United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 26th Conference of the Party Recommendations to Advance Strong Climate Ambitions
October 2021

On behalf of the global tech industry, the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) welcomes the ongoing international commitment to mitigating the effects of climate change and supports the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) 26th Conference of the Party's (COP26) goals to address this existential crisis.

Climate change presents environmental, economic, and social challenges that demand an immediate and meaningful response on a global basis from all sectors of society, including governments and the private sector. That includes advancing science-based policies that address the climate crisis and accelerating the transition to a sustainable low-carbon economy, which will produce multiple benefits for economic growth, public health, and the sustainability of the global environment.

Information and communication technology (ICT)-enabled efficiency and decarbonization solutions not only provide carbon reduction opportunities for the ICT sector but also enable other sectors of the economy to reduce their climate impact. Doing so will not only help address and minimize the impacts of climate change, but it will also support economic growth, and promote investments and create green jobs that will help avoid irreversible damage to our economies, societies, and planet.

ITI strongly endorses the Conference's aims of building a sustainable low carbon future through cross-sectoral partnerships and policies that encourage innovation and ensure an equitable and economically dynamic world. ITI has been leading the ICT industry to advocate for climate policies that will help the world reach net zero by 2050. ITI is working with its members, as well as through its data center energy efficiency-focused affiliate organization, The Green Grid (TGG), to support and implement the Conference's goals of securing global net zero by mid-century and keeping 1.5 degrees within reach, adapting to protect communities and natural habitats, increasing resilience to natural disasters, mobilizing finance, and working together to deliver climate solutions.

In order to further these global efforts, and to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities that climate change poses, ITI strongly encourages the participating governments to advance the following recommendations:
- Support robust government investment in clean technologies and infrastructure, such as 100% zero-carbon electricity generated by utilities and other energy commodities, especially in buildings and transportation segments and resilient infrastructure; energy efficiency standards for new homes and commercial buildings; and incentives for the development of energy efficient products.
- Ensure climate policies are applied in an equitable manner that minimizes the social and economic costs for those least able to bear them and supports UNFCCC's focus on Environmental Justice.
- Leverage market-based solutions where possible that preserve the competitiveness of businesses and companies that have invested significantly in the global economy, without causing market disruptions and ensuring alignment with international trade obligations.
- Advance climate resilience and adaptation by increasing funding and research to support communities.
- Eliminate regulatory and market barriers to the deployment of emissions reduction technologies and low-carbon energy.

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- Encourage incentives, including tax incentives, to promote rapid development and deployment of clean and efficient energy technologies.
- Promote the tech "handprint" of enabling other sectors of the economy to also reduce their climate impact.

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