

GIGA CONNECTIVITY FORUM2025

Empowering Governments to Accelerate Universal School Connectivity by 2030

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| Dates: | 8-9 July 2025 (and optional sessions on 10 July) |
| Venue: | Campus Biotech (Chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland) |
| Language: | English (However, simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish will be provided for the plenary sessions) |
| Event Website: | https://giga.global/giga-connectivity-forum/ |

Tuesday 8 July 2025

Biotech Campus

(Chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland)

Segment I – Giga Country Connectivity Stories: Visioning the Future of Connectivity

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| 08:00 – 18:00 | Campus Biotech Auditorium |
| 08:00 – 18:30 | <i>Badging at Campus Biotech Building Main Entrance</i> |
| | Masters of Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nobuntu Ndlovu, Communications Manager, Giga, UNICEF• Yannick Heiniger, Partnerships Lead, Giga, ITU |
| 08:45 – 09:05 | Welcome and Opening Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alex Wong, Senior Advisor, Strategic Engagement and Initiatives, Executive Office, and Giga Co-Lead, ITU Special Remarks by <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, ITU• Thomas Davin, Director, Office of Innovation, UNICEF represented by Christopher Fabian, Giga Co-Lead, Office of Innovation, UNICEF |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Ambassador Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and other Organizations in Geneva | | | | |
| 09:05 - 09:30 | <p>Destination 2030: Giga Stocktaking Session <i>An update session on emerging issues from the first edition of the Giga Connectivity Forum in 2024 and the journey ahead</i></p> <p>Presented By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Wong, Senior Advisor, Strategic Engagement and Initiatives, Executive Office, and Giga Co-Lead, ITU • Christopher Fabian, Giga Co-Lead, Office of Innovation, UNICEF • <i>Joined by the Giga Team Leads</i> | | | | |
| 09:30 - 09:45 | <p>Spotlight Talk with one of the most influential technologists, speaking at the AI4Good Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Kallot, Founder & CEO at Amini, an AI-based data infrastructure company based in Nairobi. | | | | |
| 09:45 – 11:15 | <p>Country Approaches and Sharing of Experiences: Breakout Session <i>During the breakout sessions, countries engaged with Giga will share highlights and key strategic learnings from their respective school connectivity journeys.</i></p> <p><i>Each country delegation will nominate a representative to present the summary of the country's school connectivity journey, which will be followed by a brief Q&A and group discussion.</i></p> <p><i>These sessions and discussions will be moderated by the ITU Regional Representative and the UNICEF Country Engagement team member.</i></p> | | | | |
| | <p>Breakout Session I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benin • Guinea • Mozambique • Niger • Sao Tome and Principe | <p>Breakout Session II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botswana • Eswatini • Kenya • Lesotho • Malawi • Namibia • South Africa • Tanzania | <p>Breakout Session III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua and Barbuda • Dominica • Grenada • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • OECS Secretariat | <p>Breakout Session IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belize • Brazil • Dominican Republic • Honduras • Panama | <p>Breakout Session V</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Cambodia • Kyrgyzstan • Moldova • Mongolia • Sri Lanka • Uzbekistan |
| 9:45 – 11:15 | <p>Breakout Session I: The Experiences From Africa (I) <i>French and Portuguese Speaking Session</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> | | | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benin • Guinea • Mozambique • Niger • Sao Tome and Principe <p>Co-Chaired by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rouda AlAmir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU • Albert Ewodo Ekani, UNICEF Senegal Deputy Representative |
| 9:45 – 11:15 | <p><i>Breakout Session II: The Experiences From Africa (II)</i> <i>English Speaking Session</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botswana • Eswatini • Kenya • Lesotho • Malawi • Namibia • South Africa • Tanzania <p>Co-Chaired by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mavis Maunganidze, Programme Officer, Regional Representative ITU • Christine, Muhigana, UNICEF South Africa Representative |
| 9:45 – 11:15 | <p><i>Breakout Session III: The Experiences From the Caribbean Countries Engaged With Giga</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua and Barbuda • Dominica • Grenada • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • OECS Secretariat <p>Co-Chaired by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland Thomas, Representative for the Caribbean, ITU • Maurice Beckles, Senior ICT Associate, UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area |

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| 9:45 – 11:15 | <p><i>Breakout Session IV: The Experiences From the Rest of America's Countries Engaged With Giga</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belize • Brazil • Dominican Republic • Honduras • Panama <p>Co-Chaired by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miguel Alcaine, Area Representative, Central America, ITU • Natasha Mantock, Education Officer, UNICEF Belize |
| 9:45 – 11:15 | <p><i>Breakout Session V: The Experiences From the Asian & European Countries Engaged With Giga</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bosnia & Herzegovina • Cambodia • Kyrgyzstan • Moldova • Mongolia • Sri Lanka • Uzbekistan <p>Co-Chaired by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isabella Rinaldi, Area Representative, Europe, ITU • Shannon Lindsey, Education Officer, UNICEF Cambodia |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | Coffee Break in the Foyer of the Auditorium |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | <p>Spotlight Talk “Connecting Young People Worldwide with Project Earth”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Becky Parker, Director, Project Earth |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | <p>Country Approaches and Sharing Experiences: Plenary consideration of key insights and learnings from each region</p> <p><i>Summary reporting by the rapporteurs of each morning breakout group.</i></p> |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Networking Lunch in the Foyer of the Campus Biotech Auditorium |

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| 14:15 – 14:30 | Spotlight Talk on “What Connectivity Means to Youth?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doris Mwikali, Youth Leader from Kenya and UNESCO SDG4Youth Network Representative to the HLSC Sherpa Group (online) • Efe Elmas, Master of Science’ Student in Responsible Management, University of Geneva | | | | |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Country challenges in school connectivity: Breakout Session on Challenges experienced by countries and Priorities. <i>These sessions will allow countries engaged with Giga to discuss their challenges in the school connectivity journey, approaches to addressing these and priorities in school connectivity based on the Giga 4+1 pillars.</i> <i>Each country will nominate a rapporteur who will present a summary of key outcomes, which is followed by a brief Q&A and discussion.</i> | | | | |
| | Breakout Session I <i>Challenges related to school Mapping</i> | Breakout Session II <i>Challenges related to infrastructure Modelling</i> | Breakout Session III <i>Challenges related to Financing</i> | Breakout Session IV <i>Challenges related to Contracting</i> | Breakout Session V <i>Challenges related to Capacity Development</i> |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Breakout Session I: Challenges related to School Mapping With the participation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belize • Bosnia & Herzegovina • Brazil • Cambodia • Dominican Republic • Kenya • São Tomé and Príncipe • St. Vincent and the Grenadines Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naroa Zurutuza, Co-Lead, Barcelona Giga Tech Center, UNICEF • Michael Larson, Giga Mapping and Tech Program Coordinator, Barcelona Giga Tech Center, UNICEF | | | | |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Breakout Session II: Challenges related to Infrastructure Modelling With the participation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belize • Bosnia & Herzegovina • Brazil • Lesotho • Sri Lanka | | | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanzania <p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sebastien Peytrignet, Project Officer, ITU |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | <p><i>Breakout Session III: Challenges related to Financing</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belize • Bosnia & Herzegovina • Brazil • Cambodia • Dominica • Namibia • Sri Lanka <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elena Ogram, Finance Lead, Giga, UNICEF • Lauren Bieniek, Giga Program Officer, Development Finance, ITU |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | <p><i>Breakout Session IV: Challenges related to Contracting</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bostwana • Kyrgyzstan • Moldova • Mongolia • OECS Commission • St. Kitts and Nevis <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaime Archundia, Procurement and Market Development Lead for Giga, UNICEF • Genaro Cruz, Market Development, Giga, UNICEF |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | <p><i>Breakout Session V: Challenges related to Capacity Development</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botswana • Fiji • São Tomé and Príncipe • St. Kitts and Nevis • Uzbekistan • Zimbabwe <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Högbäck, Senior Project Officer, ITU Academy, ITU • Carolina Anselmino, Programme Officer, Giga, ITU |

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| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee Break in the Foyer of Biotech Campus Auditorium |
| 16:30– 16:45 | Spotlight Talk “Giga’s Impact on Learning Outcomes: What Do the Data Say?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher S. Yoo, Imasogie Professor in Law and Technology, Communication, Computer and Information Science and Founding Director, Center for Technology, Innovation & Competition at the University of Pennsylvania |
| 16:45– 17:15 | Country Approaches and Sharing Experiences: Plenary consideration of Emerging Challenges from country experiences and Priorities <i>Rapporteurs of each breakout groups report back on the key takeaways in each group, including potential areas in which Giga support might be leveraged.</i> |
| 17:15 - 17:30 | Tech Talk on facilitating School Connectivity through Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilel Jamoussi, Deputy to the Director and Chief of Telecommunication Standardization Policy Department, TSB, ITU |
| 17:45 | <i>Participants are invited to walk from the Biotech Campus Auditorium to the Atrium of the Biotech Campus (on the building’s ground floor) to join the Official Reception and to take the official Picture of the GCF 2025.</i> |
| 18:00 – 20:00 | OFFICIAL GIGA RECEPTION In the Atrium of the Campus Biotech Venue: <i>Chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Geneva</i> <i>Networking event connecting global leaders and Geneva’s local technology ecosystem.</i> Masters of Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Wong, Senior Advisor, Strategic Engagement and Initiatives, Executive Office, and Giga Co-Lead, ITU • Christopher Fabian, Giga Co-Lead, Office of Innovation, UNICEF Welcome addresses by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, ITU • Bettina Junker, Executive Director of the National Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein • His Excellency Ambassador Marcos Gómez Martínez, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva • Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU represented by Dr. Eun-Ju Kim, Chief of Projects, Partnerships and Digital Skills Department (PPS), ITU |
| 20:00 | <i>End of the Reception</i> |