

**GAID MDG eNabler, Broadband Commission, Internet Governance Forum, eTransform Initiative and the Global Pulse:
A Comparative Analysis**

The purpose of this brief comparative analysis prepared by GAID secretariat is to present and clarify the respective roles of the five initiatives so as to ensure that work is not being duplicated and to identify areas of possible synergies and collaboration amongst.

The information below is derived from materials publicly available, in particular on the websites of the respective initiatives.

It is the opinion of the secretariat of Global Alliance for ICT and Development that there is no duplication or competition between its MDG eNabler and any of the other four initiatives, individually or collectively

A brief review of each of the 5 initiatives shows the clear differences between them regarding their background, structure, missions and purpose:

	Broadband Commission for Digital Development	Internet Governance Forum	Global Pulse	eTransform Initiative	MDG eNabler
Year of Inception	2010	2006	2009	2010	2009
Mission & Objective	Demonstrate importance of high-speed broadband Internet connectivity and its positive impact on development efforts	Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance	Develop policies to protect vulnerable populations from economic shocks	Leverage the expertise of the public sector, private sector, and academia to help developing countries use ICT in development	Create a free online resource for development practitioners to identify available ICT tools and solutions, as well as provide guidance in implementing these solutions
Structure	57 Commissioners from governments, the private sector, development organizations	Multi-stakeholder forum with an advisory group consisting of 56 members	Online global monitoring system and database	The World Bank Group, six leading companies and a national government	Free online web-based resource including knowledge base, implementation, and monitoring tools

Output	Two reports that will discuss financial considerations, technology options, and strategies for deployment for different economies	Annual Conference of stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices to fully make use of all available information in policy making	Provides historical and real-time statistical data which measure the impact of economic crises and enable the development of responsive measures	Provide cutting edge expertise and resources from leading corporations and governments, in particular peer-to-peer networks of development practitioners	Databases of existing ICT tools and solutions that can be used to accelerate MDGs achievement; tools to assist in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development projects
Benefits	Reports will demonstrate importance and financial feasibility of universal internet connectivity and guide adoption of broadband-friendly policies while raising awareness of the internet connectivity to development efforts	Facilitates discourse between governments and private sector and enables conversation about policy for new technologies with no governance precedent	Valuable data provides guidance for policy makers to develop efficient response to global crises and institute preventative measures to better protect against future shocks	Provides developing countries with expertise and experiences, facilitates the exchange of lessons amongst key development players about ICT-enabled government transformation.	"One-stop-shop" for development practitioners at all levels to guide them to effective and sustained use of ICT for achieving the MDGs

Comparative Analysis

All five of these initiatives are positioned to play valuable roles in advancing the ICT for Development agenda. The recently formed **Broadband Commission** for instance, focuses on Internet connectivity and aims to demonstrate the importance of widespread high-speed Internet in the development process. Its research and findings will be released in reports that will include data supporting the financial feasibility and return on investment of efforts to bring broadband internet to developing countries, as well as the social impact of such programs. This data will help develop strategies and guide implementation of providing widespread Internet accessibility.

Although ensuring Internet accessibility is a major concern in much of the developing world, implementation of Internet technologies must be complemented by the formulation of rules and practices which countries and companies should follow to ensure the effective, comprehensive and sustained functioning of the Internet. The **Internet Governance Forum** addresses these issues at an annual conference of stakeholders. Through its strong convening power and multi-stakeholder approach, the IGF brings all of the relevant actors to the table to discuss pressing issues and to address policy issues for which there are no precedents

Unlike the Broadband Commission and the Internet Governance Forum, the **GAID MDG eNabler**, the **Global Pulse** and the **eTransform Initiative**, all new initiatives, share the nature of being online tools that directly provide specific information and solutions for development practitioners and governments. The information that they provide, however, is drastically different in each case.

The **Global Pulse** aims to give governments a tool to protect their people from unexpected shocks, whether from an economic crisis or natural disaster, such as a drought or flood. It will provide historical and real-time information on the impact of global crises on vulnerable nations for analysis. This statistical data will provide the basis for the development of reactive strategies to lessen the negative impact of economic crises and allow for the planning of predictive measures that will help address future crises.

The World Bank's **eTransform Initiative**, in its current initial stage, will focus on ICT for governance and in particularly eProcurement. Its added value at first will be giving developing countries previously unattainable global expertise from the private sector and other actors through online peer-to-peer networks. It will also provide some funding to promising ICT for development projects.

The **MDG eNabler** is unique in that it focuses on the ICT development-related content itself. It aims to put the most practical and innovative ICT tools and solutions in the hands of the development practitioners around the world, thus assisting them in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The key difference between the MDG eNabler and the other initiatives is that the Project's primary function is to present existing, proven, scalable, replicable and sustainable ICT tools and solutions for immediate use on the ground where they can provide tangible benefits. Moreover, the MDG eNabler is designed to provide solutions that specifically address the eight MDGs. By targeting these goals directly, the eNabler will become a most practical, tangible proactive tool in UN efforts to help countries achieve the MDGs within the agreed timetable