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Message from ITU Secretary-General, Houlin Zhao

**World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
17 May 2017**

BIG DATA FOR BIG IMPACT

Every year on 17 May, the ITU membership around the world, celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day – a day to mark the founding of our Union over 150 years ago.

The theme for 2017 is "Big Data for Big Impact," which will explore the power of big data for development and examine the opportunities to convert unprecedented quantities of data into information that can drive development.

The insight brought about by this analysis of data will enable evidence-based decision-making at national, regional and international levels and help the implementation of all 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

It will also be an occasion to take a closer look at the importance of governance and regulation, and the implications for personal privacy and security given the future exponential growth in data and connectivity.

Countless opportunities will also be identified as we learn to better perfect and harness big data, and understand the impact big data can have as a global good.

Activities undertaken by the ITU membership will contribute towards building momentum to embrace big data on a global scale and to seize new opportunities to address development challenges.

HOULIN ZHAO
ITU Secretary-General

<https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/2017/Pages/message-zhao.aspx>