



ITUPP
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Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26)
9-27 November 2026 - Doha, Qatar

PLENARY MEETING

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Note by the Secretary-General

CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (BDT)

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

Dr Cosmas Luckyson ZAVAZAVA (Republic of Zimbabwe)

for the post of Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union.

Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN
Secretary-General

Annex: 1



ZIMBABWE

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA

Ref: 39/2026

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and, with reference to the Secretary General's Circular Letter CL-25/48 of 10 November, 2025, has the honour to respond as set out hereunder.

The Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe has the honour to inform the General Secretariat of its nomination of Dr. Cosmas Zavazava for re-election for the post of Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau at the elections to be held during the 2026 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) that is scheduled to convene in Doha, Qatar, from 9 – 27 November 2026.

A nomination letter signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable Prof. dr. Amon Murwira, Dr. Zavazava's Curriculum Vitae and his Vision Statement, together with his photograph and a video/photo-deck, are all included for submission under the present Note Verbale.

Dr Zavazava has been working within the telecommunications sector for over three decades, including 22 years spent in ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, of which the last 4 years have been at the level of Director of the Bureau.

Throughout his long service with ITU, Dr Zavazava has demonstrated his abiding commitment to closing the digital gap, to the deployment and use of information and communication

technologies for disaster-risk-reduction and disaster-management, capacity-building, the successful implementation of impactful projects across the globe, resource mobilization and the forging of lasting and meaningful partnerships.

If elected, Dr. Zavazava is fully committed to further enhancing transparency, integrity, accountability, and efficiency within the Bureau and to delivering impactful projects for all regions and countries, without leaving anyone behind. Dr. Zavazava will focus on closing the digital and skills gap and the acceleration of digital transformation through results-based projects and by way of building new partnerships, whilst also further strengthening those which already exist.

The Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe is seeking the invaluable support of all ITU Member States in the re-election of Dr Zavazava as Director of the International Telecommunications Development Bureau.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union, the assurances of its highest and most respectful consideration.

12 February 2026

International Telecommunication Union
Geneva, Switzerland



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**Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade
P.O. Box 4240, Harare
Munhumutapa Building
Samora Machel Ave/Sam
Nujoma Street,
HARARE, Zimbabwe**

11 February 2026

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Zimbabwe is pleased to formally nominate Dr Cosmas Zavazava, for re-election to the post of Director, Telecommunications Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), at the election to be held during the 2026 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26), to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 27 November, 2026.

Dr Zavazava has worked in the telecommunications sector for more than 35 years, with 26 years spent in the Telecommunication Development Bureau. He has served as Director or Chief of Department in three Departments and was elected as Director Telecommunication Development Bureau at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2022. Dr. Zavazava has an impressive track record of implementing impactful projects across the globe in all the areas under the mandate of the ITU Development Sector.

Since assuming office on 1 January 2023, Dr. Zavazava has successfully concluded over two hundred strategic partnerships, mobilized extra-budgetary resources to the tune of over USD65 million for projects, and has grown the membership of the Development Sector, including Industry, Private Sector, and Academia, to over 320, while successfully retaining existing members. Through these activities, ITU has been able to bring digital benefits to many people across the globe.

Mrs. Doreen Bogdan Martin,
**Secretary-General of the International,
Telecommunication Union (ITU),
Geneva, Switzerland.**

The Government of Zimbabwe is convinced that Dr. Zavazava possesses a clear vision, integrity, and the requisite leadership skills to help countries close the digital divide, the digital skills gap, and the urban-rural disparity. We are confident that he will continue to take the Telecommunication Development Bureau to new heights for the benefit of all ITU Member States. If re-elected, Dr Zavazava will continue to assist the international community to leverage digital technology for sustainable digital transformation and sustainable development, in general.

The Government of Zimbabwe fully supports the candidature of Dr Zavazava and seeks the support and vote of all ITU Member States. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amon Murwira'.

Professor dr. Amon Murwira

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

11 FEB 2026

P.O. BOX 421
ZIMBABWE

Website:

https://zavazavacosmas.com



LinkedIn.com/in/cosmaszavazava



@itubdtdirector

EDUCATION

QUALIFICATION

Doctorate (Multilateral Trade, Switzerland)

QUALIFICATION

Master of Laws in Telecommunications and Information Technology (United Kingdom, Scotland)

QUALIFICATION

Masters in International Relations – *summa cum laude* (United States of America, Missouri)

QUALIFICATION

Masters in Business Administration (Zimbabwe)

QUALIFICATION

Bachelor’s degree

in Business Administration

QUALIFICATION

Dipl. Telecommunications and Systems Engineering

OTHER

An Academic who taught MBA Classes (UK) – Management Information Systems, Operational Research, Business Policy

ACHIEVEMENTS

Successful engagement with private sector and industry, resource mobilization, designing and implementing impactful telecommunications/ICT projects across the globe in infrastructure development, innovation, statistics, cybersecurity, emergency telecommunications, skills development, etc.

AWARDS

Academic Leadership Award (USA)
Global Connectivity Award (Paraguay)
ICT Excellence Award 2025 (Zimbabwe)



Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava

Candidate for Director
Telecommunication Development Bureau

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

With nearly 40 years of experience in the telecommunications/information and communication technology sector, Cosmas Zavazava was elected Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in 2022 and took office on 1 January 2023. Serving in this capacity, I worked to transform policy commitments into tangible projects that connect the unconnected and ensure technology serves as a tool for inclusive and sustainable global progress. Key achievements include driving innovation and entrepreneurship, recruiting and retaining Development Sector members from industry, private sector and academia, successful resource mobilization to augment allocated resources with extra-budgetary funding to finance impactful projects.

FOR EVEN MORE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT



During the second term, I will build on the achievements gained over the past 4 years and focus on delivering even more impact on the ground by enhancing efficiency, accountability, in order to deliver transformative impact. I will continue to strengthen the BDT through continuous innovation, adaptation, and flexibility to meet Member States expectations towards universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future for all. In this effort I will pay particular attention to the needs of developing countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states as mandated by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25).

WORK EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

International Telecommunication Union| Geneva | Jan 2023 - Present

Led the global effort to close the digital divide by implementing international cooperation programs to support digital growth in developing countries and successfully implemented outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference held in 2022.

CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT: PARTNERSHIPS FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU | Geneva | 2019 – 2022

Responsible for ITU development projects, partnerships and Resource mobilization, and engagement with industry and private sector.

CHIEF OF DEPARTMENTS: PROJECTS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND PROJECTS, REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU | Geneva| 2010 -2018

Responsible for development projects, capacity building, statistics, emergency telecommunications, climate change adaptation and mitigation, e-waste management, accessibility, addressing unique needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing states, and small island developing states, and economies in transition.

HEAD OF DIVISIONS: LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU | Geneva| 2002 -2010

Responsible for addressing the unique needs of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. Responsible for designing projects and deployment of satellite solutions in the immediate aftermath of disasters striking across the world, setting up early warning systems across the regions, and designing National Emergency Telecommunication Plans to ensure preparedness.

GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE

- Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe | Geneva| 1997 -2000
- Head, Government Telecommunications Agency, Zimbabwe | Harare| 1994 – 1997 Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe | Geneva| 1997 -2000
- Head, Telecom Projects under Public Sector Investment Projects, Zimbabwe | Harare| 1989– 1997
- Second Secretary, Zimbabwe Embassy to Japan | Tokyo| 1985 -1989
- Technical and Communications Officer, Dept of Civil Aviation | Harare| 1982– 1997 Minister

PROFESSIONAL ACCOLADES AS DIRECTOR OF BDT

Key Speaking Roles - United Nations Conferences

- 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) -March 2023 - Qatar
- 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States – (May, 2024 – Antigua and Barbuda)
- 3rd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries – (August 2025 -Awaza, Turkmenistan)
- World Telecommunication Development Conference – (17 -28 November 2025 (Baku, Azerbaijan)

