General Secretariat (SG)

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Subject: ***World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), 17 May 2023, 'Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies'***

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that, to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of ITU on 17 May 1865, this year World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD-23) will focus on "Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies".

There are still 46 least developed countries (LDC) since this category was officially established in 1971 by the UN General Assembly. Representing around 1.1 billion people, 14% of the world's population, and more than 75% of those people still living in poverty [1], LDCs are in a race against time to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In addition, about two-thirds of these countries' population remains offline, facing numerous barriers to meaningful connectivity, including lack of infrastructure, affordability, and skills[2].

The year 2023 brings together the 5th United Nations Conference on the LDCs to accelerate sustainable development in the places where investments and international assistance are most needed. At the same time, the world's least developed countries are the planet's greatest untapped resource. Investment in these young vibrant countries can help drive sustainable growth for generations.

That is why WTISD 2023 is a great opportunity for ITU to present the work the Union does, together with its membership and partners, to support LDCs, as well as to highlight the need to increase efforts to leave no one behind and accelerate the rhythm to achieve the ITU goals of universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation by 2030.

To do so, I invite you to join and/or add your pledges to the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition to support the LDCs through international cooperation and partnerships. Throughout the year, ITU will be reflecting existing and new pledged initiatives and highlighting their impact. For more information and details about ITU's birthday celebrations, you can follow us through the WTISD dedicated website www.itu.int/wtisd and social media. We will share more details with you as they become available.

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[1] UN LDC: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134087

[2] ITU: Facts and Figures: Focus on Least Developed Countries

Please share your pledges, success stories, good practices, solutions, publications, and policies designed to meet present and future challenges of LDCs by sending them to strategy@itu.int. For photo and video materials, please find the technical requirements in Annex 1.

I look forward to celebrating the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2023 together.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General

Annex 1

Video and photographic footage requirements

Rights of use
- Content provided to ITU can be used at the discretion of ITU and not limited to the creation of assets for WTISD.
- Any copyright details provided to ITU will be acknowledged in any final products using the material, wherever possible.
- All ITU members will be able to use the final product to highlight their role addressing the theme of WTISD-23 and our shared goals.

Content requirements
- All content needs to be provided clean, with no watermarks or logos, if possible.
- Please provide video content in the highest quality feasible. Ideally FULL HD 1920 x 1080 either 25p or 50i, but other formats and frame rates will also be acceptable.
- Photographs should be supplied unedited and in RAW file format if possible.

Type of content
- Hero shots
    - A hero shot is a shot of the principal character in their environment that singles them out. Ideally the hero is the beneficiary or those delivering digital transformation.
- Technology in action
    - Show technology in different environments, in action, being used and/or being produced.
- Setting shots to provide context
    - Shots of local populations going about their day.
    - Shots of the location.

How to share content
- Please upload all the footage using the following upload link:
  https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/ITUvideo

For further details on audio-visual content, please contact:

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