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|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****4/13-E** |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| Report on the organization of an ITU Global Youth Summit in 2024 (GYS-24), in the lead to the World Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) |
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| **Summary:**In line with the decision made by TDAG-23 and endorsed by the ITU Council, the BDT will lead the development of the ITU Global Youth Summit ahead of WTDC-25.The ITU GYS-24 will tentatively be held from 11 to 13 December 2024 under the theme ‘*Amplifying Youth Voices in ICT for an Inclusive and Connected Future*’ with the main objective to facilitate a focused discussion on how the global digital ecosystem influences the educational and socio-economic development of young people globally. The Summit seeks to provide an opportunity for young people to debate and exchange views on their active participation in shaping the digital agenda that includes them.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**WTDC Resolution 76 (complemented by WTDC Resolutions 11, 37, 45, 46, 55, 58, 67) PP22 Resolution 198 (complemented by PP Resolutions 70, 175, 179, 184) |

1. **Background**

In line with the decision made by TDAG-23 and endorsed by the ITU Council, the BDT will lead the development of the ITU Global Youth Summit (GYS-24) under the theme of “*Amplifying youth voices in ICT for a Connected Future”* to be tentatively held from 11 to 13 December 2024.

The ITU GYS-24 will highlight the critical need for inclusion of all young people in the digital transformation process, irrespective of their educational, socio-economic status, abilities, or geographical location. The targeted goal is to ensure equal and equitable access to and use of ICTs by all young people, thereby supporting their active participation in the digital society, economy, and environment. The Summit will aim to cultivate a global intersectional and intergenerational conversation that engages young people and provide ITU Members, including governments, the private sector, academia, other UN agencies, and decision-makers, with a comprehensive and current vision of the ICT-related needs essential for empowering the youth from all regions of the world. This dialogue will aim to further enable Member States and interested and involved Parties to assess and incorporate these into their national, regional, and global digital agenda and thus contribute to the empowerment through ICTs of the current and future young generations.

The GYS-24 will produce an outcome document to be available to ITU members and other interested Parties committed to empowering the youth through access, use and knowledge of Information and Communication Technology (ICTs).

1. **Location of the ITU GYS-24**

BDT is currently exploring options with partners, who have expressed interest in hosting this global event. Any progress will be communicated during TDAG-24.

1. **Objective of the ITU GYS-24**

The Summit will aim to mark a pivotal step in recognizing and harnessing the potential of young minds in a digital world. The GYS-24 will offer a powerful convening platform for dialogue among global youth, stakeholders and decision makers (including ITU Member States, Private Sector, Academia, UN Agencies etc.) interested in identifying: i) what are the specific ICT requirements, needs and aspirations of young people to enable them to foster their educational and socio-economic development, ii) how ICTs should be designed, and deployed to empower all global youth, regardless of their gender, socio-economic background, ability or geographical situation, to equally and equitably access digital information and use the technology thus, actively participate in the digital economy and environment, iii) what should be done to turn these requirements and aspirations into impactful actionable steps forward, towards building a more inclusive digital society for present and future youth generations at national, regional, and global levels.

1. **Innovative Agenda and Interactive Sessions**

Over two-and-a-half days, the ITU GYS-24 will delve into various topics, including the emerging technologies critical for ensuring equal and equitable empowerment of all youth in the digital ecosystem. A co-creation process with youth, including the new cohort of Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) will be completed to validate the topics and themes of these different sessions. Discussions will be designed to focus on global and regional ICT priorities to foster young peoples’ educational, and socio-economic development, and involvement of youth as agents of change, and the creation of innovative solutions for an inclusive digital future. The Summit will promote intersectional and intergenerational dialogues, with interactive participation, featuring plenary sessions and workshops. There will also be an exhibition to showcase youth-led projects and activities, thus facilitating networking opportunities and collaboration to scale up and inspire similar initiatives. The draft agenda and draft programme of the GYS-24 can be found in the annex of this document.

1. **Participants and involvement of GCYE in the ITU GYS-24**

The ITU GYS-24 will also provide the opportunity to reinforce ITU leadership and commitment on digital inclusion for youth, ensuring that youth voices are heard and integrated into the global ICT development agenda, thus, paving the way for a more inclusive and connected future. The event will aim to capture a wide range of perspectives and opinions by youth on ICT related matters, especially from ITU GCYE and other young leaders representing various UN Youth Forums and Youth Organizations. To encompass ICT related discussion in other youth-centric forums like ECOSOC, Global ECPD Youth Forum, LLDC3 Youth Forum, Summit of the Future, among others, it is foreseen to extend invitations to youth representatives from these prominent global forums as participants of ITU GYS-24. The objective is to leverage existing platforms to gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs and requirements of the global youth concerning ICTs, and to provide ITU Member States with a detailed overview of these insights.

To ensure equal, equitable and gender balance representativeness of global youth as well as to enhance collaboration and increase the representation of national youth within the Generation Connect community, the BDT Director launched a call for Member States to nominate their national youth, who fulfil a pre-defined selection criterion, to become GCYE. This new cohort, jointly with other youth representatives and leaders in ICT related projects and activities from other Youth Organisations and Youth Forums, will be engaged in the co-creation of the ITU GYS-24 agenda to jointly develop an impactful and action-oriented global event.

***ITU members are invited to join the efforts of the BDT Director by covering the operational cost of this undertaking, including the financial support of fellowships of their national GCYE participants and other GCYE from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.***

1. **Anticipated Impact and Outcomes**

As a precursor to WTDC-25, the ITU GYS-24 is set to make a significant impact by strengthening youth engagement, amplifying youth voices in policy development, and enhancing global networks for advancing implementation of WSIS Action Lines and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and related global commitments for Development, including those being agreed at the upcoming UN Summit of the Future. The GYS-24 will produce an outcome document focused on the role of youth in the global ICT landscape to empower young generation worldwide, fostering their education, socio-economic development, and active engagement in the digital world. Since this outcome document will be elaborated prior to WTDC-25, ITU membership will have ample time to assess it and use it as deemed appropriate.

1. **Conclusion: Charting a Course for an Inclusive Digital Transformation**

By providing youth with a global and inclusive platform for sharing their voices and ideas, BDT reaffirms its commitment in shaping a digital future globally and its dedication towards empowering youth equally and equitably through the access, use and knowledge of ICTs in the digital age. By bridging the gap between youth aspirations and the global ICT agenda, the Summit aims to contribute meaningfully to the WTDC-25, ensuring that the future of telecommunications development is shaped by the innovative spirit and unique perspectives of young people with an inclusive and forward-thinking approach towards the development of a connected future globally.

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