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| Contribution by Nigeria (Federal Republic of) | |
| WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2026 | |
| **Purpose**  This document proposes the theme “Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World” for consideration for celebration of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2026 (“WTISD-26”), reflecting the growing need for robust, secure, and adaptable telecommunications/ICT infrastructure to underpin the global digital economy and ensure continuity of essential services amid evolving challenges.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **consider** this document and to **support** the following theme for the WTISD-26 - Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World. | |

1. **Introduction:**

1.1 In today’s interconnected world, resilient ICT systems are foundational to economic stability, inclusive growth, and technological innovation. From terrestrial networks and cybersecurity frameworks to submarine cables and space-based communications, each layer of global connectivity must be fortified to withstand disruptions from natural disasters, accidental damage, cyber threats, pandemics and other global risks.

1.2 Submarine cables alone carry over 99% of international traffic, highlighting the urgency of safeguarding this critical infrastructure. The work of the ITU’s International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience exemplifies the importance of international collaboration, best practice sharing, and strategic investment to secure this lifeline of the digital economy.

1.3 Likewise, satellite networks extend connectivity to remote and underserved areas, promoting inclusion and bridging the digital divide—goals that can only be realized through resilient and secure space communications.

1.4 Cybersecurity is equally vital. Trust in digital systems depends on strong cyber resilience, enabling reliable e-commerce, public service delivery, and financial systems.

1.5 To strengthen the global ICT backbone, a holistic approach is needed—one that integrates robust technical infrastructure, adaptive policy and regulatory frameworks, investment in human capacity, and international cooperation.

**2. Proposal**

Nigeria believes that resilience must be a shared priority. Member States, industry, and international organizations must work together to strengthen ICT ecosystems and ensure no one is left behind in the digital transition. Celebrating WTISD under the theme of "Resilience" will spotlight urgent needs, inspire policy innovation, and galvanize collective action to build a safer, more inclusive digital future.

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