



General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 2 February 2022

Ref: **DM-22/1000**
Contact: Ms Béatrice Pluchon
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To Member States of ITU Council

Subject: **Consultation by correspondence on the change of place and dates of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

On 21 January 2022, Member States of the ITU Council held an informal consultation to discuss the preparations for the upcoming WTDC, WTSA and Council.

After further discussion on the issues raised in the circular letter [DM-21/1025](#) dated 6 December 2021 from the Chairman of Council, the Councillors were in agreement that hosting the WTDC in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, was no longer a feasible option, and united in their wish to maintain the conference in Africa if possible. On the understanding that the fallback venue (in the absence of a new host) would be Geneva, the meeting sought proposals for an alternate venue from African Member States. Following this request for proposals, the Councillor from Rwanda informed the meeting of Rwanda's willingness to host the conference in Kigali, which received unanimous support from the meeting.

I am pleased to inform you that on 30 January 2022 the Secretary-General received an official invitation from the Government of Rwanda to hold the next WTDC in the city of Kigali from 6 to 16 June 2022, immediately preceded by the Youth Summit starting on 2 June 2022.

In accordance with No. 42 of the Convention, the Council shall determine the precise place and exact dates of a WTDC with the concurrence of a majority of the Member States. Any changes to these decisions are also subject to the same process.

.../...

Consequently, I hereby invite Member States of the ITU Council to inform the Secretary-General of their concurrence with the change of place and dates of WDTC-21 as described above using the **online tool*** or using the template in **Annex 1** by e-mail to memberstates@itu.int, **not later than Tuesday 8 February 2022**. The agreement of the Council on the matter will then be subject to the concurrence of the majority of the Member States of ITU, as per No. 46 of the Convention. The secretariat remains at your disposal if needed.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Dr Elsayed Azzouz
Chair of the Council

Annexes: 2

Annex 1 – Consultation on the change of place and dates of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21)

Annex 2 – Invitation letter from Rwanda

* **Online tool:** Each Councillor can access directly the online tool by using her/his ITU User account with TIES access login details (username and password). Only one Councillor will be able to answer on behalf of his/her Council Member State. Any Councillor wishing to designate another person to respond to the Consultation through the online tool is invited to inform ITU via memberstates@itu.int, providing the Username of that designated person. Please note that the online tool is in English only.

ANNEX 1

Consultation on the change of place and dates of WTDC-21

Name of the Member State of the Council:

We agree to the change of place and dates of WTDC-21 to Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022:

Yes

No

Abstention

Councillors are kindly invited to send their reply via the [online tool](#), or alternatively by e-mail to memberstates@itu.int **not later than Tuesday 8 February 2022.**



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of ICT and Innovation

Kigali, January 29th, 2022
Ref: 011/MIN/2022

Houlin ZHAO, Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20, Switzerland
Switzerland

Dear Secretary General,

Subject: Rwanda's Interest to host the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2022

Reference to the circular issued on 6th December 2021 updating ITU Council Member States on the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21), and the need to explore alternative options for a host country for the next WTDC 2021 given that Addis was no longer an option.

Reference is also made to subsequent informal consultations held regarding the hosting of the WTDC 2022; in which councillors expressed the wish to maintain the conference in Africa. Through these consultations Rwanda expressed its willingness to host the WTDC 2022 in Kigali, starting from June 2nd to June 16th, 2022 as an alternative to Geneva.

Rwanda boasts world-class MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conference, and Events/Exhibition) infrastructure and a diverse range of international and local hotel brands supported by an excellent doing business environment. The iconic Kigali Convention Centre is the proposed main venue for WTDC 2022. Kigali has hosted major global events including the African Union Summit, AU & EU Summit, World Economic Forum, and Transform Africa Summit among others. There are other state of the art venues that would be available for any additional engagements.



Republic of Rwanda
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The country enjoys excellent air connectivity through the national carrier-Rwandair, which flies to almost 30 destinations in Africa and around the world. Additionally, international airlines such as KLM, SN Brussels, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Egypt Air and Kenya Airways also offer regular services to Rwanda. Furthermore, Rwanda has an open visa policy where all nationalities get visas on arrival with visa waiver for all citizens of the Member States of the African Union, the Commonwealth, and Francophone countries, while the rest of the visitors pay \$50 for visa fees upon arrival.

With 90% of Kigali residents fully vaccinated, Rwanda is ranked 1st in Africa, 6th globally in COVID-19 management & making the information accessible to the public. Rwanda is committed to working together with ITU to successfully host the WTDC 2022 in Kigali..

I take this opportunity to commend ITU's collaboration with Rwanda. We strongly believe that hosting the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Rwanda will continue to strengthen the ITU initiatives already established in our country and the region as a whole.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the expression of our highest consideration and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Ingabire'.



Paula Ingabire
Minister of ICT and Innovation

Cc: Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
KIGALI