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| Contribution by Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Egypt (Arab Republic of), Kuwait (State of), Morocco (Kingdom of), Qatar (State of), South Africa (Republic of), and Tunisia | |
| PROPOSAL FOR THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2026 (WTISD-26) | |
| **Purpose**  Proposed theme for World Telecommunication Information Society Day 2026 (WTISD-26).  **Action required by the Council**  The council is invited to **consider** and **approve** the theme proposed by this contribution to the WTISD-26.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *N/A* | |

Introduction

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), observed annually on 17 May, commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and serves to highlight the potential of ICTs to advance inclusive and sustainable development. It also provides a platform to raise awareness and stimulate global dialogue on key digital transformation issues. As the world enters a critical phase of digital acceleration and climate action, the theme for WTISD 2026 must capture the spirit of innovation, resilience, and global cooperation.

Discussion

To ensure relevance and impact, the WTISD 2026 theme should reflect current global trends in the ICT ecosystem. The following two themes are proposed, each aligned with the ITU Strategic Plan, the WSIS Action Lines, and the Global Digital Compact:

**1 Empowering digital trust in an AI-driven world:**

With AI technologies becoming deeply integrated into societies, ensuring digital trust is essential. This theme promotes responsible AI development, algorithmic transparency, and ethical data governance to safeguard users' rights and build confidence in digital systems.

**2 Space for all: expanding connectivity beyond borders**

The increasing deployment of space-based ICT infrastructure presents a unique opportunity to connect the unconnected. This theme highlights the role of satellite and space technologies in achieving universal access and digital inclusion, particularly for remote and underserved communities.

Proposal

We propose the following themes for consideration by the ITU Council for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2026:

– Empowering digital trust in an AI-driven world.

– Space for all: expanding connectivity beyond borders.

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