sure of leaving no one behind, upskilling SMEs, etc.*

UNSG Roadmap Roundtable Areas:



Promoting digital public goods to create a more equitable world

–the internet’s open source, public origins should be embraced and supported.



Ensuring digital inclusion for all, including the most vulnerable

–under-served groups need equal access to digital tools to accelerate developmental progress.



Empowering
communities

Confirmed Focus Area Leaders

- **Brad Smith**, President, Microsoft
- **Sinead Bovell**, Founder, Waye, and Generation Connect Visionaries Board Member
- **Chat Garcia Ramilo**, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Focus Area Details

3. BUILDING DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS – Thriving, local ecosystems that drive relevant local content, services and digital businesses – rapidly adopting innovations from elsewhere.

Objective: Accelerate the digital transformation of societies through an inclusive whole-of-ecosystem approach that nurtures entrepreneurship, innovation, start-ups, SMEs, trade, and job creation, through collaborative policy and regulation practices supported by data.

- *Nurture and drive new start-ups, innovations that are trustworthy and meaningful, entrepreneurship SME development, and trade, GovStack, etc.*

UNSG Roadmap Roundtable Areas:



Strengthening digital capacity building

—skill development and training are needed around the world.



Building Digital
Ecosystems

Confirmed Focus Area Leaders

- **Gopal Vittal.** Managing Director and CEO, Bharti Airtel
- **Achim Steiner.** Administrator, UNDP
- **Ted Chen.** Co-Founder & CEO, Evercomm Singapore, and Generation Connect Visionaries Board Member
- **Kate Wilson.** CEO, Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL)

Focus Area Details

4. INCENTIVIZING INVESTMENTS – Innovative approaches to leverage existing and new forms of investment.

Objective: Structure innovative financing models and streams as well as adaptations to public policy and regulation to incentivize and facilitate public and private sector sustainable investment for financing meaningful access and affordable connectivity.

- Key enablers to overcome overarching investment gap, including policy and regulation to facilitate investment, new funding models, new financing streams

UNSG Roadmap Roundtable Areas:



Achieving universal, affordable, connectivity by 2030

—everyone should have access to the internet.

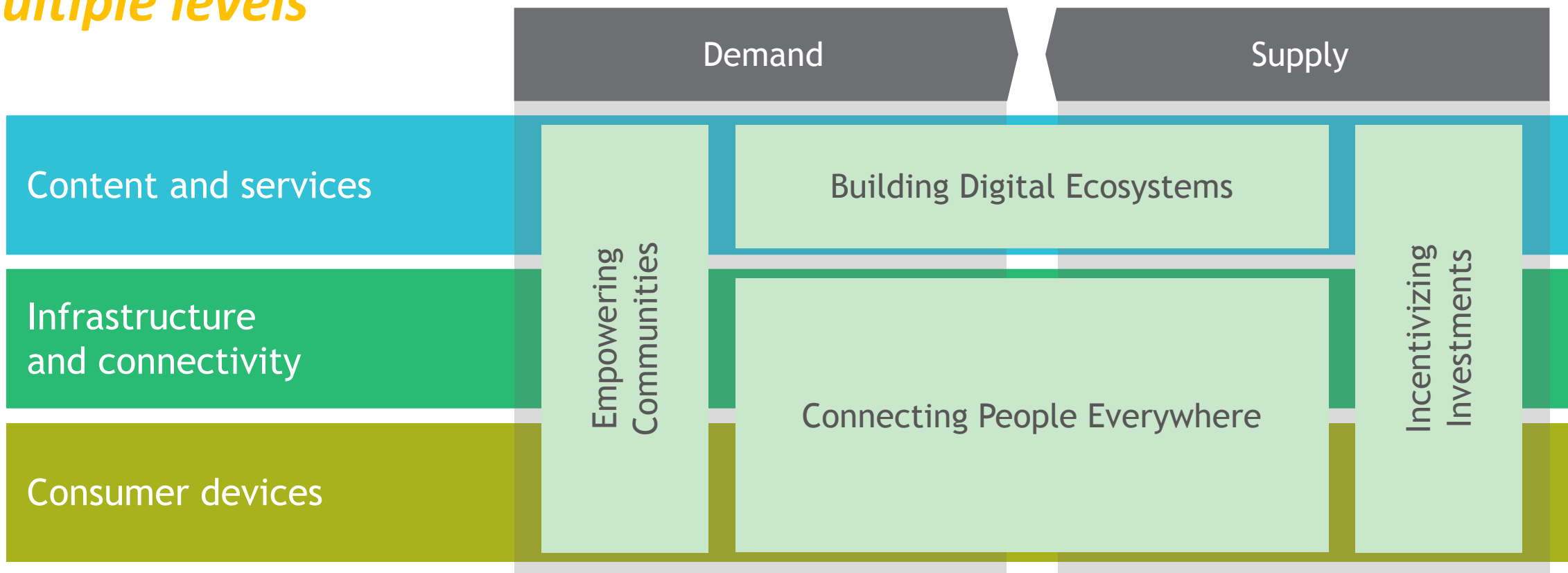


Incentivizing
investments

Confirmed Focus Area Leaders

- **Andile Ngcaba.** Founder and Chairman, Convergence Partners Investments
- **Shalin Jyotishi.** Research, Writer and Policy Strategist, New America, and Generation Connect Visionaries Board Member
- **H.E. Dr. Tariq Al Gurg.** CEO, Dubai Cares

Realizing digital inclusion requires matching supply and demand on multiple levels



Initial view issues per focus area—for further input and refinement

Connecting People Everywhere

4G Coverage	Affordability of data	Reliability of service
Affordability of devices	Spectrum availability	Backbone fiber

Empowering Communities

Literacy	Cybersecurity awareness	Digital government services
Basic digital skills	Gender/racial equity	Relevant local content/services

Building Digital Ecosystems

Advanced digital skills	Local “silicon-valleys”
Policy/regulation stimulating innovation	Universities/higher education as innovation hubs
Digital use cases in verticals	

Incentivizing Investments

Poor business case to serve rural/poor	Public private partnerships
Predictability of regulation/anti-trust	Full infrastructure perspective
Use of innovative technologies	

Pledges Framework

Why Pledge for Connectivity?

- ❑ P2C is built on the principles of **inclusion, partnership** and **SDG-focused digital development**
- ❑ **Multi-stakeholder collaboration** and direct leadership of governments, policy makers, and the regulatory community are essential to achieving meaningful and **universal connectivity**
- ❑ P2C is a game-changer opportunity for the ICT sector to take a **holistic approach**, to **pledge** and to **mobilize** the resources needed to connect those who are still offline.



Criteria for a Strong Pledge

- ❑ Addresses key issues of the four *Focus Areas*.
- ❑ **Helps drive** transformational change towards **universal connectivity** and the **digital transformation of societies**.
- ❑ **Helps mobilize** resources across the four *Focus Areas*.
- ❑ **Brings together** multiple entities committed to endorse, implement, or scale the pledge.
- ❑ Can be easily **quantified, monitored and tracked**, and its **impact** can also **be measured and reported over time** and against the overall objective of achieving **universal connectivity**.



Connecting people
everywhere



Empowering
communities



Building digital
ecosystems



Incentivizing
investments

Types of Pledges

1. FINANCIAL

Meaning: A financial pledge consists of an entity announcing a new monetary contribution in line with the objective of the P2C Coalition and/or a specific P2C Focus Area.

e.g., Company X pledges Y USD to finance digital capacity building in Z countries by 2025.

2. POLICY

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

e.g., Government XX pledges to change legislation act YY to create ZZ jobs in the next year in the ICT sector, benefitting NN households over a 2-year period.

3. ADVOCACY

Meaning: An advocacy pledge is one where an entity publicly supports, recommends, or promotes the P2C Digital Coalition their industry, network, events, or publications

e.g., International organisation AA & BB pledge to advocate for the P2C Digital Coalition by committing to co-publish YYY reports on the digital skills gap by 2024.

4. PROGRAMMATIC

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

e.g., Organisation XXX commits to expand ongoing programs on online safety to over ZZZ million additional people in (LDC/LLDC/SIDS) countries A, Bm and C by 2025.

ITU's Role in P2C

- ❑ As the UN's specialized agency for ICTs, ITU serves as a **neutral** and **impartial platform** to coordinate the development of the P2C Focus Areas Action Framework
- ❑ ITU will play a significant role in the **mobilization, tracking, and monitoring** of commitments and pledges
- ❑ The P2C Focus Areas Action Framework will be developed by working groups constituted by Members and Leaders of the Coalition **with the support of** Boston Consulting Group (BCG), P2C's Knowledge Partner.

The **Focus Areas Action Framework**:

- Helps further identify the key issues driving change across each of the Focus Areas
- Defines specific gaps
- Proposes high quality interventions, pledges and policies to fill gaps

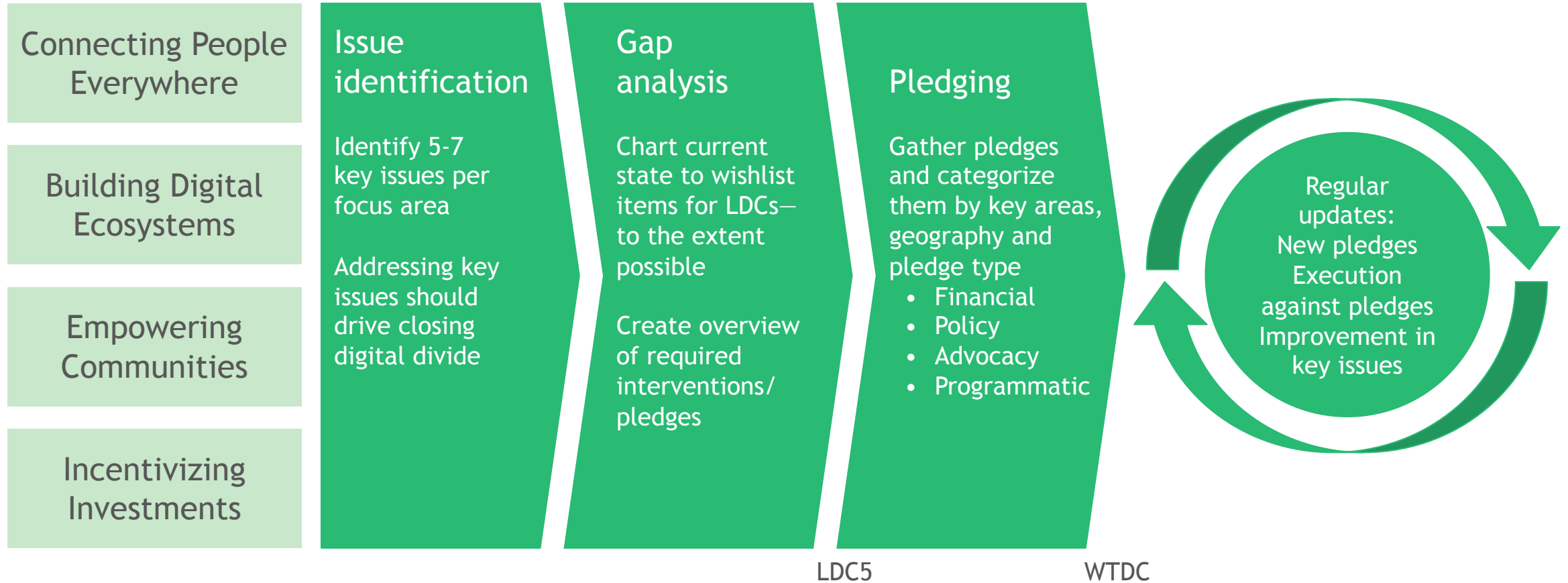
Next Steps and Timeline

Working Groups

- Each Focus Area will be supported by a **working group** composed of Focus Area **Leaders** and **Members**. Each working group will meet on a regular basis to discuss issues relevant to the Focus Areas, define actions to advance the objectives of the Coalition and to make recommendations.
- In collaboration with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the **Focus Area Action Framework** will be announced, together with initial signature pledges, at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) that will take place in Doha, Qatar, from 23 to 27 January, 2022. The session on P2C is confirmed to take place **Monday, 24 January 2022 (13:00 – 14:45)**.
- The working groups will continue to meet to refine the governance, pledging mechanisms, and advance the preparations for the **Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable**, which will take place from 7 to 9 June, 2022.

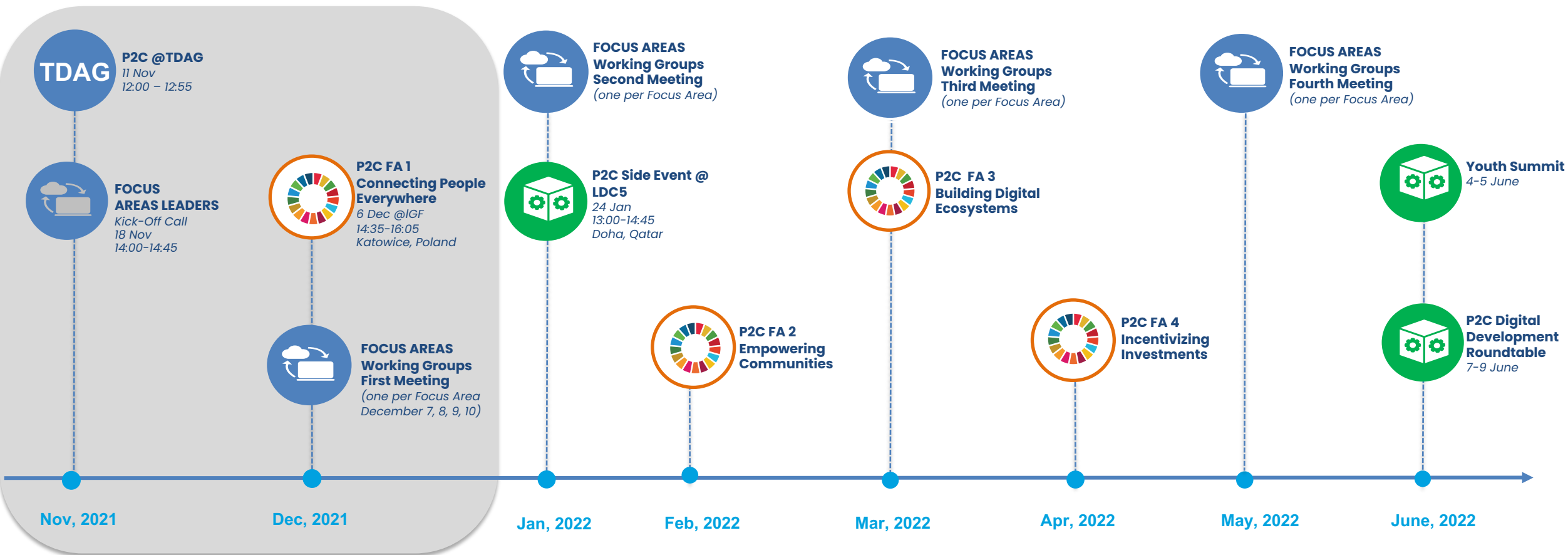


High-level process overview until WTDC



Note: key issues will be documented in Action Areas Framework Document. Pledge process will be documented in Pledge Framework Document

Time Line



Thank you!