



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



Ref.: Circular BDT/DIR/071

Geneva, 15 January 2021

- ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional/International Organisations
- UN Agencies

Subject: The Road to Addis: Partner2Connect – rethinking partnerships and their role in accelerating connectivity for sustainable development, 2 February 2021, 13h30-14h30 CET

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the second virtual event of The Road to Addis series to be held on Tuesday 2 February, from 13:30 to 14:30 CET. The event will focus on Rethinking Partnerships and their role in accelerating connectivity for sustainable development.

The Road to Addis, a series of events hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), was launched in November 2020 to build momentum towards the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2021, strengthen partnerships and engagement, and help shape, with key stakeholders, the connectivity agenda.

Hosted by the Government of Ethiopia from 8 to 19 November 2021, WTDC-21 will be preceded by a Youth Summit. For the first time, WTDC will take place in Africa. As we know, the vital role of connectivity in building Africa's future prosperity cannot be overstated, and more and more governments across this huge and diverse region are prioritizing digital development as their springboard to sustainable growth and future resiliency.

WTDC-21 represents the best chance we have had in decades to mobilize the global community around digital transformation and reshape Africa's connectivity agenda and the agenda of all developing countries. We have reiterated many times the need for collaboration. It is only by working together through strong partnerships that we will succeed in leveraging each other's strengths and align our work effectively to overcome digital development challenges and accelerate digital transformation for all.

I hope that the event planned on 2 February will motivate participants to engage in new partnerships for connectivity. We also plan to launch a call to action on partnerships to be included in "The Connectivity Road to Sustainable Development", the major deliverable of The Road to Addis series.

WTDC is not only an ITU conference, but it is the global digital development conference of 2021. It is very important to work together to make digital development a reality for all. I look forward to welcoming you to this special session on 2 February.

To participate please register [here](#). For further information, please visit the [event web page](#).

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director