



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular BDT/DKS/DIR/012

Geneva, 18 March 2026

To:
Administrations of ITU Member States

Subject: Invitation to nominate young nationals to be part of the third cohort of Generation Connect Youth Envoys

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am delighted to invite all Member States to nominate young people as candidates to be part of the third cohort of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) [Generation Connect Youth Envoys](#) (2026-2030).

The Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) are young leaders nominated by Member States and selected by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). As a volunteer-driven global network, their engagement to strengthen youth participation in digital transformation by contributing to national, regional, and global ICT initiatives that advance meaningful connectivity and inclusive digital development for all youth, is essential.

The second cohort of GCYE (2024–2026) brought together 184 young leaders from 64 countries, who actively contributed to the work of the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D). Through initiatives such as the Knowledge Development Programme, the GCYE strengthened their capacity to advance digital development in their communities and regions, while engaging in ITU-D-facilitated regional youth consultations and participating in the Global Youth Summit and Global Youth Celebration in 2025, thereby amplifying youth perspectives in the global digital dialogue.

Building on this momentum, the proposed four-year term will enable the next GCYE cohort to engage throughout the implementation cycle of the Baku Action Plan, from its early stage to its conclusion, supporting sustained youth engagement in the ITU-D's work.

Each Member State is invited to nominate up to four (4) candidates, preferably ensuring gender balance in line with the eligibility criteria indicated in **Annex 1**. Member States and nominated candidates are encouraged to also review the terms of engagement of the GCYE detailed in **Annex 2**, to ensure full understanding of the voluntary nature of the programme and the expected level of commitment.

The Focal Points within ITU Administrations are kindly requested to further communicate the names and email addresses of the nominated national candidates to the Digital Inclusion Service at generationconnect@itu.int **by 30 April 2026**.

Following receipt of these nominations, the nominees will be contacted and requested to complete a form that will support the evaluation and selection process. Both Member States and selected candidates will be informed of the outcomes of the selection process in due course.

I look forward to continued engagement from Member States in empowering young people through ICTs, as outlined in the WTDC-25 Resolutions, particularly Resolution 76, and in ensuring that youth perspectives are central to the inclusive and sustainable digital development agenda.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1: Generation Connect Youth Envoys Eligibility Criteria

Annex 2: Generation Connect Youth Envoys Terms of Engagement

Annex 1: Generation Connect Youth Envoys Eligibility Criteria

1. Eligibility criteria for Member States nominations:

1.1 Nationality

Candidates must be nationals of the ITU Member State submitting the nomination.

1.2 Age

Candidates must be between 18 and 24 years old (born on or after 1 January 2002).

1.3 Education

Candidates from diverse educational and socio-economic backgrounds are eligible, including those from informal education (i.e. without recognised academic degrees). Young candidates from among those in vulnerable situations are also eligible.

1.4 Demonstrated engagement

Candidates must provide evidence of active involvement within the past 24 months in at least one of the following areas:

- Participation in youth-led or youth-focused initiatives
- Leadership or participation in digital inclusion or ICT-related projects
- Engagement in ICT-related education, skills development, research, or technical activities
- Entrepreneurship or innovation in digital or technology-related fields
- Active participation in community-level ICT-related initiatives

1.5 Commitment

Candidates must indicate strong motivation and willingness to actively participate in ICT-related activities, initiatives, events organized or supported by ITU, and respect and follow the United Nations System Code of Conduct in all their engagements.

2. Desirable Assets in the selection process:

Following the receipt of nominations, ITU Development Sector will contact the nominees and request them to complete a form that will enable further evaluation and selection process. Applicants' desirable assets will be measured by the following aspects:

2.1 Volunteer Work: Evidence of previous volunteer work to support educational and/or socio-economic development of youth and/or community at local level would be an asset.

2.2 Leadership and teamwork: Evidence of experiences that demonstrate previous leadership or collaboration and teamwork would be an asset.

2.3 Interest in UN and ITU related work to advance equal and equitable digital inclusion and/or educational and socio-economic empowerment through ICTs: Candidates who display commitment and dedication towards the realization of United Nations global goals, who express readiness to contribute to the UN and/or ITU global activities, regional initiatives to advance inclusive digital development, would be highly valued.

2.4 Insights on ICT-related challenges and solution to advance youth empowerment: Candidates who demonstrate sharp insights and observations on youth-related ICT challenges and solutions within their communities and regions would be an asset.

2.5 Focus on People in Vulnerable Situations: Candidates who demonstrate a strong commitment and concrete actions to support: women and girls, persons with disabilities, migrants, older persons, and people from remote or underserved communities, youth, in vulnerable situations, will be highly valued.

2.6 Education: STEM, Social & Human Sciences and Law studies represent an asset considering that these background studies will facilitate understanding and involvement of selected young leaders in the work of ITU.

3. Nomination and Selection process:

3.1 The nomination should be submitted by respective Member State by 30 April 2026.

3.2 Following receipt of these nominations, the ITU Development Sector will contact the nominees and request them to complete a form that will support the evaluation and selection process. Administrations and selected candidates will be informed of the outcomes in due course. Applicants will be contacted to provide proof of the information submitted in their application form (i.e., a copy of passport or national identification card, and/or other supporting documents).

3.3 In addition to usual application data [name, age, gender, country of nationality, country of residence, ITU region, academic and professional background, contact details, language], applicants are required to share a short biography (maximum 150 words) as well as their motivation in line with the eligibility afore-mentioned compulsory requirements and assets (maximum 1500 words).

3.4 The shortlist of applicants will be submitted to the Director of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau for review and validation.

3.5 ITU will follow up and inform the Administrations of the result of this process.

Annex 2: Generation Connect Youth Envoys Terms of Engagement

The [Generation Connect Youth Envoys](#) (GCYE) are young leaders nominated by ITU Member States and selected by the ITU Development Sector. As a volunteer-driven global network, they strengthen youth participation in digital transformation by contributing to national, regional, and global ICT initiatives that promote meaningful connectivity and inclusive digital development, particularly for young people in vulnerable situations.

Acting as catalysts within their communities, Youth Envoys bridge local perspectives with regional and global processes, translating international digital priorities into practical, community-driven actions aligned with broader sustainable development objectives. The contributions of GCYE reflect their individual views and perspectives and do not represent the official positions of their respective countries or of the ITU. As changemakers, they actively engage in ICT-related initiatives within their regions and beyond, supporting the advancement of a sustainable, inclusive, and people-centred digital future.

Background: Launched in 2020, the Generation Connect initiative has brought together two previous cohorts of GCYE, contributing to ITU processes and youth engagement efforts at regional and global levels. The GCYE covered all six ITU regions. Meet them at:

- [Generation Connect Africa \(GC-AFR\)](#)
- [Generation Connect Americas \(GC-AMS\)](#)
- [Generation Connect Asia and the Pacific \(GC-ASP\)](#)
- [Generation Connect Arab States \(GC-ARB\)](#)
- [Generation Connect Commonwealth and Independent States \(GC-CIS\)](#)
- [Generation Connect Europe \(GC-EUR\)](#)

The previous cohorts participated actively in respective Regional Preparatory Meetings in the build-up to the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference ([WTDC-22](#) and [WTDC-25](#)), co-designed, participated, and played a key role in the ITU youth summits in [2022](#) and [2025](#), and the [Global Youth Celebration 2025](#).

The third cohort of GCYE will serve a four-year term, from mid-2026 to mid-2030, enabling the cohort to engage throughout the full implementation cycle of the [WTDC Baku Action Plan](#) and contribute to sustained youth participation in the initiatives and priorities of the ITU Development Sector.

During this period, the Youth Envoys are expected to engage in ITU initiatives both online and offline, bringing youth perspectives and championing youth voices in the digital development dialogue, as outlines in the terms of engagement below:

Terms of Engagement¹

- **Support implementation of regional and global ICT initiatives at local level:** Engage in and support the implementation of ICT-related regional and global initiatives, including WTDC Regional Initiatives, by contributing to projects, consultations, roundtables, events, trainings, workshops, and webinars, in both online and in-person formats. This includes helping adapt global and regional priorities into relevant local actions and youth engagement activities.
- **Act as a local connector to advance global digital goals for youth:** Serve as a link between youth in your community and regional/global ICT development efforts by gathering youth perspectives, identifying needs and challenges, and integrating feedback, insights, and proposals into regional and global ITU platforms.
- **Promote digital inclusion for all youth and their empowerment:** Amplify and champion digital inclusion of all young people, with a particular focus on those in vulnerable situation, by raising awareness and promoting digital accessibility to eliminate barriers in the use of ICT products and services, sharing digital skills knowledge, including safe technology use, and supporting opportunities for youth participation in the digital society, economy and ecosystem.
- **Share knowledge, practices, and field insights:** Proactively contribute youth-focused insights, good practices, innovative ideas, and lessons learned, as well as challenges observed in your local environment, to support evidence-based progress at national, and regional levels.
- **Uphold neutrality and inclusiveness:** Promote youth digital inclusion while respecting diversity of views, maintaining political neutrality, and remaining within the agreed ITU thematic scope and values framework, as well as following the [United Nations System Code of Conduct](#).

The above-mentioned activities shall be closely coordinated with ITU Headquarters, ITU Regional Offices, and ITU Member States national administrations.

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Engagement of GCYE may extend regional initiatives and activities in line with WTDC 2025. Members may become involved in regional activities of varying commitment levels