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| WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY (WTISD) 2023 | |
| **Purpose**  This document provides information about the celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2023 (WTISD-23), and the themes for WTISD 2024 and 2025 as resolved by Council 2023.  **Action required**  Members are invited to **note** the document for information.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  Resolution [60/252](https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/res60-252.aspx) of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Resolution [68](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-068-E.pdf) (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council 2023 Document [C23/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0017/en) and Resolution [1416](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0114/en). | |

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. In 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).

1.2 The theme of WTISD-23 was “Empowering the Least Developed Countries through Information and Communication Technologies”. 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. Especially, to raise the commitments already identified to bring the LDCs online as quickly as possible, and to increase the value of pledges, in general, to USD 100 billion by 2026.

1.3 During the Council 2023 session, [Resolution 1416](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0114/en) was adopted, which resolves the themes for WTISD being “Digital innovation for sustainable development” for 2024 and “Gender equality in digital transformation" for 2025.

1.4 The ITU secretariat will start preparations for WTISD 2024 considering that Sustainable Digital Transformation is one of the Union’s Strategic Goals approved by the Plenipotentiary Conference 2022, and that innovation is key to achieving sustainable telecommunication/ICT development and to reducing the digital divide to promote more inclusive and equal societies.

1.5 All relevant information related to the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day will be available through the WTISD dedicated website, [www.itu.int/wtisd](http://www.itu.int/wtisd). ITU membership is encouraged to promote the day and to join the celebrations around the world.

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