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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY | |

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| Summary  The purpose of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. WTISD marks the anniversary of the signature of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union on 17 May 1865.  Action required  The Council is requested **to note** the celebration of WTISD 2022 on the theme “Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”which was approved by correspondence after the C21/VCC-1 in 2021.  The Council is also requested **to approve** the theme **“Digital technologies for Road Safety”** for WTISD 2023.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  UNGA Resolution [60/252](https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/res60-252.aspx); Resolutions [68](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-068-E.pdf), [71](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-071-E.pdf), [200](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-200-E.pdf) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council documents [C19/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0017/en), [C20/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0017/en), [C21/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0017/en) |

# 1. Background

1.1 *World Telecommunication Day* has been celebrated annually on 17 May **since 1969**, marking the date of the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was formally instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga‑Torremolinos in 1973. In recognition of ITU as the lead United Nations agency for ICTs, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, November 2005, called on the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim 17 May as World Information Society Day ([see paragraph 121 of the Tunis Agenda](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html)).

1.2 On 27 March 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 60/252, proclaiming 17 May as *World Information Society Day* to focus global attention annually on bringing the enormous benefits of the digital revolution in ICTs to the world’s inhabitants.

1.3 The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in November 2006 welcomed the General Assembly’s decision and amended [Resolution 68](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-068-E.pdf) to invite the Council to adopt a specific theme for each *World Telecommunication and Information Society Day*.

**2. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022**

2.1 This year, ITU will add its efforts towards the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030), while continuing to promote the [Connect 2030 Agenda](https://itu.foleon.com/itu/connect-2030-agenda/home/) for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development (Resolution 200, Rev. Dubai, 2018), especially on Goal 2: Inclusiveness.

2.2 WTISD 2022’s theme, **“Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”** will allow ITU membership, partners and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the important role of telecommunications/ICTs in supporting people to stay healthy, connected and independent, physically, emotionally and financially -to a life of healthy ageing- and as critical for the sustainability of economic and health systems.

2.3 For this, ITU membership is encouraged to continue leveraging telecommunications/ICTs by fostering enabling environments that ensure accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities; and improving the proportion of youth/adults with telecommunication/ICT skills, to contribute to the achievement of Targets 2.9 and 2.10 of the Connect 2030 Agenda.

2.4 On 17 May, WTISD 2022 will take place in the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 (WSIS). By integrating WTISD into WSIS, ITU assures to reach many more stakeholders than via a separate event; as well as to promote WSIS Action Lines (C1, C3, C6, C8), the ICT and Older Person’s Special Track, and the Sustainable Development Goals (3, 10, 11, 16, 17).

2.5 All information related to WTISD 2022 can be found on the dedicated website [www.itu.int/en/wtisd](http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd) (available in the six UN official languages).

**3. The theme for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2023**

3.1 Reducing road mortality by half, which is a UN target for 2030, could save 675,000 lives a year. Knowing where and when road traffic crashes happen is crucial to address the problem. Advances in digital technologies may be used to enhance road safety for all road users, including vehicles and vulnerable road users (motorized and non-motorized, e.g., pedestrian, cyclists, motorcyclists, electric scooters, etc.).

3.2 To add ITU’s efforts towards the UN Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030) and recalling the successful WTISD 2013 on “ICTs and improving road safety” where, after 10 years, hundreds of people continue to access the multimedia material, the proposed theme for WTISD 2023 is “**Digital technologies for Road Safety**”.

3.3 In light of the recently established “[AI for Road Safety](https://aiforgood.itu.int/about/ai-ml-pre-standardization/ai4roadsafety/)” Initiative, launched on 6 October 2021 (see Launch event [here](https://aiforgood.itu.int/event/ai-for-road-safety/)) as a collaboration between the ITU, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety and the UN Envoy on Technology, this theme will harness the value of AI in supporting the safe system approach, which aligns with the vision set forth by the Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety.

3.3 The proposed theme for WTISD 2023 will be in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution ([UN A/RES/74/299](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/299)) on Improving Global Road Safety, which highlights the role of innovative automotive and digital technology, as well as in line with the [UN Secretary General’s roadmap on digital cooperation](https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/).

3.4 The theme will also be in line with Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) which defines the Strategic Plan of the Union (2020-2023), the Connect 2030 Agenda Goal 4: Innovation (Target 4.1), as well as with WSIS Action Lines (C1, C2, C6, C7, C11), and the Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 11 (Targets 3.6 and 11.2).

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