
PLENARY MEETING

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28 September 2018
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Note by the Secretary-General

CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (BDT)

Further to the information published in Document 3, I have pleasure in transmitting to the Conference, in annex, the candidacy of:

Dr Cosmas ZAVAZAVA (Republic of Zimbabwe)

for the post of Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union.

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General

Annex: 1



ZIMBABWE

**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA**

Note No. 269/2018

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and has the honour to transmit a letter from the Minister of Information Communication Technology and Courier Services of Zimbabwe, Honourable Kazembe KAZEMBE, to the Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr Houlin ZHAO presenting Dr Cosmas ZAVAZAVA as a candidate for the post of Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the ITU.

An endorsed Southern African Development Community (SADC) candidate, Dr ZAVAZAVA has been involved in work related to the deployment and use of information and communication technology over 30 years. As Chief of the Department of Projects and Knowledge Management in the ITU as well as in the various roles he has held over the years, Dr ZAVAZAVA has applied himself to addressing the specific needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, Small Island Developing States, and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society, without prejudice to the needs of developed countries. His successful election would continue to help the international community to leverage information and communication technology for all.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself this opportunity to renew to the International Telecommunication Union, the assurances of its highest consideration.



28 September 2018
Geneva

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Zimbabwe

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19 September 2018

H.E. Houlin ZHAO

Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Geneva, Switzerland

Sir,

Your letter dated 23 October 2017 that concerns the preparations for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in 2018 (Ref. CL-17/42), refers. I have the honour to **officially inform you** that the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe has decided to present the candidature of Dr. Cosmas Zavazava for the post of Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau of the international Telecommunication Union.

For over 30 years, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava has been involved in work related to the deployment and use of information and communication technology in developing countries, among developing countries, and between the private sector and ITU Member States. In his work, he prioritized the specific needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, Small Island developing states, and vulnerable groups in our society.

As an endorsed Southern African Development Community (SADC) candidate, the Governments of Zimbabwe and those of SADC believe that Dr. Cosmas Zavazava when elected will continue to help the international community to leverage information and communication technology for sustainable development.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration,


Hon. Kazembe Kazembe

Minister of Information Communication Technology & Courier Services, Zimbabwe

Attachment: CV and Brochure (6 languages), and Photo, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava





ICTs FOR A BETTER LIFE
BUILD DEVELOP TRANSFORM

VISION STATEMENT

My belief is that the Telecommunication Development Bureau should at all times be Member driven, responsive to the needs of the Member States, efficient, innovative, transparent and accountable. I commit to be results-oriented, innovative, and to uphold integrity, financial discipline, hard work, honesty, and humility.

In a rapidly changing global information society, our responsibility is to foster the development of broadband access, particularly in developing countries, making it a powerful vehicle for sustainable development while at the same time giving a human

face to telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) through the safe delivery of new applications that will positively impact people's lives. In order for this to happen, there is need to promote win-win public-private partnerships in order to attract investment into the ICT sector; create a conducive environment for dialogue among all stakeholders that include regulators and industry; build institutional and human capacity in Member States; and strengthen data collection, analysis and reporting as part of measuring the Information Society.

I understand the challenges that are associated with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am committed to leverage modern information and communication technologies to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the **eradication of poverty, mitigation of climate change, making universal healthcare and education a reality, and saving lives through effective disaster risk reduction and management**, while prioritizing the specific needs of vulnerable members of our society. Through collaborative effort by all stakeholders based on a shared vision, we will get the Development Sector make a positive impact on people's lives.

CURRICULUM VITAE

A highly experienced telecommunications professional, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava holds a PhD in multilateral trade, and three Masters degrees in Business (MBA), Law (LLM) and International Relations (MA). He also holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (BBA), and two diplomas in Telecommunications and Systems Engineering. His training and his experience spanning 30 years in the telecommunication/ICT sector have equipped him with skills and competencies that make him a suitable candidate for Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau. He has worked in a multi-cultural environment for over 20 years and has a track record for implementing information communication technology related projects/activities in all the regions of ITU.

EDUCATION

- PhD. on Multilateral Trade (Lausanne, Switzerland)
 - Master of Laws in Telecommunications and Information Technology Law (LLM), United Kingdom (Scotland)
 - Masters in International Relations (MA), Missouri, United States of America - (*Suma cum laude* and received Academic Leadership Award)
 - Masters in Business Administration (MBA), Zimbabwe
 - Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, USA-Japan Campus
 - Diplomas in Telecommunications and Systems Engineering, Romania and Japan)
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Telecommunication Union (in the BDT)

2010 - present **Chief, Projects and Knowledge Management Department** responsible for formulation and implementation of projects, project monitoring and evaluation. Produce and disseminate timely statistical and analytical data on the ICT Sector and the Information Society. Support countries with building human and institutional capacity in ICTs. Provide assistance in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, e-waste management, and concentrated assistance to least developed countries, Small Island developing states, and landlocked developed countries.

2002 -2011 **Head of Division for the least developed countries, small island developing states, emergency telecommunications, e-waste management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation**

2003-2006 **Head Business Development Division**

2001-2002 **Head Least Developed Countries Division**

2001-2002 **Consultant, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau at ITU headquarters**

Government of Zimbabwe

1997-2000 **Minister Counselor, Zimbabwe Permanent Mission (Switzerland)**

1994-1997 **Head, Government Telecommunications Agency**

1989-1997 **Head of Projects Division**

1985-1989: **Second Secretary, Zimbabwe Embassy to Japan**

1983-1985 **Communications Officer, Communications Division**

1982 **Technical Officer, Department of Civil Aviation**

***1993- 1996** **Taught MBA Classes at Nottingham Trent University**

ITU CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1. Addressed many United Nations conferences at Heads of State and Government level (e.g. Second United Nations Conference for Small Island Developing States held in Mauritius in 2005, Fourth United Nations Conference for the Least developed countries held in Turkey in 2011, Third United Nations Conference for the Small Island Developing Countries held in Samoa in 2014, Second United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Hyogo, Japan in 2005, United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which was held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015).
2. Organized and spoke at national, regional and international events on information and communication technologies, development, disaster management, climate change, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, ICT indicators, capacity building, etc.
3. Designed and developed a project that has become a major initiative of ITU to support countries in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters. For the first time in the history of ITU, I mobilized extra-budgetary resources for the procurement of emergency telecommunications equipment. To-date, the equipment has been deployed to almost all the regions of the world and has benefitted many countries across the globe to include: Pakistan, Malawi, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya, Cape Verde, Dominica, Suriname, Peru, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Haiti, Chile, Myanmar, Chile, China, Samoa, Micronesia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Japan, Nepal, China, Tonga, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, etc. The equipment has also benefitted major United Nations Agencies to facilitate their operations e.g. WHO, UNHCR, IOM.
4. Launched a project for telecommunication infrastructure reconstruction for countries emerging out of war situations or natural disasters under the “Countries in Special Need” campaign of ITU and mobilized extra-budgetary funds to finance the project. Some of the countries that benefitted include Sierra Leone, Somalia, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, East Timor, Guinea, and Eritrea.
5. Launched a project on **big data** to curb the spread of the Ebola disease initially focusing on Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. The project is now being replicated to benefit more countries in Africa and across the globe and will go beyond the Ebola disease to also enhance response efforts on other epidemics.
6. Mobilized extra-budgetary financial and equipment resources worthy millions of dollars for a host of projects that include emergency telecommunications, countries emerging out of war situations,

connectivity for small island developing states, internet connectivity for developing countries, etc.

7. Launched a **big data** project for official statistics.
8. Organized and held 23 Partnership Round Tables attended by Governments, Private Sector, Development Banks, Foundations and other Development Partners to promote and attract funding for telecommunication/ICT projects submitted by Least Developed Country Member States.
9. Established an **E-Waste Coalition** led by ITU and composed of United Nations Agencies, Private Sector and other Partners.

OTHER ROLES IN ITU: 2002 - 2018

1. Served on and chaired ITU Committees that include:

- Procurement Selection Panel (Chairman)
- Appointment and Promotion Board
- Joint Advisory Committee (Vice Chairman)
- Web Editorial Board

2. Served as Secretary to World Telecommunication Development Conferences as follows: 2006 (Working Group of Plenary on the Declaration and Strategic Plan); 2010 (Committee 4 on Regional Initiatives and Projects); 2014 (Secretary of Plenary and Steering Committee); 2017 (Working Group of Plenary on the Declaration and Strategic Plan)

AWARDS

1. Academic Leadership Award (Webster University, Masters in International Relations)
2. *Suma Cum Laude* (Webster University, Masters in International Relations)
3. ITU Performance Staff Award (2009)
4. Significant Contribution to Community (Business School Lausanne- Alumni Hall of Fame, 2012)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Languages: English, French, Romanian, Japanese, and Shona
Date of Birth: 12 April 1961
Nationality: Zimbabwean
Marital Status: Married, with two children (Son and Daughter)