



## General Secretariat (SG)

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To

- United Nations and its specialized agencies
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- ITU Academia, universities and their associated research establishments

Subject: **Invitation to the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21)  
16-18 December 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have great pleasure in inviting your Organization to attend the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21).

The purpose of this global policy forum is to provide a venue for discussing and exchanging views and information on telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory matters, especially on global and cross-sectoral issues, with non-binding outcomes.

The 2019 ordinary session of the ITU Council, by Decision 611, decided to convene the sixth WTPF (WTPF-21) in Geneva, Switzerland, for a duration of three days. It further decided that the theme for WTPF-21 is as follows:

*“Policies for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development:*

*The WTPF-21 would discuss how new and emerging digital technologies and trends are enablers of the global transition to the digital economy. Themes for consideration include AI, IoT, 5G, Big Data, OTTs, etc. In this regard, the WTPF will focus on opportunities, challenges, and policies to foster sustainable development”.*

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Council in 2020 decided that WTPF-21 would take place in Geneva, Switzerland, **from Thursday, 16 December to Saturday, 18 December 2021** with extensive remote participation.

As with the previous Forum, the WTPF will be open to all Member States and Sector Members. ITU academia, universities and their associated research establishments, UN Organizations, Informal Expert Group (IEG) Members, the public, and the media are also invited to attend.

I am pleased to share with you below details on the planned arrangements to facilitate your attendance in the event.

## **Strategic Dialogue**

In accordance with past practice, the Strategic Dialogue will be held on 16 December 2021 from **0930 to 1130 hours** (Geneva time) before the opening of the WTPF. High-level speakers will address policies related to new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies to foster sustainable development.

## **Programme of the sixth WTPF**

- The WTPF will open on 16 December 2021 at **1400 hours** (Geneva time).
- The draft agenda is annexed to [Decision 611](#).
- Daily sessions will be held from **1000 - 1200** and from **1400 - 1600 hours** (Geneva time), except on 16 December, when the session will finish at **1700 hours**.
- Plenary sessions and meetings of the various Working Groups of the Plenaries will be interpreted in six languages and captioned.
- The detailed draft programme is available at <https://www.itu.int/wtpf21/en/agenda>

## **Preparatory process**

The Informal Experts Group (IEG) has made significant progress under the chairmanship of Dr Fabio Bigi (Italy) in furthering consensus on the thematic areas set out in the Secretary-General's Report, including the proposed draft Opinions. At the sixth meeting of the IEG, on 24, 27, and 28 September 2021, the experts have nearly finalized the text of the Report and the draft Opinions. At the last meeting of the IEG on 15-17 November 2021, the experts will formally conclude the preparatory process and submit the Report and the draft Opinions to the Forum for discussion and adoption. .

The final draft of the Secretary-General's Report will be available at: <https://www.itu.int/wtpf21>.

## **Venue**

The event will take place in Geneva on 16-18 December 2021 in the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG). It will be preceded by a Heads of Delegation meeting that will be held on **16 December 2021 at 0830 hours** in the CICG.

## **Registration for the Forum and the Strategic Dialogue**

Participants are encouraged to register online as soon as possible at the Forum website: <https://www.itu.int/wtpf21/en/register/>. Registration is required for **all participants** of the Forum and/or the Strategic Dialogue.

Participants who wish to **participate remotely may select this option upon online registration**. Webcast will also be provided.

**Badges** for the Forum and the Strategic Dialogue will be **photo badges** and can be collected at the Varembe Conference Centre (CCV), right across the street of CICG.

While registering for the event, please duly take into consideration the information related to the sanitary measures and conditions of entry in Switzerland.

Information on badge collection and opening hours of badging desks will be available on the website and in the confirmation of registration for each participant.

**Documentation**

The WTPF-21 will be conducted in a fully paperless manner. Documentation will be made available on the website of the Forum.

**General information for participants**

Information for participants related safety and security measures in force as of 20 September 2021 are available in the [Annex](#). Participants are strongly invited to consult the safety and security information ([at ITU COVID security page](#)) where updated information will be posted before making travel arrangements to attend the event.

I look forward to welcoming you to the sixth WTPF.

Yours sincerely,

*(signed)*

Houlin Zhao  
Secretary-General

**Annex: 1**

## ANNEX

### INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS ON MEASURES IN PLACE IN GENEVA AND IN CIGG

(INFORMATION AS OF 20/09/2021 - PLEASE CONSULT THE [ITU COVID SECURITY PAGE](#) FOR ANY UPDATE)

#### 1. COVID MEASURES IN SWITZERLAND

The measures and ordinance in place are available at:

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/massnahmen-des-bundes.html>

#### 2. RECOGNIZED COVID CERTIFICATE

The COVID certificate is a way of documenting that you have had a COVID-19 vaccination, have had the disease or have a negative test result. This applies to both the Swiss COVID certificate and to recognized foreign certificates (e.g. the [EU Digital COVID Certificate](#)). You will find more information on the COVID certificate at <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/covid-zertifikat.html>

#### **Issuance of a Swiss COVID certificate for persons vaccinated abroad with a vaccine approved in Switzerland, authorized by the EMA or the WHO**

- As of 20 September 2021, all persons residing in or entering Switzerland can obtain a Swiss COVID certificate from the competent cantonal authority if they have been vaccinated abroad with a [vaccine licensed in Switzerland or authorised by the EMA](#).
- As the [EU Digital COVID Certificate](#) is recognized in Switzerland, persons in possession of such a certificate do not have to apply for a Swiss COVID certificate.
- Delegates can also obtain a Swiss COVID certificate if they have been vaccinated abroad with a vaccine validated for emergency use by WHO. To do so, they must consult and apply before their travel at <https://www.ge.ch/en/covid-19-certificate>.
- Persons vaccinated abroad with a vaccine not approved by Switzerland, the EMA or the WHO can still obtain a Swiss COVID certificate after a negative PCR or rapid antigen test, valid respectively for 72 hours or 48 hours.
- From 10 October 2021, pursuant to the decision of the Swiss Federal Council, tests performed to be issued with a Swiss COVID certificate will no longer be free of charge. The concerned persons will have to bear the costs.

For more information, you can consult the Swiss Mission's information note on the Swiss Covid certificate [https://www.dfae.admin.ch/dam/mission-onu-omc-aele-geneve/en/documents/COVID-19-Notice%20informative-Certificat%20Covid%20suisse\\_EN.pdf](https://www.dfae.admin.ch/dam/mission-onu-omc-aele-geneve/en/documents/COVID-19-Notice%20informative-Certificat%20Covid%20suisse_EN.pdf)

#### 3. COVID MEASURES FOR WTPF

Pursuant to Article 19 of the COVID-19 Ordinance on Special Situation, the current restrictions do not apply to meetings required to ensure the proper functioning of institutional beneficiaries (foreign representations and international organisation) under Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Host State Act. Thus, international conferences, working meetings and events of permanent missions and international organizations may, under certain conditions, derogate from limitations of health measures in force.

Nevertheless, ITU will strive to create an environment that is as safe as possible for participants. A protection plan will be prepared that would have higher levels of mitigation measures than requested by the Swiss Government which would include the following:

### **Measures prior the event**

- Dedicated Protection Plan to be prepared;
- Strongly encourage participants to request a Swiss COVID certificate (i.e., available to those participants who have been vaccinated with Swiss approved vaccines);
- Virtual queuing for event badge distribution/pick-up;
- COVID-19 Airborne Risk Assessment (CARA App Tool) of CIG venue meeting room facilities;
- Sanitary and hygiene measures provision (e.g., hand sanitizing solutions, wipes, waste bins...).

### **Measures during the event**

- Badging and registration to be undertaken at CIG CCV => contact tracing in place;
- Queuing path outside CIG venue;
- (Swiss & EU or WHO-EUL) recognized and valid COVID Certificates or COVID-19 Negative Tests – i.e., PCR 72-hours, Antigen 48-hours, which will be checked with QR-code readers, or if required manually, at the CIG access point;
- Sanitary medical tent outside of CIG venue (Rapid antigen testing & COVID Certificate delivery capacity valid for 48 hours);
- Temperature control of all participants at the entrance access point to the CIG (ITU's Thermal Imaging Camera System);
- Social distancing (seating minimum of 1.5-meter separation);
- Wearing of face mask mandatory inside the CIG.