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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 DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

Dr Bosun TIJANI (Nigeria (Federal Republic of))

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

Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN
Secretary-General

Annex: 1



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

5th May, 2026

Madam Secretary General,

**NOMINATION OF DR. BOSUN TIJANI FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
UNION (ITU)**

On behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I am pleased to convey the formal nomination of **Dr. Bosun Tijani**, Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy of Nigeria, for the position of **Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** at the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in Doha in November, 2026.

2. This nomination reflects Nigeria's enduring commitment to the ITU and to the advancement of a globally inclusive, resilient, and innovation-driven digital ecosystem. It also underscores our confidence in Dr. Tijani's ability to contribute meaningfully to the leadership of the Union at a pivotal moment in its evolution.

3. Dr. Tijani is a distinguished technology leader, policymaker, and global advocate for digital transformation. His work has consistently been anchored in the advancement of digital infrastructure, innovation ecosystems, and inclusive digital policies, priorities that align closely with the ITU's mandate.

4. Within the ITU, Dr. Tijani has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment. As **Vice Chair of the ITU Council in 2025 and Chair in 2026**, he has played a central role in strengthening the effectiveness of the Council as a platform for consensus-building and coordinated global action. His leadership has been marked by a strong emphasis on cooperation, accountability, and responsiveness to the needs of Member States.

5. Furthermore, as **Co-Chair of the ITU International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience**, he has advanced global dialogue and action on one of the most critical components of digital infrastructure. Under his leadership, the inaugural global summit on submarine cable resilience was convened in Abuja, contributing to strengthened international collaboration and the development of actionable frameworks to safeguard global connectivity.



6. At the national level, Dr. Tijani has led Nigeria's digital transformation agenda with clarity and purpose, driving significant progress in broadband expansion, digital skills development, data governance, and innovation. His work reflects a deep understanding of the intersection between technology, policy, and sustainable development, and his ability to translate vision into execution.
7. Dr. Tijani's international engagements across multilateral platforms have consistently demonstrated his diplomatic acumen, collaborative spirit, and ability to navigate complex global issues. He is widely respected for his capacity to build consensus, represent the perspectives of developing nations, and contribute constructively to global digital governance.
8. The Government of Nigeria strongly believes that Dr. Tijani's experience, leadership, and vision position him uniquely to support the Secretary-General in advancing the Union's strategic objectives, strengthening institutional effectiveness, and ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation are equitably distributed across all Member States.
9. Nigeria therefore fully endorses his candidacy and respectfully calls on Member States to support his election as Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union.
10. We thank you for your consideration and count on the support and collaboration of all ITU Member States in endorsing this nomination.
11. Please accept, Madam Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Bola Ahmed Tinubu

Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
Switzerland



Dr. 'Bosun Tijani

Candidate for ITU Deputy Secretary-General -
2027 - 2030

KEEPING OUR WORLD CONNECTED

ITU - The World's
Digital Rail

1

THE VISION

Strengthening the Global Digital Foundation

For more than 160 years, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has enabled the world to communicate across borders through cooperation, interoperability, standards, and shared coordination. As the indispensable **architect and coordinating platform of the World's Digital Rail**, the Union serves as the trusted foundation upon which the global digital economy travels.

Today, as our world becomes more connected, digital infrastructure continues to evolve and the coordinating role of the ITU becomes even more critical.

The boundaries between telecommunication networks, satellite systems, cloud infrastructure, subsea networks, data infrastructure, and emerging technologies are increasingly converging into one interconnected digital ecosystem.

In addition, the rapid growth of data intensive technologies, including artificial intelligence, further underscores the importance of resilient, interoperable, and inclusive digital infrastructure.

This evolution reinforces the importance of ITU's mandate.

If elected as your Deputy Secretary-General, my mission will be to ensure that this global digital rail remains:

- ✿ **Universal**
Reaching every country and community and ensuring no member state is left behind
- ✿ **Interoperable**
Enabling seamless global coordination
- ✿ **Resilient**
Capable of supporting future generations of digital infrastructure



Acting as the Union's Chief Operating Officer, I will **build a bridge to link our collective vision with disciplined execution** as we work to connect the remaining 2.2 billion unconnected people while strengthening meaningful connectivity globally.

Beyond Infrastructure: Activating a Robust Digital Ecosystem

A railway system succeeds not only because of the tracks it lays, but because of the governance frameworks, operational coordination, safety standards, policies, and ecosystem partnerships that allow it to function effectively across borders.

The same is true for the world's digital rail.

As digital infrastructure continues to evolve, the role of the ITU extends beyond enabling connectivity alone. The Union must continue supporting the evolution of:

- ✿ Governance frameworks
- ✿ Interoperable standards
- ✿ Enabling policy environments
- ✿ Trusted digital ecosystems
- ✿ Spectrum coordination
- ✿ International cooperation mechanisms

This is how we ensure that the world's digital infrastructure remains connected sustainably while allowing innovation, investment, and universal digital growth to flourish globally.

2

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Modernising the Digital Rail Infrastructure

To keep the digital rail future ready, we must build on the progress made so far to continue modernising the way the Union operates.

Clearing Critical Backlogs

I will prioritise the deployment of the confirmed CHF 11.44 million surplus to resolve the Satellite Network Filing backlog and restore predictability, responsiveness, and confidence for Member States and industry stakeholders.

Digital Transformation

Building on the proven efficiency gains already achieved through AI assisted translation tools, I will lead implementation of the Internal Digital Strategy to modernise workflows, improve coordination, and deliver faster and more responsive services to the membership.

Intersectoral Synergy

As head of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force, I will continue strengthening collaboration across the three Bureaux to ensure the Union operates as one coordinated system, reducing silos and improving delivery across development, standardisation, and radiocommunication activities.



Future Ready Coordination

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support greater coordination, standards development, and knowledge sharing around resilient and future ready digital infrastructure ecosystems, including emerging communications and data intensive technologies.

I will also support greater cooperation around shared infrastructure models, particularly across developing regions, where they can help reduce deployment costs, expand coverage, improve sustainability, and accelerate universal access.

Strengthening Institutional Capability

A future ready Union requires a future ready Secretariat which depends on the capability, professionalism, and adaptability of its people. In an evolving global digital landscape. As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support continued investment in:

- Staff development
- Leadership capacity
- Cross sector collaboration
- Digital capability
- Technical upskilling
- Modern operational tools





3

REGIONAL EQUITY

Extending the Tracks to Every Region

A railway is only as strong as its reach, therefore the success of the Union must ultimately be measured by how effectively it delivers for every region and every Member State.

Supporting Resilience, Recovery, and Reconstruction

In an increasingly uncertain world, resilient communications infrastructure has become essential not only for economic development, but also for continuity, recovery, and human security.

In addition, regions affected by natural disasters, humanitarian crises, or infrastructure disruption will require coordinated international support to restore and modernise critical digital and telecommunications systems.

The ITU has an important role to play in supporting Member States through:

- Technical coordination
- Standards support
- Spectrum management assistance
- Infrastructure resilience planning
- Emergency telecommunications cooperation
- Capacity building for recovery and reconstruction

I will support efforts that strengthen the Union's ability to assist Member States in building resilient, interoperable, and future ready digital infrastructure ecosystems including following periods of disruption or instability.

Africa: From Connectivity to Opportunity

Africa continues to face significant connectivity and infrastructure gaps, while also representing **one of the world's greatest opportunities for digital growth and innovation** given its young population, entrepreneurial energy, and vast natural and economic resources.

For many communities across the continent, the challenge is no longer simply whether connectivity exists, but whether access is meaningful, affordable, resilient, and capable of supporting economic participation at scale.

Focus Areas

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support efforts to expand meaningful connectivity, strengthen digital public infrastructure ecosystems, improve digital skills, enhance infrastructure resilience, and improve affordability of devices and digital services.

I will also encourage enabling policy and investment environments, including shared infrastructure models and sustainable digital industrialisation approaches where appropriate.

Delivery Priorities

- ✦ Bring implementation support closer to Member States while strengthening collaboration with regional institutions, development partners, industry stakeholders, and financing platforms.
- ✦ Support technical guidance, standards development, and knowledge sharing that help expand access, improve interoperability, strengthen resilience, and accelerate digital opportunity across the continent.

Arab States: Accelerating Digital Transformation

The Arab States region continues to demonstrate **strong ambition in digital infrastructure development and transformation**, while parts of the region will also require continued support for resilience, recovery, and infrastructure modernisation.

Focus Areas

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support efforts to strengthen smart infrastructure ecosystems, regional interoperability, trusted digital environments, and capacity building across the region.

I will also support resilience and recovery efforts where required, while encouraging greater cooperation around emerging communications technologies and future ready digital infrastructure.

Delivery Priorities

- ✦ Strengthen regional coordination, deepen collaboration among Member States, and support implementation partnerships that accelerate digital transformation and infrastructure modernisation across the region.
- ✦ Support efforts, where required, aimed at rebuilding resilient and future ready digital infrastructure ecosystems.

Asia-Pacific: Bridging Scale and Distance

The Asia-Pacific region combines advanced digital economies with geographically remote and highly vulnerable communities, including Small Island Developing States.

Focus Areas

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support efforts to strengthen resilient connectivity infrastructure, improve regional interoperability, and encourage sustainable digital infrastructure ecosystems across the region.

I will also support greater cooperation around non terrestrial connectivity systems, disaster preparedness, and recovery mechanisms, particularly for vulnerable and underserved communities.

Delivery Priorities

- ✦ Strengthen the Pacific presence of the Union specifically addressing structural barriers linked to distance and time zones, as well as deepening support for Small Island Developing States and underserved communities across the region.

CIS: Strengthening Technical Cooperation

The CIS region possesses **deep technical expertise** and strong potential for enhanced cooperation across evolving digital infrastructure systems.

Focus Areas

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support efforts to strengthen technical collaboration, infrastructure modernisation, standards engagement, and regional interoperability across the region.

I will also encourage greater knowledge exchange and deeper cooperation across evolving digital infrastructure ecosystems and Union activities.

Delivery Priorities

- ✦ Expand technical cooperation platforms, strengthen institutional and technical knowledge sharing, and support broader participation across the activities and processes of the Union.

Europe: Advancing Trust, Standards, and Coordination

Europe continues to play a **leading role in global standards development**, trusted digital infrastructure, and regulatory coordination.

Focus Areas

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support efforts to strengthen global interoperability, trusted digital ecosystems, digital resilience, and cooperation around future network coordination.

I will also encourage deeper collaboration on governance, policy coordination, and resilient infrastructure planning and recovery cooperation where required.

Delivery Priorities

- ✦ Strengthen regulatory dialogue, expand collaboration around standards development, and support cross regional coordination initiatives that reinforce global cooperation and interoperability.

Americas: Innovation and Inclusion

The Americas region combines **world leading innovation ecosystems** with persistent gaps in digital inclusion and infrastructure access.

Focus Areas

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support efforts to expand inclusive connectivity, strengthen infrastructure resilience, and encourage greater collaboration across innovation ecosystems throughout the region.

I will also support stronger public private cooperation and enabling digital policy environments that help expand access, innovation, and long term digital growth.

Delivery Priorities

- ✦ Strengthen collaboration with industry stakeholders and support regional coordination efforts that advance connectivity, interoperability, and digital opportunity across the region.





4

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Powering the Digital Rail

To sustain the mission of the Union within a static contributory structure, we must continue evolving how the ITU mobilises partnerships and resources.

Meaningful Connectivity and Access

Connectivity alone is not enough. Meaningful participation in the digital economy also depends on affordable devices, accessible services, digital skills, and sustainable ecosystem development.

The ITU can continue supporting Member States through knowledge sharing, partnerships, standards development, and coordination mechanisms that improve affordability and expand access to digital opportunity.

Where appropriate, the Union can also support dialogue around sustainable digital industrialisation strategies that strengthen regional digital ecosystems and resilience.

Strategic Infrastructure Partnerships

The future of global connectivity will increasingly involve collaboration across:

- * Telecommunications
- * Satellite systems
- * Cloud infrastructure
- * Subsea systems
- * Data infrastructure
- * Green energy systems
- * Emerging digital infrastructure ecosystems

I will work to deepen strategic engagement with the broader digital infrastructure community while ensuring that the ITU remains anchored in its core mandate and Member State priorities.

Global Infrastructure Coordination

The ITU is uniquely positioned to serve as a trusted platform for coordination among governments, industry, development finance institutions, academia, and technical communities.

I will support mechanisms that strengthen cooperation around:

- * Resilient connectivity
- * Infrastructure investment
- * Digital inclusion
- * Sustainability
- * Trusted digital ecosystems
- * Future communications infrastructure

The accelerating demand for compute, data infrastructure, and intelligent digital systems is increasing the need for coordinated investment in resilient global infrastructure ecosystems.

Academia as the R&D Engine

I will deepen engagement with academic members and research institutions to strengthen collaboration around:

- * 6G
- * Quantum communications
- * AI enabled network optimisation and infrastructure systems
- * Future network architectures
- * Space sustainability
- * Emerging communications systems



5

A CULTURE OF INTEGRITY

Reliability and Professionalism

A trusted global system depends on professionalism, predictability, and accountability. I am committed to fostering an organisational culture where all Member States, delegates, and staff feel respected, heard, and supported.

| Disciplined Management

I will support clearer, more efficient, and more respectful conference management processes that improve participation and sustainability for all delegations.

| Oversight and Ethics

I will continue strengthening oversight, ethics, and accountability mechanisms across the Union, ensuring that the principles of the UN system are consistently upheld.

| Supporting UN Reform

I will continue supporting the Union's contribution to broader UN reform efforts, ensuring that the ITU remains a trusted and effective institution within the multilateral system.

Strengthening Institutional Governance and Continuity

The Council plays a vital role in the strategic direction, oversight, and continuity of the Union. In many respects, councillors collectively serve as the governing board supporting the long term effectiveness and accountability of the ITU.

As Deputy Secretary-General, I will support efforts to strengthen institutional continuity and collaboration between the Council and the Secretariat through:

- Structured onboarding and orientation mechanisms for councillors and delegations
- Improved institutional knowledge sharing
- Enhanced understanding of Union processes and operational priorities
- Stronger governance support systems for informed decision making
- Greater continuity across Council cycles

By deepening collaboration, institutional understanding, and strategic alignment, we can further improve the ability of the ITU to deliver effectively for Member States and the global community.



My Commitment

In all I will do as Deputy Secretary-General, I commit to remain anchored in the ITU Constitution, the sovereign rights of member states and the Union's enduring mission of international cooperation.

I believe that together, we will build a digital rail that is universal, technically robust, operationally effective and agile enough to support future generations.

“ Together, lets keep the world connected while strengthening the digital rail and the global cooperation that keeps it active.”

Dr. 'Bosun Tijani

Candidate for Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - 2027-2030





DR. 'BOSUN TIJANI

Honourable Minister of Communications,
Innovation & Digital Economy.
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/dr-'bosun-tijani-1b027b/y

EDUCATION

PhD, Innovation Systems University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom	2022
Executive Education, Innovation for Economic Development Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, United States	2013
MSc., Information Systems and Management Warwick Business School, Coventry, United Kingdom	2007
Venture in Management Lagos Business School, Lagos, Nigeria	2003
B.Sc., Economics & Diploma in Computer Science University of Jos, Jos, Nigeria	2002

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy, Nigeria **2023 – Present**
Honourable Minister

Leading Nigeria's digital transformation agenda through a whole-of-government approach focused on connectivity, innovation, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, talent development, and institutional reform to strengthen Nigeria's position as a leading digital economy in Africa.

The reforms and strategic initiatives initiated since assuming office in 2023, have contributed to the continued expansion of Nigeria's digital economy, with the ICT sector increasing its contribution to national GDP from approximately 16% in 2023 to close to 20% by 2025, reinforcing its position as one of the country's most significant drivers of economic growth and productivity.

Highlights:

- Leading the implementation of Nigeria's Strategic Blueprint for the digital economy, focused on knowledge, policy, infrastructure, innovation, entrepreneurship, and trade
- Driving Project BRIDGE – a planned \$2 billion, 90,000km open-access fibre infrastructure initiative designed to expand broadband access across Nigeria
- Spearheading the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) programme to build one of the world's largest pipelines of digital and technical talent
- Leading Nigeria's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy and the establishment of frameworks to strengthen AI governance, research, and ecosystem coordination including the development of N-ATLAS Africa's first government backed large language model
- Advancing Digital Public Infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving interoperability, public service delivery, and trust between citizens and government
- Strengthening Nigeria's role in global digital governance through leadership within the International Telecommunication Union, including serving as Vice Chair and Chair of the ITU Council and co-chairing the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience
- Mobilised strategic international partnerships and financing support with institutions including the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to support Nigeria's digital infrastructure and innovation ambitions
- Led reforms and policy initiatives focused on strengthening digital inclusion, telecom sustainability, innovation ecosystems, and institutional capacity across Nigeria's digital economy sector

International Telecommunications Union

Chair of Council	2026
Vice Chair of Council	2025
Co-Chair, International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience	2024 – Date
Co-Chair, Digital Innovation Board, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development	2024 – Date

UNITAR

Member, Board of Trustees – 2024 – Date	2024 – Date
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Growth Capital by CcHUB

2016 – 2023

Partner

In partnership with Omidyar Network, Venture Gardens Group and Bank of Industry of Nigeria, Growth Capital by CcHUB invests in high potential early stage businesses building next generation digital infrastructure to catalyze their path to growth.

Investees: LifeBank, DrugStoc, EDVES, Taiello, Riby, Tatiilo, Ruby, Delivery Science

Co-creation HUB Nigeria / Design Lab Rwanda / iHUB Kenya /Co-creation HUB Namibia

2011 – 2023

Co-founder & CEO

Funded by Omidyar Network, Google and the Sainsbury Family Trust, Co-creation HUB is Africa's largest tech innovation hub for technologists, software developers, entrepreneurs, tech companies, investors and other stakeholders. CcHUB supports and invest in entrepreneurs and innovators to accelerate the growth and impact of their ventures for economic prosperity.

Highlights:

- Acquired iHub in Nairobi
- Launched NG_HUB - the first deeptech hub in Africa - in partnership with Facebook
- Launched Design Lab - the first Pan-African design lab based out of Rwanda
- Launched CcHUB in Namibia
- Led the development of Yaba Tech Cluster
- Pioneered the first Inquiry Learning and Digital Lab model for improving STEM education in Africa, through the Go-Labz Goes Africa Project in partnership with the European Commission
- Launched the first EdTech Centre of Excellence with Tai Solarin University of Education in Lagos
- Supported over 500 start-ups across Africa

Pera Innovation Network
European Research Network Manager

2007 – 2010

Pera is a leading European innovation network that inspires and enables clients to transform their product, business processes and people beyond their competitor's reach with offices in 15 locations across Europe and Far East.

Highlights:

- rNET - Created and animated a European network of 12 universities and 15 PERA Research Institutes participating in the European Commission Framework programme 7
- VALOR - Created and coordinated a regional network of European stakeholders in innovation policy to develop a common agenda and a joint action plan for the valorisation process across Europe
- INNOTEX - Managed and developed a cross-cluster best practice platform for entrepreneurial innovation in the technical textile sector to increase the competitiveness of European Textile Companies and raise capacity and exposure to cross-cluster opportunities

International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
Consultant, Internet & Communication Technologies

2005 - 2007

The International Trade Centre is the joint technical cooperation agency of the UNCTAD and WTO on business aspect of trade development which supports developing economies in transition to achieve sustainable human development through export.

Highlights:

- Designed and implemented technical support programmes aimed at enlightening and assisting exporters in Sub-Saharan Africa including Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, to maximise the use of information and communication technologies for export marketing

HP Social Investment & HP Education Services (EMEA), Hewlett Packard Company
Deployment Lead-Africa

2004 - 2005

HP Social Investment (EMEA) and HP Education respectively manage Hewlett Packard's social investment engagements in Europe, Middle East and Africa, and all commercial involvement of the company in education related projects.

Highlights:

- Designed and implemented the HP Micro-enterprise Acceleration CSR Programme created to provide support to small businesses around the globe in understanding how to leverage Information and Communication Technologies for their businesses
- Completed and deployed HP learning centres in Kenya, Nigeria and supported the deployment of learning/tele centres in Egypt and Morocco

Business Development Manager
DeliveryKing, Nigeria Limited

2003 - 2004

DeliveryKing was the leading meal delivery service provider in Nigeria.

Highlights:

- Developed and managed pioneering order management system for online meal ordering in Nigeria

AWARDS & HONOURS

- TIME 100 in AI Awardee, **2025**
- Top 100 Under 40 Most Influential People of African Descent (Business and Entrepreneurship), **2018**
- Top 100 Most Influential Africans of 2017, New Africa Magazine, **2017**

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- Member, Presidential Advisory Group on Technology and Creativity, Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Advisory Council, Nigeria
- Member, UK Advisory Committee on Digital Access Africa, London, United Kingdom
- Advisor and Committee Member, National Economic Summit Group on Science and Technology, Lagos, Nigeria
- Advisor, Lagos State Innovation Advisory Council, Lagos, Nigeria

FELLOWSHIPS

- Adjunct Research Fellow (Digital Epidemiology) at The Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Lagos, Nigeria
- Fellow (Democracy, Development and Rule of Law) at The Centre on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA
- Archbishop Tutu Fellow Leadership at The African Leadership Institute, London, United Kingdom
- Fellow (Enterprise Management Development), The International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO), Geneva, Switzerland