SDGs, ICT and Social Innovation

Connecting the DOTs

1. The three pillars of sustainable development 1. Economic growth 2. Social inclusion and 3. Environmental sustainability.

The Three Pillars of SD

2. The UN Sustainable Development Goals
    o   Universal, unlike the MDGs
    o   17 goals
    o   169 targets
    o   232 indicators
    o   Innovation part of Goal 9 alongside infrastructure and industrialization
    o   Target 9.c calls for universal and affordable access to the Internet, especially in least developed countries

3. ICTs in general and the Internet in particular as enablers for development, not goals themselves. Relevance of the digital divide.

4. Social innovation has been around since the mid 19th century. Big comeback started in the 2000s.
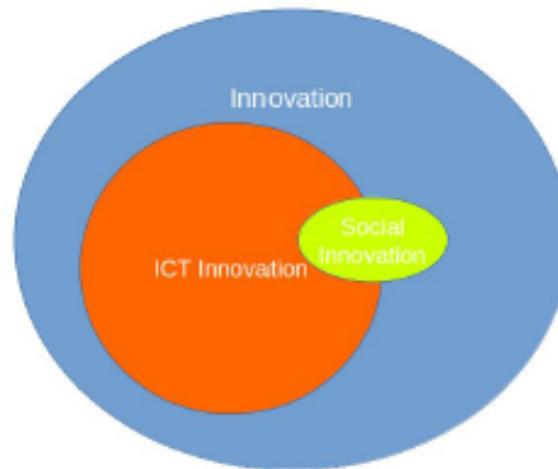
5. ICTs and social innovation

ICT Social innovation

6. Social inclusion linked to stakeholder participation in decision-making processes that will impact their own lives

7. Social innovation to promote social inclusion, not just economic growth.

8. Social innovation to foster participation, stakeholders as part of design and prototyping, also involved in implementation and impact assessment.

9. SDGs need both ICT and social innovation in order to be achieved, particularly in low income and least developed countries. Social innovation and new technologies: Machine learning and blockchains.

10. Social innovation is not a panacea. Development policies, institutional and human capacities and a human development approach are also key ingredients. A sustainable development ecosystem provides fertile ground to social innovation.