



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



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Geneva, 22 July 2021

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

**Subject: Road to Addis - Youth2Connect: Empowered Youth Shaping the Digital Agenda,
12 August, 13:30 to 15:00 CEST**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the seventh virtual event of The Road to Addis series to be held on 12 August, from 13:30 to 15:00 CEST. This event will take place on International Youth Day 2021, and will be in line with the Youth 2030 agenda to work with and for young people. The event encourages the participation of young people as equal partners alongside the leaders of today's digital change, empowering youth with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future.

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), 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. 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 event on 12 August, which I hope will inspire participants, highlight the digital experiences, opportunities and challenges facing young people, and encourage governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international organisations to develop and share strategies, policies, plans, data, and practices that accelerate the inclusion, empowerment and engagement of youth in the universal connectivity agenda.

The session 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