



The Secretary General

Geneva, 16 December 2022

Ref: **CL-22/43**

To

- Member States
- Sector Members
- Associates
- Academia

Subject: **Farewell letter from the ITU Secretary-General**

Dear Madam/Sir,

2022 will be remembered as the year when we came together for three ITU world conferences – the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20), the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22), and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22) – each laying the foundation for a more sustainable and inclusive digital future. It is also the final year of my second term as Secretary-General, which will come to an end on 31 December 2022 after thirty-six years in service of the Union, including twenty-four as an ITU Elected Official.

It is with a sense of profound gratitude that I express my appreciation for the support and trust you have placed in the organization and myself over a three-decade period that has witnessed widespread market liberalization, the fast rise of information and communication technology, and strong global growth in Internet use.

Digital technologies have become part of the fabric of people's lives, economies and societies around the world amid a transformation accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a privilege to lead ITU at such an important time for our membership.

Reaching out for greater engagement with new and more diverse stakeholders has been a priority of mine throughout my time in office. As the ITU family continues to grow to reflect the rapidly evolving digital economy, I am confident that you will work closely with the new leadership team to continue to ensure the relevance and impact of ITU while delivering maximum value to our membership.

I wish you and your family happiness and success in your endeavors in 2023!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Houlin Zhao' in Chinese characters.

Houlin ZHAO