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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C23/17-E** |
| **9 June 2023** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY  |
| **Purpose**This document presents information about the celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2023 (WTISD-23), as well as the process to select a theme for WTISD-24.**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited to **take note** of this report and to **resolve** on a theme for the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 (WTISD-24)**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**No**Financial implications**None.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References***Resolution* [*60/252*](https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/res60-252.aspx) *of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Resolutions* [*30*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-030-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and* [*68*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-068-E.pdf) *(Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference* |

**1** **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2023**

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 ICTs, the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, November 2005, called on the General Assembly of the United Nations to proclaim 17 May as World Information Society Day (see paragraph 121 of the [Tunis Agenda](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html)).

1.2 On 27 March 2006, the 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 on the enormous benefits that the digital revolution in ICTs can bring to the world. That same year, the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 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 ITU Council to adopt a specific theme for each World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD).

1.3 The theme of WTISD-23 was “Empowering the Least Developed Countries through Information and Communication Technologies”, with the objective of increasing awareness of the importance of ICTs to support these countries in addressing their development challenges; presenting key ongoing efforts in ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector to support least developed countries (LDCs) through digital technologies; and positioning the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, its pledges and pledgers as the right platform through which commitments for universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in LDCs can be gathered and tracked.

1.4 During the 17 May event in Geneva, ITU encouraged its membership and partners to support the campaign launched by Partner2Connect in February 2022 to mobilize direct funding or other contributions to achieve universal, meaningful connectivity and a sustainable digital transformation for all. Of the USD 30 billion already pledged overall, Partner2Connect has identified commitments worth USD 12 billion to bring the LDCs online as quickly as possible.  ITU therefore called for the value of pledges for digitalizing the world to be increased from the current USD 30 billion to USD 100 billion by 2026.

1.5 All information related to WTISD-23 can be found on the WTISD website [www.itu.int/wtisd](http://www.itu.int/wtisd) (available in the six official languages).

1. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024**

1.6 During the third virtual thematic briefing with Councillors, on 31 May 2023, councillors were invited to participate actively in the selection of a theme for WTISD-24 by sending proposals to the ITU secretariat (strategy@itu.int) by 20 June 2023 (previous themes can be found at <https://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/WTISDEventsCollection.aspx>).

1.7 From the proposals received, councillors will select one or more themes to be presented to the Council at its 2023 session for consideration. The draft resolution for approval is annexed to this report.

**Proposal**

The Council is invited to **take note** of this report and to **approve** the resolution in the Annex.

Annex

draft resolution [….]

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024

The Council,

considering

Resolution 68 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which invites the Council to adopt, for each World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), a specific theme relating to the main challenges which the changing telecommunication/ICT environment poses for both developed and developing countries,

recalling

Resolution 60/252 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which decided to proclaim 17 May annual World Information Society Day to help to raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide,

taking into account

the proposals submitted by the Member States on possible themes for WTISD 2024,

recognizing

that the year 2024 [specific information related to the theme to be added],

resolves

that the theme for the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 will be [theme to be added].

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