



BDT Year in Review 2022



#BDTYearInReview 2022

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Director's Message

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

Another year draws to a close, and with it, my term as the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau.

It has been an enormous privilege to lead the Bureau at a time of tremendous disruption, and even greater opportunities. In the space of four short years, we have notched up many significant and impressive achievements, both in terms of re-shaping our Bureau into the agile, fit-for-purpose entity I promised when I took office in January 2019, and, more importantly, in helping bridge the various digital divides that are still keeping too many of us apart.

The biggest event of this BDT year was, of course, our flagship World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), hosted in Kigali at the generous invitation of the Rwandan government.

With affordable access to digital technologies increasingly imperative for all people to enjoy full social and economic participation, we set our sights on creating a truly landmark conference that would break new ground, forge new partnership models, and overcome the obstacles still keeping us from attaining our goal of universal connectivity.

We were not disappointed. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, we welcomed over 2 100 participants from 150 Member States, along with 340 Sector members and partners.

The *Kigali Action Plan* agreed at WTDC charts a bold, ambitious course for accelerating digital development, in close alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The conference also defined BDT's workplan until the next WTDC and agreed a new set of Regional Initiatives to more effectively direct targeted resources to areas of pressing need around the world.

Our determination to shake things up and break-the-mould at this conference also saw us usher in some pioneering events designed to mobilize new voices and new ways of enhancing collaboration. One of the most exciting was the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit, which brought hundreds of young people to Kigali's Intare Arena, along with more than 5 000 virtual participants connecting via 70 Generation Connect Hubs around the world.

Our new Network of Women for ITU-D also proved very popular with Member States and Sector members alike, and continues to go from strength to strength. Strengthening the role of women in our conferences and meetings is an important step towards greater diversity and inclusivity, and the results were already visible at our Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest, Romania, where two of our three substantive committees were led by women.

But at the end of the day, of all the innovations at this year's WTDC, our Partner2Connect Digital Coalition and the P2C Digital Development Roundtable held in Kigali must take centre stage. Exceeding even our most optimistic forecasts, P2C has mobilized more than USD 29 billion dollars in connectivity investment pledges from governments, the private sector and civil society. That represents a truly huge leap forward in our efforts to connect the world.

There is no doubt that we still have far to go. Following on the launch of ITU's new *Global Connectivity Report 2022* at WTDC, which offered a unique snapshot of the development of global connectivity, we recently released our very latest connectivity figures in the [2022 edition of our annual Facts and Figures report](#).

This year we also enhanced our Regional Presence with the announcement of a new Area Office soon to open in Delhi, India – an important milestone that recognizes both the subcontinent's growing position as global leader in software and hardware development, and at the same time the need to address the digital chasms that are still keeping marginalized groups in the region from harnessing the transformational power of ICTs.

As I look back, not just at what we've achieved in 2022, but at the enormous progress we've made together in my four years leading ITU's development work, I'd like to thank all our members and partners very warmly for their trust, their commitment, and their support. We've come a long way, and through continued collaboration I'm confident we'll make great strides together towards our goal of universal meaningful connectivity by 2030.

Last but not least, I want to thank the extraordinary men and women of the BDT for their tireless efforts to deliver on our connectivity pledges, and to ensure that our new, fit-for-purpose BDT always delivers maximum impact, and maximum value for its members.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau and Secretary-General elect

[@ITUBDTElect](#)

2022 Highlights

Between January and October 2022 BDT held **96 events**. This figure includes all global and regional events coordinated with ITU headquarters. In 2022, BDT also produced **85 videos**, watched by about **21 900 subscribers** on YouTube, not including the audience on other social media channels and **40+ blogs**. BDT has been active on social media, with over **1 300 tweets** and over **3 million impressions** across BDT channels.

Capacity Development

The [ITU Academy](#) continues to grow. As of October 2022:

- 3 002 people were trained.
- 133 courses were delivered, 67 of which were through the Centres of Excellence (CoE) programme.
- **Several new courses** were launched, including courses on:
 - Introduction to ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference and Negotiation skills for women delegates
 - Child Online Protection
 - Americas Girls Can Code Initiative
- Phase 2 of the [Digital Transformation Centres \(DTC\)](#) Initiative was launched with 13 DTCs from four ITU regions joining the kick-off workshop held in Geneva in March 2022.
- 45 486 people, 19 398 (42%) of whom were women, were trained between January and June.
- 6 268 citizens, of whom 4 337 (69%) were women, were trained in basic and intermediate digital skills through the **Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)** funded project. As of October 2022, 10 446 citizens have been trained through the project since it launched in 2021.
- This year, ITU and UNDP, through the Joint Facility for Digital Capacity Development began to develop the **Digital Capacity Navigator**, a tool for policy makers and government officials to find relevant digital capacity trainings based on a self -assessment. The Navigator is expected to be ready in the first half of 2023.

In Focus



Digital skills shaping the future in Ghana

[Read more](#)



Digital Impact in Action: Developing new skills to help transform a nation

[Read more](#)

Cybersecurity

- **Incident response** training programmes were conducted in Barbados, Bermuda, Mauritania, and The Bahamas.
- **CIRT Readiness Assessments** were finalized in Belarus, Kiribati, Moldova and Mongolia.
- Regional and national **CyberDrills** were conducted around four thematic concepts: *Reflect, Share, Learn* and *Practice* in several countries.
- In collaboration with the United Kingdom Home Office, **National Cybersecurity Strategy** activities were organized in Rwanda and in the Kingdom of Morocco.
- The second edition of the [Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme](#) engaged role models in the field of cybersecurity connecting them with talented women in Africa, the Arab States, and Asia and the Pacific. More than 200 women from 69 countries participated as mentees and were matched with 86 mentors, including employees of top international companies, such as EY, Salesforce, and IBM, among others.

In Focus



ITU-D Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme: Testimonials from Fiona Alexander and Angela Matlapeng

[Watch the video](#)

Child Online Protection (COP)

- Under the global programme on **“Creating a safe and empowering cyber environment for children”**, in partnership with the National Cybersecurity Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, new online courses on **child online protection** were launched to help educators, parents and carers, the ICT industry and policy-makers create safer and more beneficial online experiences for children.
- The fifth and final episode of the series **“Online Safety with Sango”** was launched on streaming platforms.
- A **child and youth advisory board** was established to co-create content for children and youth on online safety to be featured in an app for teens, a game for younger children, and online trainings for children of different age groups.
- The Protection Through Participation (POP) working group was established to carry out global research **to understand young people's use of COP helplines**.
- In collaboration with the Scort Foundation, recommendations were produced to provide **tangible guidance on child online protection to sports organizations**.

Digital Inclusion

- An online self-paced [training](#) on **digital accessibility**, titled *Beyond smart cities = Smart for ALL: Towards building inclusive and digitally accessible environments and communities to meet the needs of present and future generations* was launched during WSIS Forum 2022.
- [International Girls in ICT Day](#) was celebrated with a focus on '**Access and Safety**'. An interactive global dialogue was part of WSIS Forum 2022 and ITU regional offices held Girls in ICT Day events to encourage girls and young women everywhere to learn about technology and find STEM career paths.
- In collaboration with the **Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC)** two editions of the training programme on *Innovative communication tools to strengthen the capacities of indigenous communities with a focus on how to develop, manage, and operate a network* were delivered.
- A training programme to develop *Technical Promoters in telecommunication and broadcasting in Indigenous Communities* was held for **indigenous peoples** in November.

In Focus

Generation Connect

- The first-ever **Generation Connect Global Youth Summit** took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 2-4 June. The Summit brought together young leaders, entrepreneurs, social change-makers, engineers, policy specialists, students, business leaders, influential decision makers, and community advocates. The Summit addressed the digital divide and related topics, including digital skills, gender, climate change, online safety, the future of work, entrepreneurship, digital dependencies.
- 23 **Generation Connect Youth Envoys** organized youth events during PP-22 in Bucharest, Romania. The 'Youth at PP-22' initiative is the first in ITU's history.



Improving women's access to ICT in the agriculture sector

ITU and Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF): Tech as a driver of women's economic opportunity

- Over 1 000 women entrepreneurs from Burundi, Ethiopia and Haiti were trained in digital skills while 200 public officials were trained on policymaking tools to mainstream a gender perspective across their countries' digital economies.
- National assessments on digital inclusion were conducted in the three countries.
- ITU and EIF conducted EQUALS Her Digital Skills workshops in Muzinda and Bujumbura in Burundi. These digital skills workshops focused on e-commerce for women and girls from rural backgrounds, enabling them to market and sell their produce online. By helping to build resilient and prosperous communities, the workshops contribute towards improving food security in the country. [Watch this video](#) to learn what these workshops mean to the participants – and how they help improve their lives!



Network of Women

- NoW in ITU-D was featured for the first time at WTDC-22, with a series of events to promote women's leadership opportunities in the digital sector and in the broader international arena.
- WTDC-22 revised Resolution 55 on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU to enhance women's empowerment and equally noted the launch of the Network of Women in ITU-D. The Resolution supported the continuation of the NoW advisory board composed of two women representatives per region, designated in collaboration with the regional groups.
- The NoW in ITU-D Mentorship programme continued to grow and it featured 318 enrolments from 100 countries and matched 119 pairs of mentors and mentees.

[Read more](#)

Digital Innovation Ecosystem

- The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and ITU partnered to launch the **Innov4Youth** initiative to gather Partner2Connect pledges.
- **UNFPA and WIPO** partnered with ITU to run an Innovation Challenge to seek and support “Innovation to Empower Women and Girls”.
- In partnership with UNFPA, ITU helped rethink the **Tech4Youth platform**, which addresses a range of issues related to the empowerment and resilience of Youth for SDGs 3 and 5, and developed a new initiative called Tech4Girls, an innovative training and mentoring project to improve creativity and problem-solving, and communication and entrepreneurial skills of young girls.
- Technical assistance was provided to Benin, Brunei Darussalam, North Macedonia, and Zimbabwe to develop roadmaps and recommendations to strengthen their **innovation ecosystem** for accelerated digital transformation.

In Focus



Innovations to Empower Women and Girls

[Read more](#)

Digital Services and Applications

- The **Smart Islands initiative** was rolled out in South Malekula, Vanuatu.
- The **Smart Villages** pilot in Niger successfully concluded. The approach has been developed as a blueprint and launched in other countries.
- The **Be He@lthy Be Mobile** public-private collaboration model was successfully implemented in four Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean. The PAHO – ITU COVID-19 awareness campaign reached more than 220 000 people and 80% of respondents reported that they were positively impacted by the campaign.
- The **Horn of Africa GovStack** implementation began in Djibouti and Kenya with a series of digital service co-design workshops. [Read more.](#)

In Focus



Digital Impact in Action: Spread Love: Speeding up Covid-19 recovery in the Caribbean via SMS

[Read more](#)

Emergency Telecommunications

- The **Disaster Connectivity Map (DCM)** was used to assist with response efforts and determine connectivity gaps in Tonga during the underwater volcano eruption and subsequent tsunami in January 2022.
- **National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs)** were developed for Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Vanuatu. ITU continued to support Ecuador, Fiji, Iraq, Kiribati, Malawi, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, the State of Palestine, and Tonga to develop NETPs.
- ITU is working closely with WMO on the action plan to support the [UN initiative on Early Warning Systems for all](#). The ‘action plan’ on the initiative was presented by WMO during COP27, in Egypt in November.
- Members of the **Emergency Telecommunications Roster** were deployed to Nicaragua to support the country in their relief efforts following Hurricane Julia, delivering vital telecommunications equipment and training local teams on its use.

In Focus



After the hurricane: Helping restore connectivity in Nicaragua

[Watch the video](#)

[Read more](#)

Environment

- A **collaboration with GIZ and UNEP** was launched to support the implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) and digital solutions in [Rwanda's regulatory approach](#) to manage e-waste.
- Together with UNITAR-SCYCLE, **regional e-waste baseline surveys** for households and businesses were piloted in Kenya and Burundi.
- [A Generation Connect Global E-waste Iconathon](#) invited young people (18–29) to design a universal icon to signify the take-back and collection of e-waste for recycling. The winning icon, Lemnis, was designed by Shergaun Roserie from Saint Lucia.



Lemnis, the winning Generation Connect Global E-waste icon by Shergaun Roserie

In Focus



Greening digital companies: Monitoring emissions and climate commitments (English Only)

[Read more](#)

Network and Digital infrastructure

- **Version 5.2** of the [Spectrum Management for Developing Countries \(SMS4DC v.5.2\)](#) was released.
- **New guidelines** for establishing national broadband mapping systems were launched to support regulators and other institutions seeking to improve national and regional capacity.
- **Brazil** is the first country in the world to make mapping data-sets publicly available.
- **Interactive connectivity maps** for 12 countries were developed to highlight coverage gaps and assist with identifying appropriate solutions to support special initiatives such as Giga and the ITU-FCDO partnership.
- The guide for procuring last-mile connectivity data networks was designed to assist requisitioners in procuring last-mile connectivity networks and services based on the principles of affordability, usage, financial viability, structure and sustainability.

In Focus



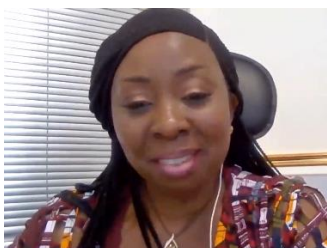
Guide for procuring last-mile connectivity data networks

[Read more](#)

Policy and Regulation

- The [G5 accelerator](#) interactive platform continues to provide practical step-by-step support for countries already embarked or planning to embark on their digital transformation journey.
- [Economic and fiscal incentives to accelerate digital transformation](#) were discussed during the 9th ITU Economic Experts Roundtable held on 10 May.
- The [Global Digital Regulation training](#) is based on the ITU/World Bank digital regulation handbook and platform with a focus on regulatory governance and evidence-based decision making, competition and economics (including infrastructure sharing), consumer affairs, data protection, financing universal access, emergency communications, cybersecurity strategies, digital financial services and emerging technologies.

In Focus



Digital Impact in Action: Setting the rules of the game: how regulation supports national development in Côte d'Ivoire

[Read more](#)

WTDC highlights



The [World Telecommunication Development Conference \(WTDC\)](#) held between 6–16 June adopted a forward-looking agenda to address the global connectivity gap. WTDC was held under the theme 'Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development'.

The **Kigali Action Plan** agreed at the conference charts a course for digital development that aligns closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations for 2030. It also defines the workplan of the ITU's Development Sector (ITU-D) until the next WTDC.

Public-private partnerships were at the forefront of the conference's Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable; since its launch, the Coalition has to date mobilized over 500 ground-breaking pledges.

Adopting the **Kigali Declaration**, delegates underscored their collective commitment to universal and meaningful connectivity and approved new Regional Initiatives. Also agreed were various new ITU-D resolutions and new sets of Questions to be investigated by the two ITU Study Groups focused on development issues.

Newly adopted resolutions aim to:

- Ensure every school is connected to the Internet through the joint **ITU-UNICEF Giga initiative** (Resolution on Connecting every school to the Internet and every young person to information and communication technology services)
- Confirm the **Partner2Connect Digital Coalition** as the primary platform to foster new partnerships around meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally, focusing on the **hardest-to-connect communities** (Resolution on The ITU Partner to Connect Digital Coalition (P2C))
- Drive efforts to advance **digital transformation** for sustainable development, recognizing the enormous potential that ICTs have to create positive, meaningful and lasting change (Resolution on digital transformation for sustainable development)
- Create a thriving environment for **entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems** to help accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Resolution on fostering telecommunications/ICT-centric entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development)

[Read the ITU News Special Edition on WTDC](#)

Special Initiatives

Giga

Giga in numbers:

- Working in 19 countries
- Mapped more than 1.1 million schools across 50 Countries to date
- Connected more than 5 500 schools and 2 100 000 students to date
- 59 000 schools reporting connectivity status in real-time
- Over USD 300 million mobilized to countries to accelerate connectivity to date

At WTDC Member States unanimously adopted a resolution to connect every school to the internet and every young person to ICTs to bridge the digital divide and ensure that young people have the means to participate in the global digital economy.

The **Government of Switzerland** made a three-year commitment to provide financial and political support to Giga as host of the Giga Headquarters in Geneva. The Giga Headquarters will serve as a unique collaboration point, bridging the worlds of finance and international digital development.

The **Government of Spain**, the Catalonia Regional Government, and the City of Barcelona made a three-year commitment to provide financial and political support to Giga as host of the Technology Centre in Barcelona.

At the UN Transforming Education Summit, Giga was recognized as a key initiative to achieving the Call to Action on Digital Learning, and UNSG Guterres called on all countries to support the expansion of Giga to achieve universal school connectivity.

I-CoDI

ITU's International Centre of Digital Innovation (I-CoDI) developed its structure, methodology and activities to facilitate innovative approaches and synergies across ITU Headquarters, Regional Offices and Member States.

Over 300 ITU staff members and partners took part in I-CoDI facilitated workshops, information sessions and events.

- The I-CoDI structure features an **Oversight Board** composed of management representatives of ITU's Sectors and Secretariat General and six I-CoDI Regional Focal Points.
- I-CoDI facilitated **workshops** on the One ITU Harmonized Capacity Development Framework and the ITU Leadership Accelerator.
- The [I-CoDI Playbook](#), a **resource guide**, was prepared in collaboration with the UAE's TDRA CoDI Team.
- I-CoDI **Regional Hubs** were established in Addis Ababa and Dubai.

Connect2Recover

Connect2Recover, with its scope expanded to also cover **natural hazards**, continued its work and expanded its presence to all six regions of ITU.

- An **Internet resilience assessment** post-disaster in Haiti as well as Internet resilience assessments in Kazakhstan and Mauritania were completed. Planning started for a similar assessment in Zimbabwe. The Connect2Recover methodology was also used for the assessment of Ukraine’s Internet resilience.
- An IPv6 laboratory in Montenegro was also implemented in the Europe region.
- The **fifteen winning proposals** from a research competition launched in July 2021 were developed into fifteen research reports. These reports cover a diversity of research and case studies from 17 countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Americas and Arab States. They bring invaluable insight in the areas of digital inclusion and the importance of digital resiliency, building from lessons learnt from COVID-19. The fifteen reports and the publication [“Build Back Better with Broadband: Research stories from the Frontline”](#) were launched during the ITU’s “Best practices and recommendations for digital inclusion through resilient infrastructure” event at the 17th Internet Governance Forum on 28 November 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Connect2Recover strengthened **partnerships and resource mobilization efforts** from existing partners including the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and Sector Members Huawei and Vodafone. In addition, new partners such as the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Australia, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of Lithuania, also contributed to Connect2Recover.

Study Groups

- [14 new study Questions](#) were adopted at WTDC for the 2022 – 2025 study period. The ITU-D study groups are tasked with drafting reports, guidelines, and recommendations on a range of topics related to ICTs in the context of digital development.
- The first meetings of Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 for the new study period took place on 28 November – 2 December and 5–9 December respectively.
- ITU-D Study Group 1 & 2 chairmen and vice-chairmen were appointed at WTDC. ITU-D Study Group 1 & 2 rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs were appointed during the first meetings of the study period.
- The new study Questions fall under two broad categories:
 - Study Group 1: Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity
 - Study Group 2: Digital Transformation

Study Questions

Study Questions

ITU-D Study Groups

Study Group 1
Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity

- Q1/1 Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries
- Q2/1 Strategies, policies, regulations and methods of migration to and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting including to provide new services for various environments
- Q3/1 The use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management
- Q4/1 Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs
- Q5/1 Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas
- Q6/1 Consumer information, protection and rights
- Q7/1 Telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, especially for persons with disabilities

Learn more at itu.int/itu-d/sites/studygroups

Study Group 1
Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity

Study Questions

ITU-D Study Groups

Study Group 2
Digital Transformation

- Q1/2 Sustainable smart cities and communities
- Q2/2 Enabling technologies for e-services and applications, including e-health and e-education
- Q3/2 Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity
- Q4/2 Telecommunication/ICT equipment: Conformance and interoperability, combating counterfeiting and theft of mobile devices
- Q5/2 Adoption of telecommunications/ICTs and improving digital skills
- Q6/2 ICTs for the environment
- Q7/2 Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields

Learn more at itu.int/itu-d/sites/studygroups

Study Group 2
Digital Transformation

In Focus

14 new study Questions were adopted at WTDC for the 2022–2025 study period.

[Discover the newly adopted study Questions.](#)

Partner2Connect



2022 has been a tremendous year for Partner2Connect. The Coalition, launched in 2021 in close cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, and [UN-OHRLLS](#), has taken off vigorously and achieved very impressive milestones:

- Development of the [P2C Action Framework](#), which has served as the guiding document for the Coalition.
- Launch of the [P2C Online Pledging Platform](#) through which resources from public and private sector players around the world are being mobilized.
- Launch of the [P2C Self-Reporting Form](#) that captures the implementation progress of pledges.
- As of October 2022, more than 500 pledges worth over USD 29 billion have been made. [Explore the pledges.](#)
- Hosted an inspiring discussion at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Kigali, which among other important outcomes, adopted two Resolutions: one on **P2C** and one on **Digital Transformation**, reinforcing the mandate of this Coalition and giving it further impetus to extend its reach and impact.
- Hosted the first P2C Annual Report Meeting on 8 December in Geneva to report progress on pledges implementation, announced new pledges and celebrated the achievements of the Coalition, and launched the [P2C Annual Report](#).
- Development of an extraordinary P2C community — a vibrant and action-oriented group, striving together towards a meaningfully connected planet.

The **Partner2Connect Digital Coalition** aligns with the core of the vision outlined in the UN Secretary General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, and supports global efforts to lay the groundwork for a solid and effective [Global Digital Compact](#). Its achievements testify to what can be done when action-oriented multistakeholder leadership comes together to advance a common cause.

As part of the mandate received at WTDC in June, the Coalition will continue:

- Receiving pledges through the P2C Pledging Platform on all Focus Areas and across all Regions of the world.
- Monitoring and reporting progress on the implementation of pledges.
- Advancing pledge implementation in selected partner countries and in alignment with the countries’ national digital transformation strategy.

In Focus



Introducing ITU’s Partner2Connect Digital Coalition

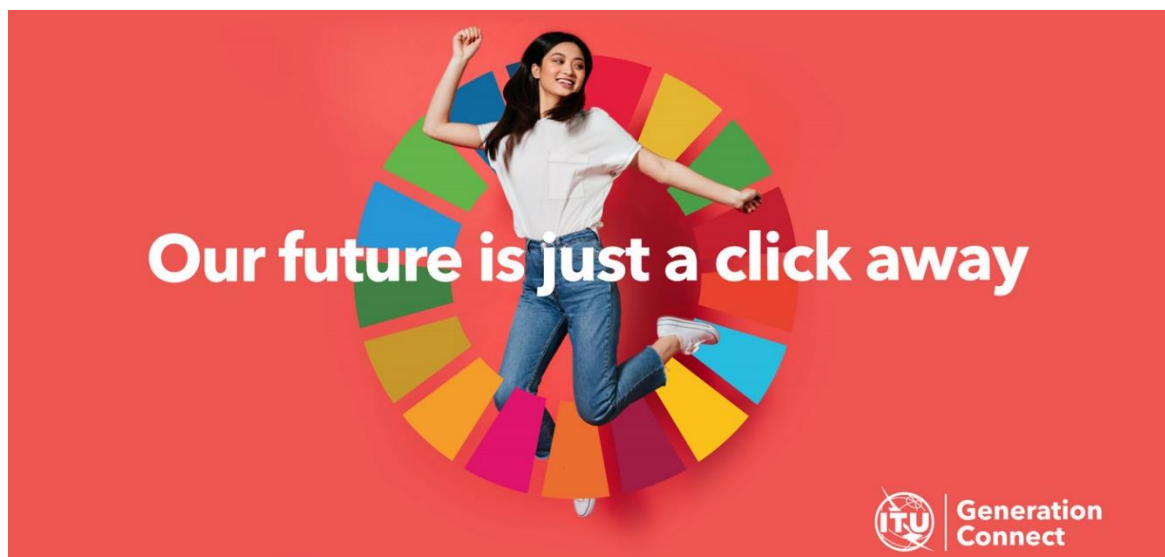
[Watch the video](#)



Accelerating Digital Transformation for Universal and Meaningful Connectivity

[Watch the video](#)

Generation Connect



- The **Generation Connect Visionaries Board** met regularly, and a partnerships working sub-group was set up to mobilize members' resources and network towards the delivery of the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit.
- The ITU Youth Task Force, a group of staff working together to effectively coordinate and mainstream youth engagement efforts across ITU, launched a **Young Professionals Programme** and a **Youth Mentorship Programme**.
- 12 outstanding young women aged 18-24 from developing countries (two from each ITU region) were selected as the inaugural group of '**Generation Connect Gender Champions**'.
- The [Generation Connect Digital Learning Certificate](#) was launched for youth aged 18–29.
- ITU's work on youth has an updated and stronger mandate with WTDC **Resolution 76** – Kigali 2022: Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment, with references to the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and to Generation Connect.

In Focus



Generation Connect Youth Summit

[Read more](#)



Generation Connect Podcast Special Video Episode: Generation Connect Global Youth Summit

[Listen to the podcast](#)

In the spotlight

The UNconnected Podcast

In the UNconnected podcast series, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, talks to people from all walks of life around the world who are working on connecting the unconnected to achieve socio-economic development for all.

[Read more](#)

ITU-D Newsletter - The UNconnected

The UNconnected newsletter puts a spotlight on our work and features important updates and highlights, as well as some of our impact stories from around the world.

[Read more](#)

Director's Corner

Find out about the BDT Director's latest activities on her "Corner"! Catch up on the latest speaking engagements, bilateral meetings, podcasts, articles, interviews and more, to advance digital for development.

[Read more](#)

BDT Weekly Highlights

Published on a weekly basis, the BDT Highlights showcase important news and developments of BDT's work around the world!

[Read more](#)

Digital Impact in Action series

Using videos, images, pull quotes and infographics, the Digital Impact in Action series amplifies diverse voices from around the world to show how ITU-D helps to accelerate digital transformation.

[Read more](#)

Our work in the field

Africa

- For the first time, the [World Telecommunication Development Conference \(WTDC\)](#) was held in Africa.
- Technical support to develop a model for **Smart Villages** for Liberia was provided.
- The **International Centre of Digital Innovation (I-CoDI) Regional Hub for Africa** was established at the ITU Regional Office for Africa in Addis Ababa.
- A joint initiative on '**Digital strategy and financing**' was established to optimize development cooperation and resource mobilization in Cabo Verde.
- The [ITU and the United Kingdom's FCDO partnership](#) to support digital inclusion in Digital Access Partnership countries in Africa saw stakeholders' engagement from Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.
- The Harmonized Calculation Method for Africa (**HCM4A**) agreement was signed.
- The second phase of the **African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI)** was launched in collaboration with the AU Commission, UN Women, UNECA, UNICEF, UNESCO and other partners with financial support from the Government of Belgium.
- Support was extended to eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop policies, regulations and strategies to set the basis for a future implementation of the sound management and measurement of **electronic waste**.
- A project to provide technical assistance and training to Uganda on **national ICT development** was launched in cooperation with the Government of Uganda and the financial support of China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF).
- ITU and UNFPA teamed up to assist, nurture and support the local **digital innovation ecosystem** in Benin and develop use cases that can be applied for other countries in the region for the development of sustainable and inclusive initiatives to accelerate inclusive digital transformation.

In Focus



Digital Impact in Action: Diagnosis from a distance: how telemedicine is giving doctors in rural Niger the power to save lives from thousands of kilometers away

[Read more](#)

Americas

- The **Caribbean ICT Campaign to Combat COVID-19 Misinformation**, in partnership with PAHO, leveraged the potential of digital technology to reduce harmful effects of COVID-19 misinformation in the Caribbean region.
- A **Quality-of-Service Study** conducted in Haiti helped decision makers and stakeholders take action to consolidate the existing recovery capacity and strengthen their resilience to future disasters.
- The **Quality-of-Service Review** for Fixed Broadband Services in Barbados was launched, with the potential impact to reach more than 200 000 users.
- New training activities for **digital skills development**, including a new collaboration with Amazon to support digital skills training activities in Cloud Computing, made up new additions to the Americas Girls Can Code initiative.
- **Americas Girls Can Code** events were carried out in Brasilia and Campinas, Brazil.
- The 10th **Regional Cybersecurity capacity building CyberDrill** was held.
- **Cybersecurity training, assessment and support** was also provided across the region, including in Barbados, Bermuda, Guyana, and Ecuador.
- An agreement was signed with the **Development Bank of Latin America** to identify community **networks best practices in seven countries of the region**.
- Gender Digital Inclusion Policy **reports featuring strategic recommendations to close the gender digital gap were delivered** to Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico.
- **Accessible Americas: ICT for ALL** ninth edition of the event was organized by ITU and ANATEL
- **Cybersecurity training** as part of the national CIRT Readiness assessment was provided across the region to Barbados, Bermuda, and Guyana.
- **Cybersecurity support** offered to Ecuador to evaluate the restructure of the National CERT, implement a CERT for coordination and a Security Operations Center to help the response to incidents.
- **Giga** connected 24 schools in Honduras and 32 in El Salvador.
- A study on “**Telecommunication Market competitiveness**” for Honduras was developed under the UNSCDF framework with GIGA support.
- A “**Kit for the Digital Transformation of Micro and Small Enterprises**” for El Salvador was developed under the UNSCDF framework. With appropriate tailoring, the kit can be used in other countries.
- A study on “**Digital Dividend and IMT bands usage**” for Dominican Republic was produced.
- **The WINLINK System** was installed and deployed in Antigua & Barbuda, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Kitts & Nevis.
- A draft **Child Online Protection Strategy** framework for OECS countries in the Caribbean was prepared.

In Focus



Vaca Perdida: Digital skills development in indigenous communities

[Read more](#)

Arab States

- The **IPv6 and IoT Expertise Centre for Arab Region** started to deliver capacity development activities on IPv6 and IoT and to support four countries in developing their national IPv6 strategies. The Centre also assists in the creation of national IPv6 task forces.
- The **National Emergency Telecommunication Plan** for the State of Palestine was developed.
- 1 000 children were trained on **digital financial literacy** in Jordan, in collaboration with Meem Ain from Saudi Arabia, as part of the Malee project. Jordan was also assisted in developing its digital health national strategy in partnership with WHO.
- A **digital innovation country profile** for Oman presenting a full assessment of the digital innovation ecosystem in the country and highlighting a set of recommendations was finalized.
- **GovStack Arab regional activities** focused on assisting and collaborating with stakeholders in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Algeria.
- A project focused on **digital skills and infrastructure** was launched in Tunisia, in partnership with GIZ.
- A COP project to disseminate **COP guidelines and building capacity activities** for children, parents, educators, and ICT professionals was launched in Morocco.
- The **International Centre of Digital Innovation (I-CoDI) Regional Hub for Arab States**, hosted by the UAE, was established and activities kicked-off with an ideation workshop in partnership with the UN agencies in Egypt and the Ministry of International Cooperation.
- A program was launched to help **start-ups and innovative SMEs** establish an overseas sales presence and boost international business development.
- Countries were assisted with the development of their **cybersecurity strategies** through a regional workshop, organized in partnership with the UAE.
- A project to support Morocco in developing its cybersecurity strategy was launched.
- Mauritania was assisted to validate its cybersecurity strategy.
- The region's cyber capabilities were strengthened through the first-ever **Inter-Regional CyberDrill for the Arab States and CIS regions**.

In Focus



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Accessible Arab Region 2022- ICT For ALL

[Read more](#)

Asia and the Pacific

- South Malekula, one of the most remote areas of Vanuatu, piloted the innovative **Smart Islands Initiative** to bring meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital services to unconnected island communities.
- The **Smart Villages Initiative** was rolled out in Pakistan.
- Over 2 000 girls and young women received digital skills training as part of the **International Girls in ICT Day** celebration in Asia and the Pacific, which was organized by ITU and the Governments of Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Philippines, and Pakistan.
- For the first time an event to celebrate International **Girls in ICT Day** was organized in Timor-Leste.
- The report [E-learning in Thailand: Mapping the digital divide](#) offers an overview of Thailand's transition from traditional to online education to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
- The report [Spectrum management training in the Asia-Pacific region: A bespoke framework](#) provides an analysis of the views of Member States and other members from Asia and the Pacific on a wide range of matters relating to spectrum management technical requirements.
- The ITU-Bhutan Joint CyberDrill was held to bring together the cybersecurity community, particularly Bhutan's Critical National Infrastructures and operators and discuss the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Focus



South Malekula: A Smart Island of Vanuatu

[Read more](#)

CIS

- The work of ITU in **cybersecurity** now benefits almost all countries in the region. To further leverage the cooperation between national CERTs, the first ever inter-regional CyberDrill for Arab States and CIS regions was organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- The **Digital Skills Center for women and youth** was inaugurated in Tashkent during the celebration of International Girls in ICT Day. The Center was established with the financial support of ZTE Corporation in cooperation with the Ministry for the Development of Information Technologies and Communications and IT-Park Uzbekistan.
- The **Child Online Protection (COP)** program was rolled out in Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.
- Assistance was provided to the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan to align the **national ICT statistical framework** with ITU methodologies and enhance ICT statistical work in the country.
- Specialized training on **digital government services** for local authorities was delivered in Belarus.
- [5G programme country](#) reports reflect the status, key challenges, and possible solutions to advance 5G implementation, which will help facilitate 5G implementation in the countries and help ITU to plan its further interventions.

In Focus



Startup Central Eurasia Ecosystem report

[Read more](#)

Europe

- **The IPv6 Training Laboratory** is being implemented in Montenegro.
- Technical assistance in the field of the **broadband mapping systems** was provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova.
- A **CSIRT Readiness Assessment** was carried out in Moldova, providing the foundation for the national CSIRT.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Education and Information Society and Administration of Moldova was signed to implement **Child Online Protection** recommendations in the country.
- Albania was the first pilot country to roll out the **Child Online Protection Global Programme** at the national level, providing a unique opportunity for training for children, youths, parents and educators, and industry stakeholders.
- The roll-out of the newly launched online **COP self-paced training** and train the trainer module was kicked off in in Malta.
- **Digital Innovation Profiles** have been developed for Georgia, Serbia and North Macedonia.
- A [Digital Skills Assessment](#) has been carried out in North Macedonia.
- **Accessible Europe: ICT for All** was organized on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- **The GovStack initiative**, led by ITU, DIAL, Germany, and Estonia, is rolling out activities in **Ukraine**, while preparing to expand its work of North Macedonia, Moldova, and Albania.
- The joint **ITU-UNEP-UNITAR E-Waste project** for the Western Balkans kicked-off in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia, building national capacities to collect and analyze e-waste related data.
- Jointly with the UN Country Team members, a series of **Digital Development Country Profiles** were developed, including for [Albania](#), [Moldova](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Georgia](#) and [Ukraine](#).
- The **UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia**, led by ITU and UNECE, helps to coordinate digital related work by the UN system at the regional level.
- A series of activities led by the ITU, co-chair of the **UN Brussels Team Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs**, strengthened the cooperation with the European Commission.

In Focus



Accessible Europe: ICT 4 All

[Read more](#)

Building a Fit4Purpose BDT

Change Management

In the past four years BDT embarked on a journey of transformational change, becoming a 'fit for purpose' ITU Development Bureau delivering high impact services and products.

People are at the centre of BDT's transformational vision and strategy.

Adopting strong internal control and accountability mechanisms, BDT leadership prioritized strengthening performance management and development and invited all staff to challenge traditional and outdated structures and processes and become champions of change. Half of BDT staff undertook certifications in change management and project management. Furthermore, results-based management has been mainstreamed through all programmes delivering BDT services.

BDT undertook key organizational diagnostics to establish a baseline and clear goals for their performance transition. The UN Leadership Culture Assessment engaged staff across headquarters and the regional offices in determining their pathway to building robust and high-performing teams. All BDT supervisors and managers participated in a 360 assessment and coaching programme – accelerating management and team development across the senior staff in alignment with the 'fit for purpose' strategic priorities.

Dedicated teams have led on key organizational strengthening initiatives. First, communications for new approaches to connect a global team and their diverse stakeholders, have been tested and refined. Second, cross-functional collaboration with a focus on integrated programming across BDT interventions at the country level and as a member of UN Country Teams, contributing to country development alongside other specialist UN agencies. Third, continuous process improvements to strengthen BDT results delivery. The implementation of a new ERP system has transformed project management and operational functions across BDT, creating critical efficiencies, tracking programme implementation and enabling improved real-time decision-making.

Projects

ITU Projects: a key vehicle to advance digital development

- 2022 has been an important year in the implementation of ITU projects. With over 70 on-going projects and close to CHF 30 million in available funds, ITU projects continue to provide an instrumental role in implementing the mandate of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in the promotion of digital development and the provision of technical assistance to ITU Member States.
- In 2022 alone, ITU signed close to 20 new agreements for new projects, project extensions as well as voluntary contributions for a value of close to CHF 7 million in areas such as digital policy and regulation, school connectivity, smart islands, as well as in capacity development in digital skills, amongst others.
- A special milestone achieved during the year was the signing of two project agreements linked with the Smart Islands initiative in the Asia and the Pacific region with funding from the UN Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund). Established in 2014, the SDG Fund is an international multi-donor and multi-agency development mechanism created by the United Nations system to support sustainable development activities through integrated and

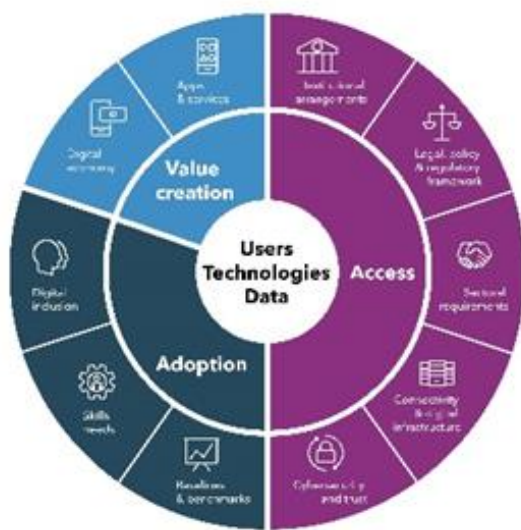
multidimensional joint programmes. Projects funded through the SDG Fund are implemented in partnership with other UN agencies with presence on the ground, and are aimed at bringing together UN agencies, national governments, academia, civil society and business to address the challenges of poverty, promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve SDGs.

Consolidating robust project management practices

- During 2022 BDT has continued to reinforce project management practices across all ITU projects, with special emphasis on strengthening project monitoring and project management practices across BDT, building capacity of BDT project managers, as well as on setting up information systems in support of the oversight and management of ITU's project portfolio.
- Some of the activities implemented by BDT during 2022 include the organization of a third certification programme on project management for ITU staff and the continuation of the BDT Projects Board, which reviews and approves projects before they are agreed on with partners and provides oversight on project implementation and closure where issues arise. In its first year of operation the Board held 11 meetings, with a rate of 85% of its decisions being implemented.
- These activities were complemented with the continuation of the work in the "Community of Practice of BDT Project Managers", an online platform with 100 active staff members aimed at reinforcing peer to peer support from project managers.
- Finally, voluntary contributions have also been reinforced with the introduction of a pilot to introduce new reporting mechanisms for voluntary contributions. The new mechanism, tested in BDT during the last year includes the preparation of an annual report on the status of implementation of voluntary contributions managed by the Bureau, the introduction of an annual report per voluntary contributions and the introduction of a formal closure process for voluntary contributions that have utilized all their resources. This mechanism will be extended across ITU during 2022–23.
- The combination of these activities has allowed BDT projects to show a strong implementation track during 2022 across all ITU regions. Despite the continuation of some of the restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than half of the projects in ITU's project portfolio have continued to stay on track, delivering the expected activities on time and within the expected budget.
- More information about ITU's project portfolio is available at the [BDT Projects website](#).

Digital Transformation Wheel

As more people go online, and users enjoy universal and meaningful connectivity, the ability to sustain digital transformation inevitably increases, leading to the realization of a digital economy, digital society and ultimately, a digital nation. Therefore, digital transformation is at the core of ITU work. Over the course of many years, and as part of our mandate as the United Nations specialized agency for ICTs, ITU has been working on digital transformation helping countries in their digital transition through regulations, policies, and strategies that ensure the development of the foundational connectivity needed to access the Internet and that facilitates the adoption of technologies and the creation of value through applications and services.

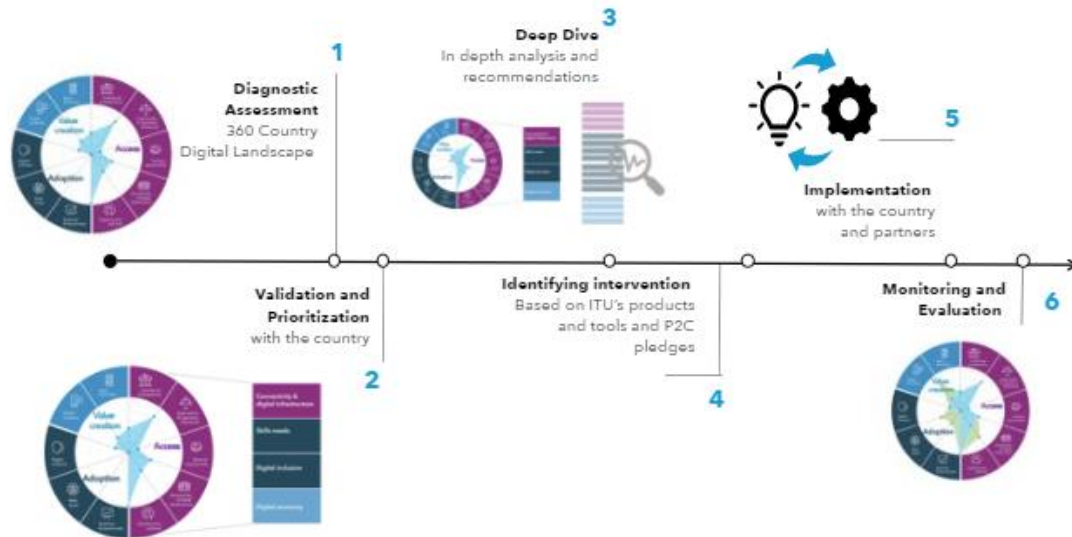


2022 has been a great year for advancing ITU’s Digital Transformation agenda with the launch of [BDT’s Digital Transformation Wheel \(DT Wheel\)](#) and the adoption by ITU Membership of a new Digital Transformation Resolution at WTDC-22.

The Digital Transformation Wheel (DT Wheel) is a framework created to help develop data-driven, evidence-based and targeted interventions, focusing on three streams powering the economy and society:

- Access: creating the enabling governmental, economic and technological environment for everyone and everything to connect
- Adoption: making sure everyone can get online, and
- Value creation: enabling everyone to contribute and reap the benefits brought by a digitalized society and economy

Digital Transformation is not a destination. It is a process that needs to be sustained, a journey that requires collaboration, coordination, partnerships and flawless execution by improving a country’s performance on the three dimensions of sustainable development: human well-being, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. In assisting countries to implement the Digital Transformation framework, ITU offers its Member States a six-step approach to bridge gaps and accelerate digital transformation wherever they may be on their journey.

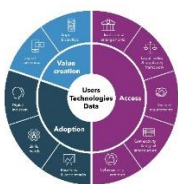


Working with our members and based on our assessment, we offer the products and tools to be considered at each step and for each building block, applying implementable and sustainable tried and tested guiding principles. We also engage with our partners and stakeholders to support our members throughout their digital transformation process and achieve our mission.

This Framework also guides the work of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, enabling it to be the catalytic element that makes digital transformation possible at the national level through an action oriented multi-stakeholder partnerships approach. Through the implementation of the more than 500 pledges that have been already submitted to the P2C platform, the Coalition can also contribute to the amplification efforts of Digital Transformation in many countries around the world.

[Read more about ITU's DT Wheel](#)

In Focus



BDT's six-step approach to digital transformation

[Read more](#)

Members and Partners

As of October 2022, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia of 491 entities represents a multistakeholder community comprised of public and private entities from the wide ICT ecosystem, regional and international organizations, academia, and research institutions, amongst others. In 2022, 14 Sector Members and 19 Academia have joined ITU-D, as follows:

- **Sector Members**
 - Nokia Corporation, Finland
 - Softbank Corporation, Japan
 - Access Partnership Limited, United Kingdom
 - Digital Cooperation Organization, Saudi Arabia
 - AFNIC, France
 - E-Space Inc., United States
 - RKF Engineering Solutions, United States
 - Cameroon Telecommunications (CAMTEL), Cameroon
 - Mozilla Corporation, United States
 - International Chamber of Commerce, France
 - Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group, Mauritius
 - United Nations Foundation, United States
 - NeuStar Inc., United States
 - Dreamlab Technologies AG, Switzerland

- **Academia**
 - Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina
 - Beihang University, China
 - University of Pennsylvania, United States
 - Daejeon University, Korea (Rep. of)
 - National Institute of Telecommunications, Poland
 - Peng Cheng Laboratory, China
 - Renmin University of China, China
 - Purple Mountain Laboratories, China
 - Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, India
 - China Branch of BRICS Institute, China
 - Beijing Jiaotong University, China
 - Digital Currency Institute of the People's Bank of China, China
 - National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics, Romania
 - China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), China
 - The University of the West Indies, Barbados
 - Baylor University, United States
 - Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, India
 - Faculty of Maritime Studies, Croatia
 - China Institute of Communications, China

In Focus

ITU-D Sector Membership Engagement to the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition



The Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (IAGDI-CRO) meeting, held in February 2022, contributed to the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition and catalyzed announcements of concrete proposals and pledges from our valued ITU-D Sector Members.

As of October 2022, ITU-D membership has contributed to P2C with over 80 pledges worth USD 8.8 billion.

[Read more](#)

ITU-D Membership Testimonials campaign

The [ITU-D Membership Testimonials](#) campaign continues to collect C-level industry and private sector members' views on the value of ITU-D membership. Displayed on ITU events and social media "Why are we ITU-D Members?", it promotes the voice of our Sector Members and raises awareness on the value of ITU-D membership to the development work.

[Read more](#)

Key Partnerships

EQUALS

- **EQUALS Her Digital Skills**, a movement launched by EY, ITU, W4 and GSMA, have benefited 5 600 girls aged 16 to 25 in 30 countries around the world.
- The [EQUALS Her Digital Skills content channel](#) was launched on the EY STEM App at the ITU Generation Connect Youth Summit in Rwanda. 2 500 users have accessed the EQUALS content on safety online for girls from June to September.
- The **EQUALS in Tech Awards 2022** received 159 nominations from 54 countries covering all six ITU regions. The [winners](#) were announced on 8 December.

In Focus



Equals in Tech Awards 2022

[Read more.](#)

Broadband Commission

In 2022, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development came together to address the gaps for reaching universal broadband connectivity and the Commission's 2025 Advocacy Targets.

- The Commission's 2022 State of Broadband Report, [Accelerating Broadband for New Realities](#), examines how COVID-19 has spotlighted the need for a multilateral, collaborative regulatory regime to advance global digital transformation.
- The Commission's Working Groups published three reports and one interim paper examining pertinent issues affecting broadband access, use and affordability.
 - The report by the Working Group on Smartphone Access led by ITU, Vodafone and UN-OHRLS, [Strategies Towards Universal Smartphone Access](#).
 - The report by the Working Group on AI Capacity Building, led by UNESCO and Nokia, [Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation](#) provides the tools to strengthen the abilities of civil servants to effectively use digital tools, develop and implement digital transformation projects, and address complex governance challenges.
 - The report by the Working Group on Virtual Health & Care led by the Novartis Foundation and the World Health Organization, [The Future of Health & Care](#), provides practical recommendations for the future of virtual health and care: how countries can achieve access and equity through inclusive policies.
 - The interim publication of the Working Group on Data for Learning led by UNESCO, [The Transformative Potential of Data for Learning](#), suggested five preliminary recommendations on harnessing the transformative potential of data to improve education systems, setting the stage for the Working Group report to be published in 2023.
- On the margins of the UNGA 77, the Commission called for public and private cooperation across all sectors and geographies to unlock the power of digital learning by supporting digital transformation that delivers affordable and inclusive connectivity for the most marginalized learners, teachers and families, in its [Open Statement to the Transforming Education Summit](#), drawing on its wealth of recommendations on SDG4. In addition, the Commission contributed inputs to other important UN-led processes like HLPF, WSIS Forum 2022, LDC5, Generation Connect Global Youth Summit, ITU WTDC-22 and the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.
- This year, the Commission met in Kigali, Rwanda in the spring, at the invitation of its Co-Chair H.E. President Paul Kagame, as well as in New York in the fall on the margins of the UNGA77, at the invitation of its new Commissioner, the Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms Catherine M. Russell.
- In 2022, the Commission continued its [Broadband Transforming Lives campaign](#), illustrating the power of broadband in everyday life.

For more information and to follow the Broadband Commission's educational and advocacy campaigns, subscribe to the [newsletter](#).

ITU/ILO Decent jobs and skills for youth

- Several activities and country projects that align with national priorities in Africa are empowering youth to get a job in the digital economy took place during the year, including a webinar on '[Creating decent jobs for youth through digital transformation](#)' during the Africa-Europe Week of Partnerships 2022 and a youth-led session on '[Decent jobs in Africa's digital economy](#)' at the Generation Connect Youth Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.
- **Accessibility assessments of the e-recruitment** platforms of six selected entities (including UN organizations) were conducted to identify barriers faced by applicants with disabilities and users of assistive technologies. Good practices and recommendations for these systems to become optimal were produced.
- The **ITU-ILO online self-paced training course** on “Labour inclusion of persons with disabilities: How to ensure that online job applications and recruitment systems are accessible to all” was launched.

PRIDA

- The **Harmonized Calculation Method for Africa (HCM4A)** agreement was signed. It builds on strong partnerships with the African Union and the European Union to accelerate digital transformation and improve lives in Africa.
- The **National Table of Frequency Attribution (NTFA)** technical assistance for South Sudan was finalized.
- The **Digital Dividend Evaluations** for Madagascar and Djibouti were finalized.

In Focus



Harmonized Calculation Method for Africa (HCM4A) agreement signed by 44 African countries

[The HCM4A agreement entered in force at that date.](#)

Be He@lthy, Be Mobile (BHBM)

- The **PAHO – ITU COVID-19 awareness campaign** reached more than 220 000 people in four countries in the Caribbean: Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. More than 2.5 million SMS were delivered with awareness, raising messages and educational information. 80% of the respondents reported that they were positively impacted by the campaign.
- The ninth consecutive **mRamadan campaign** was conducted in Senegal. The number of registered users reached 180 000. SMS messages were used to deliver valuable health advice, guidance, and reminders to help diabetics manage their condition during the Ramadan fasting, avoid complications, as well as to improve the general knowledge of best practices and safety measures.
- Two new handbooks were developed and published: [BHBM mMyopia toolkit](#) and [BHBM mSafeListening Handbook](#).
- The BHBM team has been working closely with the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) to assist with identification of evidence-based, cost-effective, and scalable digital solutions for **NCD prevention and control in countries**. Global business case for implementation of digital health solutions is under development.

In Focus



mHealth knowledge Hub

[Key highlights and achievements of the mHealth knowledge Hub](#)

FCDO (United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office)

- [ITU and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office have been collaborating](#) to promote **effective regulation, greater investment and innovative models for school connectivity** in underserved communities and for broader digital inclusion in the Digital Access Programme (DAP) countries of Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Indonesia and Brazil.
- The work has included assessments of policy and regulatory barriers, the development of a [Universal Service Financing Efficiency Toolkit](#), the creation of interactive connectivity maps, the development of training courses plus national digital skills demand and supply assessments.
- **Roundtables, trainings and workshops** have taken place in all of the countries to discuss the findings with stakeholders, share lessons learnt and identify next steps.

GovStack

- Two **Building Block** (BB) technical specifications were published.
- The **Horn of Africa GovStack** implementation in Djibouti and Kenya started in June with a series of digital service co-design workshops to prioritize and rank five government services to be digitized in 2023 using a GovStack Service Design & BB Approach.
- Technical specifications for geographic information systems, e-signature, cloud & infrastructure, UX/UI, and e-marketplace started their **co-design process** in September.
- The **GovStack CIO Digital Leaders Forum** was launched at WSIS Forum 2022 with the participation of Egypt, Estonia, India, Peru, Rwanda and Ukraine.

2023-2025 Regional Initiatives

Africa

- AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa
 - AFR2: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies
 - AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data
 - AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems
-

Americas

- AMS1: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure
 - AMS2: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations
 - AMS3: Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects
 - AMS4: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/information and communication technologies that support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and progress towards the digital economy
-

Arab States

- ARB1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation
 - ARB2: Enhancing confidence, security and privacy in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the era of new and emerging digital technologies
 - ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities
 - ARB4: Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight
 - ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation
-

Asia and the Pacific

- ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries and landlocked developing countries
 - ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies
 - ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected
 - ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation
 - ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment
-

CIS

- CIS1: Developing infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the introduction of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and next-generation NET-2030 communication networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital skills and environmental protection
 - CIS2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection
 - CIS3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation
 - CIS4: Digital skills and information and communication technology accessibility for the public, in particular for persons with disabilities
 - CIS5: Development of smart cities and communities
-

Europe

- EUR1: Digital infrastructure development
- EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience
- EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development
- EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies
- EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

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