**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.:   BDT/DNS/TNS/DM/197   Geneva, 28 June 2021

Permanent Representatives to the United
Nations in New York, United States

Permanent Representatives to the United
Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

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

Madam/Sir,

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

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, people all over the world have been relying more and more on ICT networks.
As a result, connectivity and technology have never been more important than they are 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). 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) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Aligned with the objectives of the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)
and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), 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.

I would also welcome the opportunity to explore with you how we can best bring the outcomes of this event
into discussions in the lead up to and at LDC5.

…/…

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 .

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director