



General Secretariat (SG)

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To

- Member States
- Sector Members
- State of Palestine (Resolution 99)
- United Nations and its specialized agencies
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- ITU Academia, universities and their associated research establishments
- Permanent Missions

Subject: **Important update on the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21), 16-18 December 2021**

Dear Madam/Sir,

The sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21) was due to be held on 16-18 December 2021 at the CICG in Geneva, Switzerland. Unfortunately, given the deterioration of the epidemiological situation in the past days and the announcement of travel restrictions and quarantine requirements in Switzerland and many other countries, after consultation, it has been decided to hold WTPF-21 as a fully virtual event.

This decision was not taken lightly, and I understand and share your disappointment. We were all looking forward to coming together in person for this Forum after nearly two years. I wish to convey my sincere apologies for the inconvenience of this late announcement, as many of you have already undertaken preparations to attend this event physically.

This virtual WTPF remains open to all Member States and Sector Members. ITU academia, universities and their associated research establishments, UN Organizations, Informal Expert Group (IEG) Members, the public, and the media are also invited to attend the Forum virtually.

Please find below details on the updated arrangements to facilitate your online participation in WTPF-21.

Programme of the virtual WTPF

The programme has been revised to take into account various time zones, and can be found here: <https://www.itu.int/wtpf21/en/programme/>. In light of these circumstances, the Strategic Dialogue has been cancelled, along with the planned social events. The Forum will be held in six languages, with captioning, and will be webcast.

Registration and virtual platform of the Forum

Registration will continue to be carried out exclusively online at <https://www.itu.int/wtpf21/en/register/>. Participants who have already received confirmation of registration are considered registered for the virtual Forum and will be able to access the platform with their ITU user account.

Focal points of Member States and Sector Members are kindly requested to designate members of your delegation who may take the floor so as to better manage the sessions by sending an email to sg-registration@itu.int.

WTPF-21 will be held on the Zoom platform. To participate in the Forum, you must use your ITU user account with which you registered to enter the platform through the ITU Restricted Virtual Events page (<https://www.itu.int/en/events/Pages/Virtual-Sessions.aspx>). For security reasons, it will not be possible to enter the platform by directly using the Zoom URL. On the platform you will automatically be identified by your Country Name/Organization Name as well as your first and last name as recorded in your ITU User Account. The platform will open one hour prior to the first opening meeting, that is 11.00 on Thursday, 16 December 2021.

Test sessions will be held on 13 and 14 December 2021, from 10.00-12.00 and 15.00-17.00, for participants wishing to test their connections prior to the Forum. Registration is required to access the test sessions at <https://www.itu.int/en/events/Pages/Virtual-Sessions.aspx>.

For a smooth session, technical information is available here: <https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ICT-Services/remoteparticipation/Pages/onlineetingroom.aspx>.

Participants are also reminded that all meetings will be webcast and can be followed via internet.

Participation of Ministers and CEOs

With reference to the letters to Ministers and CEOs which were sent 14 October 2021, these high-level participants from Member States and Sector Members are still invited to deliver statements on a first-come, first-served basis, respecting the three-minute time limit. However, in the interest of time organization, these high-level statements will now be limited to the Opening Plenary session and be delivered live, not pre-recorded. For any questions regarding high-level statements, please contact wtpf-statements@itu.int.

Heads of delegation meeting

A Heads of delegation meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 December 2021, 13.00-14.00. Access will again be available through the ITU Restricted Virtual Events page as listed above.

I count on your active participation and I look forward to working with you to ensure the success of the sixth WTPF.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General