



General Secretariat (SG)

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Ref: **DM-21/1025**
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To Member States of ITU Council

Subject: **Update on the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Further to the consultation of all Member States carried out by Circular Letter [No. 21/19](#) of 14 May 2021, the Council, with the concurrence of the majority of the Member States, decided to convene the next World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in Addis Ababa from 6 to 15 June 2022 at the kind invitation of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Preparations for the conference have been underway in partnership between the Host Country and ITU.

Council 2021 decided that the Secretary-General should confirm details of the hosting of world conferences at least six months before the scheduled dates. On this basis the Secretary-General committed to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) that an update on hosting of WTDC would be provided to membership by 6 December 2021.

On 2 November 2021, a state of emergency for a duration of six months was imposed by the Ethiopian Government due to civil unrest in the Country. Over recent weeks, the Secretary-General has closely monitored the situation in Ethiopia and engaged with the United Nations Security team, with a view to ensure that the event is conducted in an atmosphere of security and tranquility for all delegates and staff. Based on the security restrictions (which include a travel ban) currently in place for United Nations staff and the advice of ITU's Chief of Security, the Secretary-General has informed me that it is not possible for ITU staff to travel to Addis Ababa to engage in necessary on-site planning for the conference. It is unclear if and when the situation will normalize to the extent necessary to enable the conference to be planned or held in Addis Ababa.

With only six months remaining until the scheduled dates for WTDC, and in consultation with the Chair of the Virtual Consultation of Councillors (VCC), it is now necessary and urgent to examine options for the next WTDC while bearing in mind the expectation of membership that this conference will take place in the Africa Region.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Dr Elsayed Azzouz
Chair of the Council