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| **18 February 2022** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| Report on ITU Telecom World events | |

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| Summary  This report outlines highlights of ITU Digital World 2021 and plans for ITU Telecom events going forward.  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-011-E.pdf)*; Documents* [*C19/19*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0019/en) ; [*C20/41*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0041/en)*;* [*C21/19*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0019/en) |

1. **ITU Digital World 2021**
   1. ITU Digital World 2021 took place online through September-December 2021 with Forum debates, Ministerial Roundtables, Awards, SME Programme activities, a virtual Exhibition and networking.
   2. The overall event theme was **“Building the digital world. Together**”
   3. The Event was co-hosted by ITU and the Government of Viet Nam, represented through the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC). Marking the 50th anniversary edition of ITU Telecom events, a powerful Opening Ceremony, in the presence of H.E. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister, Viet Nam, the Secretary-General, and with high-level participation from across government and the industry, was held to officially open the event in Ha Noi, Viet Nam and live streamed over the event website. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a tour of the Virtual Exhibition, after which the Prime Minister and Nguyen Manh Hung, Minister, MIC joined the first **Ministerial Roundtable.**
   4. The series of **Ministerial Roundtables** took place from 12 to 15 October 2021, exploring how digital transformation can be facilitated and funded, the services and content that will drive it, and the role governments can play.
   5. **Virtual Forum** sessions took place throughout September-December, exploring the infrastructure, funding, and facilitating factors accelerating digital transformation. An innovative online networking platform enabled delegates to network and continue discussions after the sessions.
   6. The **Virtual Exhibition** organized by the Government of Viet Nam showcased companies, countries, projects, and products from the ASEAN region and around the world, featuring 3D and 2D interactive booths, presentations, and networking opportunities.
   7. The ITU **Digital World Awards and SME Programme** supported and recognized innovative ICT-based solutions with social impact, with categories for entrants selected through a mix of feedback from events, analysis of past SME exhibitors and research into global trends.
   8. As of the time of report writing (November 2021), the event comprised 9 Forum Sessions, 5 Ministerial Roundtable and 3 Sponsored sessions, with a total number of 155 speakers including 31 Ministerial level and 12 Regulators.
   9. In the virtual exhibition were 124 business booths from Vietnam and global companies, and 5 national pavilions from around the world.
2. **ITU Telecom World 2022 and beyond**
   1. A call for bids for the hosting of ITU Telecom World 2022 was launched in January 2021, via circular letter, inviting Member States to submit proposals for hosting by end May 2021. A number of Member States expressed interest in hosting a future ITU Telecom event and the Telecom secretariat has been engaging with all of these.
   2. Nevertheless, owing to the current exceptional circumstances and challenges posed by ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, no confirmed Host Country and no Event budget has been established by the time of report writing. With the minimum lead time for planning and executing a physical event by the end of 2022 being from end March 2022, highest level ITU Management took the difficult decision to freeze the Event for this year, implementing measures to decrease Telecom Secretariat as much as possible.

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