



General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 9 February 2022

Ref: **CL-22/4**

Contact: Ms Béatrice Pluchon

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To Member States of ITU

Subject: **Consultation by correspondence on the change of place and dates of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

As a follow-up to the letter [DM-21/1025](#) sent to all Member States of the ITU Council informing that it had become necessary and urgent to examine options for the next World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), Member States of the ITU Council held informal consultations on 21 January 2022.

Councillors agreed that hosting the WTDC in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, was no longer a feasible option. United in their wish to maintain the conference in Africa if possible, they sought proposals from African Member States for an alternate venue.

On 30 January 2022, the Secretary-General received an official invitation from the Government of Rwanda to hold the next WTDC in the city of Kigali from 6 to 16 June 2022, immediately preceded by the Youth Summit starting on 2 June 2022.

In accordance with No. 42 of the Convention, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States was consequently carried out by letter [DM-22/1000](#) of 2 February 2022.

As a result, as per [DM/1001](#), I am pleased to inform you that Council agreed on the change of place and dates for the next WTDC to Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022.

Pursuant to No. 46 of the ITU Convention, all Member States of ITU having the right to vote are now invited to inform the Secretary-General of their concurrence with the change of place and dates of WTDC-21 as described above, by using the new [online tool](#)*, or using the template in [Annex 1](#) by e-mail to memberstates@itu.int, **not later than Friday 18 February 2022**. The Secretariat remains at your disposal if needed.

* **Online tool:** Each Administration Focal Point can access directly the online tool by using her/his ITU User account with TIES access login details (username and password). Any Administration Focal Point wishing to designate another person to respond to the Consultation through the online tool is invited to inform ITU via memberstates@itu.int, providing the Username of that designated person. Please note that the online tool is in English only.

If your country has already responded to the first consultation sent via [DM-22/1000](#) to Council Member States, **your reply to the first consultation will also be considered as valid** with regard to this consultation of all Member States, **unless otherwise notified by the Councillor or the Administration Focal Point in writing by e-mail to memberstates@itu.int.**

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General

Annexes: 2

[Annex 1](#) – Consultation on the change of place and dates of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21)

[Annex 2](#) – Invitation letter from Rwanda

ANNEX 1

Consultation on the change of place and dates of WTDC-21

Name of the ITU Member State:

We agree to the change of place and dates of WTDC-21 to Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022:

Yes

No

Abstention

Focal points are kindly invited to send their reply via the [online tool](#), or alternatively by e-mail to memberstates@itu.int not later than Friday 18 February 2022.



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of ICT and Innovation

Kigali, January 29th, 2022
Ref: 011/MIN/2022

Houlin ZHAO, Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20, Switzerland
Switzerland

Dear Secretary General,

Subject: Rwanda's Interest to host the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2022

Reference to the circular issued on 6th December 2021 updating ITU Council Member States on the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21), and the need to explore alternative options for a host country for the next WTDC 2021 given that Addis was no longer an option.

Reference is also made to subsequent informal consultations held regarding the hosting of the WTDC 2022; in which councillors expressed the wish to maintain the conference in Africa. Through these consultations Rwanda expressed its willingness to host the WTDC 2022 in Kigali, starting from June 2nd to June 16th, 2022 as an alternative to Geneva.

Rwanda boasts world-class MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conference, and Events/Exhibition) infrastructure and a diverse range of international and local hotel brands supported by an excellent doing business environment. The iconic Kigali Convention Centre is the proposed main venue for WTDC 2022. Kigali has hosted major global events including the African Union Summit, AU & EU Summit, World Economic Forum, and Transform Africa Summit among others. There are other state of the art venues that would be available for any additional engagements.



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of ICT and Innovation

The country enjoys excellent air connectivity through the national carrier-Rwandair, which flies to almost 30 destinations in Africa and around the world. Additionally, international airlines such as KLM, SN Brussels, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Egypt Air and Kenya Airways also offer regular services to Rwanda. Furthermore, Rwanda has an open visa policy where all nationalities get visas on arrival with visa waiver for all citizens of the Member States of the African Union, the Commonwealth, and Francophone countries, while the rest of the visitors pay \$50 for visa fees upon arrival.

With 90% of Kigali residents fully vaccinated, Rwanda is ranked 1st in Africa, 6th globally in COVID-19 management & making the information accessible to the public. Rwanda is committed to working together with ITU to successfully host the WTDC 2022 in Kigali..

I take this opportunity to commend ITU's collaboration with Rwanda. We strongly believe that hosting the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Rwanda will continue to strengthen the ITU initiatives already established in our country and the region as a whole.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the expression of our highest consideration and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Ingabire'.



Paula Ingabire
Minister of ICT and Innovation

Cc: Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
KIGALI