



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular-BDT/DIR/1

Geneva, 25 January 2023

To:

- ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional and International Organizations
- UN Specialized Agencies

Subject: Launch of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development**. This Alliance offers a new framework that will build critical local enablers to bridge the digital innovation gap and empower ITU membership to overcome challenges in navigating our changing digital environment.

The Alliance is being launched pursuant to Resolution 90 on 'fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric entrepreneurship Digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development', and resolution 89 on 'Digital Transformation for sustainable development' adopted by the last World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) held in Kigali, Rwanda in 2022.

I am pleased to note that the goals of the Alliance are also aligned with the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the Global Digital Compact, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through this Alliance, we will **fast-track five strategic objectives** aimed at accelerating the journey towards an innovation-driven digital economy: trends research readiness, open technology innovation, entrepreneurship and SMEs growth, policy experimentation and unlock the potential of digital ecosystems initiatives. Through partnerships with governments, private sector, United Nations Agencies, and academia, we aim to build local innovation and entrepreneurship capabilities.

The Alliance will conduct its work through three primary vehicles:

- 1 An executive multi-stakeholder Digital Innovation Board** to guide the work of the Alliance, facilitate high-level coordination and engage in global advocacy.
- 2. A Network of Acceleration Centers** to enhance global, regional and national innovation capabilities for technology, policy and flagship initiative development.
- 3. A Digital Transformation Lab** to support the design and implementation of the network of acceleration centers and provide technical assistance for countries with no existing innovation capacity.

I invite you to join the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development by writing to: bdtdirector@itu.int.

The related Concept Note is contained in Annex 1. For more information on the Alliance, please visit the dedicated website at: <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/innovation-alliance/>.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Alliance Secretariat at innovation@itu.int.

I look forward to working with you to accelerate the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan in Innovation for Entrepreneurship in line with the mandate given to ITU Development Sector (ITU-D).

Yours faithfully,

[original signed]

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1: Concept Note on Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development