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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 13 February 2025 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 21**  **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  **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 | |
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| **Subject:** | **First UN Citiverse Challenge Award ceremonies: Turin, Italy, June 2025 and Valencia, Spain, October 2025** | | | |
| Dear Sir/Madam,  1 It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the First UN Citiverse Challenge, with the theme “Citiverse: Designing Digital Public Infrastructure of Future Cities”, co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO), the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN Tourism, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Bank, Digital Dubai, the City of Tampere, the City of Valencia, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and, Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC).  2 The First UN Citiverse Challenge aims to bring together youth and startups to leverage their ideas and virtual world technologies. It will also provide an exclusive opportunity for young innovators and startups to contribute to pre-standardization efforts, exploring innovative solutions that could influence the development of international standards for the citiverse and digital public infrastructure.  3 The challenge will focus on the following themes:   * **Access to Public Services:** Redesign digital identity and financial systems to empower underserved populations, ensuring inclusivity and equity(SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities). * **Sustainability and Resilience:** Develop open, interoperable digital infrastructure to enhance energy access, optimize resources, and improve climate adaptation and disaster preparedness (SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 13: Climate Action). * **Tourism and Digital Culture**: Create solutions that preserve cultural heritage, enhance accessibility, and foster immersive, inclusive cultural experiences. (SDG 9: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities).   4 Participation in the UN Citiverse Challenge is free of charge and open to both **youth** and **startups**. Interested participants can register and participate in the Challenge [here](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/virtual-worlds/1st-un-citiverse-challenge/). Registration is open until **19 March 2025**. The proposals need to be submitted by the same date.  5 The prizes include **5,000 CHF** for the **youth category** and **5,000 CHF** for the **startups category**. The award ceremony for the youth category winners will take place during the UN Virtual Worlds Day on 11-12 June 2025, in Turin, Italy. The award ceremony for the startup category winners will take place during the Valencia Digital Summit in October 2025, in Valencia, Spain. Details of the Second UN Virtual Worlds Day are available in [Circular 22](https://www.itu.int/md/T25-TSB-CIR-0022/en) and on the [event webpage](https://www.itu.int/un-virtual-worlds-day/2025/).  6 Information relating to the UN Citiverse Challenge, including the timeline, format and proposed problem statements, is available [here](https://www.itu.int/metaverse/virtual-worlds/1st-un-citiverse-challenge/). Please check the homepage periodically for new updates.  7 For additional information and questions relating to the Challenge, please contact Ms Yining Zhao by email at [virtualworlds@itu.int](mailto:virtualworlds@itu.int). | | | | |

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| Yours faithfully,  A black text on a white background  Description automatically generatedSeizo Onoe Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau | More information |