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| **English only** |
| **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020** | |

**1. Background**

1.1. *World Telecommunication Day* has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the date of the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was formally instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga Torremolinos in 1973. In recognition of ITU as the lead United Nations agency for telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, November 2005, called on the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim 17 May as World Information Society Day ([see paragraph 121 of the Tunis Agenda](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html)).

1.2. On 27 March 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 60/252, proclaiming 17 May as World Information Society Day to focus global attention annually on bringing the enormous benefits of the digital revolution in ICTs to the world’s inhabitants.

1.3. The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in November 2006 welcomed the General Assembly’s decision and amended Resolution 68 to invite the Council to adopt a specific theme for each *World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)*.

1.4. The theme for WTISD-20 approved by the 2019 Session of the Council is “Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

1.5. The theme is also in line with Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which defines the Connect 2030 Agenda for telecommunications/ICTs, fully aligned with the strategic plan of the Union (2020-2023) and the global efforts to ‘Connect the unconnected’.

1.6. A briefing on the WTISD-20 plan has already been presented to the CWG-WSIS&SDG in September 2019.

**2. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020**

2.1. WTISD-20 will represent a unique opportunity for ITU membership to commemorate ICT’s contribution to the advancement of the Information Society, and to present the “Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development” (Resolution 200, Rev. Dubai, 2018) now linked to the Strategic Plan of the Union for the period 2020-2023, and specifically focusing on how technological advances in the coming ten years will contribute to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2.2. As per Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), ITU is committed to reaffirm a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, under the Connect 2030 Agenda envisaging "an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone".

2.3. The theme “Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, will allow ITU membership to focus on specific ICT-enabled solutions and emerging trends for fostering economic, environmental and social sustainability, contributing to the five strategic goals of the Connect 2030 Agenda: Growth, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, Innovation and Partnership.

2.3. The ITU secretariat has developed a more detailed plan of activities for the WTISD-20 celebrations, that includes:

* a Circular Letter sent to ITU membership with a call for action to endorse the high-level strategic goals and targets set out in the strategic plan of the Union and global broadband targets, as well as inspiring and inviting all stakeholders and entities to work together to implement the Connect 2030 Agenda, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
* a Toolkit explaining how the membership can be part of the celebration by explaining the objectives, the events that can be organized at the national, regional and international level, the expected contribution of the Connect 2030 Agenda, and providing different materials to support the activities;
* a WTISD-20 webpage where to post all success stories and national strategies towards “Connect 2030”;
* a visual identity and a communication campaign to promote the WTISD-20, and also to present the Connect 2030 Agenda, to strengthen the role of ICTs to accelerate the achievement of the UN SDGs, and to raise awareness of the importance of connectivity, as well as specific ICT-enabled solutions and emerging trends for fostering economic, environmental and social sustainability.

2.4. More information related to the WTISD-20 can be found in <https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/2020/Pages/default.aspx>.

2.5. The ITU secretariat will continue to communicate ITU membership about the preparations for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020 by official means and through the communications campaign.

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