



General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 22 February 2022

Ref. Circular No.CL-22/007 - SG/BDT

To the Administrations of the Member States of the Union

Contact: Mr Stephen Bereaux

Telephone: +41 22 730 5131

Telefax: +41 22 730 5484

E-mail: wtdc@itu.int

Subject: **Invitation to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to my circular letter CL-22/006, I have the honour to inform you that, following the kind invitation of the Government of Rwanda and the approval by Council with the concurrence of a majority of the Member States of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the forthcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21) will be convened in **Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022**.

World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs) are convened in the period between two Plenipotentiary Conferences to consider topics, projects and programmes relevant to telecommunication development. WTDCs set the strategies and objectives for the development of telecommunication/ICT, providing direction and guidance to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).

The next WTDC comes at a defining moment for the world and our place in it. The COVID-19 global pandemic has brought home the stark reality that in today's hyper-connected economies, connectivity is not just important, it is critical. As it is increasingly clear that digital solutions will be instrumental to the success of this final Decade of Action in achieving the SDGs, our joint efforts will be more decisive than ever. In recognition of the central role of ICTs, and as decided by TDAG at its meeting on 23 November 2020, the theme selected for WTDC is **"Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development"**.

I have the great privilege of inviting your Government to be part of this important mission and to send a delegation to WTDC. This is in accordance with Article 25 of the ITU Convention and Section 3 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies, and meetings of the Union.

WTDC will be preceded by the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit, which will also be convened in Kigali, Rwanda, from 2 to 4 June 2022. The Summit, the first of its kind, is an exciting opportunity to foster sustainable innovation and digital inclusion which will provide youth representatives from across the world with the opportunity to build new digital skills, debate and network with global decision makers of the ICT sector. The outputs of the Youth Summit will serve as important inputs to the global policymaking WTDC. In order to make this opportunity a reality, Member States are invited to include youth in their delegations to the Conference.

WTDC will also feature the Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtables, scheduled to take place on 7-9 June 2022. This event, to be held within the WTDC, will offer Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and

other stakeholders an opportunity to engage in high level discussions around the challenges and opportunities related to digital development, make concrete pledges and forge new partnerships. The event will afford opportunities for high-level participants to the conference including Ministers, Chief Executives and other leaders in the ICT development sector, to offer their commitments and pledges to ICT development.

Further details on the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit, or the Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable, including how to participate, will be published on the [WTDC-21 website](#).

I further refer to Resolution 55 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on Mainstreaming a gender perspective for an inclusive and egalitarian information society, and in line with this, encourage you to include women experts in your delegation in addition to supporting their active involvement in ITU-D activities. The Network of Women established in ITU-D provides the platform for the engagement and empowerment of women, within the year and at the WTDC itself.

The draft agenda of WTDC-21 is also attached to this letter, for your easy reference. This agenda was endorsed by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) at its 8-12 November 2021 meeting and is being submitted to the 2022 session of Council and afterwards to all Member States, for approval.

Member States are informed that this invitation is also being sent to Sector Members of the Telecommunication Development Sector, to ITU Academia, as well as to all concerned organizations, institutions, and entities in conformity with Article 25 of the ITU Convention and Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).

The draft structure of WTDC-21, along with the practical details concerning registration, fellowships, procedures, and deadline for the submission of contributions will be sent to you in due course. Rest assured that whatever COVID-19 measures are relevant at the time of the Conference will be strictly applied.

All the relevant information to the ITU-organized Regional Preparatory Meetings is available on the [RPM website](#).

The outcome of the work of the TDAG Working Groups is also available on the [WTDC-21 website](#).

I very much look forward to your participation and contributions to ensure that WTDC-21 is a solution-oriented conference that makes a real difference in the lives of all citizens in the world.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Houlin Zhao

Annex 1: Draft Agenda WTDC-21

Annex 1

Draft Agenda
World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21)

The draft agenda for the forthcoming WTDC is being submitted for approval to Council at its 2022 session, and afterwards to all Member States through a consultation by correspondence.

I. Report on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan

1. Update on global digital transformation and reporting on the implementation of the WTDC-17 Buenos Aires Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives), contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. Report of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group
3. Report of Study Groups
4. Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work:
 - a. Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18)
 - b. Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-19)/World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19)
 - c. World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)

II. ITU-D work plan for 2022-2025

5. Outcomes of Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-21
6. ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027
7. ITU-D Thematic Priorities
8. ITU-D Action Plan for 2022-2025
9. Addis Ababa Declaration
10. Telecommunication Development Advisory Group
 - a. Authorization for the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication development conferences (Resolution 24, Rev. Dubai, 2014)
 - b. Structure and working methods
11. Study Groups
 - a. Study Questions
 - b. Structure and working methods
12. Resolutions and recommendations

III. Partner to Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) – non statutory

13. P2C Digital Coalition
 14. Any other business
-