

UN says world has 6 billion cell phone subscribers

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The world now has nearly as many cell phone subscriptions as inhabitants.

The U.N. telecom agency says there were about 6 billion subscriptions by the end of 2011—roughly one for 86 of every 100 people.

In a report Thursday, the [International Telecommunication Union](#) said China alone accounted for 1 billion subscriptions, and India is expected to hit the 1-billion mark this year.

The Geneva-based agency says 2.3 billion people—or about one in three of the world's 7 billion inhabitants—were Internet users by the end of 2011, but there's a strong disparity between rich and developing countries.

ITU says 70 percent of people who use the Internet live in wealthier, [industrialized countries](#), compared with 24 percent who live in poorer, [developing nations](#).

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