



General Secretariat (SG)

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To

- United Nations;
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- Regional telecommunication organizations;
- Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems;
- Other regional or international organizations

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Subject: **World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that, following the kind invitation of the Government of Argentina and the approval by the Council with the concurrence of a majority of the Member States of ITU, the forthcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) of the ITU will be convened in **Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017.**

In accordance with Article 25 of the ITU Convention and Section 3 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, I therefore have great pleasure in hereby inviting your organization/agency to participate in WTDC-17 as observers.

World telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs) are convened in the period between two Plenipotentiary Conferences to consider topics, projects and programmes relevant to telecommunication development. WTDCs set the strategies and objectives for the development of telecommunication/ICT, providing direction and guidance to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).

The theme of WTDC-17 is “**ICT for Sustainable Development Goals**” (ICT@SDGs). The draft agenda of WTDC-17, as approved by the Council with the concurrence of a majority of the Member States, is contained in Annex 1. In line with WTDC Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) is organizing one Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) per region, two in the last quarter of 2016 and four in the first quarter of 2017. A schedule of these meetings is attached as Annex 2.

The draft structure of WTDC-17, along with all practical information and arrangements for the conference will be sent to you in due course.

In line with ITU gender equality and mainstreaming policy and Resolution 198 (Busan, 2014) on empowerment of youth through telecommunication/ICT, I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage you to include women and young people in your delegation.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Houlin Zhao

Annex 1: Draft agenda of WTDC-17

Annex 2: Schedule of Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs), preceded by Regional Development Forums (RDFs)

Annex 1

Draft agenda of WTDC-17

I. Report on the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan

1. Sharing success stories and lessons learned from implementing the Dubai Action Plan
2. Report of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group
3. Report of Study Groups
4. Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work:
 - a. Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14)
 - b. Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-15)/World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15)
 - c. World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16)
5. ITU-D contribution to World Summit on the Information Society Action Lines

II. ICT policies and strategies for achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Ministerial and Industry leaders' roundtables

III. ITU-D work plan for 2018-2021

1. Outcomes of Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-17
2. ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023
3. ITU-D Action Plan for 2018-2021
4. WTDC-17 Declaration
5. Telecommunication Development Advisory Group
 - a. Authorization for the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication development conferences (Resolution 24, Rev. Dubai, 2014)
 - b. Structure and working methods
6. Study Groups
 - a. Study Questions
 - b. Structure and working methods
7. Resolutions and recommendations
8. Financing mechanisms for ICT development
 - a. Partnerships
 - b. Role of the private sector
9. Any other business

Annex 2

Schedule of Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs), preceded by Regional Development Forums (RDFs)

Dates	Place	Region
9-11 November 2016	Kyrgyz Republic	Commonwealth of Independent States: RPM-CIS, preceded by RDF on 8 November 2016
6-8 December 2016	Republic of Rwanda	Africa: RPM-AFR, preceded by RDF on 5 December 2016
30 January-1 February 2017	Republic of Sudan	Arab States: RPM-ARB, preceded by RDF on 29 January 2017
1-3 March 2017	Republic of Paraguay	Americas: RPM-AMS, preceded by RDF on 28 February 2017
21-23 March 2017	Republic of Indonesia	Asia and the Pacific: RPM-ASP, preceded by RDF on 20 March 2017
27-28 April 2017	Republic of Lithuania	Europe: RPM-EUR, preceded by RDF on 26 April 2017