

Welcome to
the second edition of 2026
AMBASSADORS' BRIEFING



Floor is Yours

**Who do you think will win
the 2026 FIFA World Cup?**



What keeps you busy?

Between the World Health Assembly, WIPO's Extraordinary Session of the General Assemblies, the ILO Governing Body and with the WMO Executive Council kicking off soon, which Governing Body has kept you busiest?

- **WHO / WHA**
- **WIPO**
- **ILO**
- **WMO**
- **ITU Council**
- **All of them equally**



Agenda

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Recent Updates

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Upcoming Events

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UN Engagement

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Looking Ahead



01

Recent Updates

- Council Outcomes
- Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-26)
- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), *Digital Lifelines Report*



ITU COUNCIL

GENEVA2026



Council 2026

Key Highlights and Outcomes

- Chaired by H.E. Dr Bosun Tijani, **Minister** of Communications and Digital Economy of **Nigeria**
- Preceded by **Council Chair Ministerial Retreat**
- Considered **India's** invitation to host PP-30 & **Uzbekistan's** invitation to host WTSA-28
- Approved proposed **allocation of savings (reinvestment)**
- Approved **Operational Plan for 2027** and endorsed the **revised Draft Strategic Plan** for consideration at PP-26
- Noted **Financial Statements and Financial Operating report**

Council 2026

Key Highlights and Outcomes

- **New Resolutions** and **Decisions**
- Agreed in principle to establish an **Area Office** in the **Pacific**
- **WTPF-26** rescheduled to **2-4 September**
- **Additional financial contributions** announced from **India, Japan** and the **United States**.

Find the ITU **Council 2026**
Snapshot Report



Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-26)

- 12-15 May 2026, Ankara, Türkiye
- *Navigating the Digital Frontier*
- Chaired by Dr Ömer Abdullah Karagözoğlu, President of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK)



ITUGSR
ANKARA2026



World Telecommunication and Information Society on 17 May 2026

Digital Lifelines Report Critical Digital Risks



02 Upcoming Events

- Global Dialogue on AI Governance
- WSIS 2026
- AI for Good Summit 2026





Global Dialogue on AI Governance

6-7 July 2026 at Palexpo

- Registration and accreditation via the official Dialogue website (UN Indico)
- Accredited Dialogue participants may access both AI for Good* and the WSIS Forum with a Dialogue badge

* Categories of Dialogue participants who have complimentary access to AI for Good: Member States, UN personnel, accredited media, accredited NGOs (official UN NGO list), and under 18s.



AI for Good Global Summit

7 - 10 July 2026 at Palexpo
Complimentary access

- ITU Member States, UN personnel, accredited media, accredited NGOs (official UN NGO list), and participants under 18
 - ✓ Ministers & Ambassadors are eligible for Leaders' pass

Discounts:

- ITU Sector Members, Associates, Academia Members, and students

Paid passes

- Available for general public:
 - ✓ Discovery Pass: CHF 50
 - ✓ Gold Pass: CHF 890
 - ✓ Leaders Pass: CHF 4,900
- All AI for Good registrants can access the WSIS Forum with an AI for Good badge

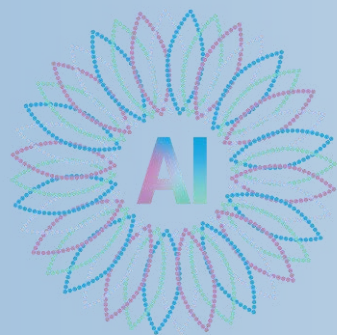


WSIS FORUM 2026

**6 - 7 July 2026 at ITU and 8 - 10 July
at Palexpo**

- Registration via the official WSIS website and is free of charge
- Eligible participants who register via WSIS (Member States, UN personnel, an accredited media, accredited NGOs, and under 18s) receive complimentary AI for Good Summit access.





Global Dialogue on AI Governance

Four Thematic Clusters

- **AI opportunities and implications:** *social, economic, ethical, cultural, linguistic and technical dimensions;*
- **Bridging AI divides:** *capacity-building, access and digital foundations;*
- **Safe, secure and trustworthy AI:** *interoperability and compatibility of approaches; and*
- **Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights:** *transparency, accountability and human oversight.*

Global Dialogue on AI Governance Programme

Day 1

07:30 - 08:45	Special events/sessions [breakout]
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Ceremony
09:30 - 10:30	Report of the Scientific Panel
10:30 -12:30	High-level governmental plenary
12:30 -13:30	High-level multi-stakeholder plenary
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch & Side Events [breakout]
15:00 - 18:00	Thematic discussions [breakout]

Day 2

07:30 - 08:45	Side Events [breakout]
09:00 - 12:00	Thematic discussions [breakout]
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch & Side Events [breakout]
13:30 - 15:00	AI Governance Initiatives & Approaches
15:00 - 16:30	High-level governmental plenary
16:30 - 18:00	Multi-stakeholder plenary meeting
18:00 - 18:30	Closing Ceremony



7 – 10 July 2026

Geneva, Switzerland

*Unlocking AI's potential to
serve humanity*



Global Summit Themes



AI POLICY



AI STANDARDS
TRACK



FRONTIER
TECHNOLOGIES



ROBOTICS FOR
GOOD



AI SKILLS &
EDUCATION



AI
INFRASTRUCTURE



QUANTUM FOR
GOOD



IMPACT &
INNOVATION



AI & MOBILITY



AI & THE
FUTURE OF
WORK



AI FOR PLANET



AI FOR
HEALTH

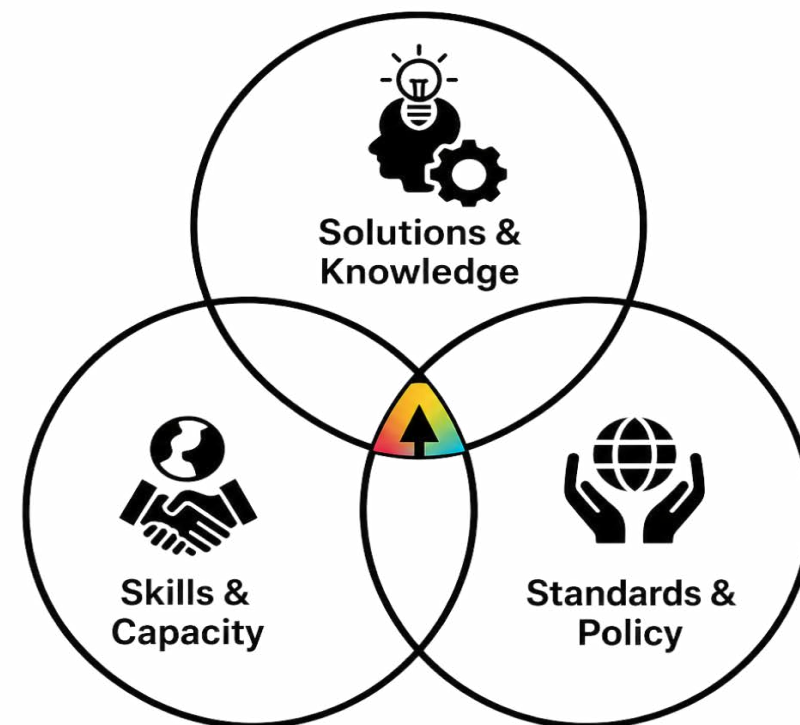


AI CREATIVITY
& CULTURE



AI FOR FOOD &
AGRICULTURE

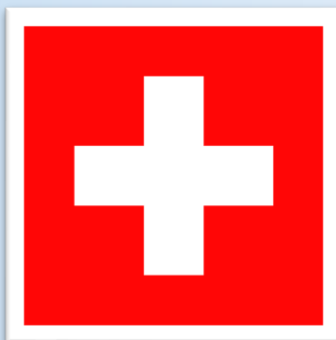
AI: 3 strategic pillars



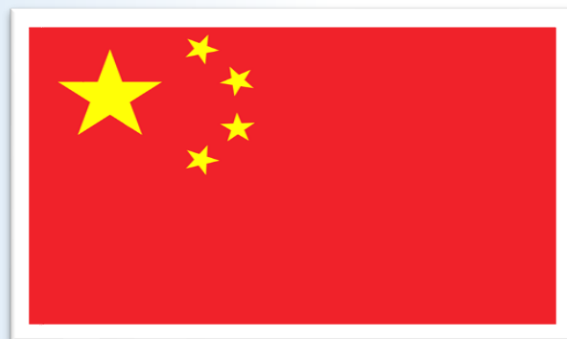


AI for Good

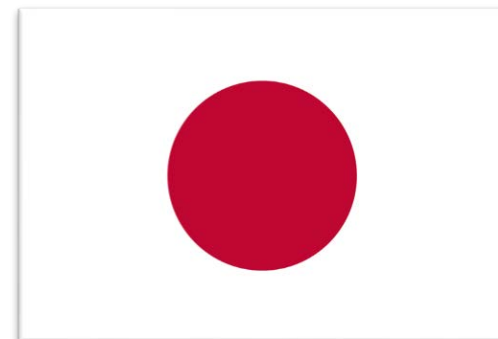
Global Summit



Switzerland



China



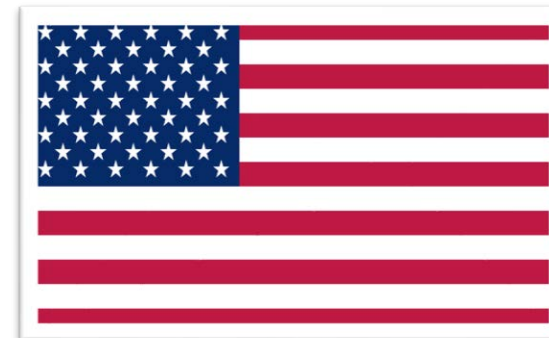
Japan



Kazakhstan



Malawi



United States





AI for Good

Global Summit

Key Sessions

- High-level Roundtable Digital trust and AI infrastructure for All, **7 July 14:00-16:00**
- AI for Good Opening Plenary, **8 July 11:00-12:00**
- Scaling AI for Good Panel, **8 July 14:00-15:00**
- Movie Screening RAISE produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, **9 July 18:30 - 19:30**
- AI for Good Ambassadors' Breakfast Roundtable and Exhibition Tour, **10 July 08:00-10:00**

Awards

- AI for Good Innovation Factory Grand Finale 2026
- AI and Space Computing Challenge awards





WSIS
FORUM 2026

6-10 July 2026
Geneva, Switzerland

Key Sessions

- High Level Dialogue on Youth, 6 July 10:00 – 10:45 **@ITU Headquarter**
- Opening Session and Forum Exhibition, 8 July 09:00-11:00 **@Palexpo**
- High-Level Dialogue (ITU/GSMA/UNHCR), 8 July 16:00-17:00 **@Palexpo**
- Women Leaders in ICT Breakfast, 9 July 08:00 - 09:00 **@Palexpo**
- WSIS Prizes, 9 July 09:00-10:00 **@Palexpo**
- UN Leaders Dialogue, 9 July 14:00-15:00 **@Palexpo**
- High-Level Session with Parliamentarians, 10 July 10:00-11:00 **@Palexpo**
- High-Level Dialogue on Submarine Cable Resilience, 10 July 13:00-14:00 **@Palexpo**
- Talks...



03 UN Engagement





Find the **UN80 Dashboard** here



United Nations

The UN SG outlined **three workstreams** and made **six** specific **calls** to **Member States** to help advance the initiative:

1. Use **resolution 80/251** on mandates
2. Give clear direction for the **reconfiguration of UN country teams**
3. Back the development of **system-wide shared services, technology, and data at scale to improve delivery**
4. Weigh proposals for **structural changes on their merits**, notably entity mergers, consolidations, and transitions
5. Align **funding practices with UN80 objectives** to strengthen coherence and accountability
6. Apply **UN80 objectives coherently** across the entire UN system

UN80 Progress so far

“Critical new phase – the phase for decisions and delivery”

- **21% reduction** in Secretariat posts for 2026
- **11 Secretariat Teams merged** into a common administrative platform serving 6,000 personnel in New York
- **Digital Hub launched in Valencia**, Spain, to support Secretariat-wide digital service delivery
- **10 Secretariat payroll centres consolidated** into a single team
- **220** Secretariat posts **relocated from high-cost locations** and **1,900** more across the UN system





WP8 – EXPERTISE-ON-DEMAND (EoD) · Co-led ITU & UNDP

Purpose

- Rapid, demand-driven access to UN expertise from non-resident agencies
- Enable leaner, more modular country teams with integrated regional delivery
- Reduce transaction time from months to days

Key Progress

- Concept Note endorsed Feb 2026 by UN80 Steering Committee
- 25 participating entities
- Catalogue visualisation prototype under development
- Legal/Financial Working Group launched 18 May 2026
- 30+ pilot submissions received
- 6 funded pilots (Mali, Jordan, Barbados, Malawi, Tajikistan, Indonesia)
- Operationalisation target: mid-September 2026

Core Components

Catalogue:	~2,000 offerings from 23 entities (OECD DAC templates)
Access Protocols:	Clear rules for activation, first point of contact
Standardised Tools:	Streamlined legal/financial instruments (UN-to-UN)

Strategic Role – Operational Backbone

WP5 Country Config.

Enables modular UN country teams; Resident Coordinators can access expertise without permanent presence

WP6 Regional Reset

Empowers Regional Platforms; draws on ITU expertise for connectivity, spectrum, cybersecurity

WP7 Knowledge Hubs

Integrates with joint knowledge architecture across the UN system



WP15 TECHNOLOGY · CONTEXT & KEY MESSAGES

WP15 – Technology (Co-led ITU)

ICT Consolidation

~\$2B fragmented ICT spending identified → moving to shared services & marketplace models

Technology Accelerator Platform (TAP)

- AI for Translation & Conferencing (ITU co-lead)
- Experts & Talents Platform (aligned with WP8)
- Beneficiary Digital ID (UNHCR lead)

Co-design workshops June 2026 · Microsoft + EY supporting

Why Reform Is Urgent – ODA Context

-23.1%

ODA decline in 2025
(largest annual drop on record)

USD 174B

Total ODA in 2025
(back to early 2030 Agenda levels)

-27%

UN core contributions
(largest ever annual drop)

75%

of total decline driven
by US alone (-56.9% vs. 2024)

Source: OECD Preliminary 2025 ODA Data (April 2026)

Key Messages & System Linkages

"Form follows function" — structure in service of delivery

Leaner does not mean reduced capability; expertise must remain accessible

Target: Operationalization mid-Sep 2026 · ITU role validated by SG's 28 May UNGA briefing

WP8 EoD

Operational
engine

WP15 TAP

Digital backbone

WP5 + WP6

Structural
transform

WP9

Values & human
rights

04

Looking Ahead

- World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF-26)
- Digital @ UNGA
- Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26)



ITUWTPF

NASSAU2026

2-4 September 2026
Nassau, The Bahamas

Opinions

- Bridging digital divides, particularly on gender and age as well as skills and connectivity
- Green digital transformation: climate change and environmental sustainability
- Resilience of telecommunication/ICTs
- Space connectivity
- Strengthening ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship



- **Digital@UNGA 2026** will take place on **21 September**, on the eve of the General Debate of the **81st Session of UNGA**
- With focus on **Digital solutions** advancing sustainable development;
 - **Artificial Intelligence, quantum, space, and emerging technologies** for good;
 - **Partnerships** accelerating **inclusive digital transformation**;
 - and the **Digital @UNGA Awards**

Digital @UNGA





Find more about
the **key dates** here



Key Dates

- Inter-regional Meetings headed by the Chair Designate (early September and mid October)
- Information session for Ambassadors on PP-26 in **September 2026**
- Deadline for the submission of candidatures by **12 October 2026**
- Deadline for Member State Contributions (*proposals*) by **19 October 2026**



The Floor is Yous

What are you most looking
forward to **from ITU in 2026?**



Thank you!

