

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: <https://www.itu.int/webcast/live/2020wtisd>

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

- WTISD-20 video
- Message, **Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations**
- Welcome Remarks, **Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union**
 - **Mr. Mario Maniewicz**, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, International Telecommunication Union
 - **Mr. Chaesub Lee**, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union
 - **Mrs. Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union
- High-level Panel Discussion on "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals" moderated by **Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union** with panellists:
 - **Mrs. Tatiana Valovaya**, Director General, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
 - **Mrs. Audrey Azoulay**, Director General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 - **Mr. Francis Gurry**, Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
 - **Mr. Petteri Taalas**, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
 - **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

15:25 Closing of the event