



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 24 November 2020

Administrations of ITU Member States
Regulators
ITU-D Sector Members and
Academia

Subject: Call for nominations to join the new Generation Connect Visionaries Board

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recently launched Generation Connect, a global initiative that wishes to include the voice and promotes the action of youth for digital transformation. Generation Connect is the overarching initiative of the ITU Youth Strategy on the journey to World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21) and beyond. The three pillars of the ITU Youth Strategy are: Empower, Engage and Participate.

Generation Connect aims to engage global youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today's digital change, empowering young people with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future.

We will focus our work on youth in a strategic, coordinated and systematic way, to be Fit4Purpose, to reduce the youth digital divide, to improve the lives of young people around the world and to ensure the participation of youth in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy has been supported with the establishment of a new ITU youth task force.

ITU will also organize and host the WTDC 2021 – Generation Connect Global Youth Summit in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, in November 2021, where we wish to engage with young people in relation to ITU's future work.

Involving young people is particularly important for the work of ITU, because youth are natural adopters of technology. Young people are the ones who will inherit the world that technology is now shaping. It is vital that we hear their voices, listen to what they want from technology. That they become part of the solution to the challenges the world is facing.

As part of the efforts to further champion the voices of youth to advance digital development and cooperation, a new **Generation Connect Visionaries Board** will be assembled.

The objectives of the Generation Connect Visionaries Board will be:

- To offer strategic guidance to the ITU on youth participation and empowerment.
- To identify and invite strategic partners to ensure youth engagement and youth participation in digital cooperation.
- To advocate for meaningful youth engagement in digital cooperation, through different promotional activities, such as active social media campaigning and inspirational role model talks.

Two ITU representatives, six nominated high-level appointees and six nominated youth experts/young people, will work together on a voluntary basis, over a first period of a year – 2021, to achieve the board's strategic objectives.

I would like to invite ITU Members to nominate representatives of youth related organizations, Member States, the private sector and academia, to be part of the Generation Connect Visionaries Board, who are currently active champions for youth engagement, empowerment, and participation.

We are looking for outstanding people who are passionately involved in digital cooperation and are true believers in the role that youth need to play towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The terms of reference for the Board and the application form can be found in the following link: <https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/generation-connect-visionaries-board/>. The nomination deadline is 6 December 2020.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sylvia Poll (sylvia.poll@itu.int), Head of the Digital Society Division.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director