

# ***ADB & Digital Technology in the Pacific***

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Digital Strategies in The Pacific


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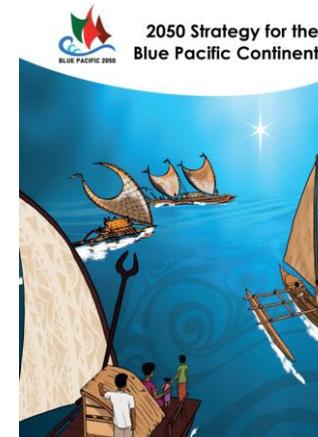
# Digital Strategies in the Pacific

- UN

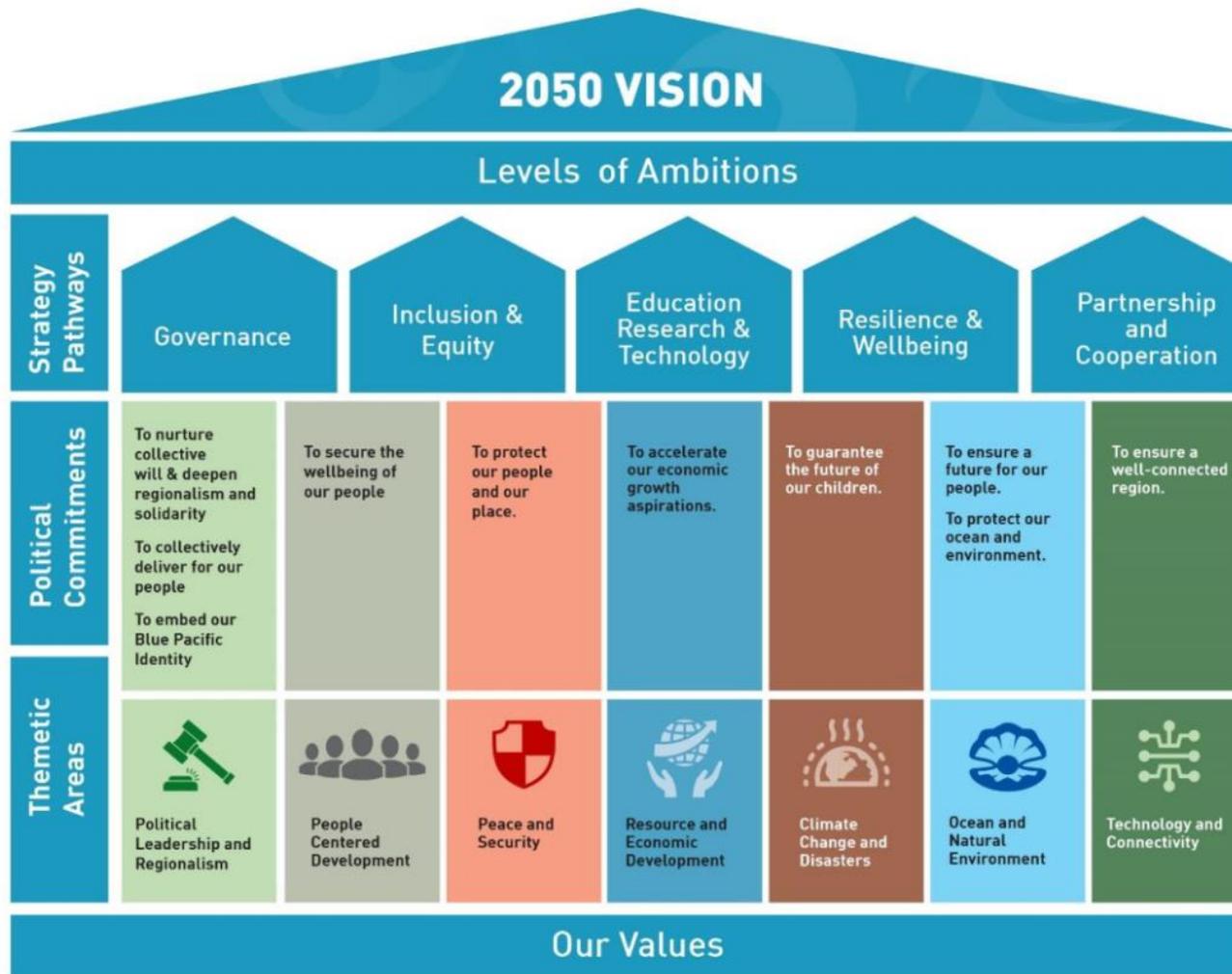
- ✓ Sustainable Development Goals
  - Global Digital Compact
  - SDG Digital Acceleration Agenda
- ✓ ITU Connect 2030 Agenda
- ✓ WSIS Forum
- ✓ The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity

- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

- ✓ 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent
  - Technology & Connectivity
- ✓ Boe Declaration on Regional Security
- ✓ Pacific E-commerce Initiative
- ✓ Pacific ICT Ministers Dialogue 2023: Lagatoi Declaration



# PIF 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: “Technology and Connectivity” Theme



**A well-connected region and access to technology is critical for Pacific development**

Our ambition is that all Pacific peoples benefit from access to affordable, safe and reliable land, air and sea transport and ICT infrastructure, and systems and operations, while ensuring culturally sensitive user-protection and cyber security.

# Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue 2023: Lagatoi Declaration



- Digital Transformation
- Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Digital Infrastructure
- Digital Security and Trust
- Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development
- Regional Cooperation and Representation

# Lagatoi Declaration: Six Priority Areas



## ***Digital Transformation***

- Digital transformation serves as a catalyst for social and economic empowerment and has far reaching benefits to productivity, employment, skills, economic growth, trade, well-being and environmental sustainability.
- We commit to creating an enabling environment and promoting universal and affordable access to connectivity for all to accelerate Digital Transformation.

## ***Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship***

- The adoption of digital online services will create value for individuals and businesses in the Pacific, who can benefit from access to information, tools to improve production and improved access to ICTs and digital government services, including health and education.
- We commit to promote digital government strategies, policies and programs to enable digital transformation of both public and private sectors, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Pacific.
- We commit to enable MSMEs to take full advantage of emerging technologies and facilitate their effective and meaningful access to digital platforms, as this will help enhance their competitiveness in an increasingly digitally connected world, facilitate their further integration into global value chains and support job creation.

# Lagatoi Declaration: Six Priority Areas



## ***Digital Infrastructure***

- Digital infrastructure underpins the delivery of digital services. Rolling out widespread, modern, and resilient infrastructure with sufficient capacity is key to development of the ICT sector in the Pacific.
- We commit to increase focus on the availability and quality of telecommunication networks and supportive infrastructure.
- We aim to increase coverage and penetration rates of high-speed meaningful broadband connectivity in order to accelerate the efforts to connect individuals and businesses in the Pacific.

## ***Digital Security and Trust***

- The take-up of digital services can be promoted by providing a safe and secure digital environment. A key step in developing a thriving ICT ecosystem is to provide individuals and businesses in the Pacific with the confidence they need to navigate digital and/or online spaces.
- We commit to establish trusted and secured systems which help create a stable environment supported by the development of conducive policy and regulatory frameworks, to facilitate the use of digital services.

# Lagatoi Declaration: Six Priority Areas



## ***Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development***

- For the Pacific to fully benefit from digital transformation and to develop a resilient ICT ecosystem, the support of a skilled ICT workforce and the promotion of necessary digital literacy and culturally sensitive user-protection is required.
- We aim to provide ICT technical skillsets including dedicated training to targeted segments of the population to increase demand for digital services and grow the digital economy, develop digital literacy programs for all to participate in the digital economy.
- We aim to promote capacity building efforts that go beyond technical skills, fostering an understanding of how people’s behavior and cultural norms interact with technology.

## ***Regional Cooperation and Representation***

- Successful digital transformation requires strong cross-border cooperation among Pacific Island Countries and Territories, and effective multi-stakeholder cooperation with United Nations agencies and other relevant global, regional and sub-regional fora, regional organisations, private sector, technical community, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.
- We intend to adopt a unified approach to set harmonised policy and regulatory frameworks; address common challenges; find solutions; mobilise resources more efficiently and enhance investment; and ensure shared accountability, commitment and values by Pacific Islands Forum Members.

# Digital Transformation Wheel

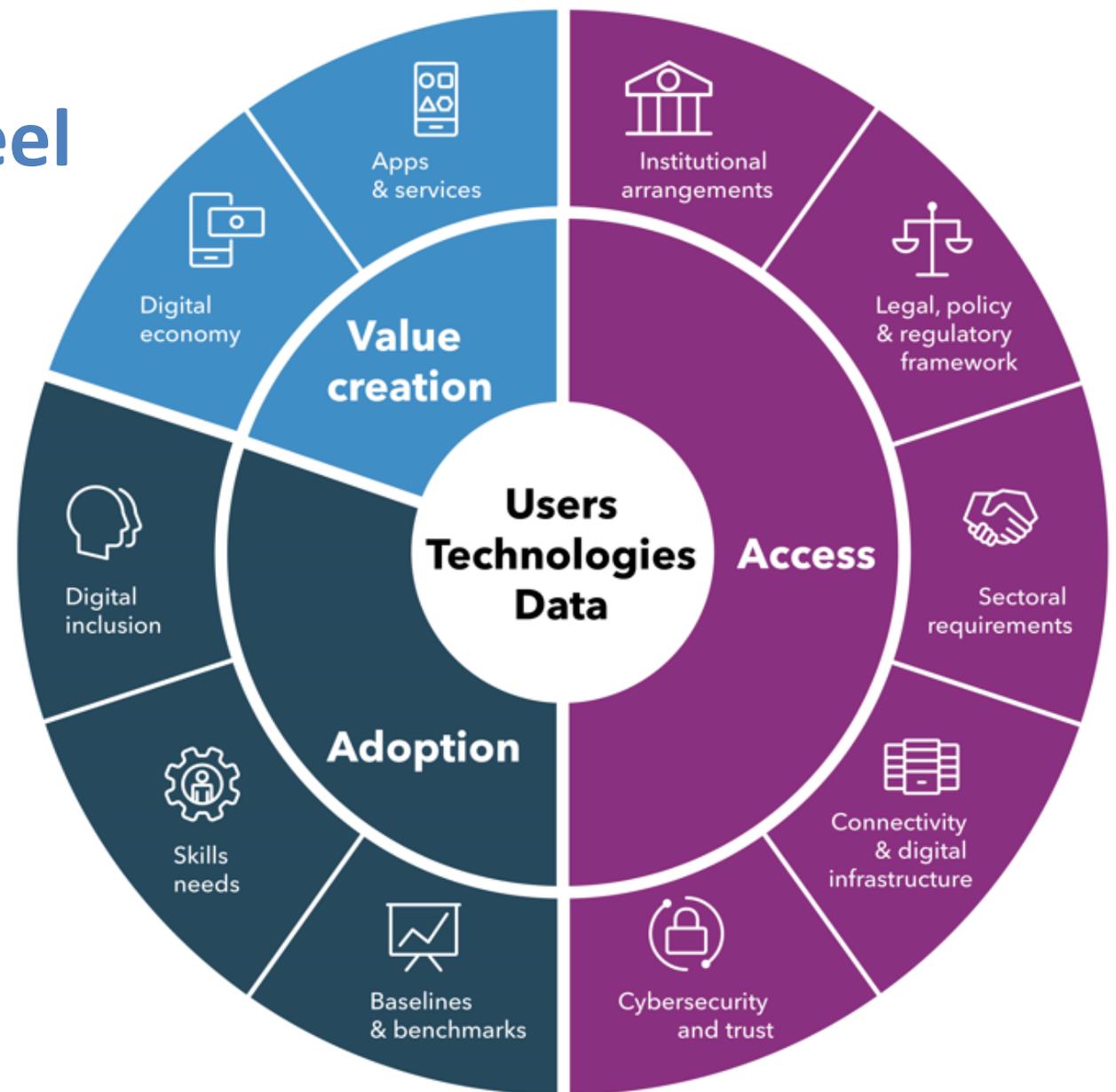
Digital transformation is about **users, technologies** and **data**.

The three streams and their building blocks:

**Access** is about creating the enabling governmental, economic and technological environment for everyone and everything to connect.

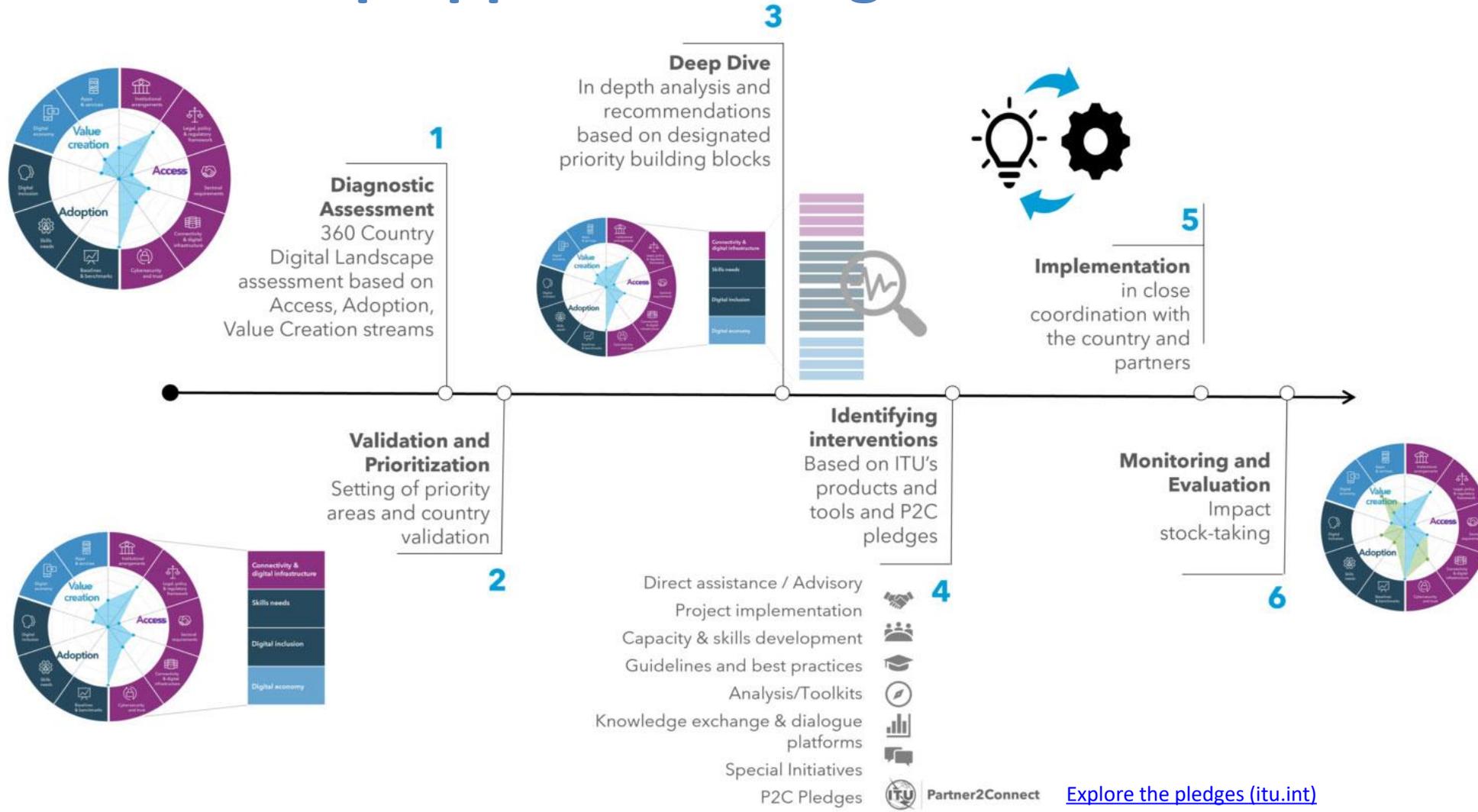
**Adoption** is about making sure everyone is able to get online, and

**Value creation** is about enabling everyone to contribute and reap the benefits brought by a digitalized society and economy.



Source:  
ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)  
[The BDT Digital Transformation Wheel \(itu.int\)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ITU-DT/Wheel/Pages/default.aspx)

# ITU BDT's 6 step approach to digital transformation



Source: [The BDT Digital Transformation Wheel \(itu.int\)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/BDT/Transformations/Wheel)

# USAID: Pacific Islands Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment

- Includes 12 Pacific Island Countries (PICs): FSM, FIJ, KIR, NAU, PLW, PNG, RMI, SAM, SOL, TON, TUV, VAN
- 12 recs for a more inclusive, safe & enabling environment.
- Low mobile adoption & significant mobile usage gaps caused by affordability challenges, low digital literacy, & lack of locally relevant content leave people behind & risk widening existing inequalities.
- Mis/disinformation growing challenge due in part to media consumption shift from traditional broadcast to digital & social media.
- Government ICT ministries & equivalents face challenges in digital system development & digital service maintenance due to low capacity exacerbated by difficulties in retaining talent.
- Institutional & infrastructural limitations impede transition to digital econ, particularly in smaller econs. Digital trade & e-commerce takeoff undermined by weak enabling factors including low digital literacy, cybersecurity gaps, data protection & policy legislation, & unreliable connectivity.
- Digital talent pool, dominated by youth, growing in response to increased demand for local skills. However, out-migration & lack of skilled workers result in supply/demand mismatch.

