



General Secretariat (SG)

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Contact: ITU Gender and Youth Office (GYO)

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To:

- ITU Member States
- ITU Sector Members
- ITU Academia
- Associates

Subject: **Second Cohort of the ITU Young Professionals Programme (YPP)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The future of the digital transformation agenda lies in the hands of the next generation of experts. As we navigate an increasingly complex technological landscape, it is imperative that we not only listen to young voices but actively integrate them into the work of our Union.

The [ITU Young Professionals Programme \(YPP\)](#) is designed to cultivate the next generation of global ICT experts and leaders, therefore shaping the future of the technology sector. This two-year, hands-on programme, empowers brilliant young minds to bridge the digital divide and leverage technology for global benefit. By combining on-the-job discovery of emerging technologies with rigorous research, innovation, and dedicated mentoring, the YPP offers a holistic approach to ITU talent development, equipping young participants with both professional expertise and an enduring global network.

Last year, from more than 3 500 applicants, we selected and welcomed our inaugural cohort of six brilliant young experts — Flora Lomoteley Okine (Ghana), Harisa Shahid (Pakistan), N'Goran Franck Konan (Côte d'Ivoire), Prateek Dubey (India), Rebecca Mzungu Saeluzika (Malawi) and Tadala Beatrice Sambakunsi (Malawi) who are now working across all three ITU bureaus and the General Secretariat. They are bringing fresh perspectives, technical innovation, and renewed energy to their diverse teams. As they would be preparing to graduate from the program and take the next steps in their careers as global digital leaders by the end of 2026, we must ensure that the door remains open for others to follow in their footsteps.

Building on the impact of the first YPP cohort, I kindly invite ITU members to consider contributing to the ITU YPP fund towards full or partial sponsorship of the next cohort. Sponsorship would cover salary, travel, and professional development costs for the two-year period. Contributions can be earmarked for candidates from a specific region or made to the general pool to ensure the most diverse geographic representation possible.

The success of the first cohort shows that when we invest in youth, the return on investment for the global digital community is limitless. By supporting the second cohort of YPPs, you are directly:

- ✓ Enabling young talent, particularly from developing countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, to gain high-level experience in global telecommunications governance.

- ✓ Ensuring the ITU remains agile and relevant by integrating digital natives and young experts into our workforce.
- ✓ Demonstrating your country's commitment to youth empowerment and the UN Youth 2030 agenda.

Our objective is ambitious yet vital: We aim to announce a fully funded second cohort of the Young Professionals Programme by the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) in November 2026. To achieve this, we must secure the necessary financial commitments in advance.

Please see this [digital brochure](#) with further details on the YPP second cohort for your consideration in providing financial support. The ITU Gender and Youth Office stands ready to provide any additional information via genderandyouthoffice@itu.int.

Finally, I reiterate my gratitude for your continued support for ITU's youth empowerment efforts.

Yours faithfully,

(original signed)

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General