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| **Council Working Group on WSIS and SDG 37th meeting – Virtual meeting, 22-23 September 2021** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-37/11-E** |
| **30 August 2021** |
| **English only** |
| Contribution by the Secretariat | |
| WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2021 and 2022 | |
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| **Summary**  This document provides information on the celebrations of WTISD 2021, under the theme “Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times”, and on the theme for WTISD 2022, adopted by correspondence after the C21\VCC-1.  **Action required**  Members are invited to note the document.  **References**  [UNGA Res. A/70/125](https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ares70d125_en.pdf); [UNGA Res. A/70/1](https://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1); [UNGA Res. 60/252](https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/res60-252.aspx); [ECOSOC Res. 2021/28](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/28); [ECOSOC Res. 2020/12](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2020/12); ITU PP Res. [68](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-068-E.pdf), [71](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-071-E.pdf), [130](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-130-E.pdf), [200](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-200-E.pdf) ; [ITU VCC Doc. C21/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0017/en); [CWG-WSIS&SDG-36/10-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0010/en) |

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2021 and 2022**

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/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html)).

On 27 March 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [Resolution 60/252](https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/res60-252.aspx), 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.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in November 2006 welcomed the General Assembly’s decision and amended [Resolution 68](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-068-E.pdf) to invite the Council to adopt a specific theme for each World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD).

The theme for WTISD 2021 approved by the 2nd Virtual Consultation of Councillors 2020 (C20/VCC-2) was “Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times”.

The theme was in line with Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 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’.

On 17 May 2021, and in the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS), WTISD was celebrated online, and addressed the importance of enhancing collaboration and cooperation across countries and sectors, while bringing together ITU Members and partners to showcase how governments, companies and academia can accelerate digital transformation through telecommunication/ICT in and for future challenging times.

The event was opened with the message received from the United Nations Secretary-General, and opening remarks from ITU Secretary-General. There was a High-level panel moderated by the ITU Deputy Secretary-General and integrated by representatives from Member States (Azerbaijan, Ghana, Pakistan, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, and the United States of America), as well as representatives from other UN Agencies (UN-Habitat and UNDP) who shared innovations and strategies that are making digital transformation happen today to the benefit of society, sustainability, and the economy of the future.

By integrating WTISD into WSIS Forum 2021, many more stakeholders were reached. The WSIS-related events were also an opportunity for all stakeholders to join the celebration and share with ITU their expertise, guidelines, challenges, lessons learned, success stories, case studies, good practices, solutions, publications, and policies put in place to better meet future challenging times.

All information related to WTISD 2021 can be found in the dedicated website [www.itu.int/en/wtisd](http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd) (available in the six UN official languages).

The proposed theme for the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022, “Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”, has been approved after the consultation by correspondence of the Virtual Consultation of Councillors 2021 (C21/VCC-1).

WTISD 2022 will allow ITU membership, partners and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the important role of telecommunications/ICTs in supporting people to stay healthy, connected and independent, physically, emotionally and financially – to a life of healthy ageing - and as critical for the sustainability of economic and health systems.

The theme for WTISD 2022 is aligned with Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) which defines the strategic plan of the Union (2020-2023) and the Connect 2030 Agenda, Goal 2: Inclusiveness (Targets 2.9, 2.10), as well as with WSIS Action Lines (C1, C3, C6, C8), the WSIS Forum ICT and Older Person’s special track, and the Sustainable Development Goals (3, 10, 11, 16, 17).

During the coming months, the ITU Secretariat will work on a detailed plan of activities for the WTISD 2022 celebrations, that will include:

* Circular Letter inviting the membership to participate actively in WTISD 2022 and to share their experiences;
* WTISD-21 webpage; and
* Communication campaign to promote the WTISD 2022.

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