



9 July 2013 - UNDP Administrator Helen Clark spoke today at Activate summit in London about the links between technology and digital media and the next development agenda.

In an interview prior to the Activate Summit, Helen Clark referred to the open participation of people in policy making and governance as one of the enablers of sustainable development.

“I support participatory approaches to development which drive inclusive growth, equity and environmental sustainability. The role of technology is central in getting broad engagement in development and in driving development itself.”

Helen Clark gave a keynote interview at the conference on “The role of technology in building open and responsive institutions” which feeds into the overall theme of the event “Transforming the world through digital innovation, technology and openness”.

UNDP is a key player in the development field using technology to drive engagement and

development itself. Together with the UN Development Group, UNDP launched a global conversation via social media, other websites and face-to-face meetings in order to involve people in the post-2015 development process.

“So far, more than 750,000 people from 194 countries have participated. The feedback suggests that people want the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) attended to; inequality tackled, women empowered and the environment protected. They are saying that it's not only access to services like education which matters, but also their quality. They want open, honest and responsive government too. Technology has a role to play in achieving that.”

Technology enables wider dialogues on shaping the post-2015 agenda and helps drawing a clearer picture of what people need to empower their lives.

UNDP is also using technology to make its operations more efficient and transparent: since January, UNDP published more than 50 audit reports, and continues to provide information in accordance with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

“It could be said that technology is taking us towards high-definition development – because the extent of communication we have with people paints a picture closer to that of a flat screen.”