



Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)



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Geneva, 26 May 2021

- To
  - Administrations of ITU Member States;
  - Regulatory Authorities;
  - ITU-D Sector Members and Associates;
  - Academia;
  - Regional and International Organizations concerned;
  - All Emerging Technology concerned stakeholders.

**Subject: Invitation to ITU's Global event on Emerging Technology for Connectivity: Accelerating Digital Transformation in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, 5 – 9 July 2021 and Capacity Building on Emerging Technology, 11 – 16 July 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to the **ITU's Global event on Emerging Technology for Connectivity: Accelerating Digital Transformation in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs** which will take place from 5 to 9 July 2021, followed by capacity building events from 11 to 16 July 2021.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, people the world over have been relying more and more on ICT networks. As a result, connectivity and technology have never been more important than it is now. In planning for the new normal, there is a role for new and emerging technology to play to encourage greater participation in the digital economy as well as facilitate digital transformation.

The overall objective of the event is to promote the wide scale deployment of emerging technology to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ITU hopes we can convene the event annually with a new theme each year and targeting a number of SDGs. The focus this year is on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and targets SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities or SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Aligned with the objectives of the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), the event will provide a platform to discuss and engage in the use of emerging technology for connectivity, with the aim to accelerate the digital transformation of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and close the digital divide.

To this end, the event will touch upon on the essential, fundamental features of emerging technology for connectivity, as well as specific application fields for Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Big Data, low earth orbit satellites, 5G, digital government, blockchain among others.

This event will highlight potential challenges and solutions, as countries plan for economic recovery and prepare for the new normal. It will showcase best practices, enlarge the space for participation and support

efforts to leverage emerging technology in endeavors to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

More specifically, the following themes will be discussed during the event:

- **Day 1:** Trends on emerging technology for connectivity and digital transformation;
- **Day 2:** Fundamentals of emerging technology for connectivity, such as cybersecurity, networks and infrastructure, spectrum;
- **Day 3:** Role of emerging technology to connect the unconnected and accelerate the digital transformation of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS;
- **Day 4:** Intelligent connectivity and applications (AI, Big Data, IoT) and their impact on the digital transformation of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS;
- **Day 5:** Emerging technology for connectivity in the post Covid era.

The event will be conducted online with simultaneous interpretation in the ITU's official languages for most of the sessions. All information related to the event organization, including the Agenda and practical information is available on the ITU website at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/ET/2021/Pages/default.aspx>.

You are invited to register online using the following link **by 21 June 2021 at the latest:** <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/meetings/registration/index.asp>. No participation fee is required for this event.

Should you require any further information regarding the event, please do not hesitate to contact ITU colleagues ([tns@itu.int](mailto:tns@itu.int)).

Given the importance that the topics have for the global digital economy and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, I count on your availability and participation to make this event a success.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin  
Director