



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



Ref.: Circular BDT/DIR/088

Geneva, 19 May 2021

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

Subject: The Road to Addis: Lead2Connect. Redefining Leadership and its role in connecting the unconnected, 22 June, 13:00 to 14:30 CEST

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s fifth virtual event of The Road to Addis series to be held on 22 June, from 13:00 to 14:30 CEST. This session of the Road to Addis Series will focus on Leadership as a driving force to achieve digital transformation and universal connectivity. The session will be part of the program of ITU's [Global Symposium for Regulators \(GSR\) 2021](#) and aims to inspire the work of this group in every corner of the world by featuring leaders from different spheres who can share valuable lessons about their own experience in accomplishing the unimaginable.

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

Hosted by the Government of Ethiopia, WTDC 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 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.

I hope that the event planned on 22 June will inspire attendees of the GSR and the global online community and provide a platform where we all can learn valuable leadership lessons from different sectors and assess how they can be applied to connectivity for sustainable development.

WTDC is not only an ITU conference, but it is the global digital development conference. 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 22 June.

The session, with interpretation in the six UN languages, will be on Zoom. To participate please register [here](#). For further information, please visit the [event web page](#).

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director