

**Organised by:** ITU and UNCTAD

**Session Type:** Panel Discussions

## Session Title

ICT Sector GHG Emissions: Advancing Green Digital Action Towards Net-Zero ICT Sector

## Session Description

The ICT sector have emerged as a key contributor to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with estimates ranging from 1.5% to 4% of the world's total carbon footprint. With the rapid expansion of digital infrastructure, data centers, and global connectivity, the sector faces a critical challenge in reducing its emissions to align with the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. To meet this target, emissions from the ICT sector need to be reduced by 45% by 2030. The ICT Sector GHG Emissions Pillar under the Green Digital Action initiative is mobilizing companies to commit to science-based targets (SBTis) and the development of decarbonization transition plans for GHG reduction. The ITU and World Benchmarking Alliance Greening Digital Companies 2024 report highlighted gaps in transparency, accountability, and the need for open data to track progress in emissions reductions. This event seeks to update participants on the progress of this Pillar, launch a new commitment, and launch a new Greening Digital Companies Tracking Dashboard, designed to monitor ICT sector GHG emissions and energy usage based on data from corporate sustainability reports of 200 leading digital companies over the past three years. Objectives: Provide an overview of progress made by ICT companies that have committed to GHG emission reduction through science-based targets and annual public climate reporting. Launch the Greening Digital Companies Tracking Dashboard, this new dashboard offers transparency and tracks GHG emissions and energy use of ICT companies. The dashboard is based on three years of data from annual sustainability reports, consolidating information into a publicly accessible platform that can visualise and track progress. Encourage the adoption of robust accountability frameworks for digital companies, emphasizing transparent reporting and submission of data to a global database that ITU is working to develop. Engage stakeholders to adopt emission reduction commitments, and actively participate in the ICT Sector GHG emissions Pillar group of the Green Digital Action initiative. Session format: one-hour event with brief presentations which showcase the new commitments and dashboard, then a panel of digital leaders, policymakers, and sustainability experts followed by Q&As and discussion.

## Proposed Speakers and Moderator

- Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava - Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU - welcome remarks TBC
- Chantal-Line Carpentier, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, UNCTAD
- Ms. Vanessa Gray – Head, Climate and Emergency Telecommunications, BDT, ITU – Moderator
- Mr. Seth Ayers - Senior Digital Development Specialist, The World Bank
- TBC – Representative from private sector digital company such as Telefonica, Capgemini, or Google