Bridging the Digital Divide:
Insights from the
the State of Broadband reports
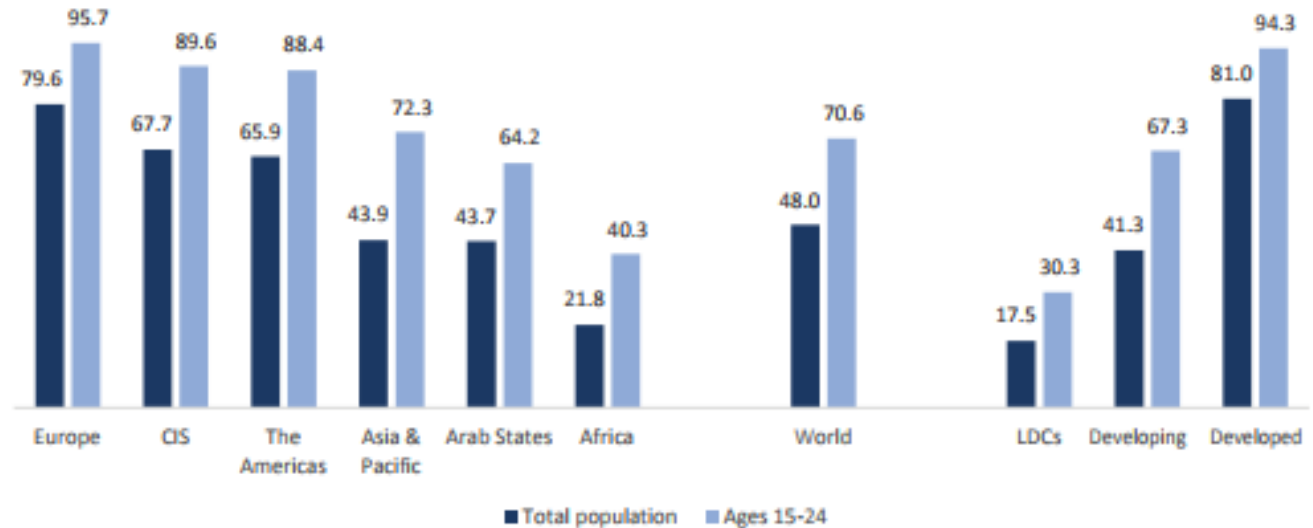
Phillippa Biggs
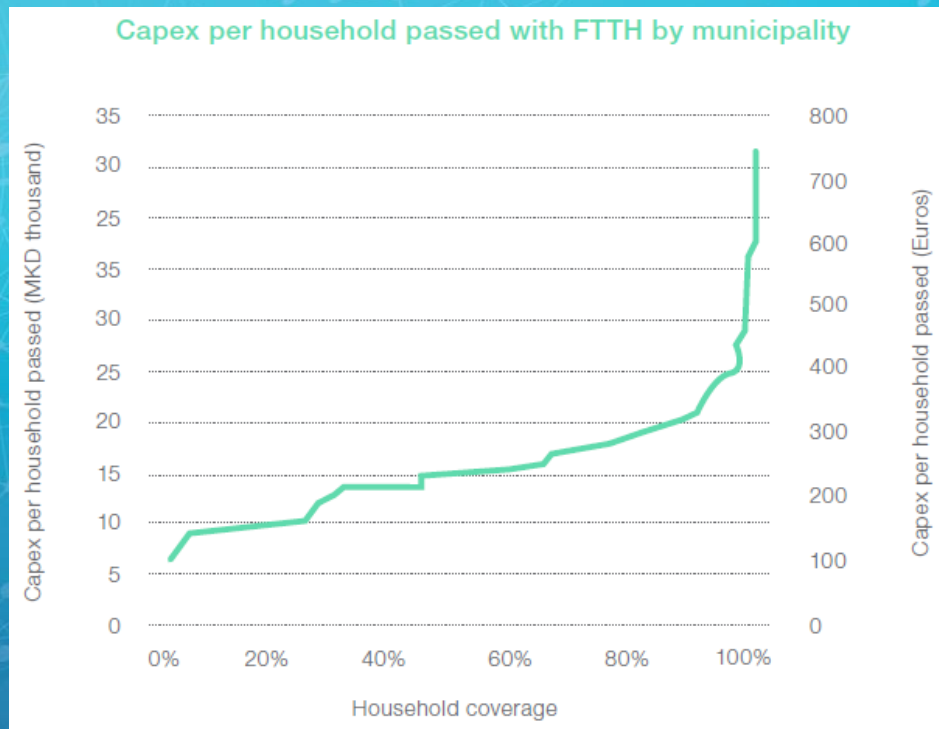**ITU**

5 October 2017

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Broadband catalyzing
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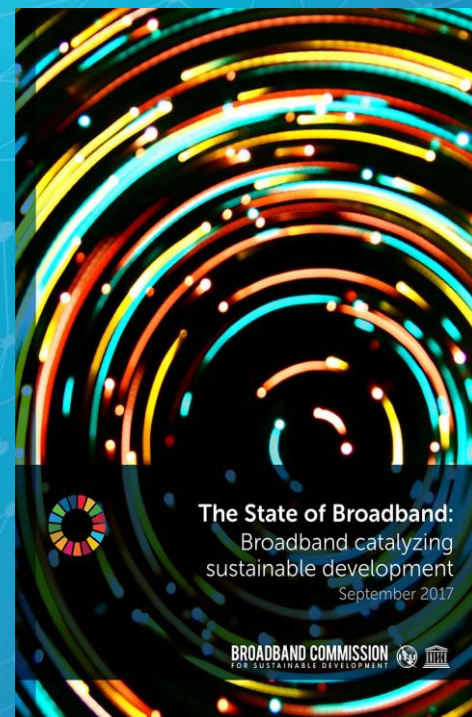
International Digital Divides Persist

Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by age, 2017*

Region	Total population	Ages 15-24
Europe	79.6	95.7
CIS	67.7	89.6
The Americas	65.9	88.4
Asia & Pacific	43.9	72.3
Arab States	43.7	64.2
Africa	21.8	40.3
World	48.0	70.6
LDCs	17.5	30.3
Developing	41.3	67.3
Developed	81.0	94.3

■ Total population ■ Ages 15-24

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Int'l Digital Divide Persists – Technologies Continue to Evolve

Legend
- No data
- < 20%
- < 40%
- < 60%
- < 80%
- < 100%
- > 100%

Source: ITU.

National Costs of Deploying FTTH over households

Capex per household passed with FTTH by municipality

Commercial viability of different technologies (population)

Commercial Viability of Coverage, by Technology

Source: Analysys Mason.

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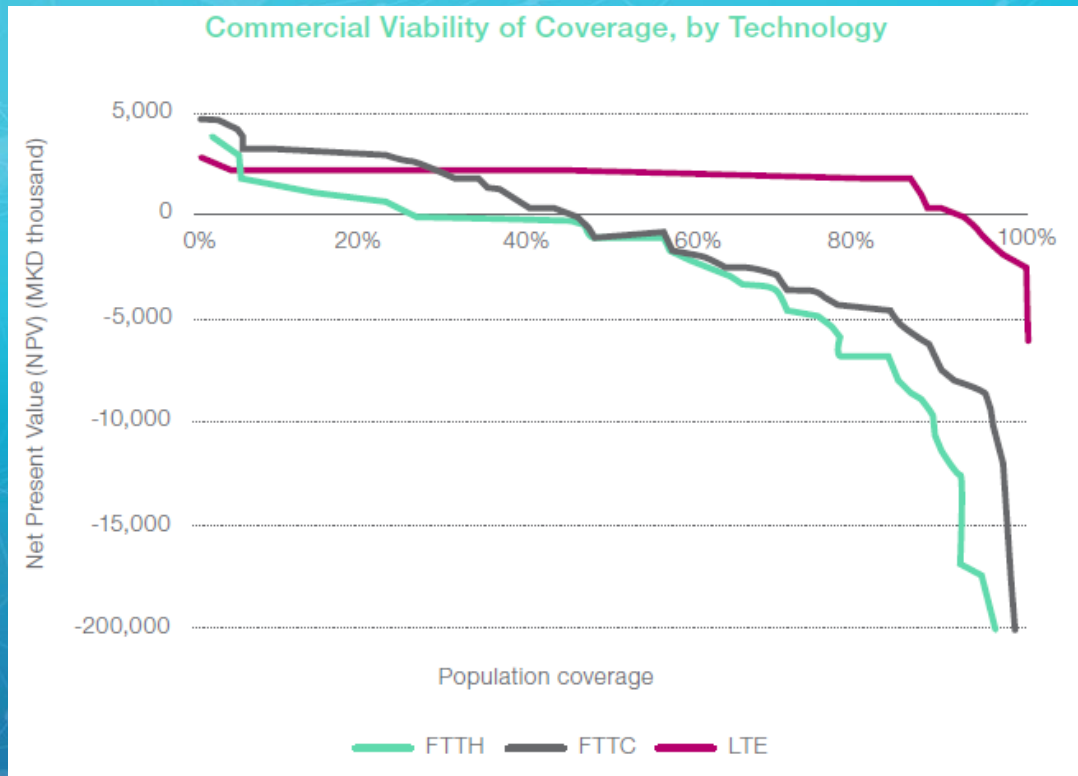
The Good News 1 – Various policy options exist
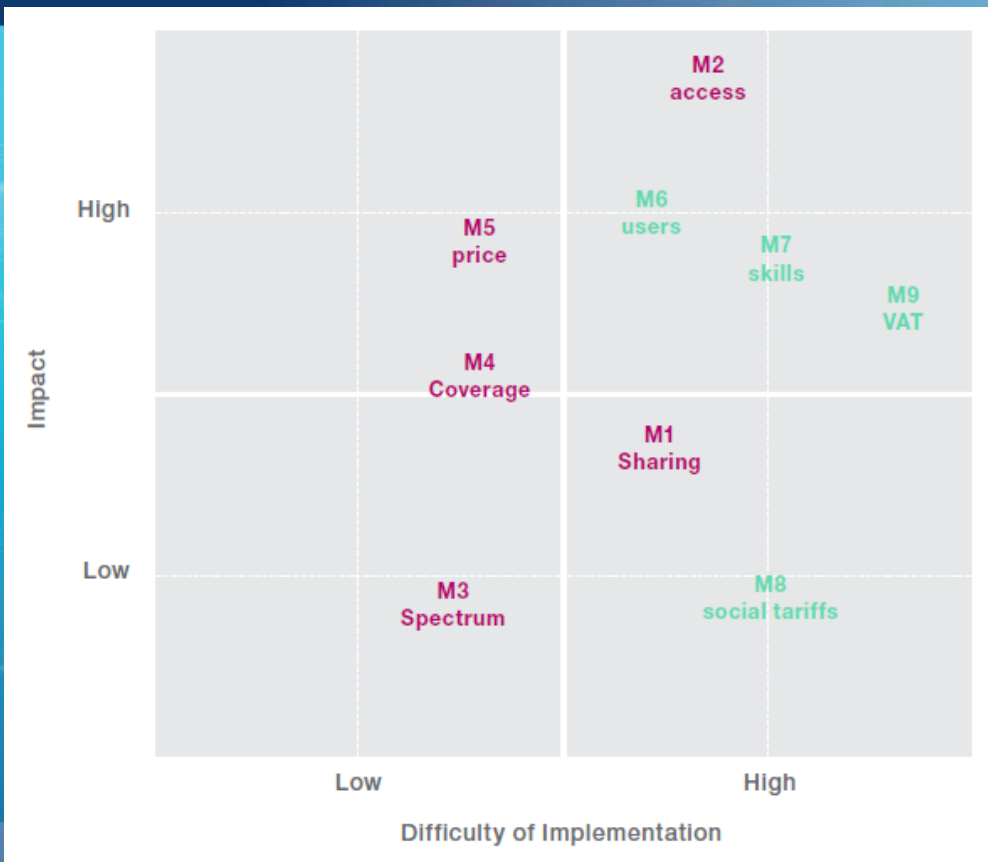
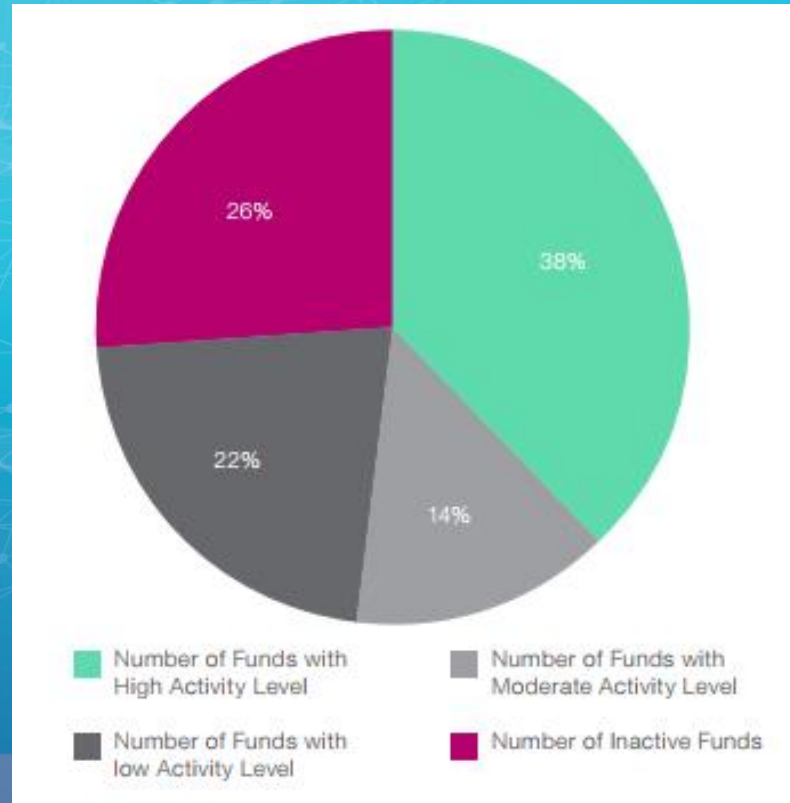# Policy options – Supply Side

Supply side options include:
- M1: Mobile networking sharing
- M2: Access to non-telecom infrastructure
- M3: Spectrum assignment
- M4: Coverage obligation
- M5: Mandating wholesale NGN access at
- sustainable prices

# Policy options – Demand Side

Demand-side options include:

- M6: Public campaigns to promote digital economy
- M7: Setting up public access points to information regarding use of digital services
- M8: Providing subsidies or social tariffs to low-income citizens
- M9: Cutting VAT for ICT services
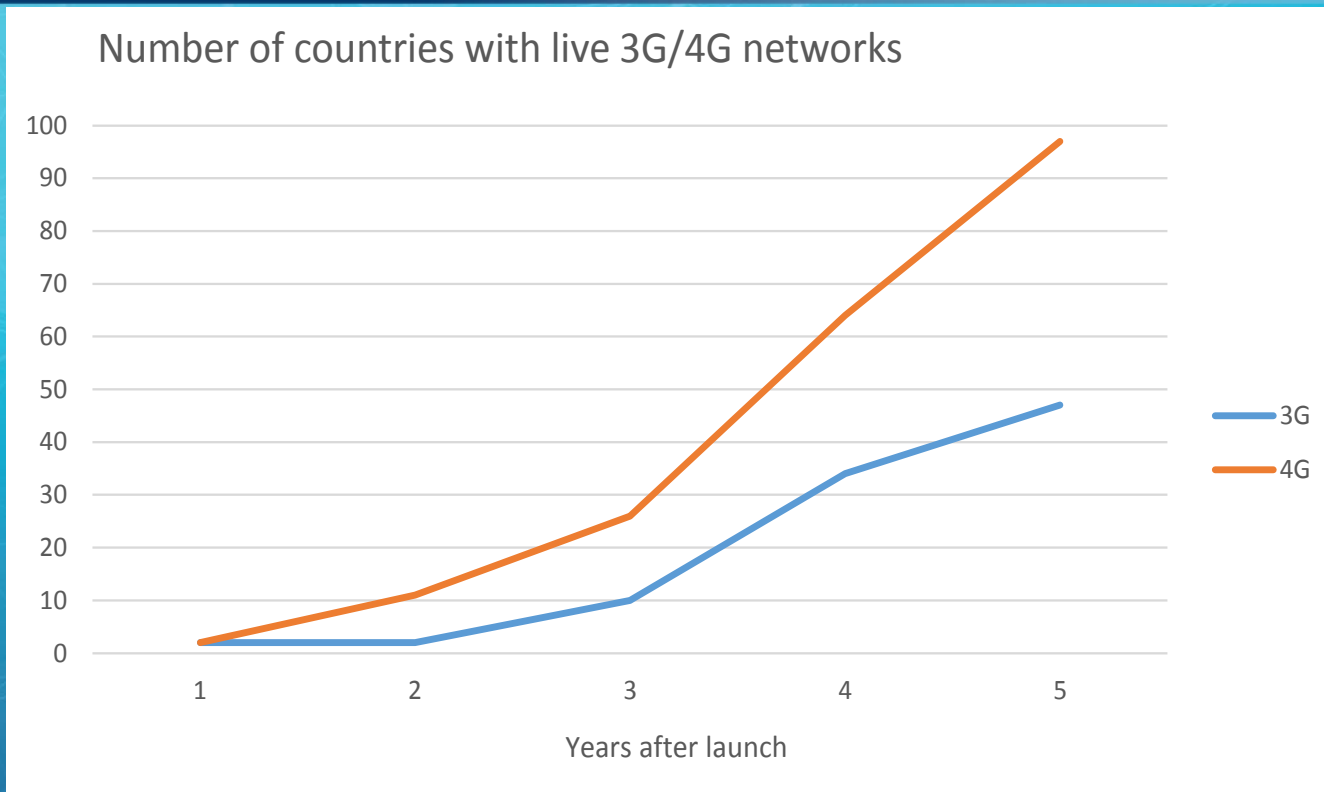
Universal Service Funds

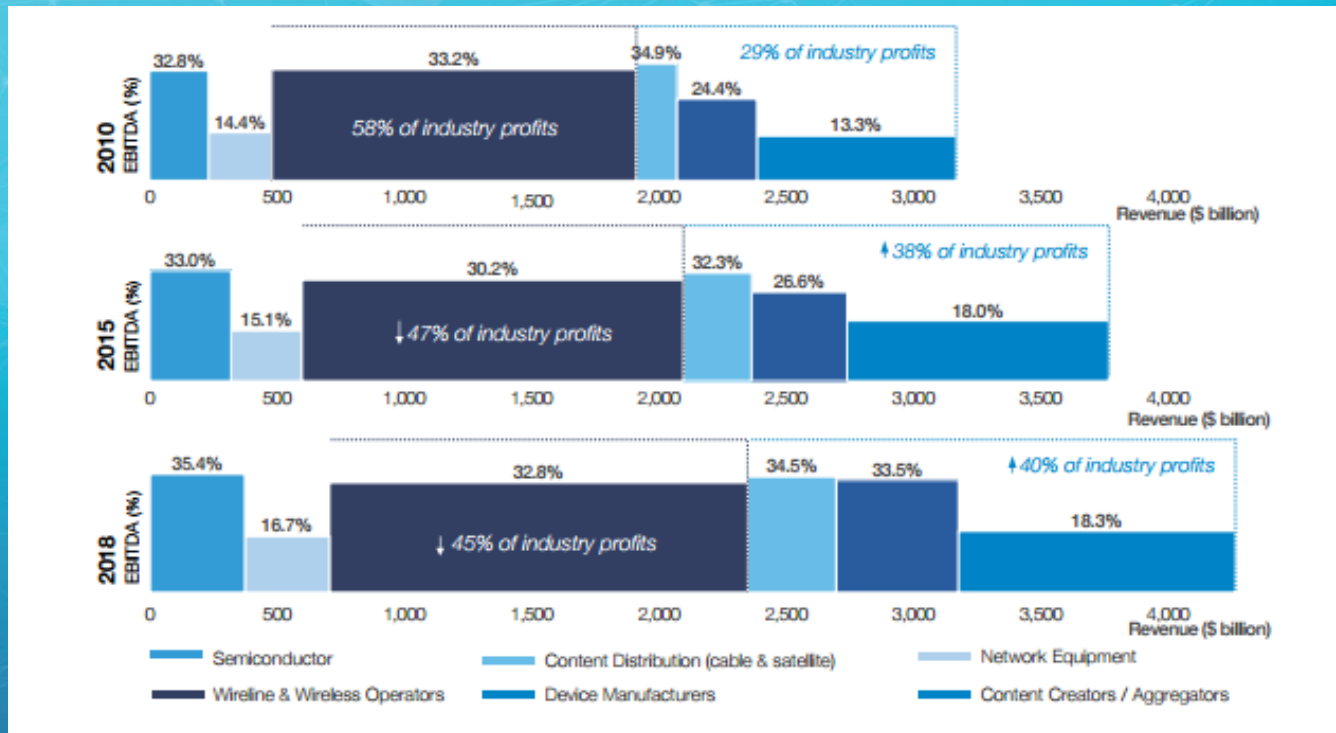# The good news 2 – Governments are acting on the policy front

NBP - yes
NBP - planning
NBP - no
No data
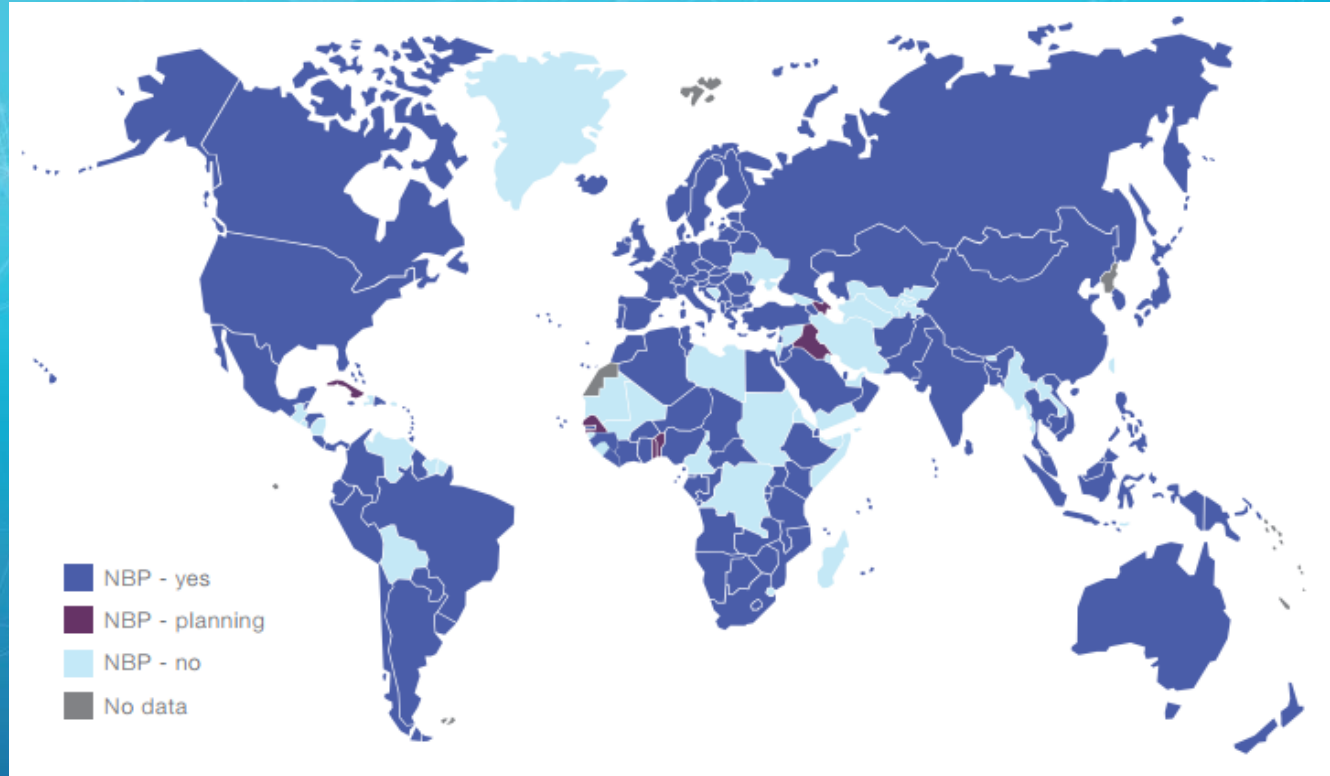
Source: ITU.

The good news 1 – firms are getting better at deployment

Number of countries with live 3G/4G networks
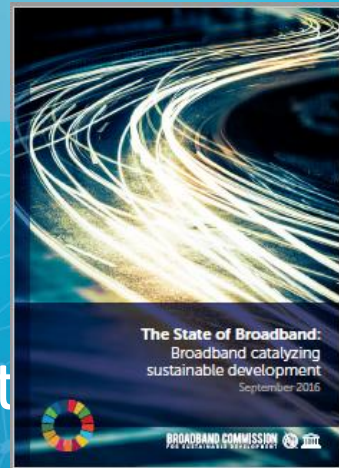

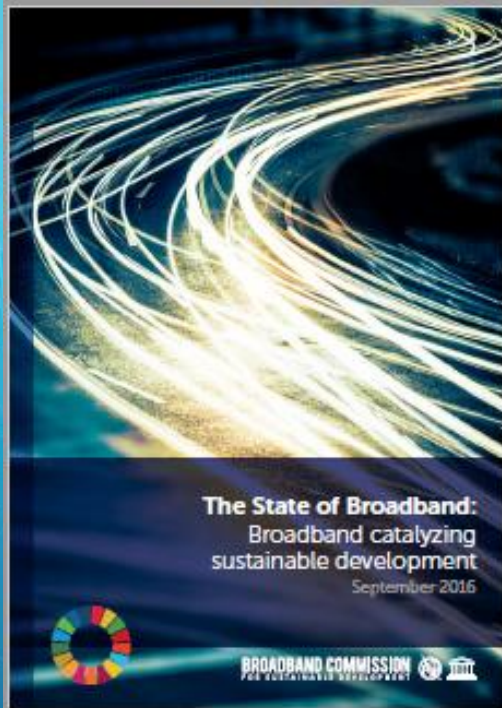**Source: ITU.**

Shifting in Value – Telecoms Industry

Source: Accenture/WEF.

5. Key Conclusions

- The digital divide remains with us, but it is evolving
- Competition among next-gen technologies is int
- The national digital divide also continues to be problematic
- The overall digital gender divide has grown slightly.
- Good news – industry getting more efficient, action on policy front, different policy options are available

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Thank you very much

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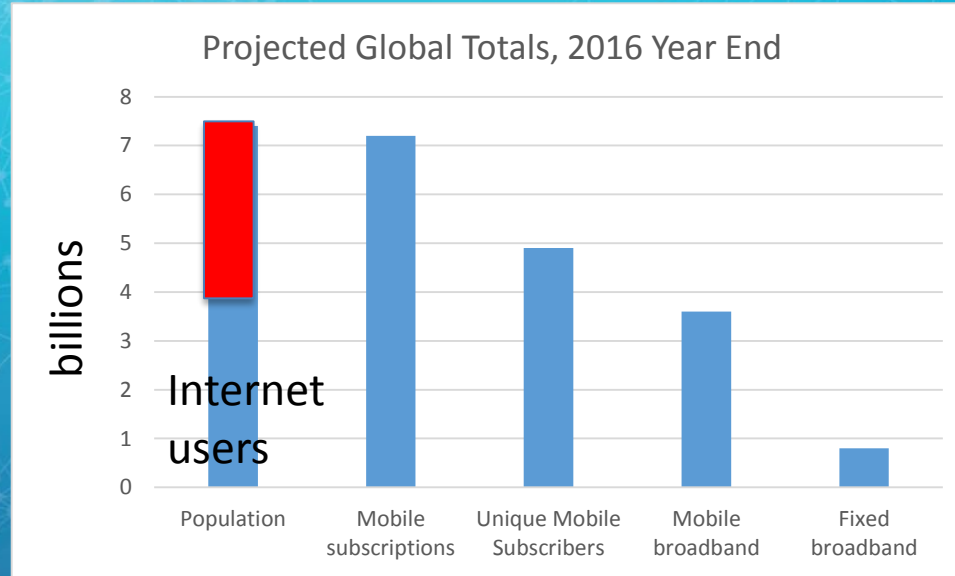
Digital Divides – from basic telephony to Internet

- National, International, Gender divide, youth divide.

Projected Global Totals, 2016 Year End

billions

Internet users

Population | Mobile subscriptions | Unique Mobile Subscribers | Mobile broadband | Fixed broadband

Remaining no unconnected People

Source: ITU.

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