

## Support for the Global Connect Initiative

On 27 September at UNHQ in NY, UN State Department launched a new diplomatic initiative called "Global Connect" at UNHQ to bring 1.5 billion additional people online by 2020. For this special event, they were joined by Dr. Jim Kim of the World Bank, the Presidents of Estonia and Tanzania, senior technology executives and global NGOs.

"Global Connect" was also formally supported by statements from MCC CEO Dana Hyde, USAID's Acting Administrator, and the FCC, among others --

CEO Hyde stated: "Information and communication technologies have become a platform for economic growth as fundamental as highways, power grids and universities. MCC proudly supports Global Connect as part of our commitment to work with our U.S. and international partners to help ensure that people everywhere have access to the world-wide information grid."

Ambassador Alonso E. Lenhardt, Acting Administrator of USAID stated: "All across the globe, ordinary citizens rely on the Internet for accessing and sharing information, growing businesses, and holding governments accountable. But today, 4 billion people still cannot access this transformative tool. Building on USAID-supported programs like the Alliance for Affordable Internet and the Global Broadband and Innovations program, we are proud to join our colleagues across the U.S. Government in supporting Global Connect. In addition to establishing a unified vision for accessible digital infrastructure, a coordinated U.S. Government approach will pave the way for wide-ranging partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to bring the Internet to all."

The FCC issued the following statement - "We have observed how a free and open Internet can transform economies, nations, communities and individual existence. Access to the Internet is critical to empowering a modern and connected life, but this vision depends on the real world infrastructure and technology that supports a globally connected world. The FCC joins our

counterparts and stakeholders around the world in this important initiative to make Global Connect a success. We look forward to contributing to the goals of Global Connect through our ongoing capacity building and development initiatives."

Full webcast available here -- >> <http://webtv.un.org/watch/development-in-the-digital-age-high-level-panel-discussion/4513663507001><