

The ITU Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Board

Terms of Reference

1.BACKGROUND AND THE PURPOSE:

The ITU Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Board is a dynamic and forward-thinking initiative that empowers young individuals to shape the future of global connectivity. This advisory board is all about action and results, offering practical advice to the ITU Secretary-General. The board will provide diverse youth perspectives, and concrete recommendations to enhance worldwide cooperation in bridging the digital divide “connecting the unconnected” and aligning ITU's programs with the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the heart of this initiative is the goal of giving young people a direct voice within ITU and bring fresh, innovative, and inclusive perspectives to the table. Starting two-year term in February 2024, members of the inaugural Youth Advisory Board will be selected by the ITU Secretary-General from a global pool of exceptional candidates.

The purpose of this board is:

- To provide youth perspectives on the future vision of ITU and the role that ITU can play in promoting equitable, affordable, universal, innovative, and safe connectivity.
- To contribute ideas and recommendations on how to narrow the digital divide and harness technology for the greater good of society; responsibilities may encompass researching innovative solutions, providing analysis, collaborating with youth networks and communities, and formulating recommendations to ensure technology is accessible.
- To provide youth feedback on ITU's work programs, management approaches, and human resources development.
- To support ITU initiatives and promote ITU's work among youth audience worldwide.
- To share insights on the potential of telecommunications, emerging technologies and ITU's role in closing existing gaps. To consult with youth networks to get feedback on ideas for connectivity, emerging technologies including AI, the space economy, e-waste and the circular economy, leveraging digital technologies for climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, amongst other priority areas priorities for ITU.

This Youth Advisory Board will be of 12 young, exceptional individuals from 6 [ITU Regions](#) (Africa, Americas, Arab states, Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States and Europe) (2 per region) who dive into a wide array of telecommunications-related topics, from artificial intelligence and quantum technology to the Internet of Things, cybersecurity, space sustainability, the future of network technology and much more. They will bring a wealth of knowledge about technology, regulatory issues, and policy matters in

the ICT sector. Together, they will embody the spirit of innovation and inclusivity, driving ITU's mission into the future.

2.CRITERIA:

12 exceptional individuals from 6 ITU regions (2 per region) will be selected and appointed by the ITU Secretary-General. The candidates will need to submit an expression of interest form and meet the criteria outlined below:

- Candidates must be between the ages of 18 to 30;
- Demonstrated commitment to the vision of ITU;
- Demonstrated achievements showing impact and results in promoting equitable, affordable, universal, innovative, and safe connectivity;
- Led and/or contributed to STEM related research, publication, journal;
- Member, founder, or leader of related STEM youth led movement, network, organization or programme;
- Knowledge about technology, existing international ICT policies and regulations;
- Expertise in STEM fields with focus on emerging technologies including AI, the space economy, infrastructure and connectivity, cybersecurity, e-waste and the circular economy, leveraging digital technologies for climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, amongst other priority areas for ITU;
- Proven record of advocating for youth and technology and Sustainable Development Goals;
- Demonstrated success in STEM related projects/ research/paper/publication/ or received recognition / or presented work at a conference;
- Ability to leave organizational and country affiliations aside and serve in an individual capacity;

ITU is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages all interested candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons with disabilities, to complete and submit an expression of interest form.

3.TIMELINE:

Phase 1. 6 December 2023-12 January 2024. Open Call for expression of interest.

Phase 2. 18 February 2024- Members will be selected to join the ITU SG' Youth Advisory Board.

4.SCOPE OF WORK:

- a) Members will provide advice in a personal capacity. Board members are not staff members of the ITU and do not represent the ITU. They serve in a personal and advisory capacity, providing independent and non-binding advice to the ITU

Secretary-General. They are not entitled to any remuneration, benefits, or legal rights applicable to ITU staff members. They must not act or present themselves as representatives or employees of the ITU in any context.

- b) The members of the board would have an advisory function to the ITU Secretary-General and will provide recommendations on related telecommunications issues requested by the ITU Secretary- General directly.
- c) Based on these Terms of Reference, a vision, plan and time deliverables will be agreed based on the Objectives and Scope outlined in the first meeting.
- d) The Board will meet twice per year with the Secretary-General and have three working level meetings. All meetings will be held online.
- e) All ownership rights and interest regarding any output of the Board shall vest with ITU.
- f) The Board will submit a short-written report to the Secretary-General before the end of each year of its term, outlining its progress against the Objectives and Scope of Work, and against the specific deliverables set out in the workplan.
- g) The Board will also be guided by the following ongoing initiatives, partners' efforts, needs and priorities, and contextual opportunities and risks.
- h) Members of the Board must fully commit to, and observe at all times and in all contexts, the values and standards of the United Nations, adhere to UN principles including human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption; adhere to the overall ITU mandate and goals as outlined in its Constitution and Convention, and ITU's Strategic Plan.
- i) In its work, the board members will adhere to [the United Nations Code of Conduct](#) and any operational guidance to be provided by the Office of the Secretary-General. In the event of any misconduct or an inability to fulfil the duties, board membership will be subject to termination.

5. COMPOSITION:

- a) The board will consist of 12 members, to be selected by the Secretary-General. The expression of interest form will be shared online.
- b) The composition of the Board will seek to ensure regional balance and gender diversity as well as the inclusion of minority and marginalized groups.

- c) Members must not use their position on the board for the purpose of financial or other purely personal gain; and must declare any potential or perceived conflict of interest with any employment or positions they may hold during their membership in the board.
- d) Membership is for two years, limited to one term.

6. SUPPORT AND LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS:

- a) Membership is purely voluntary and non-remunerated.
- b) The ITU General Secretariat team will perform the functions of secretariat for the Board.
- c) The ITU General Secretariat will provide the necessary technical and administrative support to its members to participate fully in the board.
- d) The ITU General Secretariat will have oversight of all substantive matters relating to board's fulfilment of its work.

For any questions, please contact youth-info@itu.int