World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020
"Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals"

When: Monday, 18 May 2020, 14:00 to 15:30 (CET)

Where: Virtual Panel Discussion

The theme of this year’s World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is “Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. It reaffirms ITU’s commitment to connecting all the world’s people while showing how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can contribute to accelerating the achievement of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With just 10 years to go, UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched a ‘Decade of Action’ last January to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. In the months since, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has highlighted the fundamental importance of ICTs to economies and societies everywhere, showing the world that nobody is safe until we are all safe – and that we will not be able to use the full potential of ICTs until we are all connected.

This year’s WTISD event will address the importance of enhancing collaboration and cooperation among countries, the UN family and others to strengthen the role of ICTs as we embark on the ‘Decade of Action’ to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to advance the role of ICTs in the global response to COVID-19.

14:00 Start of the event

- Welcome Remarks, Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union
- WTISD-20 video
- Panel Discussion on “Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals”
  - Mrs. Tatiana Valovaya, Director General, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
  - H. E. Mr. Vaqif Sadiqov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Chair of the Geneva Chapter of the NAM
  - Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
  - Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
  - Speaker TBC

15:25 Closing of the event