



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 10 December 2024

- Administrations of ITU Member States,
- ITU-D Sector Members,
- ITU Academia, and
- United Nations Funds, Programmes, and Specialized agencies in the Pacific.

**Subject: Workshop on Digital Transformation for the Pacific, 12-14 February 2025, Suva, Fiji**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to a three-day workshop on Digital Transformation in the Pacific from 12-14 February 2025, which will be held in Suva, Fiji. The workshop is being organized in partnership with the Government of Fiji, and is supported by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) of the Australian Government as well as the Joint SDG Fund.

The workshop aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Share with members and partners experiences on digital transformation in the Pacific facilitated by the Joint Programmes (SDG Fund, European Union-funded programme for Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade-EU-STREIT) and projects supported by DITRDCA and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Build capacity on whole of government (GovStack), and strategies to embrace emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence).
- Share the findings of the telecommunication/ICT needs study for the Pacific, gather inputs from ITU Members and discuss the way forward.

The concept note, including the provisional agenda of the event, is attached in Annex-1. More information about the events, as well as updated draft agendas, can be found on the event website: <http://itu.int/go/ZV4G>.

With support from the Joint SDG Fund, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is pleased to inform you that up to two full fellowships may be offered per **ITU Member State of the Pacific sub-region** to attend this workshop. Full fellowships will cover the air ticket (one return economy class ticket by the most direct/economical route from the country of origin to the meeting venue), and an appropriate daily subsistence allowance intended to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses. Member States are encouraged to select their candidates taking into consideration the inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, bearing in mind gender balance. To apply for fellowships, candidates must complete the fellowship request form at <https://forms.office.com/e/CifGN9pGdr>, by **5 January 2025 at the latest**.

We also request all participants to register for the workshop by 31 January 2025 using this link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/Login.aspx?src=Registration&Event=C-00014887>.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ashish Narayan ([ashish.narayan@itu.int](mailto:ashish.narayan@itu.int)), Ms Rury Demsey ([rury.demsey@itu.int](mailto:rury.demsey@itu.int)) or Ms Lena Ostlund ([lena.ostlund@itu.int](mailto:lena.ostlund@itu.int)).

We look forward to seeing you in our workshop.

Yours faithfully,

*(signed)*

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava  
Director



12-14 February 2025, Suva, Fiji

Supported by



Australian Government  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

## Workshop on Digital Transformation for the Pacific

### 1. Background

Digital transformation is a very high priority for countries in the Pacific, *aligned* with the ITU Strategic Plan, ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives, Pacific ICT Ministerial 2023 Lagatoi Declaration, SIDS4 Conference, and the United Nations SDCF Pacific 2024. Several countries have developed or are in the process of developing their national and sectoral digital transformation strategies. In addition, the countries have undertaken several steps towards the implementation of these strategies.

ITU is currently part of the three UN Joint Programmes supporting the countries in these areas including a) Accelerating SDG achievement through digital transformation to strengthen community resilience in Micronesia (SDG Fund) - ITU (lead), FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNODC; b) Advancing the SDGs by Improving livelihoods and resilience via economic diversification and digital transformation (SDG Fund) - ILO (lead), ITU, UNESCO, UNODC, UNOPS, OHCHR; c) European Union-funded programme for Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade (EU-STREIT) in Papua New Guinea - FAO (lead), ITU, ILO, UNCDF, UNDP, which are drawing to a close in 2025. In addition, ITU has been supporting through projects by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) of the Australian Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to facilitate digital transformation and enhance ITU regional presence in the Pacific.

ITU has been assisting Members through development of national digital transformation strategies, building skills at national and community levels, providing strategic advice, supporting emergency telecommunications and cybersecurity, as well as facilitating Smart Islands. Furthermore, countries in the Pacific have requested ITU to raise awareness and build capacity in areas of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital government technical implementation (GovStack), amongst others. ITU is also currently undertaking a study on identifying the priority telecommunications/ICT needs of the countries in the Pacific and the means to serve these needs. It will also serve as an important input as Members in the Pacific prepare for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25).

A three-day workshop is proposed in the Pacific bringing together ITU Members, partners, donor agencies, and academia to share experiences from the ongoing programmes and projects, and to discuss and validate the priority needs study.

### 2. Workshop Objectives

The workshop aims to achieve the following objectives:

- **Share experiences on digital transformation in the Pacific with Members and partners facilitated by the Joint Programmes (SDG Fund, EU-STREIT) and projects (DITRDCA, ADB), and attract partnerships.**
- **Build capacity on whole of government (GovStack), and strategies to embrace emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence).**

- **Share the findings of the telecommunication/ICT needs study for the Pacific, gather inputs and discuss the way forward**

### 3. Target Audience

The workshop will invite ITU Members in the Pacific, including government officials, policymakers, UN agencies, partners and representatives from various sectors involved in digital transformation in the Pacific.

### 4. Dates

The workshop is scheduled to take place from 12-14 February, 2025 in Suva, Fiji.

### 5. Expected Outcomes

- Achievements, best practices and learning lessons from digitalization activities in the Pacific shared with Members, partners, donors, academia and other stakeholders.
- Enhanced partnerships in the Pacific to accelerate digital transformation.
- Comprehensive understanding of using a whole-of-government approach to digital government and emerging technologies in the Pacific.
- Telecommunications/ICT needs assessment for the Pacific countries, undertaken as part of the ITU-DITRDCA project, validated.

## DRAFT AGENDA

### Day 1 (12 February 2025)

0800 - 0900	Registration
0900-0945	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITU representative</li> <li>• UNRC representative (tbc)</li> <li>• Government of Fiji representative (tbc)</li> </ul> Group photo
0945-1015	Tea/coffee break
1015-1215	Whole-of-Government and GovStack <p><i>Objective: The session will share best practices on using a whole-of-government approach for digital transformation in the Pacific with emphasis on the technical framework for digital government facilitated by GovStack.</i></p>
1215-1315	Lunch
1315-1515	Deploying emerging technologies for digital transformation <p><i>Objective: The session will share experiences, best practices and strategies for deploying emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence, blockchain) to accelerate digital transformation.</i></p>
1515-1545	Tea/coffee break
1545-1630	Deploying emerging technologies for digital transformation (continued) <p><i>Objective: The session will share experiences, best practices and strategies for deploying emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence, blockchain) to accelerate digital transformation.</i></p>

### Day 2 (13 February 2025)

0900-1030	<b>Digital transformation in the Pacific – The power of partnerships</b> <p><i>Session: The session will share achievements and experiences from the UN Joint programmes and digitalization projects in the Pacific :</i></p>
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	<i>a) Accelerating SDG achievement through digital transformation to strengthen community resilience in Micronesia</i> <i>b) Advancing the SDGs by Improving livelihoods and resilience via economic diversification and digital transformation</i> <i>c) Supporting Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea</i> <i>d) ITU-ADB project on Smart Islands in the Pacific</i>
1030-1045	Tea/coffee break
1045-1215	Digital transformation in the Pacific – Country presentations and experiences  <i>Objective: The session will share country practices on digital transformation in the Pacific with a focus on national and sectoral strategies, digital government, Smart Villages and Smart Islands, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, and digital skills, among others.</i>
1215-1315	Lunch
1315-1545	Digital transformation in the Pacific – Country presentations and experiences (continued) <i>Objective: The session will share country practices on digital transformation in the Pacific with a focus on national and sectoral strategies, digital government, Smart Villages and Smart Islands, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, and digital skills among others.</i>
1545-1600	Tea/coffee break
1600-1700	Digital transformation in the Pacific – Country presentations and experiences (continued) <i>Objective: The session will share country practices on digital transformation in the Pacific with a focus on national and sectoral strategies, digital government, Smart Villages and Smart Islands, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, and digital skills among others.</i>

### Day 3 (14 February 2025)

0900-1030	Priority telecommunications/ICT needs of the Pacific <i>Session: The session will present the initial findings of the Priority telecommunications/ICT needs for the Pacific</i>
1030-1045	Tea/coffee break
1045-1215	Panel discussion: Investing, financing and partnering to scale digital transformation projects and programmes in the Pacific <i>Objective: The session will discuss ways and means to scale up and strengthen digital transformation initiatives in the Pacific.</i>
1215-1230	Workshop closing followed by lunch
1315-1545	Discussion on ITU-DITRDCA project on Feasibility study: Addressing the special telecommunications/ICT needs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) (ITU Members Closed Session)