



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



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Geneva, 30 July 2021

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

Subject: Save the date - Road to Addis: Partner2Connect Meeting, 20 September 2021, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. EST

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to join us at the **Road to Addis: Partner2Connect Meeting**, which will take place in **New York, USA** on **September 20**, from **8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. EST**. The event is held on the margins of the 76th UN General Assembly.

This event will take place in a **hybrid** format (physical and online participation) and will present the key takeaways and the future of the Road to Addis series, including the launch of the [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#), as well as the kick-off of its preparatory work. During the event, we will also launch the *LDC's Connectivity Report*, which is a joint publication by ITU and UNOHRLLS, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Today, about half of the world's population remains unconnected. The digital divide continues to be a challenge particularly for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The COVID-19 pandemic brought in a sense of urgency for the global community to come and work together to extend universal access to digital connectivity, not only for socio-economic progress, but also for the advancement of every one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is why attending this meeting is so important.

After almost a year of productive and engaging discussions around the [six enablers](#) of connectivity for sustainable development, we will continue our journey towards the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC, 6-15 June 2022) and the Partner2Connect Summit at WTDC, by examining the key outcomes of the [Road to Addis Series](#), and by launching the second part of this effort. The discussions for this second part of the Road to Addis series will evolve around the four Focus Areas of the [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#):

- 1. Connecting People Everywhere**
- 2. Empowering Communities**
- 3. Building Digital Ecosystems**
- 4. Incentivizing Investments**

The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition is a multi-stakeholder alliance to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in hardest-to-connect communities, including those in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Coalition will serve as a leadership platform to mobilize new resources, partnerships and commitments to drive the implementation of meaningful connectivity and digital transformation projects across the four Focus Areas mentioned above.

In the coming weeks my team will be reaching out to you with more details about the programme. The links to register for the event will also be available soon. For further information on the Road to Addis Series or the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, please visit: [ITU Road to Addis](#) and [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#). In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact my colleague Ana Sepulveda at Partner2Connect@itu.int

We look forward to your confirmation.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director