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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 19 March 2024 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 193**  **CB** | | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union  - ITU-T Sector Members  - ITU-T Associates  - ITU Academia  - Permanent Missions and Embassies in Geneva  - Relevant international, regional and national organisations  - Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems  - The United Nations  - Specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency | |
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|  |  | | **Copy to:**  - The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-T Study Groups  - The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau  - The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau | |
| **Subject:** | **First UN Virtual Worlds Day: Harnessing the metaverse to advance the SDGs (Geneva, 14 June 2024)** | | | |
| Dear Sir/Madam,  1 The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO), the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its interagency initiative Resilience Frontiers, the United Nations Futures Lab Network, the United Nations Guatemala, the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Innovation Network (UNIN), the United Nations University (UNU), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Bank, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), would like to invite you to the [**First UN Virtual Worlds Day: Harnessing the metaverse to advance the SDGs**](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/un-virtual-worlds-day/), scheduled to take place at ITU headquarters, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 June 2024, from 0900 to 1810 hours (CEST).  2 The objective of the UN Virtual Worlds Day is to highlight the transformative power of virtual worlds, including the metaverse and spatial computing and to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will be achieved by bringing together policymakers to discuss how to regulate and safeguard the virtual worlds and metaverse, and by showcasing the latest technological advances such as VR, AR, metaverse and spatial computing, and their real-world applications relevant to the SDGs.  3 **UN metaverse Think-a-Thon**  ITU, UNICC, and FAO are co-organizing the [First UN metaverse Think-a-Thon](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/un-virtual-worlds-day/thinkathon/), as part of the UN Virtual Worlds Day. The theme of the 2024 edition is “Virtual Worlds Revolutionizing Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities”. The event will bring together youth to leverage their ideas and virtual world technologies  in particular, spatial computing and metaverse to create innovative solutions for the SDGs. It will provide an exclusive opportunity for young innovators to tackle real-world challenges in a virtual environment, fostering a future of sustainability and inclusivity. The award ceremony of winners of theUNmetaverse Think-a-Thon 2024 will take place during the UN Virtual Worlds Day.  Details of the UN metaverse Think-a-thon are available in [Circular 187](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0187/en) and on the [UN metaverse Think-a-Thon 2024 webpage](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/un-virtual-worlds-day/thinkathon/).  4 The First UN Virtual Worlds Day will be preceded by the [Seventh and final meeting of the ITU Focus Group on metaverse (FG-MV)](http://www.itu.int/go/fgmv) and [Fifth ITU Forum on “Integrating virtual and physical worlds in the metaverse with digital twin”](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/5th-forum-metaverse/) that will take place on 12 and 13 June 2024, at the same venue.  Details of these events are available in [Circular 192](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0192/en) and on the [FG-MV webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/mv/Pages/default.aspx).  5 Participation in the UN Virtual Worlds Day is free of charge and open to individual experts and organizations from all sectors and relevant disciplines.  6 To enable ITU to make the necessary arrangements, participants are invited to register online via the [UN Virtual Worlds Day homepage](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/un-virtual-worlds-day/) as soon as possible. Places are limited and registration will be handled on a first‑come, first-served basis. Registration is required for remote participation as well as on-site participation. Please note that pre-registration of participants for the events is carried out exclusively online.  7 I would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa to enter and spend any time in Switzerland. **The visa must be requested at least four weeks before the date of beginning of the meeting** and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Switzerland in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to your country of departure.  If problems are encountered by **ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates or Academia members**, and at the official request made by them to ITU, the Union can approach the competent Swiss authorities to facilitate delivery of the visa, but only within the period mentioned of **four** weeks. Any such request should be made by checking the corresponding box within the stated timeframe. Enquiries should be sent to the ITU Travel Section ([travel@itu.int](mailto:travel@itu.int)) with the title of “visa support”.  Additional details and documentation, including registration, programme, exhibition and Think-a-Thon, will be made available on the [UN Virtual Worlds Day homepage](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/un-virtual-worlds-day/).  I wish you a productive and enjoyable event. | | | | |

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| Yours faithfully,  Seizo Onoe Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau | Event information |