Ref.:     BDT/DDR/ASP/DM/047          Geneva, 8 August 2024

To:
Administrations of ITU Member States in
Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)

**Subject:**     **Request for nomination of a focal point for the project titled:
'Feasibility study: Addressing the special telecommunications/ICT needs of the Pacific Small
Island Developing States (PSIDS)'**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to seek your support **to nominate a focal point** as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) undertakes a feasibility study on ITU's regional presence in the Pacific in regard to the implementation of a project titled "***Feasibility study: Addressing the special telecommunications/ICT needs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)***". This feasibility study aims to assess the telecommunications and ICT needs and identify opportunities and gaps in existing ITU support mechanisms in the Pacific subregion. The findings are expected to be presented to various upcoming meetings such as Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and Council sessions.

To ensure that right stakeholders are consulted and information and data are collected for this study, **each Pacific administration is kindly requested to designate a focal point** who will serve as the primary liaison with ITU's team throughout the project implementation. Your assistance in completing the attached questionnaire (Annex 1) is also requested to gather essential information about the status of ICT and digital transformation in your country. It would be appreciated if you could submit the completed questionnaire to Mr. Puji Pujiono at puji.pujiono@itu.int and Mr. Ashish Narayan at ashish.narayan@itu.int by 31 August 2024.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm ITU's commitment to supporting Member States in the Pacific and I look forward to working together to address the pressing telecommunications and ICT needs as highlighted in ITU Council Resolution 2020, the Kigali Action Plan of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22), the Pacific ICT Ministerial Declaration 2023 (Lagatoi Declaration) and the outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to your prompt response.

Yours faithfully,


[Original signed]

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director


Annex 1: ITU Questionnaire for Country Specific Information on Digital Transformation in the Pacific Small Island Developing States

**Annex 1**

**ITU Questionnaire for Country Specific Information on Digital Transformation
in the Pacific Small Island Developing States**

*The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), with support from the Government of Australia, is undertaking a feasibility study on "Accelerating Digital Transformation" to address the specific telecommunications and ICT needs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and to strengthen ITU's engagement in the region. The study will conduct a situation analysis and needs assessment to identify specific telecommunications/ICT needs, and will evaluate current institutional mechanisms and programmes, as well as ongoing regional assistance projects and programmes implemented by ITU and other similar organisations.*

Please answer the questions below and provide a copy or link to any documents or references that support your answer.

General
- Country:
- Government Authority:
- Government focal point:
- Date of questionnaire response:

**A. Geographical and socio-economic challenges**

1. What are the specific geographical and socio-economic challenges in your country that drive the urgency for digital transformation?

2. How do you assess ICT connectivity and accessibility in your country in terms of:
   a. the extent that connectivity is reaching and/or accessible to communities?
   b. the affordability of connectivity for the average citizen in your country?
   c. the extent that connectivity could withstand disasters or other disruptions?
   d. the extent that connectivity is equipped with protection to children, women and vulnerable groups?

3. How widespread is the availability of digital services to the population?

4. What efforts has your country made to promote digital literacy and digital inclusion?

5. What financial resources are available in your country for digital transformation?

B. **Endeavour in Digital Transformation**

6. Which document(s) best describe the current state of telecommunications/ICT development in your country?

7. In what forms and/or mechanisms do you coordinate and collaborate with other Pacific countries on digital transformation?

8. To what extent is your country implementing the following provisions of the Lagatoi Declaration?

   a. Digital transformation by creating an enabling environment and promoting universal and affordable access to connectivity for all

   b. Digital innovation and entrepreneurship by promoting digital strategies, policies and programmes, especially for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

   c. Digital Infrastructure by focusing on the availability and quality of networks and supporting infrastructure to increase coverage and penetration

   d. Digital Security and Trust by providing a safe and trusted digital environment through enabling policy and regulatory frameworks

   e. Digital capacity building and skills development, going beyond technical skills and promoting cultural understanding

   f. Regional cooperation and advocacy through effective multi-stakeholder collaboration with UN agencies and other bodies for a unified approach.

9. What are your country's digital transformation-related policies, strategies or regulatory frameworks?

10. What references are available to describe the digital transformation in your country?


C. **Key Needs and opportunities for Digital Transformation**

11. In what ways could digital transformation accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in your country?

12. What are the key requirements for accelerating digital transformation in your country in terms of:
    a. Connectivity and supporting infrastructure?
    b. Facilities/framework/mechanisms?
    c. Programmes ?
    d. Digital applications and services?
    e. Digital literacy and skills?

13. To what extent policy makers and government officials in your country are able to design, implement and assess the digital transformation?


D. **Support by UN Agencies and Development Partners**

14. Which UN agency and development partner programmes have been most important for digital transformation in your country?

15. What more do UN agencies and development partners need to do to accelerate digital transformation in your country?

16. What coordination between UN agencies and with other development partners has been most helpful for digital transformation in your country?
    a. What aspects of this coordination have been most effective?
    b. Where are the gaps in coordination?
    c. What needs to be done to improve such coordination?

**E. Your Country's Partnership with ITU**

17. About your country's engagement with ITU
    a. What type of ITU support has your country received for digital transformation?
    b. What other ITU support would your country most need?
    c. To what extent has your country been active in ITU processes such as TDAG, Council, WRC, WTSA, etc.?

18. What have been the gaps in terms of ITU support to your country due to the fact that it is based in Bangkok and Jakarta?

19. What benefits would your country potentially gain from an increased ITU presence in the Pacific?

20. What form should such an increased ITU presence in the Pacific ideally take?

*Your response is very much appreciated. We encourage you to provide any additional information that would further enrich your response to this questionnaire.*