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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 11 November 2021 | |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 204** | | - Administrations of Member States of the Union;  - ITU-T Sector Members;  - ITU-T Associates;  - ITU Academia;  - Regional telecommunication organizations;  - Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems;  - The United Nations;  - Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency | |
| Contact: | Mr Bilel Jamoussi | |
| Tel: | +41 22 730 6311 | |
| Fax: | +41 22 730 5853 | |
| E-mail: | [gss@itu.int](mailto:tsbsgd@itu.int) | |
|  |  | | **Copy:**  - Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups/TSAG;  - Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau | |
| **Subject**: | **Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20): International standards to enable the digital transformation and achieve the sustainable development goals; Geneva, Switzerland, 28 February 2022** | | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Secretary-General of ITU by Circular letters Nos. [21/06](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-SG-CIR-0006/en) and [21/39](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-SG-CIR-0039/en) and letters [DM-21/1001](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01001/en), [DM-21/1002](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01002/en), [DM-21/1003](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01003/en), and [DM-21/1004](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01004/en) of 8 September 2021 has announced that the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA‑20) will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 1 to 9 March 2022, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on 28 February 2022.

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the Global Standards Symposium (GSS), which will be held at the same venue as WTSA-20 at the [International Conference Center Geneva (CICG)](https://cicg.ch/), Geneva, Switzerland. GSS provides a high-level forum for discussion and coordination, open both to members and non-members. The theme of GSS-20 is “International standards to enable the digital transformation and achieve the sustainable development goals”.

More information on GSS-20, including the draft programme will be made available on the [GSS website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/gss).

Registration is required for all GSS-20 participants (either physically present or remote). Registration of participants for GSS will be carried out exclusively **online** on the [WTSA-20 website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/Pages/default.aspx).

The WTSA-20 website also contains [practical information](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/Pages/information.aspx) for the event, including visa requirements and hotel details.

General information for participants related to visa, travel, and safety and security measures in force as of 20 September 2021 are available in the **Annex 1**. Participants are strongly invited to consult the safety and security information at the [ITU COVID security page](https://www.itu.int/security/covid19) where updated information will be posted before making travel arrangements to attend the event.

I look forward to welcoming you in Geneva, Switzerland.

Yours faithfully,

Chaesub Lee  
Director of the Telecommunication  
Standardization Bureau

**Annex:** 1

ANNEX 1  
(To TSB Circular 204)

Information for participants on visa, travel, measures  
in place in Geneva and in CICG

**1.1 Visa request**

* Delegates are responsible for their own visa request. Support can be provided by ITU for ITU membership only.
* Based on their nationality, participants attending conferences in Switzerland may require a visa/laissez-passer to enter Switzerland. Visa requirements must be met before arrival. The list of nationalities subject to visas can be found by consulting <https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/publiservice/weisungen-kreisschreiben/visa/liste1_staatsangehoerigkeit.html>
* Entry visas for Switzerland are primarily issued by the Swiss Embassy/Consulate responsible for the applicant’s country of residence and in some cases, external service providers register the visa application on behalf of the Swiss authorities. Information about the nearest Swiss Embassy or Consulate responsible for the participant’s place of residence can be found by consulting the [Swiss Online visa system](https://www.swiss-visa.ch/ivis2/#/i210-select-country).
* In light of the travel restrictions taken in response to the coronavirus, persons who are exempted from visa requirements must inquire about boarding requirements. If necessary, the Swiss representation responsible for the person’s place of residence abroad <https://www.swiss-visa.ch/ivis2/#/i210-select-country> (may issue a laissez-passer, which confirms that the person fulfils the conditions for crossing the Swiss border in accordance with the conditions laid down in Ordinance 3 COVID-19 <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2020/438/fr>
  + For more information, please consult the [Swiss Mission’s](https://www.eda.admin.ch/missions/mission-onu-geneve/en/home/manual-regime-privileges-and-immunities/introduction/manual-visas.html) information notes:
  + COVID-19 information note on rules of entry into Switzerland for persons expected in an official capacity by international organizations and permanent missions at [COVID-19-Information-forpeople-travelling-to-Switzerland\_EN.pdf (admin.ch)](https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/mission-onu-omc-aele-geneve/en/documents/COVID-19-Information-for-people-travelling-to-Switzerland_EN.pdf)
* COVID-19 Information note on health measures and border controls for persons expected in an official capacity by international organizations and permanent missions at [COVID-19-InformationSheet-on-health-measures-and-border-controls\_EN.pdf (admin.ch)](https://www.dfae.admin.ch/dam/mission-onu-omc-aele-geneve/en/documents/COVID-19-Information-Sheet-on-health-measures-and-border-controls_EN.pdf)

**1.2 Updates on COVID measures for WTSA-20 and GSS-20 in Switzerland**

Please consult the ITU security website for updates at <https://www.itu.int/security/covid19>

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