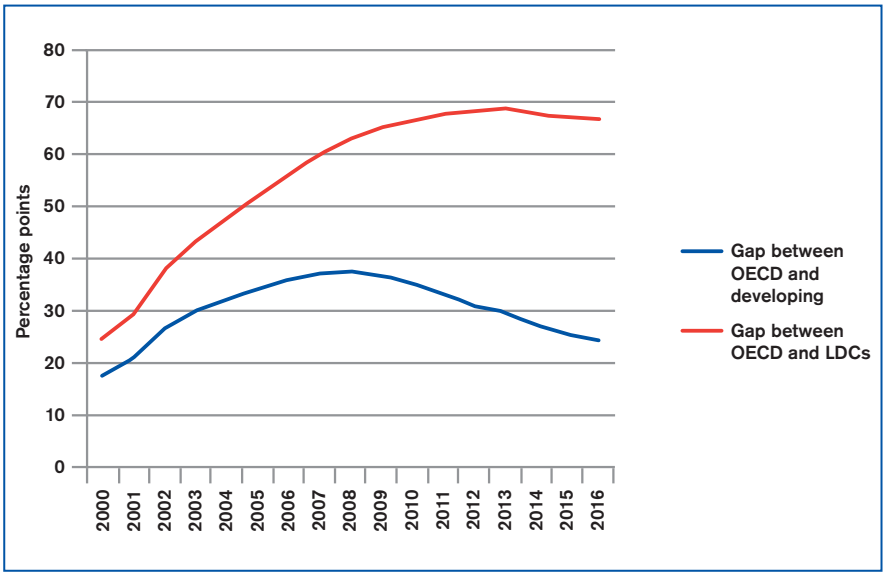
Figure 17 Gap in internet use (per 100 inhabitants)



Source: Author's calculations based on ITU/ICT Indicators.

More worrisome is the growing bandwidth gap (see Figure 18). Not only do fewer people in developing countries, in particular LDCs, have access to the internet, but they also have access to less powerful telecommunications installations and a limited bandwidth speed. Worldwide disparities in terms of the distribution of installed telecommunication bandwidth are large and significant: in 2014, just three countries (China, Japan, the United States) hosted 50 per cent of the globally installed bandwidth potential (Hilbert, 2016). This concentration is not new – historically 70–75 per cent of the global telecommunication capacity has been in the hands of 10 countries – but if nothing is done in the years to come to address this "double gap", in terms of access to the internet and bandwidth capacity, inequality will continue to grow and the deployment of technologies like Blockchain may exacerbate disparities by *de facto* cutting out those that do not have the technical capacity to participate in them. Instead of benefiting from the opportunities opened by the technology, small firms and producers, in particular those from developing countries and LDCs, would be left further and further behind. The risk is not negligible. Indeed, the evidence already shows that MSMEs are lagging behind in adopting digital technologies (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2017).