Investments in infrastructure – transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technology – are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. It has long been recognized that growth in productivity and incomes, and improvements in health and education outcomes require investment in infrastructure. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is the primary source of income generation, allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards for all people, and provides the technological solutions to environmentally sound industrialization.

The Internet has fundamentally changed society and the way we live and work. Thanks to amazing breakthroughs in wireless technology, the benefits of connectivity travel with us almost everywhere we go.

This connectivity is helping to create jobs, drive innovation, and keep us increasingly connected within our communities. It provides news and information and fuels advancements in areas such as health care, education and economic development. These breakthroughs offer benefits to all consumers by expanding access to fast, reliable connections.

AT&T plans to invest approximately US $3 billion to extend its high-speed, mobile Internet service to Mexico, covering 100 million people in Mexico by year-end 2018.

By the end of 2016, AT&T expects its mobile Internet service will reach 75 million people, nearly two-thirds of the population. AT&T plans to reach 100 million people by year-end 2018. We’ve introduced competitive plans for customers that can be used in Mexico, the United States and Canada.
AT&T Chairman & CEO Randall Stephenson:

“We are building a network in Mexico that is capable of bringing innovation and economic vitality to the country, just as we have done in the U.S. We plan to deliver high-quality, high-speed mobile Internet service to Mexico, creating the first-ever North American Mobile Service Area covering 400 million people and businesses in Mexico and the U.S. This seamless network will link together our two countries’ economies, people and cultures like never before.”

Additionally, our acquisition of DIRECTV allows us to bring more services to the people of Latin America. According to the WEF, approximately 50% of households in the countries to be impacted by DIRECTV’s broadband deployment have no internet access.

DIRECTV is helping to bridge the digital divide in Brazil, Argentina and Colombia by extending cutting edge broadband technology to unconnected communities.

In the United States...

Our customers embrace having choice in how they connect with each other and to the Internet in many aspects of their daily lives, including the use of smartphones, tablets or IP-enabled TVs. As innovation introduces new opportunities for our customers every day, we are competing vigorously to improve and expand their service.

By working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and participating in the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) program, we are seeking to accelerate expansion of Internet access and all of the educational, economic, healthcare and civic opportunities it enables into more unserved, rural areas. We likewise support efforts to increase adoption by underrepresented populations.

In 2014, AT&T committed — as part of the White House’s ConnectED initiative – to provide $100 million of free mobile broadband connectivity for mobile learning to more than 50,000 students.

We created a new education platform that includes high-speed LTE network access for tablets, content filtering for students, and easier deployment and management software for schools.

In July 2015, AT&T acquired DIRECTV. As part of that transaction, and building on a voice and data service network that covers more than 320 million people:

- By mid-year 2019, AT&T will have expanded its all-fiber Internet access service to reach at least 12.5 million mass market customer locations, such as residences, home offices and very small businesses. Combined with AT&T’s existing high-speed broadband network, at least 25.7 million customer locations will have access to broadband speeds of 45 Mbps or higher.

- For a four-year period beginning in 2015, AT&T will offer up to 1 Gbps service to any eligible school or library requesting E-rate supported services, where we have deployed fiber-based broadband Internet access services.
Here’s how this technology is making a difference:

- DIRECTV’s technology is more than 4 times less expensive per Km2 than typical fixed network available in the market.
- Cost efficiency allows DIRECTV’s wireless technology to reach areas which would otherwise be cost prohibitive.
- Technology is quick and easy to deploy, not requiring underground wiring or negatively impacting city planning.
- Customers appreciate quick and easy wireless installation in their homes, which typically does not require disruptive in-home cabling.
- Flexible technology enables portable and mobile services if desired.
- DIRECTV’s technology does not disrupt local communities or subscribers’ homes.

For a four-year period beginning in 2016, AT&T will offer discounted wireline broadband service where technically available within AT&T’s 21-state wireline footprint to low-income households that qualify for the government’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Bridging the digital divide is a commitment we are making here in the U.S. and around the world.