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The disparities hinder global economic growth by holding back people and businesses from using new technology to trade more efficiently.



Sindy Peters 15 Nov 2019



## Solutions

The report outlines steps that governments could take to help close the gap. This includes designing policies and laws that foster digital trade, and up-skilling people in science, technology and maths.

It proposes better access to broadband internet through cheaper rates and public access, noting that achieving 50% penetration across the Commonwealth would raise members' combined national income by \$74bn to \$263bn.

The report also encourages the use of “smart” technology in agriculture and fisheries to trace products, set up e-payment systems, and connect to suppliers and markets.

The Commonwealth's acting head of the Connectivity Agenda, Kirk Haywood, said: “It is vital that all Commonwealth countries adapt to the advent of a digitalised global economy in order to achieve sustainable economic development while leaving no-one behind.”

The report was launched at the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda Cluster Week, where member countries focused on how to deepen trade and investment with each other.



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Leigh Andrews 25 Nov 2019



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## Connectivity Agenda

The Connectivity Agenda is a flagship programme adopted by leaders in 2018, aimed at boosting trade within the Commonwealth to at least \$2tn by 2030. Work is carried out through five 'clusters' or working groups focusing on digital, physical, supply side, regulatory, and business-to-business connectivity. The outcomes of Cluster Week will feed into the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in June.

Read the full report [here](#).

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