



## General Secretariat (SG)

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To:  
– ITU Member States  
– ITU Sector Members  
– ITU Associates and Academia  
– State of Palestine

Subject: **Invitation for the International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In an increasingly interconnected world, telecommunications submarine cables serve as the lifeline of the global digital economy, facilitating over 99 per cent of international data exchange. These cables enable communication, finance, cloud services, and critical infrastructure to operate seamlessly across borders. Yet, despite their critical importance, submarine cables face a range of vulnerabilities, from natural disasters to accidental damage.

With the world's reliance on stable, high-speed internet growing every day, the resilience of these cables is paramount. Multistakeholder dialogue among governments, regulatory authorities, industry leaders, and international organisations is vital for enhancing the resilience of submarine cables, safeguarding our digital future and global economic stability.

For this purpose, the ITU is setting up an International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience, co-chaired by H.E. Minister Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Prof. Sandra Maximiano, Chairwoman of ANACOM's Board of Directors (hereinafter the "Advisory Body"), with an aim to promote dialogue and collaboration on potential ways and means to improve resilience of this critical infrastructure that powers global communications and the digital economy.

The Advisory Body will serve as a platform for international multistakeholder dialogue and collaboration, bringing together governments, regulatory authorities, industry leaders, and key stakeholders in areas related to enhancing the network safety, redundancy, and protection of submarine cables. More information about this initiative, terms of reference and criteria may be found at the [website](#).

I invite all interested individuals meeting the criteria to submit the form of expression of interest by **15 October 2024**.

I also would like to invite ITU Members to share this information and nominate individuals whom they believe meet the criteria.

Yours faithfully,

*(signed)*

Doreen Bogdan-Martin  
Secretary-General