



Concept Note

Background

The year 2025 marks a series of significant milestones:

--160th Anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)—A testament to ITU's enduring commitment to advancing global connectivity and fostering digital innovation. The 160th Anniversary is not just a celebration of ITU's history but a recognition of the critical moment we face today—a moment where digital technologies are more essential than ever in addressing global challenges and ensuring sustainable development for all.

--10th Anniversary of the United Nations' Digital Transformation Initiatives—A decade-long effort to harness technology to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing inclusivity and equity.

--30th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women—Held in Beijing in 1995, this historic event produced the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a transformative agenda for achieving gender equality.

--18th Anniversary of MIIT/ITU high level seminars. Since 2001, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of the People's Republic of China has collaborated with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to host 17 high-level seminars in China. These events have brought together international experts to address key issues in information and communication technology (ICT), significantly contributing to the deepening of pragmatic cooperation between China, ITU, and its Member States, particularly in advancing the digital economy.

To align with these celebrations, ITU and MIIT integrate the long-standing tradition of high-level seminars into the ITU's 160th Anniversary commemorations program by hosting an event with the theme "Digital Innovation Cooperation for Future and for All" during World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 High-Level Event 2025 and AI for Good Global Summit 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the ITU/MIIT High-Level Seminar 2025 are:

--Celebrating 160 years of innovation and multilateralism and harnessing ITU's influence in the digital age.

--Promoting Sustainable Development by discussing strategies for enabling developing countries to harness the benefits of digital technologies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

--Reinforcing partnerships between ITU, China, and other Member States to address global ICT challenges.

Timing and location

The High-Level Seminar will be held as a physical event at Hilton Geneva Hotel & Conference Centre, on 11 July 2025, from 9:00 to 13:00 (Geneva Time).

A reception lunch will be provided right after the seminar for all participants.

Participation

The event would attempt to bring together representatives from ITU, Member States, industry and academia.

Contact Persons

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