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|  | Geneva, 29 October 2021 |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 351**TSB Events/XA | **To:**- Administrations of Member States of the Union;- ITU-T Sector Members;- ITU-T Associates;- ITU Academia |
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| E-mail: | tsbevents@itu.int | **Copy to:**- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |
| **Subject**:  | **2nd Joint ITU/WHO Workshop on Digital COVID-19 Certificates (Fully Virtual Meeting, 26 November 2021)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 It is my pleasure to invite you to the **2nd Joint ITU/WHO Workshop on Digital COVID-19 Certificates”** taking placevirtually on **26 November 2021** from 13h00-18h00 CEST, Geneva time. This event will be organised as a session within the [ITU Digital World 2021](https://digital-world.itu.int/).

2 The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the need for digital certificates that can be used in an interoperable fashion across organizations and jurisdictions. For example, EU launched the EU Digital COVID Certificate in July 2021 which is a digital proof that a person has either been vaccinated against COVID-19, or received a negative test result, or recovered from COVID-19. While this specification has been implemented in Europe, different jurisdictions are looking into possible ways to implement such a certificate, that may or may not interoperate with the European certificates. Shortly after the [1st ITU/WHO Workshop on "Digital Vaccination Certificate"](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/2021/0811/Pages/default.aspx) (online, 11 August 2021), which explored key issues for implementation of interoperable COVID certificates, WHO published a guide for Member States, the [Digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates: vaccination status: technical specifications and implementation guidance (DDCC:VS).](https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/WHO-2019-nCoV-Digital_certificates-vaccination-2021.1) This document contains baseline requirements for the development of interoperable digital vaccination certificate solutions for COVID-19.

3 The [1st ITU/WHO Workshop on "Digital Vaccination Certificate"](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/2021/0811/Pages/default.aspx) on 11 August 2021 categorized solutions for operating digital COVID-19 certificates in two types: one based on centralized PKI and another based on decentralized identity (DID) which enables new solutions to security, privacy, inclusivity and finally interoperability in addition to existing solutions based on PKI.

4 COVID-19 certificate-based services should support various use scenarios and formats of digital COVID-19 certificates from immunization and testing data collection, to storage in digital health data repositories, and to expression of the immunization status at control points, in order to allow end users access to facilities, venues, travel and other uses.

5 The objectives of the workshop are:

* to share experiences and best practices and to explore solutions on digital COVID-19 certificates, including implementation of WHO specification on DDCC:VS;
* to discuss guidelines on identity binding and internationally interoperable trust network for COVID‑19 certificates and related digital services;
* to raise awareness of importance of federated trust and privacy preserving technologies;
* to focus on identifying ITU-T and other SDO’s standards to support implementation of digital COVID‑19 certificates and related digital services; and,
* to identify gaps and directions for further technical standardization.

6 Participation is open to all WHO members, ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country that is a member of ITU, who wishes to contribute to the work. Participation is free of charge.

7 All pertinent information relating to the workshop including the draft programme, speakers, will be made available on the event website at: <https://digital-world.itu.int/events/2021-event/calendar/?sessionid=C-00010782>. This website will be updated regularly as new or modified information becomes available. Participants are requested to check periodically for new updates.

Registration to the event is mandatory and can accessed online here:
<https://digital-world.itu.int/events/2021-event/register/>. Kindly fill in the form and select the session of the event, among the list of options available.

Yours faithfully,

Chaesub Lee
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau