



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 1 September 2023

To:

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

Subject: Update on the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to share with you this update on the **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development**. As you may recall, I launched this Alliance on 25 January 2023 to offer a new framework to help countries build critical local enablers to bridge the digital innovation gap and empower ITU membership to overcome challenges in navigating our changing digital environment. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance works through three primary vehicles: A Network of Acceleration Centers, a Digital Transformation Lab, and an executive multi-stakeholder Digital Innovation Board.

The Alliance was established to respond to significant unmet needs of ITU Membership around innovation, as articulated in the Kigali Action Plan adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) and the Outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22).

It is my pleasure to announce that we have now selected 17 centers in the first cohort of the network of acceleration centers to deliver on the Alliance objectives. Out of around 44 applications from 35 countries, these first centers were chosen based on comprehensive selection criteria and assessment process.

This concludes the first step of establishing the Alliance. In the coming weeks, we will appoint the Alliance board.

Attached, you will find further information about the Alliance (Annex I), the evaluation process that led to the selection of centers (Annex II), and the list of selected centers (Annex III). The centers will start operating from early next year guided by a non-exclusive framework for collaboration with ITU through Cooperation Agreements in line with expected outcomes.

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 Membership to further the collaboration and impact of this initiative.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annexes: Annex I (About the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development), Annex II (Evaluation and selection process for Centers), Annex III (List of selected Centers)