



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

Ref.: Circular/BDT/DKS/DI/008

Geneva, 10 February 2026

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- State of Palestine (Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018))
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- National Regulatory Authorities

Subject: International Girls in ICT Day 2026 celebration

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that this year, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Global Celebration of the International Girls in ICT Day will be held on **23 April 2026**, jointly hosted by two regions: Europe (Albania) and the Americas (Brazil). It will be a hybrid event ensuring a live connection between Tirana and Brasilia, with global participation enabled through live streaming. Additional celebrations of Girls in ICT Day events from around the world will also be featured.

In Tirana, the event will be organized in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA) of the Republic of Albania while in Brasilia the celebration will be held in cooperation with the National Telecommunications Agency (ANATEL) and the Ministry of Communications of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

I am particularly pleased to highlight the theme of the 2026 global celebration "**AI for Development: Girls Shaping the Digital Future**", which is both timely and strategic. It conveys a clear message that girls and young women must engage with AI and emerging technologies not merely as users or beneficiaries, but as innovators, creators, leaders and decision-makers shaping inclusive, ethical and sustainable digital societies.

Our data highlights persistent gender disparities in digital access and use. According to the latest edition of ITU's [Facts and Figures](#), 77 per cent of men used the Internet in 2025, compared to 71 per cent of women. To build inclusive digital transformation, we must empower all girls and young women, regardless of ability, educational or socio-economic background, or geographical location, by ensuring equal and equitable access to and use of technologies, skills development, and leadership opportunities in the ICT sector.

I encourage you, as well as girls and schools in your country, to follow the live-stream celebration on our website [International Girls in ICT Day](#) - detailed information on how to follow the event will be posted soon.

To achieve our common goal of bridging the digital gender divide, I also invite you to mark Girls in ICT Day 2026 by organizing events, trainings, and hands-on activities and to engage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders in your country to jointly amplify the impact of these initiatives, on the Day of the celebration and throughout the year to make every day a Girls in ICT day.

You are invited to showcase your related events and activities on this topic on our ITU official platform [here](#).

For further information you may contact the ITU Digital Inclusion Service at girlsinit@itu.int; the ITU Regional Office for Europe at eurregion@itu.int. or ITU Regional Office for Americas at itubrasilia@itu.int.

I look forward to your engagement in making International Girls in ICT Day 2026 a powerful movement toward a more inclusive and equitable digital world.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Cosmas Luckynson Zavazava
Director