

**UN STI Forum May 5-6, 2022**  
**Roundtable: Science and technology futures and scenarios for the SDGs and beyond: what is possible and what does it take?**

**Written Statement of Jeff Brueggeman on Behalf of AT&T**  
**May 3, 2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the UN Science and Technology Forum. My name is Jeff Brueggeman and I work for AT&T, which is a member of the United States Council for International Business.

This Science and Technology Forum is very timely. The past two years have demonstrated the importance of broadband connectivity and related technologies in advancing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. And the pandemic has significantly accelerated our reliance on connected services, including remote health care, education, and work.

During the first year of the pandemic, AT&T saw a 40 percent year-over-year increase in data traffic on our network. We knew that reliability was more important than ever for the millions of people and businesses that were using our network each day. And we are now preparing to meet these customer needs in the years to come when data demands will only continue to grow. In fact, we expect people to use roughly five times more data each month in 2025 as the number of connected devices continues to grow exponentially.

At AT&T, we are guided by our long history of using technology to help solve some of the world's toughest challenges. Through public-private partnerships to deploy next-generation broadband solutions, governments and service providers like AT&T are sharing in the cost of building, operating, and refreshing networks – maximizing infrastructure investment dollars and lessening the economic burden on communities.

AT&T also is participating in public-private partnerships to provide discounted broadband services, working hand in hand with local organizations to provide essential devices and education resources in underserved communities. These types of programs are needed to ensure no one is left behind.

With an unrelenting commitment to innovation, AT&T's network is rapidly evolving to support 5G, artificial intelligence, edge computing and the Internet of Things. Examples of recent AT&T innovation areas include:

- Deployment of AT&T 5G technology to help optimize operational manufacturing operations;
- Upgrades to monitoring and communications infrastructure to provide deeper insight into energy operations of utility companies;
- Creating smart city solutions that focus on citizen safety, economic development, and sustainability; and
- Embedding wireless communications in healthcare manufacturing products, enabling new remote patient monitoring and diagnostic solutions.

These technologies also are advancing sustainability goals by enabling people and businesses to make more energy efficient choices and by transforming every sector of the economy in developed and developing countries.

AT&T has set an ambitious goal for our operations to be carbon neutral by 2035. As a part of this commitment, we are the seventh largest corporate renewable energy user and are increasing our investments with renewable energy developers. And we're working to integrate our Climate Change Analysis Tool into the decision-making processes for AT&T's network infrastructure buildouts, maintenance, and disaster preparedness up to 30 years into the future.

Looking forward, innovative public policies are needed to provide an enabling environment for investment and new technologies across all business sectors. Because business sectors are interconnected, innovation in one sector will spark major advances in others, producing broader economic and societal benefits. A holistic and global approach is the most effective way to accelerate digital transformation and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for including business in these important discussions across the UN system. We look forward to working together to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.