



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 16 October 2020

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regulators
- Regional organisations

Subject: ITU Global Innovation Forum, virtual, 26 - 30 October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 2020 Global Innovation Forum, which will be held online from 26 to 30 October 2020, under the theme **Mainstreaming competitive digital innovation ecosystems in the age of COVID-19**. The event is a five-day immersive programme that will take the participants on global and regional learning journeys to prepare them to accelerate digital transformation in their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how critical entrepreneurship-driven innovation is for economic growth and digital inclusion. The crisis has resulted in stress on value chains and countries' readiness for a digital economy, significantly affecting social conditions worldwide.

Entrepreneurs around the world are working to unlock their communities' economic potential; policymakers to develop competitive ICT industries and community leaders to create economic growth. However, few communities have access to an enabling environment, as key ecosystem stakeholders often fail to understand, act, develop and renew the competitive practices that fuel digital transformation.

ITU's Global Innovation Forum will empower participants with new approaches, insights, tools, frameworks, communities and relevant case studies to understand how to create sustainable digital innovation ecosystems.

Each day will have a different focus:

- **Day 1** will highlight the challenges to meeting digital transformation ambitions and the roles and challenges of an ecosystem.
- **Day 2** will provide new insights about mainstreaming entrepreneurship and demystifying resource requirements for your ecosystem.
- **Day 3** will focus on the power of success stories and building communities that fuel innovation and start-up cultures.
- **Day 4** will bring a regional dimension with insights about how digital innovation policy monitoring and good practices that can be amplified.
- **Day 5** will bring everything through the lenses of change-makers to explore how to bring resources owners, problem owners and solutions owner together for greater digital inclusion.

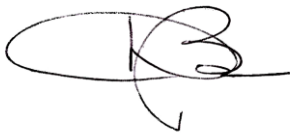
Additionally, each day is structured into three tracks for maximum learning by participants: a **high-level dialogue track** with keynote presentations and dialogues by experts; an **ecosystem champions track** that will deliver skills, tools and expertise on digital transformation; and a **networking and digital experience track**.

The event is targeted at digital change-makers, policymakers, the private sector, academics, entrepreneurial support organizations, entrepreneurs, financiers, community development managers, international organizations and media.

For more information about the ITU Global Innovation Forum, please visit [our website](#) or send an email to innovation@itu.int. To participate in the Forum virtual meetings, please, [register here](#).

I also invite you to share this invitation with local stakeholders, youth, entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders and start-ups in your country. I look forward to your active participation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DBM', written in a cursive style.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director