PLENARY MEETING

Document 4-E
10 November 2025
Original: English

Note by the Secretary-General

CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to the information published in Document 3, I have the pleasure in transmitting to the Conference, in annex, the candidacy of:

Ms Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN (United States of America)

for the post of Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union.

Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN
Secretary-General

Annex: 1

THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

No. 25-25

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments and is pleased to respond to ITU Circular Letter No. 25/48.

In response to ITU Circular Letter No. 25/48, dated November 10, 2025, the Government of the United States of America is pleased to announce the following candidatures for elections to be held during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha, Qatar, from November 9 to November 27, 2026.

The Government of the United States has the honor to nominate and support Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin for re-election to the position of Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union. A nomination letter from Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Ms. Bogdan-Martin's curriculum vitae, vision statement, and biographic information are included with this diplomatic note.

Ms. Bogdan-Martin has spent over 30 years in the telecommunications sector, including the last three years as Secretary-General of ITU. Ms. Bogdan-Martin has a demonstrated commitment to bridging the digital divides and has focused her work on expanding connectivity for people all over the world. Under her guidance, the ITU has helped develop global tech standards, improved oversight, increased ITU-private sector

partnerships, and worked toward secure digital connectivity. If re-elected, Ms. Bogdan-Martin will continue to strive for an ITU that aims to achieve universal digital connectivity that is secure, resilient, and affordable; collaborates with partners for greater impact; and excels as an institution with integrity, transparency, and accountability. We hope all ITU Member States will support her candidacy and vote for her at the Plenipotentiary Conference.

The Government of the United States also has the honor to present its candidature for re-election to the ITU Council, Region A (Americas), for the period 2026-2030. The United States has been a member of the ITU Council since its creation in 1948 and remains a strong supporter of the ITU, both as a financial contributor and through expert participation and leadership throughout the whole range of ITU activities. The United States is committed to strengthening the ITU in partnership with ITU Member States and Sector Members.

The valuable support of the ITU Member States for Ms. Bogdan-Martin for Secretary-General of the ITU and the United States candidature for the ITU Council will be highly appreciated.

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations and Other International Organizations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Telecommunication Union the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 10 November 2025

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 2025

The Honorable Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Geneva

Dear Ms. Secretary-General:

The United States is honored to nominate Doreen Bogdan-Martin for reelection as secretary-general of the ITU in the upcoming election, which will take place during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha, Qatar, from November 9 to November 27, 2026.

Bogdan-Martin has dedicated more than thirty years to advancing international telecommunications policy. As secretary-general, she executed critical reforms and fostered innovative partnerships to expand digital connectivity worldwide. Her leadership has fostered innovative solutions, intensified global cooperation on connecting the unconnected, and positioned the ITU to succeed in an era of digital transformation.

The United States fully supports Bogdan-Martin's reelection and urges all ITU member states to support her candidacy. I have no doubt Bogdan-Martin will continue to deliver principled, results-driven leadership grounded in transparency, accountability, and technical excellence that brings benefit to all ITU members.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio

DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN

CONNECTING PEOPLE, DRIVING PROGRESS

Candidate for re-election as Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

MESSAGE FROM THE CANDIDATE

Four years ago, I set out to make ITU more transparent, impact-driven, and future-ready. Together, we have turned that vision into reality: from mobilizing billions of dollars in connectivity commitments that can propel economic growth and investment, to establishing ITU as a global leader in digital transformation, to spearheading critical institutional reforms.

I delivered on my promise to make the organization more fit-for-purpose as we embrace the digital future.

But the job is not finished. The digital future will only be meaningful if everyone shares its benefits - through connections that are secure and resilient, opportunities that empower, and technologies that serve all.

With your support, my second term as ITU Secretary-General would focus on three bold pillars to build on the momentum of the last four years:

BRINGING EVERYONE ON BOARD
From Connectivity to Opportunity

PUSHING FRONTIERS
Secure and Resilient Innovations

TRANSFORMING THE ITU FROM WITHIN
Agile, Trusted, Future-Ready

PILLAR 1: **BRINGING EVERYONE ON BOARD**: FROM CONNECTIVITY TO OPPORTUNITY

No one should be left behind in the digital era. People everywhere need connections that are secure and resilient, policies that enable innovation, and opportunities that empower. Connectivity is not just about access - it is the engine of economic prosperity, innovation, and empowerment in today's world.

In a second term, I will collaborate closely with the Radiocommunication Bureau to promote innovative and efficient use of spectrum and orbital resources, laying the foundation for resilient networks and propelling innovation in areas from broadband to space. I will partner with the Development Bureau in expanding affordable digital access to all, helping ensure connectivity translates into jobs, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. I will also champion the efforts of the Standardization Bureau in advancing trusted global standards that give businesses and innovators the confidence to scale solutions securely and across borders. Together, these commitments will drive one shared goal: bringing everyone on board and online.

SUCCESSES

· Mobilized $80+ billion in public and private sector commitments through **Partner2Connect**.
· Leveraged development financing institutions via the **Digital Infrastructure Investment Initiative** and **Connecting Humanity Action Blueprint.**
· Connected schools in 40+ countries via **Giga** with global innovation hubs in Geneva and Barcelona.
· Advanced universal, life-saving digital access by leading ITU engagement in **Early Warnings for All**.
· Strengthened the **WSIS process**, embedding innovation and multistakeholder partnership into global digital policy discussions.

ACTIONS AHEAD

· Push connectivity further, extending networks to the hardest-to-reach communities.
· Expand affordability of services and devices to open markets and create investment opportunities.
· Equip people with digital skills to drive jobs, entrepreneurship, and innovation, with a focus on youth and women.
· Build confidence in ICT innovation through stronger cybersecurity support and child online protection.
· Unlock investment through innovative financing models and expanded public-private partnerships.

PILLAR 2: **PUSHING FRONTIERS**: SECURE AND RESILIENT INNOVATIONS

Bringing everyone onboard requires more than connectivity. It also means ensuring that frontiers of technology, from submarine cables to space and satellite systems to next-generation digital infrastructure, serve as tools for opportunity, not sources of risk. As digital connectivity grows in complexity, it must also grow in resilience, so that people, economies, and societies can rely on it when needed.

In a second term, I will leverage the combined strengths of ITU's three Bureaus to help countries harness frontier connectivity technologies responsibly - advancing innovation and enabling policies, embedding security, and building resilience into digital systems everywhere.

SUCCESSES

· Advanced **AI for Good** into the world's leading platform for connecting AI innovators with solutions for humanity's biggest challenges.
· Drove key initiatives, including the **Space Sustainability Forum**, **Space Connect Series**, **and Submarine Cable Resilience Initiative**, to address pressing challenges and advance public-private sector collaboration.
· Expanded skills engagement and leadership development through the Equals partnership, and the **Global AI Skilling Coalition** to prepare the next generation to thrive in the digital economy.
· Established **Youth and Academic Advisory Bodies** to engage young professionals and academia on emerging technologies. reinforcing ITU's role as a global thought leader.
· Elevated ITU's leadership across the UN system on digital cooperation and emerging technologies — from co-leading the UN Group on the Information Society and the UN Digital Technology Group, to advancing the UN Digital Public Infrastructure Initiative and deepening engagement with the G7, G20, and other multilateral fora.

ACTIONS AHEAD

· Lead global dialogues on AI and frontier technologies to connect the unconnected, continuing to position ITU as the global hub for public-private collaboration on emerging tech and resilience across the digital ecosystem.
· Advance next-generation connectivity and frontier innovations as enablers of new services and industries.
· Expand access to compute capacity and digital skills so all people can fully participate in the technology revolution.
· Promote cybersecurity capacity-building, child online protection, and international standards to make the digital ecosystem secure.
· Enhance the resilience of digital infrastructure and services to withstand disruption and crisis.

PILLAR 3: **TRANSFORMING THE ITU FROM WITHIN**: AGILE, TRUSTED, FUTURE-READY

We can only lead globally if we continue evolving internally. To bring everyone onboard, we must become more agile and efficient, more transparent and accountable, and more responsive to the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

To deliver on these ambitions, ITU must lead with integrity, drive innovation and embed accountability and results-driven management into everything we do. Our institution must be ready to lead in the AI era - by investing in staff skills, fostering strategic foresight, and deploying digital and AI-enabled tools that sharpen analysis, strengthen transparency, and improve services to Members.

In a second term, I will support ITU in accelerating this transformation - deepening regional engagement, empowering staff, and ensuring Members can count on an institution that is both modern and trusted. I will cement ITU's role as a trusted multistakeholder convener, accelerate delivery, fortify regional engagement, and invest in our people - reinforcing ITU as the global standard for excellence, innovation, and effectiveness.

I will continue to abide by the Constitution and Convention, report transparently to the Plenipotentiary and Council, and uphold the highest standards of fiduciary responsibility and ethical conduct. I will ensure that governance and financial management remain robust, transparent, and accountable — keeping ethics, respect, and impartiality at the heart of ITU's work.

SUCCESSES

· Created the **ITU Young Professionals Programme**, attracting top global talent.
· Initiated a comprehensive transformation programme to modernize ITU's systems, processes, and culture.
· Embedded innovation and change management across the ITU through the **Change Champions Network**.
· Strengthened governance and accountability by establishing an **Oversight unit** and Ombudsman function, ensured the development of an **Ethics Charter**, and advanced business intelligence dashboards and restored timely external audits to reinforce transparency and institutional credibility.
· **Upgraded staff skills** through learning labs, "demystifying" briefings, and adaptive leadership training. Strengthened staff engagement through regular all-staff meetings and management dialogues.

ACTIONS AHEAD

· Reinforce integrity, accountability, and results-driven management in everything we do.
· Strengthen ITU's oversight and governance frameworks to promote trust and transparency.
· Deepen regional engagement to bring ITU closer to its membership and their priorities.
· Invest in skills development to prepare staff for future challenges and embed digital tools, including AI, to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.
· Strengthen strategic foresight and data-driven analysis to anticipate membership needs.
· Embed change management to ensure transformation is sustained across the organization.

LOOKING AHEAD

The digital future doesn't wait. It is forged by bold leadership, decisive action, and unwavering commitment. With your support, we will:

· **Make universal, meaningful connectivity a lived reality for all** - bringing everyone on board with secure, affordable, and resilient connections that empower.
· **Harness frontier technologies** - ensuring they drive increased connectivity for all with innovation, resilience, and opportunity, all while strengthening cybersecurity.
· **Strengthen ITU as a trusted, agile, and future-ready institution** - guided by integrity, accountability, and results.

TOGETHER, WE WILL BUILD A DIGITAL FUTURE THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.

RE-ELECT
DOREEN
BOGDAN-
MARTIN
ITU SECRETARY-GENERAL
2026

DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN

Secretary-General
International
Telecommunication Union (ITU)

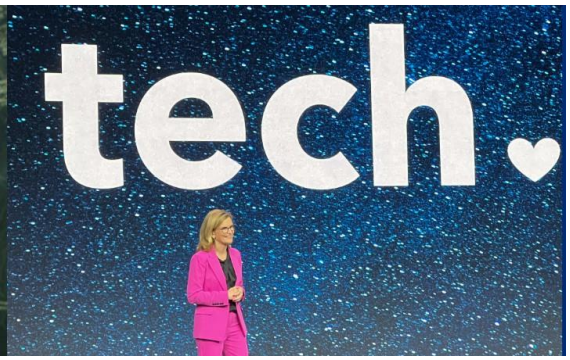
Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin is a transformative and results-oriented leader. She has more than three decades of experience advancing global connectivity, digital cooperation, and technology policy across governments, multilateral institutions, and industry. She is recognized for championing universal meaningful connectivity, digital inclusion, youth empowerment, and cross-sector partnerships.

Since assuming office in 2023, she has led an ambitious reform agenda to strengthen ITU's governance, financial transparency, organizational performance, and strategic impact. She has launched major initiatives to close the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation, including securing over USD 80 billion in commitments through the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, scaling school connectivity efforts in more than 40 countries, reinforcing emergency telecommunications and disaster readiness under Early Warnings for All, and advancing global discussions on responsible deployment of emerging technologies, including AI for Good.

Previously, as Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (2019–2022), she repositioned digital development at the center of global cooperation, strengthened regional presence, enhanced transparency and impact measurement, and brokered strategic partnerships with governments, development banks, and the private sector. Her earlier leadership roles included directing ITU's Strategic Planning and Membership Department, where she guided the ITU's global strategic vision, UN system engagement, and high-level multistakeholder collaboration.

Prior to joining ITU, she served as a telecommunications policy specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce. She holds a master's degree in International Communications Policy from American University and completed executive leadership programs at IMD and the United Nations Leaders Programme. She is actively engaged in advisory roles across the UN ecosystem and global technology community. She is also a qualified amateur radio operator.

She is married and has four children.



DOREEN **BOGDAN-MARTIN**

Candidate for re-election as Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

LinkedIn: ch.linkedin.com/in/doreentbogdan

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Visionary global leader in digital development, elected in 2022 as the first female Secretary-General in ITU's 160-year history. Over three decades of experience shaping telecommunications, digital cooperation, and emerging tech policy. Champion of universal connectivity, youth engagement, digital empowerment, and cross-sector innovation. Recognized for guiding institutional reform, driving operational excellence, and mobilizing high-impact global partnerships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 - PRESENT

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU) Geneva, Switzerland
Secretary-General

As ITU Secretary-General, has driven a bold agenda to strengthen ITU's impact globally, transform the organization internally, and advance governance reform and transparency. Focus on accelerating global digital connectivity, forging innovative partnerships, and positioning ITU as a leader in the UN system on digital and emerging technologies. Highlights include:

- Expanded ITU's global impact through flagship initiatives, securing over **USD 80 billion** in commitments under **Partner2Connect**, advancing school connectivity in 40+ countries through **GIGA** with UNICEF, launching a GIGA tech center in Barcelona and a Connectivity Center in Geneva, and elevating **AI for Good** as the global platform for **AI dialogue**, including the launch of the **AI Skills Coalition.**
- Championed connectivity solutions including through **SpaceConnect**, a new virtual series highlighting the opportunities of space-based technologies.
- Strengthened disaster preparedness and response through **Early Warnings for All**.
- Advanced innovative financing models for ICT investment via the **Digital Infrastructure Initiative**.
- Strengthened youth engagement through the Youth Advisory Board and the launch of the **Young Professionals Programme**, and advanced initiatives to enable and **empower women and girls in tech** through digital leadership and skills development.
- Enhanced ITU's role in the UN system as Co-Chair of the UN Digital Technology Working Group, while deepening engagement with the **G7** and **G20** on digital priorities.
- Spearheaded a comprehensive **internal transformation**, including finance, HR, and IT systems; Initiatives include: strengthening staff engagement through regular townhalls, and expanded training such as the ITU Learning Labs; streamlining processes and embedding a culture of innovation through the launch of **Change Makers Network**, and improving **real-time management dashboards** and advanced data analytics to drive smarter decision-making and operational efficiency.
- Strengthened governance and transparency by creating an **Oversight Unit** with an evaluation function, implementing a **compliance dashboard**, creating an **Ombudsman function**, introducing regular strategic briefings for Ambassadors and Council information sessions.

2019 - 2022 **Director, Telecommunications Development Bureau**

Implemented a refocused, impact-driven Bureau by upskilling staff, refining structure, and ensured technical assistance, tools, and expertise addressed the challenges countries face in bridging the digital divide. Highlights include:

- Introduced **people-centered leadership** with consultative and participatory processes. Built staff competencies (80 certified in Project Management for Development; 40+ in UN Change Management). Enhanced capacity building through the ITU Academy platform and virtual trainings.
- Increased accountability by leading internal controls to strengthen **governance, ethics, fraud detection**, recruitment, financial and procurement procedures; established a **Projects Board** for rigorous project review and compliance.
- Conducted a comprehensive review to strengthen **regional and area offices**, aligning them closely with **UN country teams**.
- Secured **50+ new partnerships** with the private sector, development banks, and donors, generating nearly **USD 15 million annually** and brokered major initiatives, including **GIGA** (with UNICEF) and the **Digital Transformation Centers Initiative.**
- Launched the **International Centre of Digital Innovation (I-CODI).**
- Delivered tools including the **Last Mile Connectivity Solutions Guide** and **Smart Village Blueprint**.
- Strengthened engagement with youth, women, and girls by conceiving an ITU-wide **Youth Strategy**, launched **Generation Connect Board** and conceptualized the **Global Youth Summit.**
- Led **Equals Partnership Secretariat** (100+ partners) tackling divides in tech and organized the **Equals in Tech Awards**.
- Directed the **UN Broadband Commission** and its flagship **State of Broadband Report**

2008 - 2018 **Chief, Strategic Planning and Membership**

Directed Strategic Planning and Membership for the Secretary-General, leading six division managers and 80 staff to modernize ITU's strategic direction, UN engagement, and membership services. Highlights include:

- Overhauled member relations with a **customer-oriented approach** and streamlined systems. Embedded ITU expertise into UN ICT-related activities.
- Consolidated ITU's **brand and global communications** and directed major ITU conferences, overseeing planning and implementation. Represented ITU in UN high-level committees with global fora including G20, IGF, WEF.
- Served in senior advisory roles including Secretary to Plenipotentiary Conference, WTPF & ITU Council.
- Opened ITU's Liaison office to the United Nations
- Directed ITU's first global youth summit **#BYND2015**.

2007 - 2008 **Head, Regulatory & Market Environment Division, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau**

- Director of the **Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR).**
- Created the **ICT Regulatory Survey** – the global reference for regulatory data.
- Advised BDT Director on regulatory, economic, and policy issues.

2003 - 2007 **Head, Regulatory Reform Unit, BDT**

- Directed the Regulatory Reform Programme; co-authored the annual **Trends in Telecommunication Reform** report.
- Oversaw **ECOWAS/UEMOA Regulatory/Policy Harmonization** project.

1997 - 2003 **Regulatory Officer, BDT**

- Provided regulatory expertise through organized workshops, authored reports (including **"Effective Regulation Case Study: Brazil"**), and contributed to the annual **Trends** report.

1994 - 1997 **Policy Analyst, BDT**

- Managed the **Programme for Policy, Strategies, and Financing**; contributed to global ICT policy studies and regional frameworks.

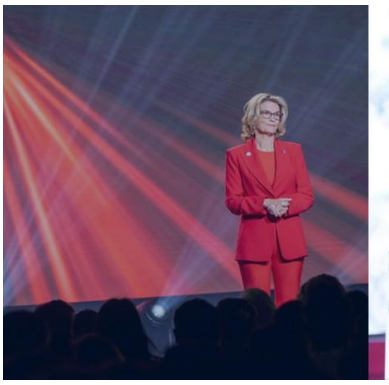
1993 - 1994 **Secondment, BDT**

- Coordinated inputs for the **first World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC).**

1989 - 1993 **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,**
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Washington D.C.

Telecommunications Policy Specialist – Office of International Affairs

- Awarded Department of Commerce Medal for **Separate Satellite Systems** policy.
- Represented U.S. at ITU and OAS-CITEL on telecom development and at INTELSAT on satellite policy.
- Created the **Latin American Telecommunication Summit (LATS).**



EDUCATION & EXECUTIVE PROGRAMMES

- ***IMD Business School*** *– Strategies for Leadership (2012)*
- ***UN Leaders Programme*** *– Accountability & Ethics (2008)*
- ***M.A., International Communications Policy*** *– American University (1991)*
- ***B.A.*** *– University of Delaware (1988)*

AWARDS, LANGUAGES & PERSONAL

Awards

- **2025** Forbes 50over50
- **2025** Champion of the Internet, i2Coalition
- **2025** SIA Leadership in Government Award
- **2023** IEEE President's Award
- **2023** GSMA Chairman's Award
- **2021** Outstanding Technology Policy Changemaker Award, American University
- **2019** Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Languages

- **English**: Native
- **French & Spanish**: Fluent

Family

- Married, mother of four.