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Plenipotentiary Conference 2022

Electing ITU's top executives



ITUPP
BUCHAREST2022

26 September - 14 October 2022
Bucharest, Romania



What is the Plenipotentiary?

ITU's **supreme decision-making** body,
convening **every 4** years

PP-22 will establish ITU's **2024-2027** roadmap

Strategic plan



Financial plan



193 Member States **will elect** the next



ITU management team

Secretary-General

Deputy Secretary-General

3 Bureau Directors

Radiocommunication * Standardization * Development



12 members of the **Radio Regulations Board**



48 Council members

Digital leaders prepare to gather in Romania

By Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General

It is my great pleasure this month to welcome participants to Romania's capital city of Bucharest for the twenty-first Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Held every four years, this top policy-making body determines our collective direction and priorities in line with the evolving needs of ITU's diverse global membership.

This Plenipotentiary Conference, PP-22, will approve strategic and financial plans covering the years 2024-2027, laying the foundation for ITU's operational priorities and future activities. It will also address key issues ranging from connectivity, digital literacy, and bridging the digital divide to gender mainstreaming and tackling climate change.

A central part of the conference is electing ITU's next management team – the five top executives responsible for leading the organization's work over the next four years. PP-22 will also elect the 12-member Radio Regulations Board and decide which Member States will serve on the 48-seat ITU Council.

Decisions taken at PP-22 will help shape the future of the information society in both developed and developing countries. Furthermore, this high-profile gathering of ITU's 193 Member States offers a vital and timely opportunity to influence the world's ongoing digital transformation in accordance with global goals for a sustainable future.

Bucharest's Palace of the Parliament offers an admirable venue for such an important event.

I am confident that Bucharest, the Palace, and the dedication and hospitality of our Romanian hosts will inspire all our delegates in the pursuit of results that will enable a more connected, better life for everyone.



“It is my great pleasure to welcome participants to Bucharest.”

Houlin Zhao



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Plenipotentiary Conference 2022

Electing ITU's top executives



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Romania hosts world ICT leaders

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is set to convene its forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference 2022, known for short as PP-22, from 26 September to 14 October at the Palace of the Parliament in Romania's capital city, Bucharest.

"I am very pleased that the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 will be held in Romania," said Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, at the signing of the host country agreement. "The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of digital technologies and services like never before. Yet challenges remain everywhere. ITU Member States will use PP-22 to set out a roadmap for 2024–2027, at a time when digital transformation is accelerating around the world."



ITU Member States will use PP-22 to set out a roadmap for 2024–2027, at a time when digital transformation is accelerating around the world.

Houlin Zhao

ITU Secretary-General



By organizing the Plenipotentiary Conference, we are fully committed to bringing together all countries to work closely for the development of global communications and to strengthen the telecommunication sector. ”

Vlad Stoica

President of ANCOM, Romania

Vlad Stoica, President of the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), who signed the host country agreement on behalf of the Government of Romania, underlined the commitment involved in hosting PP-22.

“By organizing the Plenipotentiary Conference, we are fully committed to bringing together all countries to work closely for the development of global communications and to strengthen the telecommunication sector,” he said. “I can assure you that we will spare no effort to successfully organize this landmark event, providing the highest standards in terms of resource allocation, the venue, and the well-being of all participants, while also conducting this event in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, making it as eco-friendly, sustainable, gender-responsive, and inclusive as possible.

Sabin Sărmaş, President of Romania’s Information Technology and Communications Committee, is Chairman-Designate of PP-22.

About ANCOM

The National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) regulates the industry and protects the interests of telecom and digital network and technology users in Romania.

More about [ANCOM](#).



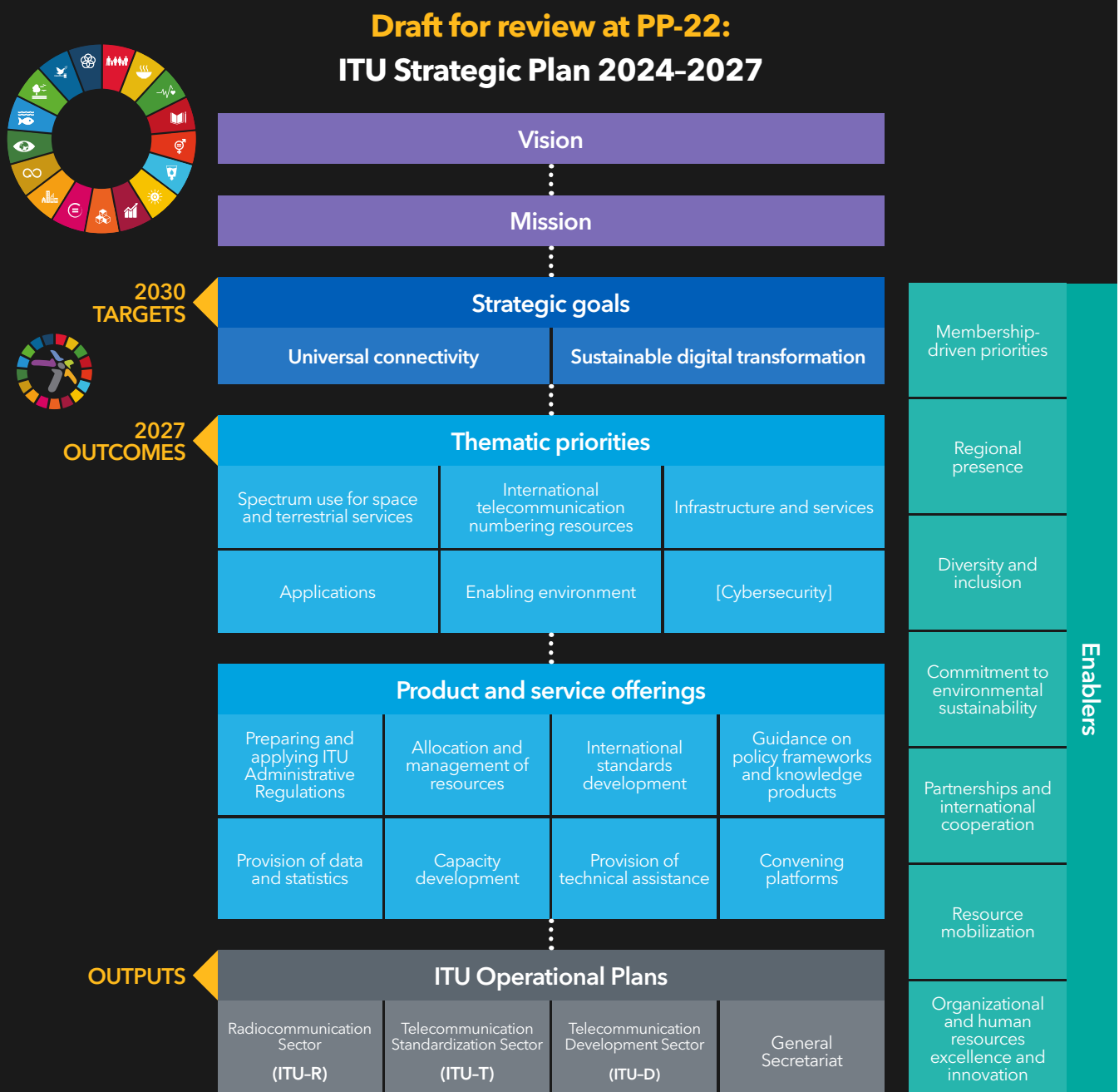
Everyone is now thinking in favour of digital transformation. ”

Sabin Sărmaş

President of Romania’s Information Technology and Communications Committee and Chairman-Designate of PP-22

Held every four years, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference convenes representatives of the organization's 193 Member States to oversee global radio spectrum allocation, the creation of global technical standards, and development initiatives promoting digital inclusion in under-served communities worldwide.

PP-22 will also set out ITU's general policies, adopt four-year strategic and financial plans, and address key ICT issues in accordance with requests by ITU members.



The conference will elect ITU's next Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and Directors of the Bureaux responsible for the Radiocommunication Sector, the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, and the Telecommunication Development Sector, along with the members of the 12-seat Radio Regulations Board.

The election process at the Plenipotentiary Conference also decides which Member States will constitute the next ITU Council, based on broad seat allocations for geographic regions around the world. The 48-seat Council acts as ITU's governing body in the interval between plenipotentiary conferences.

This edition of the ITU News Magazine introduces the candidates for ITU's next senior management team. The elections will begin on the fourth working day of the conference: Thursday, 29 September.

ITU Council lays groundwork for PP-22

ITU Council 2022, convened in March, established the plans and set in motion key preparations for a successful PP-22.

A final meeting of this year's Council session is set to take place in Bucharest on 24 September.

The extraordinary session of ITU's 2023 Council, with newly elected Member States convening for the first time, will take place in Bucharest on 14 October.

More about [ITU Council](#).



PP-22 host city: Bucharest

With 2 million inhabitants in the city and even more in the metropolitan area, Bucharest offers a mixture of experiences and emotions. The Romanian capital preserves traces of past civilizations and is proud of its museums and monumental buildings. It has often been likened to a "Little Paris".

Looking around, one can discover not only the city's beautiful neighbourhoods, its protected natural areas, or the beauty of the Dâmbovită River, but also the cultural diversity of a modern European metropolis.



Romania invites the world to connect and unite

Visit the PP-22 host country [website](#).



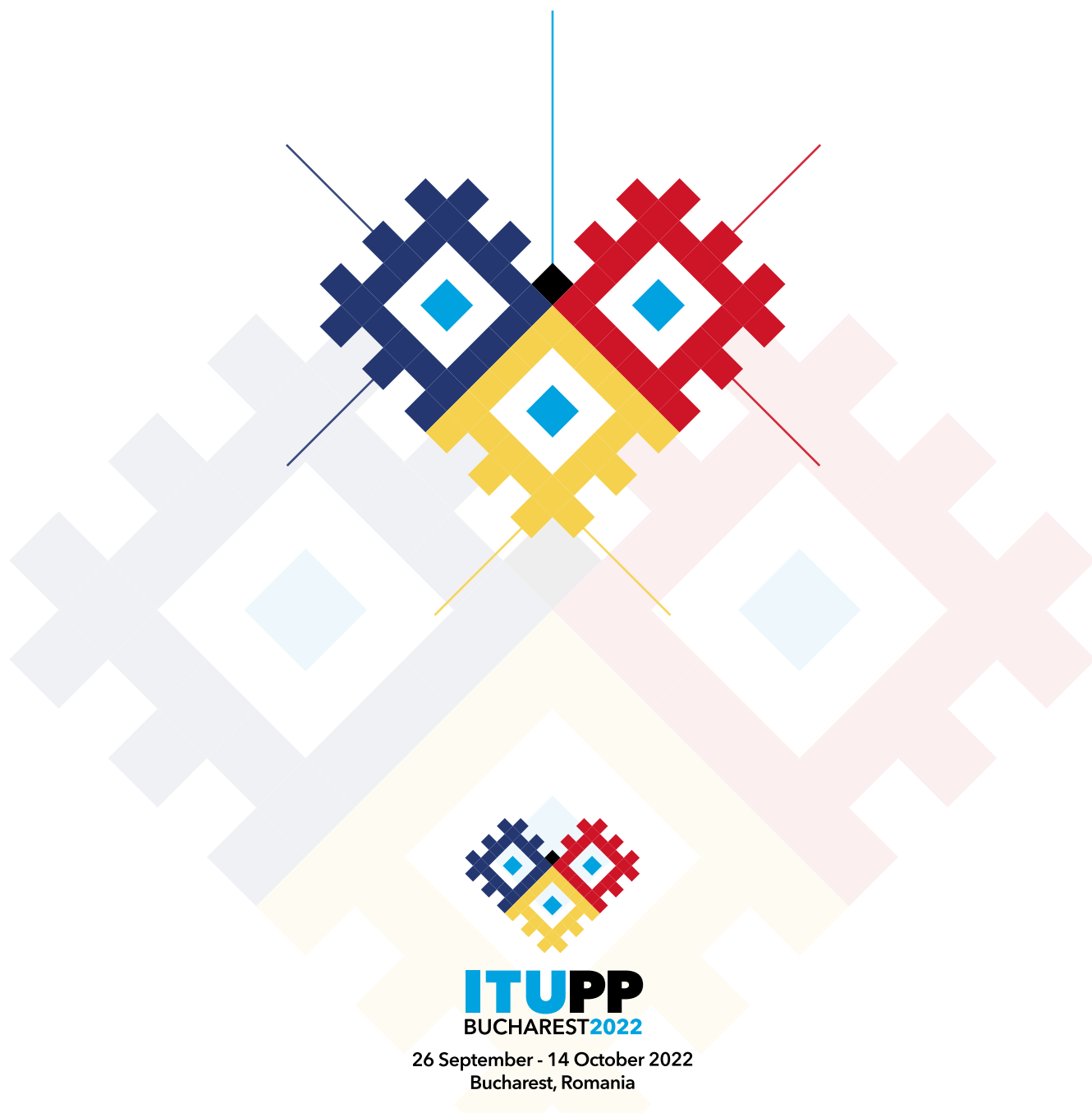
A 365-day destination

Watch a [video](#) introduction on Romania.



ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022

Follow it as it happens



Meet the candidates for top ITU management posts

One of the key roles of the Plenipotentiary is to elect ITU's top executives. The new management team is charged with leading the organization for the next four years.

The **Secretary General** is responsible for overall management and acts as ITU's legal representative.

The **Deputy Secretary-General** assists and is entrusted by the Secretary-General with specific tasks and responsibilities, both internal and external.

Elections are also held for **Bureau Directors** who organize and coordinate activities in the three main sectors of ITU's work:

- Radiocommunication
- Telecommunication Standardization
- Telecommunication Development

Candidate interviews

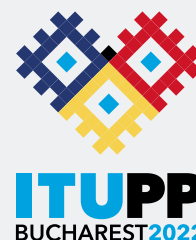
ITU News invited all election candidates for each of the five elected posts to participate in a written interview.

Their answers received are reproduced on the pages that follow.

Interviews are presented under each position, in alphabetical order of candidates' surnames.

Read on to discover each candidate's vision of how telecommunications and digital technologies will affect our world in the coming years, and how, if elected, each of these prospective leaders would personally aim to shape that future.

More about the [ITU election process](#).



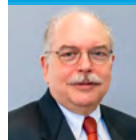
ITU Secretary-General



ITU Deputy Secretary-General



ITU Radiocommunication Bureau



ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau



ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau



Doreen Bogdan-Martin

United States

Candidate
for the post of
ITU Secretary-General



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

My view is ambitious.

Digital technologies are transforming our lives, from governance to health care, to finance to production, education, entertainment and how we relate to one another. They are at the frontier of human creativity and key to solving our global problems, from climate change to poverty. Reaching across long distances in an instant, they connect computing power in the pockets of billions of people to vast human knowledge. The opportunity is an exponentially growing network effect for humanity.

But my primary ambition is to include those currently excluded – those living in poor areas, women and girls without educational opportunities, people with disabilities, members of ethnic or linguistic minorities, among others. We must deliver connectivity to them, be smart in innovating for inclusive economic productivity, and at the same time protect our populations from cyber risks.

“

My primary ambition is to include those currently excluded.”

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

How should ITU evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Just when we need to act collectively – from caring for our planet to managing pandemics to protecting our children online – we seem more deeply divided both between and within countries. I cannot think of a time when an organization like ITU should be more relevant. We convene the world's regions and nations, along with many of its important information and communication technology (ICT) businesses, civil society, and academics, to work on development, technical standards, and radio spectrum. But to be relevant, ITU must evolve and sometimes break from old ways.

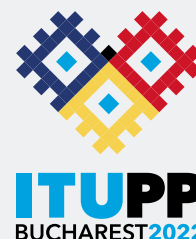
We must keep our eyes on the prize – breaking through the real problems – and this means being a listening and learning organization. We need to more vigorously embrace the very innovations we espouse. We must use data analytics better to give us a fact-based understanding of connectivity challenges. We must bring thought leadership and expertise in transformational technologies such as 5G, 6G, new space technologies, the Internet of things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI). We must apply critical feedback checks to keep ourselves impact-driven.

Being relevant also depends on improving our internal collaboration platforms. If our mission is to connect the world, we need to connect more regularly with our members and regional organizations. To achieve anything, we need to earn everybody's confidence, so we must be transparent about what we do with our members' resources, and why, and be responsive to their concerns.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

First, we must aim high to deliver universal digital connectivity that is safe, inclusive and affordable for the 2.7 billion people still off-line. I will strengthen ITU's advisory services, especially on regulatory practices that attract investment and ensure competition. We must walk our talk. I will build ITU's expertise to put us at the vanguard of understanding communication technologies and practical realities on the ground. I am pursuing this with our Last Mile Connectivity Toolkit, our Equals Partnership to close the digital gender divide, and with our Giga partnership with UNICEF that aims to connect every school to the Internet. We will integrate the voices of developing countries, women and girls, youth, and civil society into our action planning processes.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Candidate for the post of
ITU Secretary-General



If our mission is to connect the world, we need to connect more regularly with our members and regional organizations. ”

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Second, we must collaborate for impact. I will lead ITU into a new era of global and regional partnerships, calling on the wonderful range of relationships I have built across governments, investors, operators, technology companies, standard-setting organizations, development banks, universities, and United Nations bodies. During the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in June, I announced 426 pledges under Partner2Connect, amounting to USD 26 billion, to close the digital divide. This and the over 100 new partnerships I brokered as ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) Director are only the beginning. Internally, I will lead a culture of collaboration that fulfills the potential of ITU's tripartite structure to meet our members' differing needs. Closer collaboration across the three Bureaux and through our regional presence will fortify coordination and reduce duplication.

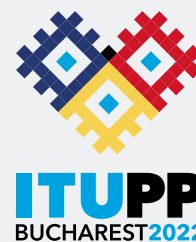
Third, we must excel as an institution both in performance and governance – making major improvements to the quality of our work and our financial accountability. We will upskill and motivate our staff with more sharing and circulation of knowledge and people. I will deepen results-based management in pursuit of clear and measurable outcomes across the organization. I will strengthen the transparency mechanisms that hold us accountable, and we will become known for our ethical integrity. To be as agile, resilient and secure as the networks we promote, I will ensure that ITU develops up-to-date operational readiness, business risk assessments, contingency plans and crisis management.

With seven years remaining in the UN Decade of Action, how can ITU, as the UN specialized agency committed to connecting the world, help accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals?

We are slipping on many of the SDG targets. We must turn this around with a step-change in growth of Internet access. We must push the boundaries of what we imagine is possible, try different things, accepting some will work while others may not. The world can change faster than we realize.

The 2.7 billion – those currently left behind – represent a huge economic opportunity. We must set in place conditions and partnerships for investment to bring the unconnected online. As my work with the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission shows, this requires public-private collaboration, which is ITU's sweet spot. As the right specialist organization among the range of UN bodies, we can help support demand-side use cases that can be brought to scale – like digital financial services, online education and health. These very network effects, intrinsic to our industry, are vital for sustainable, inclusive development to prevail.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Candidate for the post of
ITU Secretary-General



I will strengthen ITU's advisory services, especially on regulatory practices that attract investment and ensure competition. ”

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Candidate for the post of
ITU Secretary-General

◆ ***Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.***

I lead with the interest of all countries in mind. My open, consensual leadership style has borne much fruit. In addition to the achievements mentioned above, it has enabled numerous major joint initiatives with UN and donor agencies and private-sector partners. It also brought major improvements in BDT's performance and accountability.

My [vision statement](#) summarizes these. I have led three Plenipotentiaries, eleven ITU Council meetings, two World Telecommunications Policy Forums, eleven Global Symposiums for Regulators, and twenty-four meetings of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission. The one thing I will add here is how proud I am of how, with my support for staff members, we at BDT redeployed during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain business continuity, staff morale and engagement with our members.

◆ ***What else would you bring to the table as the next ITU Secretary-General?***

I will pursue an outcome-driven focus on ITU's mission, with respect and integrity and without political agenda. Under my leadership, ITU will have the trust of our members and partners.

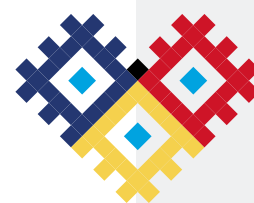
◆ ***Is there anything else you would like to add?***

As a mother of four, I know how urgent it is to build a safer, stronger digital world for all our children.



The 2.7 billion – those currently left behind – represent a huge economic opportunity. ”

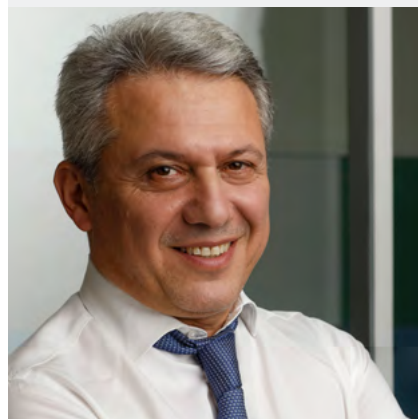
Doreen Bogdan-Martin



Rashid Ismailov

Russian Federation

Candidate
for the post of
ITU Secretary-General



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Modern technologies are changing people's lives more than ever before. The pace of innovation is accelerating; manufacturing, logistics and consumption are being profoundly restructured; and technology and business models rapidly transformed.

Some countries have achieved extraordinary levels of digital development, many have reached adequate levels, but others remain at a level that calls for attention and support from the international community.

Meanwhile, we are living in a vast, highly complex digital world, never before so separated from the physical world, with its familiar laws and tangible possibilities for interaction elaborated over thousands of years.

The biggest potential for conflict today lies in how to reconcile human beings with digitalization. Just look at how technologies can facilitate corporate or state manipulation. Rather than development for its own sake, we must improve the quality and security of human life and work, regardless of technical upheavals.

Even as digital technologies open new horizons, they pose unprecedented challenges to the existing world order.

“

Modern technologies are changing people's lives more than ever before.”

Rashid Ismailov

How should ITU evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

ITU must provide strategy, guidance, and vision – not a bureaucracy inscribed in a unipolar world.

Ongoing technological development intensifies security problems, with 5G use giving these questions increasing urgency. Fraud in the Internet of things – self-driving cars, roboticized manufacturing, telemedicine – can threaten lives and health, not just a subscriber's personal data.

As a smartphone user, imagine one day finding your apps deactivated, cloud storage shut down, your access restricted. Your whole infrastructure has disappeared, along with all your data. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Now imagine digitalization has become all-encompassing. You're unable to access to your identity, including your avatar in the digital universe, because some corporation blocks you.

ITU will play a key role in the next few years, spearheading standardization and recommendations across numerous applications.

Digital regulation is like codes for aviation or outer space use. No country can pursue its own ends exclusively. Rather, we work in the same field, interacting on equal footing.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

My "Five Steps to ICT Humanization" programme outlines priorities aimed at strengthening each individual's role, expectations, rights and potential.

First and foremost, information and communication technology (ICT) and telecom development must support a **human-centric digital economy and society**.

ITU and other organizations should work harder to **bridge the digital divide**, with broadband access enabling everyone to engage in the digital economy.

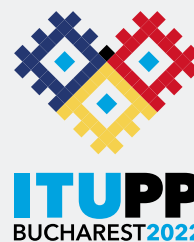
We must **strengthen ITU's role** in regulating radio spectrum use and satellite orbits, as well as in developing globally agreed norms and standards to ensure availability and affordability. Standards must adhere to international rules and principles, facilitating security and interoperability.

Strategic planning is vital to **anticipate technological advances**, help identify standardization gaps, and focus ITU members on bridging those gaps.

I also propose **reforming the ITU management model** to improve the organization's flexibility.

Rashid Ismailov

Candidate for the post of
ITU Secretary-General



“Rather than development for its own sake, we must improve the quality and security of human life and work.”

Rashid Ismailov

With seven years remaining in the UN Decade of Action, how can ITU, as the UN specialized agency committed to connecting the world, help accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals?

Telecoms and ICTs are essential to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and ICT access itself has become a development indicator. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process – with its Action Lines linked to Agenda for Sustainable Development – should continue until at least 2030.

Technologies bring immense benefits, and I believe strongly in bringing infrastructure to all countries that need it. If elected, I will do everything to meet UN sustainable development objectives. My industry experience puts me in an excellent position to drive this effort.

Implementation of WSIS outcomes – through the process guided by ITU – is due for high-level review by the UN General Assembly in 2025.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

My experience, encompassing the private sector and government, as well as ITU itself, helps me appreciate the needs of business and state representatives. I understand the interests of countries seeking to develop their own infrastructure, but also the direction the whole world is going and today's core ICT issues.

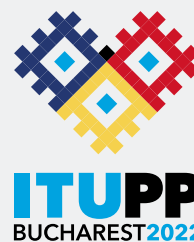
My six years in the Ministry of Communications and Mass Media – and heading the Russian delegation to ITU – were crucial to my life experience. As Chair of the ITU Council in 2018, I took into account the interests of all Member States and obtained consensual decisions under extreme time pressure.

Time is our most valuable resource as human beings. How we deal with it determines the quality of our lives.

My academic background was in history, with a specialization, unusually, in numerical and computerized research methods. Although I later worked in commercial organizations, on major technology projects, my humanities education helped me find a common language for the things that matter to people.

Rashid Ismailov

Candidate for the post of
ITU Secretary-General



ITU will play a key role in the next few years, spearheading standardization and recommendations across numerous applications. ”

Rashid Ismailov

Rashid Ismailov

Candidate for the post of
ITU Secretary-General

What else would you bring to the table as the next ITU Secretary-General?

An important aspect of my programme is management reform. I propose a two-term limit for ITU's elected officials, regardless of their changing positions (aside from current incumbents).

We must attract new participants to ITU's work. Since the organization began, its elected officials have come from just 24 countries.

This means the management has yet to admit 169 Member States, which speaks volumes about the current international balance – and is indefensible given the importance of ICTs for all economies.

Individual term limits are a basic principle underpinning the rotation of power, with great significance in current politics.

ITU needs to train and promote young people, support mentoring, build on the expertise of the older generation, and hire interns reflecting geographical and gender balance.

Most ITU Member States lack sufficient digital sovereignty to aspire to an independent role in the global information space. ITU is their last hope for inclusion, if only based on the "one country, one vote" principle.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

There is no holding up progress. For Russians, this old observation is associated with Yandex founder Ilya Segalovich. Although Ilya is sadly no longer with us, he was the kind of visionary we need today. The future of digital must align with human development.

I am honoured to be nominated by my country as a candidate. Russia, as a founding ITU Member State, and I, as a candidate for Secretary-General, feel a responsibility to reshape ITU for the benefit of all people on Earth.

I am committed to strengthening ITU's human resources and efficiency. With over 30 years of experience in ICTs, I believe I can prepare ITU for emerging challenges and steer it beyond new horizons.



I understand the interests of countries seeking to develop their own infrastructure, but also the direction the whole world is going and today's core ICT issues. ”

Rashid Ismailov



Tomas Lamanauskas

Lithuania

Candidate
for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

The pandemic has clearly demonstrated the crucial need to be connected to the digital world. Of course, digital technologies have their challenges. However, whenever I hear anyone talk about cyber risks, I also think about the 2.7 billion people who don't face any – but not for a good reason. Being offline, they are excluded from opportunities to access education and public services, earn an income, or keep in touch with loved ones. It is a question of global solidarity to make sure that the benefits of digital are available to all.

We must leverage digital technologies to address the challenges the world faces – including, above all, the climate crisis. If we lose this Earth, nothing else will matter much.

How should ITU evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Traditionally, connectivity was a domain for specialists. Not anymore. Digital tops everyone's agenda now. It is in every initiative and strategy. That creates a risk for ITU – that we become just one more organization doing digital.

But in this challenge lies an opportunity – to leverage our 157-years of experience and become an indispensable partner in the increasingly digital journey of sustainable development. A few things are needed for this, though.

We need to be clear on what we know and do best. We need to bring the right stakeholders to the table. And we need to be fast and responsive, impact-driven, flexible and agile – to deliver when the world needs us to.

“

We must leverage digital technologies to address the challenges the world faces – including, above all, the climate crisis. ”

Tomas Lamanauskas

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

Managing ITU is a team sport. And Deputy Secretary-General has probably the least-defined role on the team. But it is generally understood to mean a chief operating officer who ensures the engine of the organization runs for the benefit of members, and the guarantor, through intersectoral coordination, of “One ITU”.

Within this context, my first priority is to **make ITU the place to forge impact-driven partnerships**. Through ITU, all relevant stakeholders should find each other, understand each other, and work together.

Our engagement should reflect the growing complexity of the telecoms and digital field. The investor community, for example, is becoming pivotal to connectivity projects. ITU must help unlock investments to bring connectivity and digital development to all, and especially to the poorest countries and remotest communities.

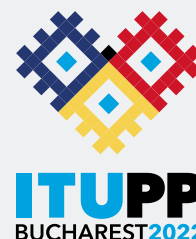
Second, ITU should **support the industry’s drive for net zero** and address the climate crisis. Every project, every standard, every initiative and activity should have a climate lens.

I’m especially passionate about ITU’s role in disaster communications. We must make sure telecommunication networks are resilient, as climate change makes disasters more frequent. With my experience in the Caribbean and the Pacific, I appreciate first-hand how crucial telecoms are to provide early warning, manage response, and help recovery.

And third, I want to see what I call a **fit-for-the-times ITU**. That means implementing the best management practices and being truly results-oriented, nimble, transparent and accountable.

It means being as close to Member States as possible, empowering regional and area offices, and fully integrating them into a truly global ITU. It means integrating diverse experiences from our membership into our work and ensuring that our staff looks, feels, and thinks like our members, including by leveraging seconded national experts and young professionals programmes.

Tomas Lamanauskas
Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General

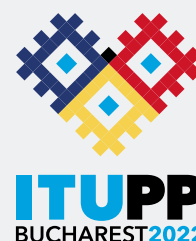


ITU must help unlock investments to bring connectivity and digital development to all, and especially to the poorest countries and remotest communities.”

Tomas Lamanauskas

Tomas Lamanauskas

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



With seven years remaining in the UN Decade of Action, how can ITU, as the UN specialized agency committed to connecting the world, help accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals?

The term “accelerate progress” reflects how for years we’ve taken for granted that there will be progress. But we now find ourselves addressing the risks of sliding backwards. After COVID-19, we’re talking about war, food shortages, energy price shocks, record inflation, economic crises, and, of course, the climate.

The world is tense. The international system is stressed.

We must strive to retain ITU, along with the broader United Nations system, as a place where all can work together – even if, at times, just talking to each other is hard.

Every country – regardless of size, location, wealth, or power – needs to have its voice heard. We must empower our experts to make progress on technical work, as well as finding the time and place for political exchanges.

We may have to learn, when global forces prevent us from finding consensus immediately, not to get too discouraged. Instead, we must focus on the things we can agree on.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

I first joined ITU as Head of Corporate Strategy – just after the unprecedented breakdown of consensus at the World Conference on International Telecommunications in 2012. The task was to rebuild our trust in each other and our ability to agree.

When we looked for common ground, we found it. This resulted in the Connect 2020 Agenda (now Connect 2030), and the full consensus of Member States at the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference on ITU’s activities on Internet-related matters and cybersecurity.



We must strive to retain ITU, along with the broader United Nations system, as a place where all can work together – even if, at times, just talking to each other is hard. ”

Tomas Lamanauskas

Tomas Lamanauskas

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General

To draw just three more examples from my professional life:

- I contributed in Lithuania to **liberalizing the telecommunication market**, which **delivered** world-leading sector development results.
- In Bahrain, I contributed to **developing a regulatory regime** and establishing an authority that gained **recognition** as the region's "most progressive regulator".
- I redeveloped Vanuatu's **Universal Access Policy**, **credited** with providing 98.8 per cent of the population with mobile coverage and 86.2 per cent with broadband coverage. I also helped bring in the first submarine cable, immediately **cutting broadband prices** by 70 per cent and nearly doubling subscriptions.

What else would you bring to the table as the next ITU Deputy Secretary-General?

I would bring a wide range of experience, which enables me to take a 360-degree view of ITU.

During my career, I've represented countries from four regions – with diverse levels of economic development, digital connectivity, and income – including at ITU. I've also represented an ITU Sector Member – a multinational telecoms operator. And I have substantial experience within the ITU secretariat – as Head of Corporate Strategy and more recently as Special Advisor on Crisis Strategy and Partnership Initiatives, helping lead the ITU's COVID-19 response.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Since 1865, ITU has been a place where everyone can come to the table. Whatever the coming years bring, as Deputy Secretary-General I will work tirelessly to help find agreement and make tangible progress – together. With energy, determination, and a spirit of understanding, I am convinced we can continue delivering on our common vision of a truly connected world. The world – more than ever – depends on us succeeding.



I would bring a wide range of experience, which enables me to take a 360-degree view of ITU. ”

Tomas Lamanauskas



Chaesub Lee

Republic of Korea

Candidate
for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) use digital technologies to reach every corner of society and the economy. Artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of things (IoT), and big data currently have huge impact on our daily lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of ICTs, which are consequently now understood to be essential for everyone, something that people and organizations rely upon more and more heavily.

One catchphrase to describe today's rapidly changing world is "digital transformation." It is used increasingly in e-health, e-education, intelligent transport and other industries that have adopted digital technologies to innovate and spread benefits in their respective areas.

ICTs, therefore, play an important role in the innovative digital transformation of communities and industries.

How should ITU evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Today, ICTs are at the core of innovation and have become a vital part of everyday life. However, ICT infrastructure is not available everywhere, as evidenced by the fact that so much of the world's population remains unconnected. Some ICT services are still either too difficult to use or simply inaccessible for many people, particularly the aged and those who have specific needs. Moreover, ICTs raise concerns over fake news, online misbehaviour, and security, privacy, and safety issues.

“Considering the federal structure of ITU, operating as one is critical.”

Chaesub Lee

Considering those issues, ITU should undertake the following in its role as the United Nations (UN) specialized agency for ICTs:

- Stronger efforts to **connect the unconnected**. ITU should extend its collaboration with relevant communities and mobilize “**Investment for Good**” actions based on the UN’s 2030 objectives and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Continue developing ICTs to ensure **universal benefits**. Digital gaps exist everywhere and impact everyone, including gender and age gaps. ITU needs to identify and bridge those gaps.
- Provide a **stable and resilient ICT platform**, in terms both of technology and of policy and regulation, to eliminate concerns and risks. ITU should become the vital gateway for collaboration and coordination with other communities – including other UN organizations.

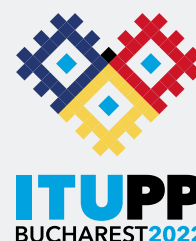
If elected, what are your top three priorities, and how do you plan to achieve them?

My vision as a candidate for “developing a trusted ICT platform” incorporates three pillars:

1. **Building a resilient global ICT ecosystem:** With ICTs becoming essential elements of our daily life, their resiliency is critical. Resiliency is ensured by enhancing the ecosystem’s stability, security and trust. ITU should harmonize with various stakeholders in the ICT ecosystem on operational and policy aspects, as well as provide a trustworthy platform for experts from diverse professional communities. I have been involved in ICT development for the last 35 years, first as a technical expert and then as an elected official. Therefore, I can contribute to building a resilient ecosystem in both technology and policy terms.
2. **Upgrading ITU’s core competencies:** As the UN tech agency, ITU must provide consistently high-quality service. It should be ready to address diverse requirements from various communities and must be effective and systematic in bringing value to its members. My technical knowledge will help in boosting ITU’s technical competencies. My prior experience as an elected official, overseeing the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) for the past eight years, will also help in upgrading the efficiency and validity of ITU’s operations.

Chaesub Lee

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



Today, ICTs are at the core of innovation and have become a vital part of everyday life. ”

Chaesub Lee

3. Strengthening collaboration, coordination, and inclusion within

"OneITU": Considering the federal structure of ITU, operating as one is critical. From my personal observation, the key to fulfilling the OneITU vision is close collaboration among elected officials. The crucial role of the Deputy Secretary-General – as the harmonizer between the Secretary-General (and General Secretariat) and the three Directors (and their respective Bureaux) – calls for a depth and breadth of experience and knowledge. I have a proven record of technical knowledge, collaborative experience, and accomplishments in coordination.

With seven years remaining in the UN Decade of Action, how can ITU, the UN specialized agency committed to connecting the world, help accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals?

The new ITU leadership team will play an instrumental role in the lead-up to 2030. During the pandemic, we saw more clearly than ever how important the SDGs are for humankind.

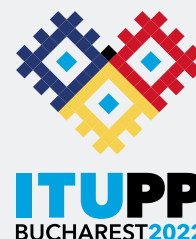
Therefore, the future leadership of ITU should address:

- what members expect in terms of sustainable development for 2030;
- ITU's competencies and how these can add value;
- what functions ITU brings to the UN family; and
- ITU's roles in the public and private arenas.

ITU should continue to bring the value of ICTs to the SDGs and increase cooperation among ITU members and UN organizations. AI for Good stands as an excellent benchmarking model. ITU needs to widen the scope to include "Technology for Good" and "Investment for Good" to further accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

Chaesub Lee

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of ICTs. ”

Chaesub Lee

Chaesub Lee

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

I have been involved with ITU for 35 years: 27 years as a technical expert and eight years as Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), responsible for ITU-T.

Since my election as TSB Director, I have revived ITU-T as a respected global standards platform. As a result, ITU-T is extending its reach to drive digital transformation through standards for 5G, AI, machine learning (ML), digital agriculture, smart cities, blockchain, intelligent transport systems, and climate solutions, among others. Over the last four years, ITU-T has welcomed more than 200 new industry members representing areas integrated with or affected by ICTs, from health, vehicles, and cities to quantum computing, e-sports communities, and other communities.

I have a lot of experience in strengthening collaboration, coordination, and inclusion. I developed the hands-on Bridging the Standardization Gap training programme supporting accessibility and formed regional groups to bridge gaps in practice. I launched AI for Good, the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative, AI for Road Safety, and other initiatives promoting inclusion. I also established monthly calls with ITU's regional offices to strengthen OneITU.

What else would you bring to the table as the next ITU Deputy Secretary-General?

In my opinion, emerging issues require one collective effort rather than multiple individual efforts, as is largely the case today. Climate change, waste management, and bridging gaps are prime examples. I would steer individual abilities toward collective capability to enable multiple communities to address vital issues constructively.



I launched AI for Good, the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative, AI for Road Safety, and other initiatives promoting inclusion. ”

Chaesub Lee



Gisa Fuatai Purcell

Samoa

Candidate
for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General

What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

New and emerging technologies are growing at an unprecedented pace, which is affecting every country's existing policy and regulation frameworks. Recent studies, including those done by ITU, have found that as a result of this, governments and regulators are facing difficulties in identifying and addressing challenges to cope with the impact of this technological progress and fast innovation.

This rapid change also impacts the widening of the digital skills gap. Capacity building is key if this gap is to be bridged. Furthermore, all efforts in developing information and communication technologies (ICTs) and telecommunications must be people-centred; otherwise, citizens – especially those of least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition – will continue to be left behind.

Connecting the world's 2.7 billion unconnected people is no easy task. Such issues must be addressed now to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations for 2030.

The important role of digital technologies in this rapidly changing world is to bridge the digital, gender and geo-political divides that impede the development of all humanity.



Connecting the world's 2.7 billion unconnected people is no easy task. ”

Gisa Fuatai Purcell

How should ITU evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

It should strengthen regional and area offices on every continent. These offices are closer to ITU Member States and are the eyes, ears and face of ITU to the world.

ITU must pay special attention to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs – those United Nations (UN)-recognized categories where the largest share of the unconnected come from. Coordination of ITU's Sectors must also be strengthened to ensure better-organized assistance to developing countries. The outcome will be a much stronger ITU reflecting the combined efforts of its membership.

If elected, what are your top three priorities, and how do you plan to achieve them?

My top three priorities are:

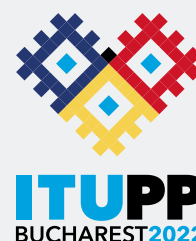
1. **Maintaining ITU's relevance;**
2. **Capacity building;** and
3. **Boosting collaboration among ITU Sectors.**

These priorities are enhanced by more specific objectives, such as:

- **Strengthening regional and area offices.**
- Ensuring programmes are **focused on the most vulnerable members** in developing countries, paying special attention to LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition.
- **Improving digital skills** at a pace matching technological change, with skills and other capacity building treated as a key cross-cutting issue to reach critical poverty reduction and economic growth targets, helping countries achieve the SDGs.
- Providing a **combined package** of telecommunication/ICT development, standards, and harmonized frequency/spectrum solutions, with **all three ITU Sectors** fully engaged to maximize the benefits for Member States.

Gisa Fuatai Purcell

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



ITU should strengthen regional and area offices on every continent. ”

Gisa Fuatai Purcell

With seven years remaining in the UN Decade of Action, how can ITU, the UN specialized agency committed to connecting the world, help accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals?

With seven years remaining in the UN Decade of Action, ITU must focus on utilizing ICT and digital technologies in a people-centred approach, helping the most vulnerable members achieve the SDGs.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

My achievements in leadership and building consensus go back to the preparatory phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), where a draft declaration mentioned only developing countries. I was able to articulate my reasons and ensure ITU would pay special attention to the LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition. As a member of the Drafting Committee, I felt like a lonely voice. But in the end, I convinced the Chair and members of the Committee this was an issue pointing directly to ITU's relevance.

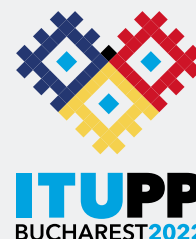
At the 2006 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-06), I put forward a proposal from my country to include SIDS in ITU's programme for LDCs. After I submitted the Samoa proposal, I started lobbying the members, highlighting the similar needs of LDCs and SIDS and how this was an intervention that would keep ITU relevant. Ultimately, the proposal was adopted with not one country opposed.

In 2019, as Acting Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), I organized the first-ever meeting of heads of UN and regional organizations to discuss their programmes on digital transformation, aiming to ensure a collaborative effort in identifying challenges, as well as solutions to achieve a much stronger approach for people worldwide.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 interrupted the process, and as ITU's Deputy Secretary-General I would seek to restart this, building consensus before high-level UN signings.

Gisa Fuatai Purcell

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



With seven years remaining in the UN Decade of Action, ITU must focus on utilizing ICT and digital technologies in a people-centred approach. ”

Gisa Fuatai Purcell

Gisa Fuatai Purcell

Candidate for the post of
ITU Deputy Secretary-General

What else would you bring to the table as the next ITU Deputy Secretary-General?

I hold the chiefly title Gisa, and I understand the pressures of looking after and leading an extended family and a village. As the next ITU Deputy Secretary-General, I will bring both national and international leadership experience; passion for developing digital technologies that are inclusive of women and girls, youth, and people with special needs; integrity; and honesty. All these are required to help the Secretary-General and ensure the relevance of the ITU is maintained, capacity-building efforts are targeted to vulnerable countries, and above all, ITU Sectors are better coordinated to the benefit of the membership.

I led the reform of Samoa's telecommunication sector that brought mobile phones there for the first time, making Samoa the first country in the Pacific to liberalize its mobile market and establish its regulatory office. At ITU, I represented the organization at UN meetings on the SDGs, 2030, and more.

After heading a division for ITU, I took on a similar job at CTO, serving as Director of ICT Development and two months later being appointed Acting Secretary-General until September 2020, when I resigned to take up my national duty as the regulator of Samoa.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

My vision is of utilizing ICTs to improve the standard of living for all. Therefore, my focus is on true and meaningful connectivity that is inclusive, secure and affordable.



My achievements in leadership and building consensus go back to the preparatory phases of WSIS. ”

Gisa Fuatai Purcell





Radiocommunication

The ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) plays a vital role in the global management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits – limited natural resources that are increasingly in demand from a large and growing number of services. These include fixed, mobile, broadcasting, amateur radio, and emergency telecommunications, as well as space research, meteorology, global positioning systems, environmental monitoring, and numerous communication services that ensure the safety of life on land, at sea, and in the skies.

Read more about [ITU-R](#).

Mario Maniewicz

Uruguay

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Radiocommunication
Bureau**



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Digital technologies including high-speed connectivity, the Internet of things and cloud computing are transforming our world. It is my firm belief that digital technologies – no matter how innovative or futuristic they may be – have three important roles:

Firstly, to **improve people's lives**. Everyone, wherever they live, and whatever their means, should have access to affordable connectivity. Wireless technologies can make public services more accessible, enhance financial inclusion, increase learning opportunities, and support health care.

Secondly, to **protect life on the planet**. Satellite technologies support the collection of invaluable data that can then be used to monitor our natural resources, improve food production, and mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

Thirdly, to **increase prosperity**. Radiocommunication technologies are at the centre of the so-called fourth industrial revolution. Digital technologies connect sensors and machines, helping industries, transport systems, utilities and enterprises become more efficient, sustainable and reliable.

Digital technologies including high-speed connectivity, the Internet of Things and cloud computing are transforming our world.

Mario Maniewicz

How should the work of ITU's Radiocommunication Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

The telecommunications ecosystem has changed considerably from what it used to be. The number of players in the radiocommunication sector has expanded tremendously, and so have the services and applications that they provide.

The satellite segment has gained a plethora of actors, ranging from big companies launching mega satellite constellations, start-ups launching small satellites, and academia focused on space research and Earth exploration.

Industries and verticals are deploying their own networks, local operators are providing services to underserved areas, and digital companies now realize the essential role of spectrum resources and spectrum management.

In this context of increasing demand for spectrum and satellite orbital resources, the work of ITU's Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient, and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services remains vital.

For ITU-R to maintain and increase its relevance in today's world, we need to ensure that all developed and developing countries, as well as all players big or small, participate in ITU-R's work and benefit from the remarkable platform for collaboration that ITU provides.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

My primary task is to pave the way for a successful World Radiocommunication Conference in 2023. WRC-23 will consider important topics such as the expansion of mobile, aeronautical, and science services, the communication of ships and planes with satellites, and communication between satellites, to name a few.

Once the conference is over, the priority of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) is to apply the procedures of the Radio Regulations in a fair and transparent manner, as we have done in the past.

Another important part of our core mandate is the elaboration of globally harmonized standards. A priority for me is bringing to the table all relevant players to take part in the development of up-to-date international standards for radiocommunication services.

In addition, we also aim to speed up worldwide implementation of international regulations and standards and thus accelerate progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mario Maniewicz
Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Radiocommunication Bureau



The number of players in the radiocommunication sector has expanded tremendously.

Mario Maniewicz

How can the ITU Radiocommunication Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

ITU's strategic goals are directly linked to SDG 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. Thanks to the encompassing benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) services and applications, the work of ITU-R extrapolates from SDG 9 and contributes to progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in all its dimensions: social, environmental and economic.

Examples include terrestrial and satellite services to improve agricultural productivity (SDG 2), increasing access to health care (SDG 3), inclusive and equitable education (SDG 4), disaster mitigation (SDG 11), tackling climate change and its impacts (SDG 13), protecting marine ecosystems (SDG 14), monitoring deforestation (SDG 15) – and the list goes on.

ITU-R also strives to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5).

Furthermore, in line with SDG 17, the Radiocommunication Bureau maintains close cooperation with international organizations, standards bodies, regional organizations and sector-specific organizations dealing with the use of spectrum resources.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 was an excellent example of building consensus and a very important achievement.

After four weeks of lengthy discussions and negotiations among our Member States, we managed to lead the Conference to a very successful outcome.

As Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, I was deeply involved together with the Chairman of the Conference in bringing together representatives of administrations and regional organizations, and creating a space of trust, where participants could resolve their differences and ultimately compromise on solutions.

Mario Maniewicz

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Radiocommunication Bureau



We need to ensure that all developed and developing countries, as well as all players big or small, participate in ITU-R's work. ”

Mario Maniewicz

Mario Maniewicz

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Radiocommunication Bureau

Regarding leadership achievements, I would highlight two aspects:

1. **Membership support.** I coordinated ITU-R's preparatory work, supporting our members to debate and carry out studies. I created both formal and informal mechanisms to resolve contentious issues and help advance the work.
2. **Bureau management.** I have inspired the principles of efficiency, teamwork, and service to the membership, which has prevailed despite difficulties such as those brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leading in these challenging times has meant dealing with uncertainty and concerns. It has meant adapting and being flexible. Despite the challenges, we have seamlessly continued to provide a service to our constituents while complying with regulatory deadlines. Moreover, our meetings and events have been attended by a record number of participants – with increased numbers of women delegates and representatives from developing countries.

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau?

During my first term in office as the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the huge trust administrations reposed in me at the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference was incredibly encouraging, and a great responsibility.

I was aware of the economic, social, and environmental impact of the work conducted by ITU-R in creating the conditions for harmonized development and efficient operation of existing and new radiocommunication systems.

If entrusted with another term, I will leverage my experience from 34 years of service with ITU and the additional expertise and trust I have gained during my four years leading the Radiocommunication Sector.

I intend to continue leading the Radiocommunication Bureau following the guiding principles that have driven my first mandate: efficiency, transparency and inclusiveness.

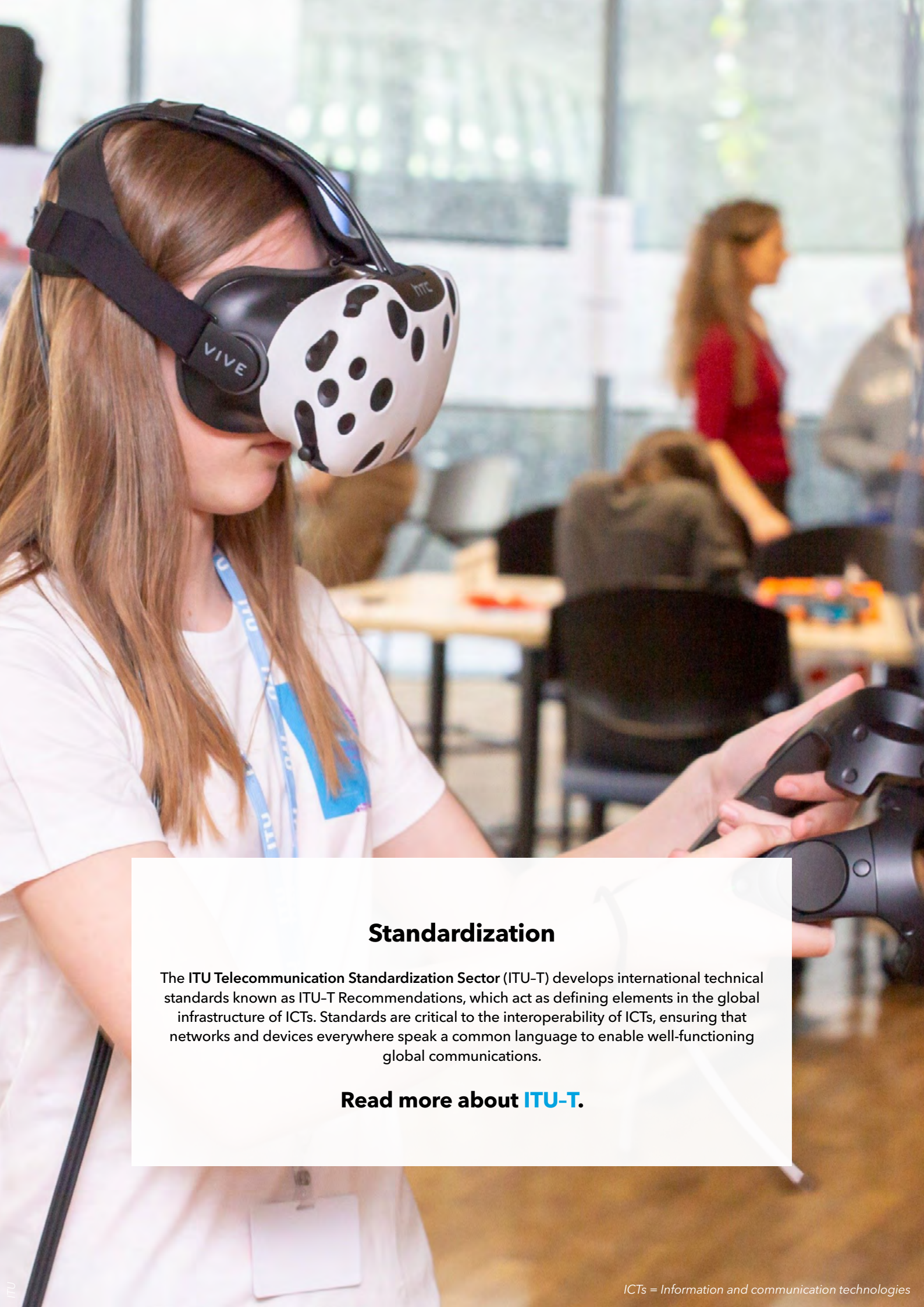
I am proud to lead the Bureau's highly technical and committed staff. I am honoured to serve the international community today, and I look forward to continuing to serve the ITU membership for the next four years.



My primary task is to pave the way for a successful World Radiocommunication Conference in 2023.

Mario Maniewicz





Standardization

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) develops international technical standards known as ITU-T Recommendations, which act as defining elements in the global infrastructure of ICTs. Standards are critical to the interoperability of ICTs, ensuring that networks and devices everywhere speak a common language to enable well-functioning global communications.

Read more about [ITU-T](#).

Bilel Jamoussi

Tunisia

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau**



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

COVID-19 demonstrated the crucial importance of connectivity and digital technologies as essential services to citizens – through teleworking, distance education, digital health care, digital financial inclusion, and more.

Digital technologies accelerate our ability to reach all 17 United Nations-backed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. International standards are critical to drive that achievement in our rapidly changing world of digital transformation.

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Industry and governments need an efficient, effective, speedy, and fair and transparent international standards development process that enables interoperable networks and services ready for market implementation.

The private sector needs the best possible platform for development of technical standards for fibre optic networks – in support of 5G and beyond – to carry world data traffic. It needs standards for video compression to efficiently carry 80 per cent of global Internet traffic, to measure electromagnetic fields based on World Health Organization guidelines, and for quality of service, among other areas. It also needs effective security protocols to provide trust in information and communication technologies (ICTs).

“

COVID-19 demonstrated the crucial importance of connectivity and digital technologies as essential services to citizens. ”

Bilel Jamoussi

ITU members require a neutral and impartial platform, able to collaborate with other standards development organizations and UN agencies for global digital transformation through a consensus-based process. As Chief of the Study Groups Department in the ITU Standardization Bureau (TSB) for the past 12 years, I have helped our membership achieve these goals. Through a clear articulation of the value proposition of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), paired with rising interest in digital transformation, we succeeded in attracting 200 new private sector companies to join ITU-T in the last four years.

In my 15 years in the private sector as Director of Standards at Nortel in the US and Canada, and as a holder of 23 US patents, I have experienced firsthand the importance of a stable patent policy that allows industry to quickly turn technological innovation into international standards.

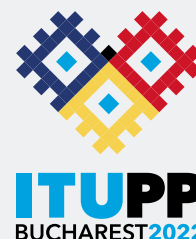
I shall strive to ensure that ITU-T continues to quickly react and adapt to the ever-changing ICT landscape and keeps developing timely and relevant international standards.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

1. **Reform and restructure ITU-T Study Groups:** Transparently provide the required data, expertise, and guidance to help members optimally structure ITU-T Study Groups, leveraging collaboration, and ensuring this platform's continued relevance and attractiveness.
2. **Strengthen inclusive standards:** Through the Bridging the Standardization Gap programme and interfacing with the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau and regional offices, streamline the transfer of new and emerging standards and expertise to projects in developing countries. I firmly believe in a more efficient and inclusive ITU and that no one should be left behind in the ongoing digital revolution.
3. **Accelerate ITU transformation:** Step up the application of innovative, transformational working methods for standards development through physical, hybrid, and fully virtual meetings. With the planned new ITU building in Geneva, ensure service continuity to members while accelerating ITU's digital transformation and improving environmental sustainability.

Bilel Jamoussi

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau



The private sector needs the best possible platform for development of technical standards for fibre optic networks – in support of 5G and beyond – to carry world data traffic.

Bilel Jamoussi

How can the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

International standards that enable digital transformation are central to achieving the SDGs and will be crucial in addressing some of the most pressing needs of the planet, including eradicating hunger and mitigating climate change. New technologies and tools, such as artificial intelligence (AI) help ensure that technological advancement benefits all.

As the Global Standardization Symposium that I had the honour of organizing in 2022 made clear, digital channels are bringing life-changing financial services to millions for the very first time. ITU-T has a powerful role in advancing standards with a continued focus on inclusion and accessibility.

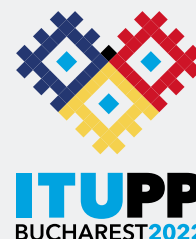
Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

In my 12-year career at ITU, I've had the privilege of leading several efforts that bridged divides and brought diverse stakeholders to consensus, including:

- **WTSA-20:** Leading ITU's World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) team, serving as Secretary of the Plenary, and handling a range of challenging agenda items.
- **ITU-T continuity plan:** Putting together ITU-T's response plan during COVID-19, including the postponement of WTSA-20 until February 2022.
- **Bridging the Standardization Gap:** Helping developing countries participate in the development and implementation of ITU-T standards; leading efficient resource allocation for international numbering that identifies mobile and fixed telephone networks and users and creates an effective ecosystem for the Internet of things and mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs); and handling politically sensitive allocations through careful diplomatic mediation and expertise.
- **Financial Inclusion Global Initiative:** Creating a framework to develop trusted digital payment guidelines and standards in collaboration with telecommunication and finance regulators.
- **Grant management:** Securing and managing a multi-million-dollar grant to foster global financial inclusion.
- **Inter-agency cooperation:** Creating synergies and strengthening partnership with key UN sister agencies.
- **Smart cities:** Leading the Smart Sustainable Cities initiative for more than 200 cities worldwide.
- **Internal leadership:** Chairing various vital ITU staff committees.

Bilel Jamoussi

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau



ITU-T has a powerful role in advancing standards with a continued focus on inclusion and accessibility. ”

Bilel Jamoussi

Bilel Jamoussi

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau?

If elected, I will bring decades of public and private sector experience to ensure ITU-T develops the standards for interoperable networks and services to connect the world. I will continue to facilitate global digital transformation through an inclusive, collaborative, and efficient standardization process, balancing the needs of developing and developed countries as well as large and small private-sector stakeholders.

My election will bring a wider geographic balance among ITU elected officials, ensure rotation among regions in TSB, and enable TSB to succeed as a coordinated and collaborative team. I shall engage productively with other ITU elected officials, inspiring confidence through competence, integrity, transparency, and accountability.

As a technologist at heart, I have a keen interest in continuing to build an agile and innovative bureau, using the latest AI-powered collaboration and analytics tools to increase efficiency and stay ahead of the curve.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Everyone should have the necessary access, as well as the ability, to use and develop ICTs effectively.

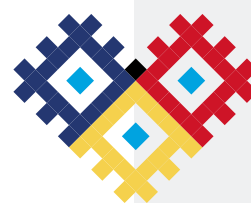
As a Tunisian, Arab, and African who has lived and worked in four countries – Tunisia, Canada, the US, and Switzerland – and being multilingual (I am fluent in English, French, Arabic, and speak some Spanish), I am deeply aware of what developing countries need from ITU and capable of communicating clearly with our staff and membership from different regions of the world.

Lastly, if elected, I will not need to go through a newcomer's learning curve. I will hit the ground running.



As a technologist at heart, I have a keen interest in continuing to build an agile and innovative bureau. ”

Bilel Jamoussi



Seizo Onoe

Japan

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau**



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Digital technology enables digital transformation. This plays a major role in realizing a digital society and economy, which has an impact on industries and on people's lives. Digital technology is essential to achieve many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets, as well as helping to solve imminent social problems such as climate change and infectious disease pandemics.

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Throughout its long history, telecom standardization has helped make people's lives more convenient and society more efficient. It has enhanced cost reduction and enabled the spread of technologies to all corners of the world. To strengthen these roles, I will strengthen our ties with industries, both to keep them engaged and to promote the deployment and practical application of technologies.

Bringing benefits to the entire world will increase the value we derive from technologies and create a virtuous cycle through the enhanced dissemination of technology standards.

“

Throughout its long history, telecom standardization has helped make people's lives more convenient and society more efficient. ”

Seizo Onoe

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

1. **Worldwide outreach:** That is, the global expansion of technical standards. I will strive to facilitate more timely deployment of technology standards all over the world. It is my strong desire to create a virtuous cycle of enhanced, multi-stakeholder involvement and wider technology dissemination. The aim is to bridge the digital divide and minimize time lags in the spread of next-generation technologies for meaningful connectivity.
2. **New ecosystem/collaboration frameworks:** I will strengthen cooperation and collaboration with other organizations, including standards development organizations (SDOs) and industry forums and projects. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) needs to respond to rapid technological changes and maintain its credibility, which comes from the involvement of governments worldwide. To simultaneously achieve both agility and credibility, collaboration among multiple organizations is indispensable. In addition, in an era where emerging technologies are widening the scope of technological solutions, it is necessary to collaborate with other organizations to expand our coverage. Just as important is collaboration with regional organizations and between ITU's different sectors.
3. **Organization management:** I will run ITU-T with open and inclusive programmes and an efficient, effective, and transparent management approach. In this, I can make use of my experience in heading key departments and units with large private-sector companies.

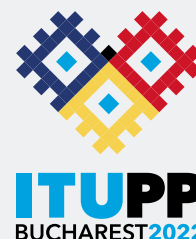
How can the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

Telecom standardization directly or indirectly contributes to the realization of the SDGs – the common global goals adopted by the UN. For example, to combat climate change and its impacts, we need to reduce energy consumption amid an explosive increase in the volume of data traffic.

The latest telecom equipment technologies can minimize the power consumed by telecom services. In addition, services provided in line with new telecom standards – amid the global digital transformation driven by information and communication technologies (ICTs) – will greatly aid in reducing the energy consumption of other industries and social activities.

Seizo Onoe

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau



The latest telecom equipment technologies can minimize the power consumed by telecom services. ”

Seizo Onoe

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus

There has always been debate between different camps over the standardization of mobile networks. With the third generation (3G), which aimed at a unified global standard, there was a fierce debate among the world's major players throughout the telecom industry. I was involved in all the CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) discussions – Wideband (W-CDMA) versus Time Division (TD-CDMA); and W-CDMA versus CDMA2000 technology – and spent more than a year negotiating with multiple major players for a practical solution. Through technical evaluations and harmonization proposals, I myself made a significant contribution to the final outcome.

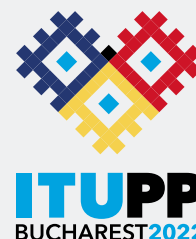
At the very early stages of fourth-generation (4G) mobile systems, the industry was reluctant to start 4G standardization so soon after the huge investment in 3G. I advocated the need for long-term evolution (LTE) based on 3G, encouraging key players to recognize its importance. I helped start the standardization of the subsequent, significantly evolved, generation, and this is exactly what 4G LTE is today. That's why I'm called "the father of LTE."

I have also been deeply involved in the development of 5G, while dealing with some confusion in the industry due to overly ambitious plans to move launch dates ahead.

Regarding organizational management, I have led an organization of more than 1000 people as head of research and development (R&D) and Chief Technology Officer of Japan's mobile telecom operator NTT DOCOMO. I have extensive experience and achievements in corporate management, including overseeing a wide range of technological fields, such as telecom networks, application services, cloud services, security, and enterprise solutions. I also reformed the corporate structure to respond to new technology and business trends and incorporated new technology development and innovation processes.

Seizo Onoe

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau



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I advocated the need for long-term evolution (LTE) based on 3G, encouraging key players to recognize its importance. ”

Seizo Onoe

Seizo Onoe

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau?

Inclusion is fundamentally important. I will promote standardization that engages people with a wide range of attributes from all over the world. We need to further improve the environment to ensure people from various countries, generations, genders, and industries can all participate.

It is also important for people in developing countries to be involved from the first stage of standardization, instead of simply recipients of standards. Their increased involvement will help ensure the widest possible dissemination and acceptance of standards across the globe.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I aim to be a director who listens carefully to the voices of member countries and firmly responds to them.

Through bilateral meetings with people from many countries, I hear many voices expressing the need to develop their countries, introduce sophisticated cybersecurity, and achieve SDGs and respond effectively to climate change.

As Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and part of ITU's leadership, I will respond to such voices and help resolve their issues on the basis of my stated priorities. This is the ONOE commitment.



*I will promote
standardization
that engages people
with a wide range of
attributes from all
over the world. ”*

Seizo Onoe



Thomas Zielke

Germany

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau**

What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Many dimensions of our daily life are affected by digital technologies: communication, education, work, science, politics and culture.

Today, almost two-thirds of the world's population use the Internet.

This presents many opportunities, especially for emerging countries, sectors, and the young generation. We all benefit from mobile financial services and remote business models.

At the same time, the digital transformation places unprecedented demands on connectivity. How do we, as a global community, want to shape this process in a fair and sustainable way?

This is where standards come in. They set minimum requirements for safety, efficiency, and interoperability. Besides, they provide maximum reliability in terms of consensus, acceptance, and consumer protection. Good standards provide solutions to current and future challenges derived from digital technologies.



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Good standards
provide solutions
to current and
future challenges
derived
from digital
technologies.”

Thomas Zielke

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Today's rapid developments pose new challenges for ITU as a tradition-rich organization. How can emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, the upcoming 6G, and fintech services be standardized? How to strike a balance between self-confident independence and cooperation? And what will be key issues in the next ten years?

To find answers to these questions, ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) needs fresh ideas and forward-looking approaches. There also needs to be strong focus on the right and most rewarding issues in standardization. We need to anticipate future developments and find positions of common interest in a fast-changing world.

No one other than ITU as a United Nations (UN) agency would be more predestined to conduct dialogue on fundamental issues of standardization between major organizations, leading industrial nations and developing countries, large and small companies.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

I am committed to the following major efforts for the benefit of the organization and its members:

First: I will pilot a process ensuring **ITU-T's focus on key issues in standardization** for the business community. I believe ITU needs a vision, a clear set of goals, and a transparent process to determine its actions – all to face the newest technological challenges.

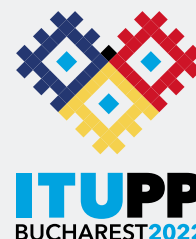
Second: **I will involve new, relevant stakeholders.** Especially those who can both help create universally accepted standards and support the organization. ITU is only as strong as its members, including those from emerging countries and sectors. I will ensure they have a reason to commit and participate.

Third: **I will build solid bridges** by fostering cooperation with other international standards organizations. ITU is in a great position to initiate dialogue. Cooperating with other international standards organizations, science and industry will be crucial to reach our goals as an institution and serve Member States.

To achieve these goals, I can build on my experiences as a freelance lawyer and president of a private business association, as well as my established contacts with industry and international standards bodies.

Thomas Zielke

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau



I believe ITU needs a vision, a clear set of goals, and a transparent process to determine its actions. ”

Thomas Zielke

How can the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

The digital transformation significantly impacts the achievement of the UN SDGs. We are seeing major shifts in the way our economies work. The transformation affects the environment and societies. Therefore, involving all stakeholders, especially developing and emerging economies, is key in the discussion on how to shape this in a sustainable way.

The relevance of standards and the work of ITU-T will grow in importance. Standards enable free and fair international trade. They encourage innovation and foster trust through world-class, consensus-based specifications.

Through the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), all economies can compete in global markets and participate in international value chains – if existing and new members, partners, and contributors are at the table. As the global community mobilizes for the Decade of Action on the SDGs, this will only become more important.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

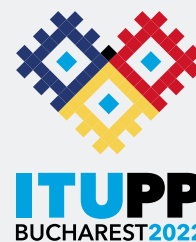
I have taken on various leadership roles in international standards bodies: as German Representative and Head of Delegation to the European Union Committee on Standards in Brussels; as Head of the German National Delegation to the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI); as part of the German National Delegation to the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). For six years, I worked as Communications Director at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Since 2016, I have been Director of the Office for National and International Standardization Policy and Patent Policy at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. In this capacity, I have fostered African standardization infrastructure projects and EU-Twinning Projects in Namibia, Azerbaijan and Jordan.

While my roles in international standardization have been diverse, they share one important requirement: being able to listen and understand the needs of partners. This is what I bring to ITU-T as well: the ability to foster a dialogue, build bridges, and act together.

Thomas Zielke

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau



Digital technologies are rapidly changing the way our world works, and international bodies need to adjust accordingly. ”

Thomas Zielke

Thomas Zielke

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau

In my current position, I combine the needs of the public with the needs of the business community – a real public-private partnership that we have valued in my home country Germany for more than 100 years. I have led intercultural teams and am able to work within different cultural contexts. For me, it is essential to provide an outcome-oriented atmosphere where achievements are the focus.

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau?

As TSB Director, I will bring fresh approaches to take on pressing issues for international standardization. Digital technologies are rapidly changing the way our world works, and international bodies need to adjust accordingly.

I worked as First Secretary in the German Representative Office to the UN in New York, as Co-Chair of the Chinese-German Commission on Standards, and on the US-German Standards Panel. I bring a strong understanding of current trends and issues in international standardization. At the same time, my work fostering emerging standardization infrastructure, particularly in Brazil, Mexico, India and Indonesia, has sharpened my awareness about challenges on a practical level.

As ITU's next TSB Director, I will make sure to apply these qualities to facilitate a strong exchange on current and future key issues. But action follows analysis. Observing the needs of members is important. I will contribute to speeding up processes to align the organization with the necessities of our fast-developing digital age.

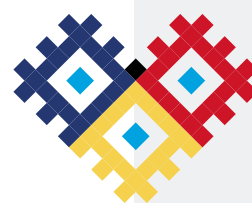
Is there anything else you would like to add?

ITU shall remain an organization of highest importance. It has a wealth of expertise and enormous capacities for dealing with cutting-edge topics. Let's strengthen and renew these qualities with fresh ideas and bold approaches.



I will contribute to speeding up processes to align the organization with the necessities of our fast-developing digital age. ”

Thomas Zielke



A woman in a red floral headwrap and dress is looking at a smartphone. A baby is strapped to her back. The background is blurred green foliage.

2.7 billion unconnected

ITU's current estimate for the number of people without access to the Internet is 2.7 billion, down from 2.9 billion last year. While COVID-19 appeared to drive accelerated connectivity worldwide, the trend going forward remains uncertain, leaving those who remain unconnected – many concentrated in the world's least developed countries – at risk of being left behind.

Development

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) fosters international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, expansion, and improvement of telecommunication and ICT equipment and networks in developing countries. Work in this sector enables ITU to discharge dual responsibilities – firstly as a United Nations specialized agency and secondly in executing projects globally as part of the UN development system.

Read more about [ITU-D](#).

Stephen Bereaux

Bahamas

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau**

What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

The role of digital technologies in achieving sustainable development is now widely accepted globally, as evidenced by the prominence of “digital” in the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda and in almost every country’s national development strategy.

Digital technologies increase the potential for accessing education, health care, and economic and social opportunities, regardless of a person’s location, economic means, social status, gender, disabilities, or any number of limiting factors. Everyone, everywhere must now be able, should they choose, to access and use digital technologies. Digital technologies also provide new and exciting ways to tackle some of the world’s greatest challenges, such as natural hazards and harm to our environment.

In our quest to advance the sustainable development agenda, we must be mindful that bad actors can exploit digital technologies to cause harm. Unequal digital development and adoption also have the potential to intensify existing divides and create new ones.



“
*Everyone,
everywhere
must now be
able, should they
choose, to access
and use digital
technologies.*”

Stephen Bereaux

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

The ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) was created 30 years ago to bring everyone within easy reach of a telephone. While we have advanced since then from the telephone to digital technologies, ITU's and even ITU-D's work in many ways continues to approach technology in isolation from broader socio-economic issues.

Our direct assistance and services to ITU Member States remain disparate and do not always reflect the importance of simultaneously transforming infrastructure, systems, processes, and people in achieving safe, equitable and inclusive digital societies and economies.

ITU-D must make certain that the whole world keeps pace, and that the benefits of a digital society flow to all. In addition to being a thought leader, our products and services must be tailored for the specific needs of our Member States and must embrace the full scope of societal change that's needed for digital transformation to have global, long-lasting effects.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

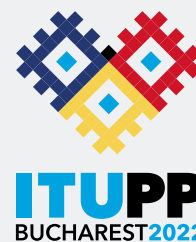
My top priority will be to redouble our efforts to help Member States collectively **connect the 2.7 billion still unconnected**. Building on our connectivity products and initiatives, the Partner2Connect initiative provides a framework to bring together the additional resources needed and to leverage the work being done by others to address the connectivity gap.

Secondly, I will reorganize our work to **advance the whole concept of digital transformation**. The new World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) resolution on digital transformation gives us a clear mandate to engage in this work. Our recently developed Digital Transformation Wheel establishes the implementation framework, letting us assess membership needs and deliver targeted, relevant, and effective interventions that enable and accelerate the creation of safe, equitable and inclusive digital societies and economies.

My third priority will be to **foster organizational excellence** in the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) by building the right team, with the right skills, supported by the right organizational culture. I will focus on creating an environment within BDT that values the highest levels of performance, and where staff are accountable to each other and our membership. I will bring BDT closer to Member States by focusing on and expanding ITU's regional presence while ensuring that it embodies OneITU.

Stephen Bereaux

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



My top priority will be to redouble our efforts to help Member States collectively connect the 2.7 billion still unconnected. ”

Stephen Bereaux

We must be a global organization driven by the places where our efforts are needed, rather than being a Geneva-based organization that sends help to our regions.

How can the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

Safe, equitable and inclusive digital transformation of our societies and economies is fundamental to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

ITU, led by BDT, participates in the UN Development Framework, and ITU is a key partner in the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. However, the most impactful efforts are done in developing countries, coordinated by ITU's regional offices in partnership with UN resident coordinators. Shifting to a stronger regional presence is the most essential step for fulfilling our role within the UN development system. Only then will ITU have the critical mass needed to contribute meaningfully to achieving the SDGs.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

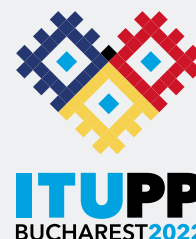
Over the past 20 years, I have developed a reputation for transformational leadership, trusted consensus building, and insightful compromise.

As a regulator, I have been involved at a management level in the building of two information and communication technology (ICT) regulatory agencies from "start-ups". I was the chief regulator in The Bahamas when it successfully liberalized its mobile sector in one of the fastest effective implementations of mobile competition globally.

As a delegate to ITU from The Bahamas, I successfully chaired Committee 5 of the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, addressing women's participation, cooperation with Interpol, and other key recommendations. Together with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, I also coordinated a pan-Caribbean-wide approach to the region's representation at ITU and the regional telecommunication organization CITELE.

Stephen Bereaux

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



We must be a global organization driven by the places where our efforts are needed. ”

Stephen Bereaux

Stephen Bereaux

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau

In the past two and a half years, I led the ITU team for a successful World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), including being responsible for the delicate bilateral and multilateral negotiations surrounding the conference's postponement due to COVID-19 and its relocation to Rwanda. As Secretary to the Plenary, I also coordinated WTDC's work through leadership of the conference secretariat.

During my time at ITU, I was also responsible for the review of ITU's regional presence and implementing the resulting recommendations for strengthening ITU's regional and area offices.

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau?

My career has exposed me to a mix of organizational leadership, ICT policy and regulatory decision-making, international consensus-building, and corporate governance. This skill set is tailor-made for the challenges we face in increasing BDT's relevance to Member States. As a national of and former regulator in two Caribbean states, I understand the issues faced by developing countries and more specifically by small island developing states (SIDS).

Is there anything else you would like to add?

The BDT Director is the chief executive of the Bureau responsible for ITU-D. Member States should choose the candidate they believe is best able to effectively motivate and mobilize BDT's team and resources to further digital development globally.

The last four years have seen a resurgence in BDT engagement. This has occurred in the face of a global pandemic and has been achieved due to a complete shift in the thinking about, and in the approach to, how BDT is managed. The continuance of those reforms is in the best interest of all ITU's Member States in all regions.



I understand the issues faced by developing countries and more specifically by small island developing states. ”

Stephen Bereaux



Muhammadou M.O. Kah

Gambia

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau**

What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Digital technologies are more than ever essential as a core enabler for development, as they drive economic growth, facilitate improved processes, increase democratization, and allow rapid access to information and knowledge assets. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) and digital technologies, particularly applications related to the digitalization of health care, agriculture, education, government, and e-commerce, will accelerate transformation and change.

Harnessing technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, big data, blockchain, drones, and robotics is pivotal to strengthen ITU Member States' quest for digital transformation and reset socio-economic development in a rapidly changing world.

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

ITU must reset and prioritize by embracing "development" as its organizational ethos. ITU must adopt a game-changing mindset to enhance, retain, and strengthen its talent base with a diversity of competence, capacity, and geographical representation, in addition to fostering transparency, accountability, smart organizational structure, and processes that are digitally enabled.



Digital technologies are more than ever essential as a core enabler for development. ”

Muhammadou M.O. Kah

ITU must strengthen its position as the thought leader for sustainable digital transformation while ensuring adherence to the core fundamental values of neutrality, transparency, and equity to all. ITU's relevance will require further engagement with all Member States and stakeholders to facilitate knowledge-sharing, as well as access to the outcomes of deliberations and recommendations. ITU must provide expert guidance and evidence-based knowledge to reinvigorate collaboration, cooperation, and partnerships.

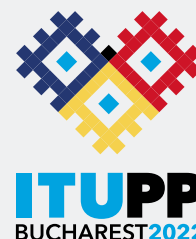
If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

My leadership will tackle some of the most pressing and foundational challenges in digital transformation, specifically related to the following areas:

1. **The digital divide and inclusivity:** The need for inclusive access to technology has become imperative to social development for all people, particularly those who face barriers to access. I will provide leadership to establish substantive collaborations and partnerships to facilitate the adoption of innovations. I will apply an equity lens to all ITU programmes and activities, as well as support programmes to address global inequities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields of study to improve curricula and the approaches to credentials.
2. **Data and digital infrastructure:** ITU must play a key role in enabling the least-developed countries (LDCs) to keep up with growing demand for data and digital infrastructure as drivers for a world that is connected even during global crises. I will push forward innovative initiatives and programmes, including multi-sectoral collaborations and partnerships for Member States to build sustainable data and digital infrastructure.
3. **Smarter policy and regulatory regimes:** The governments of ITU Member States embrace digital transformation for effective delivery of government and social services to citizens. This means facilitating access to affordable and universally accessible broadband connectivity, a digitally enabled supply chain, and smarter policy and regulatory regimes. In leading this work, I will make use of my significant experience working on the ground across different continents, as well as my diplomatic credentials. I will facilitate negotiations, cooperation, and engagement with partners to scale up digital growth, aimed at ensuring value-creation across our Member States.

Muhammadou M.O. Kah

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



ITU must reset and prioritize by embracing 'development' as its organizational ethos. ”

Muhammadou M.O. Kah

How can the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

The centrality of digitalization and digital transformation as an enabler for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fundamental for our Member States. Ensuring increased engagement and support for the sustainable adoption of ICTs, process innovations, and digitalization by Member States enables advancement on all SDGs.

ITU must prioritize and support activities that will meaningfully connect the unconnected, with a commitment to prioritize closing the digital divide and support inclusive and equitable digital outcomes. Appropriate platforms and services aimed at achieving SDGs on health, education, agriculture, and social services delivery, especially beyond urban centres and for often-neglected rural communities, will support digital equity across outcomes.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

Key amongst those numerous leadership achievements is my six years of service as the first Gambian Vice-Chancellor at The University of the Gambia. My leadership resulted in an unprecedented transformation that positioned the university, in public eyes, as the "hope of the nation". I led efforts to expand the university, to set it on a path to provide access to the good-quality higher education and research programmes required to meet the socio-economic needs of The Gambia and the region. This enabled first-generation graduates, women, and people from underrepresented communities to optimize their potential and take on roles in public, private, and civil society organizations across the country, region, and internationally.

Throughout my career, I have worked to build consensus by creating a safe and comfortable environment anchored in mutual respect, trust, transparency, and integrity. Further, I use a consultative approach to quickly enhance my understanding of each stakeholder's position, interests, and unique cultural context. Leveraging active listening, emotional intelligence, and an understanding of social geography allows me to ensure neutrality in my viewpoints, resulting in consensus with a positive outcome for all stakeholders.

Muhammadou M.O. Kah

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



ITU must prioritize and support activities that will meaningfully connect the unconnected. ”

Muhammadou M.O. Kah

Muhammadou M.O. Kah

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau?

Early in my life, I recognized the potential of ICTs, telecommunications, and digitalization to lift humanity up from poverty, create wealth, and enhance the quality of life, especially for young people, women, the elderly, and the most vulnerable. As a result, I became a pioneer in the field of ICTs for development, as evidenced by my extensive work in academia, government, the private sector, civil society, and start-ups, as well as through my service on international scientific panels.

Recently, I served as Chairman of the African Group of Ambassadors in Geneva. I am currently serving as Vice President (Africa) for the United Nations Human Rights Council and as Vice Chairman for two United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organs – the Commission for Science and Technology Development and the Trade and Development Board. Also, I served as one of two Ambassadors designated as Friends of the Chair of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) General Assembly.

These substantive and unique leadership experiences will be invaluable for me as incoming Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ensuring alignment, coordination, and collaboration for impactful digital transformation among ITU Member States.

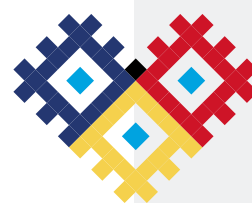
Is there anything else you would like to add?

I am proud to offer my candidature as a Gambian and an African who has deep knowledge and roots within the Global South, among Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) members, LDCs, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and beyond. Thus, I am your candidate that brings a deep conscience, diverse capabilities, and field experience, combined with substantive leadership competencies relevant to the needs of BDT and ITU.



I am proud to offer my candidature as a Gambian and an African who has deep knowledge and roots within the Global South. ”

Muhammadou M.O. Kah



Anusha Rahman Khan

Pakistan

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau**

What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

For so many of the problems and divides befalling our rapidly changing world, the solutions lie in collectively and systematically approaching socio-economic transformation through the innovative application of technologies. Even for legacy issues such as poverty, socio-economic development, inclusion, and cohesion across communities, solutions have often come through the adoption of evolving digital technologies.

A recent example is COVID-19 crisis management – from rapid vaccine discoveries to effective communication and dissemination of knowledge, information, and awareness.

Digitization is the core need of our rapidly changing world. It needs to be embraced holistically, both to catalyse delivery on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to effectively address 21st-century challenges, including climate change and natural calamities. Digital technologies have emerged as a key contributor to save lives and serve the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Early innovation and entrepreneurial adoption are essential to make sure today's emerging digital technologies support the globally inclusive betterment of humanity.



“

*Digitization is
the core need
of our rapidly
changing
world.”*

Anusha Rahman Khan

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Rapidly evolving technologies, along with local and global markets, business models and service delivery mechanisms, call for a transformational change in the legacy structure, functioning and leadership of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

The challenges of rapid global telecommunications development must be addressed holistically across the state-industry-development-finance nexus. BDT needs to promote stable cross-industry and cross-stakeholder partnerships, under the policy oversight of governments, to bring about inclusive benefits in the knowledge and information society.

This can only happen through a dynamic and non-stereotypical role, whereby the Bureau truly implements ITU engagement through tangible multi-stakeholder frameworks. BDT needs leadership with passion, commitment, extensive government and industry experience, courage and, very importantly, empathy for humanity.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

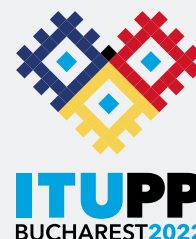
The capability to bring together coalitions and partnerships between a diverse range of inter-agency, government, social, development, finance, and industry stakeholders is vital for the vibrancy of BDT and beneficial for ITU stakeholders. I would combine a firm belief in consensus-building and collaboration with a substantial focus will be on equipping BDT with the best capacity to serve in an efficient, diligent, and transparent manner.

My aim – what I call my “4C strategy” for BDT – consists of:

1. **Consensus building** among industry-government stakeholders to achieve the highest measurable impact and promote standardized programmes to transform education, health, energy, agriculture, environment, entrepreneurship, skills development, employment and financial inclusion.
2. **Coalition building** among public-private sector stakeholders, including the telecoms industry, global technology platforms, finance sectors, etc., catering to the unique needs of various regions, and focusing on least-developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), to ensure sound implementation and measurable results.
3. **Collaboration** with governments and partner-agencies through trackable platforms to implement agile programmes at the scale needed to create measurable, transformational impact.
4. **Closure** of deals with partners and governments to step up collaboration and implement initiatives without stretching BDT resources.

Anusha Rahman Khan

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



The challenges of rapid global telecommunications development must be addressed holistically. ”

Anusha Rahman Khan

How can the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

As Minister and member of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, I was part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Trade Organization (WTO) and other UN agency streams working towards the SDGs.

I believe now is the time to take the “*Meaningful connectivity*” slogan of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) to the next level of achievement through transnational, trans-industry partnerships. In my view, meaningful connectivity means meaningful transformation and meaningful opportunities for the betterment of human lives – in all the spheres of socio-economic uplift defined by the SDGs.

Despite the non-inclusion of specific information and communication technology (ICT) goals in the SDGs, the quickest way to help nations achieve continues to be through a transformation across governance and public service delivery. This needs to happen across health, education, agriculture, finance, gender equity, and all other areas. The role of technologies and connectivity in disaster response and addressing natural calamities has already proven paramount in the face of climate change and COVID-19.

So, need for technologies to achieve SDG targets across the globe is an irrefutable reality. One possible role for BDT would be to help standardize a measurement mechanism for the achievement of such goals.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

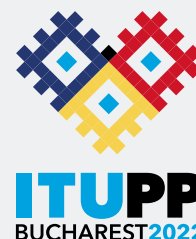
With my academic and professional credentials, and through unrelenting team efforts, an immense amount of impactful work has got done. As chairperson of the Universal Service Fund (USF), the Pakistan Software Expert Board (PSEB), Ignite Telecom, and other companies, I have led teams that effectively delivered on challenging goals.

My bedrock principle throughout has been leadership and consensus building. Many achievements were a direct result of cross-stakeholder consensus:

- **Legislative:** Pakistan’s first Cyber Crime Law (PECA, 2016) and initiating cybersecurity policy.
- **Policy:** Introduction of 3G/4G, 2014 GSMA “**Spectrum for Mobile Broadband Award**”.
- Telecommunications Policy, 2015; GSMA “**Government Leadership Award**”.

Anusha Rahman Khan

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



I believe now is the time to take the Meaningful Connectivity slogan of ITU-D to the next level of achievement. ”

Anusha Rahman Khan

Anusha Rahman Khan

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau

- **ICT development:** Broadband for Sustainable Development Programme through USF- driven public-private partnerships.
- **IT industry development:** Digital Pakistan Policy, and policy-driven export growth 151 per cent at compound annual growth rate of 20 per cent.
- **Gender:** "ICT for Girls" Programme; ITU/UN Women **"GEM-TECH Global Achiever"** Award.
- **Entrepreneurship and innovation:** Ecosystem and Network of Technology incubators (NIC) across Pakistan within two-years.
- **"Digiskills":** Online skill-based training programme.
- **International:** As Minister/UN Broadband Commissioner, led international platforms including ITU, CTO, WSIS, UNCTAD, UNESCO, WEF, etc.



My bedrock principle throughout has been leadership and consensus building. ”

Anusha Rahman Khan

◆ **What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau?**

To meaningfully and measurably "advance" the objectives of BDT requires a diverse leadership team equipped with holistic competencies, including policymaking, regulation, resilience, thought leadership, empathy, and commitment to socio-political and development matters with a particular focus on economic and commercial viability.

With a unique mix of global experience in industry, legal practice, and legislature; in serving around 220 million people as Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication; and with major cross-cutting achievements recognized both nationally and internationally, I believe I can provide the next-generation leadership that BDT needs.

My professional, political, and personal profile equips me for the leadership and consensus building required to push through global development frameworks and initiatives.

◆ **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

Shaping ITU for the future – to keep serving humanity and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs – will depend on involving professionals with hands-on experience of industry, government leadership, partnerships and collaboration.



Jean Philémon Kissangou

Republic of the Congo

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau**



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Compared to the first one, the fourth industrial revolution in which we find ourselves today will have been 10 times faster, 300 times greater in terms of scale, and 3000 times larger in terms of impact. In the future, the so-called disruptive digital technologies will bring more changes to the way we live, produce, work, and interact. The resulting transformations will be different from those humanity has known so far; it is difficult to imagine a sector that will not be affected.

Artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain technologies, cloud computing, Internet of Things, big data, machine learning, and other innovative technologies to come are expected to enhance the impact of technologies, including in building resilience to climate change. Given the challenges of achieving integral development for the 8.7 billion individuals who will inhabit the world by 2030, digital technologies must be integrated and global. This implies all stakeholders, including the public sector, the private sector, academia and civil society, being fully engaged.

“

ITU-D's portfolio should at least incorporate Internet dynamics.”

Jean Philémon Kissangou

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) was only created in 1992, when an Additional Plenipotentiary Conference held that year reorganized the Union. The initial process failed, however, to transfer key functions from the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector – specifically those of ITU-T Study Group 3 – to the new Sector (ITU-D). From the outset, ITU should have transferred all its development-related attributions to ITU-D, including those related to telecommunication commercial services and applications. As a result, ITU-D was born weakened, even disarmed.

Today, 30 years later, nothing much has changed. ITU-D's portfolio should at least incorporate the Internet dynamic, which has seen the number of Internet users growing from fewer than one billion in 2000 to almost five billion in 2021.

ITU's development offering will become more visible and relevant when all issues related to development – the economic, social, commercial, and regulatory aspects – are dealt with via ITU-D.

ITU-D, for example, could then host different economic and commercial negotiations related to the exploitation of new telecommunication services and applications, or for telecommunications regulations in the wake of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process.

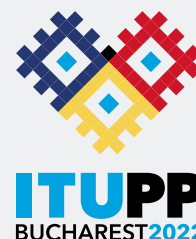
ITU-D should become the place for balancing different forces, imparting new competencies, and negotiating with all on an equal footing.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

1. Continuously improving, through **training**, the qualifications of the Bureau staff and their actions on the ground around the world.
2. Getting down to work to have **access to broadband networks and services** through innovative partnership mechanisms.
3. Working, with the support of research, towards the more efficient collection and exploitation of **international data and statistics on digital technologies**, with a view to producing equally efficient policies and regulations that respond to the actual problems faced by people around the world.

Jean Philémon Kissangou

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



ITU-D should become the place for balancing different forces, imparting new competencies, and negotiating with all on an equal footing. ”

Jean Philémon Kissangou

How can the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

ITU-D is central to the unique role which ITU should play to accelerate the realization of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and associated Sustainable Development Goals.

This means engaging in innovative projects that contribute to the decarbonization of the telecommunication industry.

In practice, we must work to:

- Develop policies and regulations promoting clean and safe energy systems;
- Encourage the use of green energy; and
- Reduce the energy consumption of information and communication technologies (ICTs) through continuous innovation.

Ultimately, BDT and ITU-D need to pursue work on innovation, to achieve energy efficiency in the digital technology industry, so that the Earth can continue to support life.

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

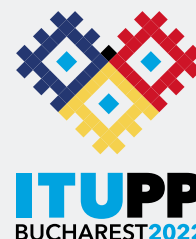
Between 2006 and 2021, I held a total of seven senior-management posts – director, head of service, advisor, senior consultant – across the public and private sectors, and civil society. Throughout my 17 years in various management positions, I have displayed leadership in consensus building, influencing and guiding the women, men and teams that have worked under my leadership.

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau?

I will be a director who, through a pedagogical approach, shows how more effective, inclusive telecommunications development will also require a reformed ITU-D. The bundle of responsibilities that served us in the 1990s is not fit for today's world – in terms of either its structure or its missions, and even less so its mandate.

Jean Philémon Kissangou

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



BDT and ITU-D need to pursue work on innovation... so that the Earth can continue to support life. ”

Jean Philémon Kissangou

Jean Philémon Kissangou

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau

We will strive to gear Bureau activities more towards concrete projects, for which outcomes are regularly evaluated and communicated to the ITU Council, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), the Plenipotentiary Conference as ITU's highest body, and ultimately to the press and public.

For my part, I will already help mobilize support for this ambitious strengthening of ITU development work at the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference. We will propose amendments to the ITU Constitution and Convention, calling for a stronger BDT – geared more towards development projects, able to make proposals that carry weight, and equipped with negotiating power. This enhanced BDT would represent a departure from the structure often previously reduced to administrative support, before, during and after working group and study group meetings or around each edition of WTDC every four years.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Yes, on two points:

- The UN accorded ITU the mandate to develop telecommunications around the world. In the mid-1980s this mission took on a new form, with a focus on completing "The Missing Link" (Maitland Report, 1985). Yet today, we remain a long way from doing so, with an estimated 390 million people around the world still lacking a broadband connection. These people remain excluded from the social and economic opportunities afforded by digital technologies. Thus, the non-completion of that missing link through broadband remains a burning issue for ITU and the fundamental challenge in telecommunications.
- Plans to resume the calculation and publication of the ICT Development Index, envisaged as measuring the status of the information society worldwide, should be suspended. The results and rankings represented in this index never seem to reflect realities on the ground. How, for example, can the Republic of Korea be compared with the Republic of the Congo based on the same formulas and parameters? The veracity of the data provided by countries is in any case questionable. Specialists should guide ITU in arriving at results that reflect reality, based on efficient data and an appropriate methodology that is regularly adapted.



I will already help mobilize support for this ambitious strengthening of ITU development work at the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference. ”

Jean Philémon Kissangou



Alexander Ntoko

Cameroon

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau**



What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

Digital technologies are the foundation for most of the fundamental changes we experience today. We have moved from digitization – which became well-known in the early 90s – to digitalization and now to digital transformation. It is the first time in the history of mankind that such powerful, digital technology-based tools have been within the reach of so many people worldwide.

The so-called “fourth industrial revolution” is possible today because of digital technologies. We cannot miss the opportunity to understand how these technologies work, and how to use them effectively, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations (UN).



Digital technologies are the foundation for most of the fundamental changes we experience today. ”

Alexander Ntoko

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

Over the years, I have worked closely with the UN and many of its agencies, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Trade Organization (WTO) and others, on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development.

Like other specialized agencies in the UN system, ITU must work in a manner that highlights it as the key leader in its domain – both within the system and, of course, collaboratively. But leading does not mean going it alone or knowing it all. It means that we know our destination and how to get there. And that is by guiding our Member States in their pursuit of UN global goals, namely the SDGs.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

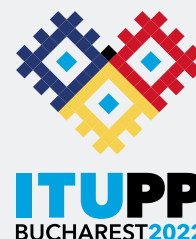
My top three priorities are aimed at firmly establishing ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) as the premier platform of ICT4D, or ICTs for development.

I would put this vision into action in three essential ways:

1. Establish and direct a strategy to **increase accessibility, inclusion, and diversity**. The benefits of ICTs should reach everyone.
2. Put in place strategies and policies to **facilitate access to new tools and technologies** for digitalization and digital transformation. I would do so through existing and new initiatives, as well as based on my own experience in ICTs.
3. Use dedicated platforms to **empower entrepreneurial youths globally**. Such platforms include the ITU Smart Incubator, which I launched in 2018 (see recent [ITU News article](#)). To realize this three-part strategy, the emphasis should be on maximizing the relevance the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) through activities focused on meeting the SDGs. Having measurable indicators on these activities and the SDG-related benefits of ICTs will be paramount.

Alexander Ntoko

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



I led the development of a platform based on AI to automate the mapping of activities in ITU-T onto the 17 SDGs. ”

Alexander Ntoko

How can the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

To get anywhere, it's always important to know your current location in a simple manner, like you would with the GPS on your smartphone, and just as importantly, your distance to your destination. Are you stepping in the right direction?

In relation to this idea, I led the development of a platform based on artificial intelligence (AI) to automate the mapping of activities in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) onto the 17 SDGs. This platform, first presented to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), is also now used for ITU-D activities. As this example shows, everyone today, in this era of the fourth industrial revolution, could potentially enjoy free access to very powerful technologies. It also underlines why BDT needs to take a closer look at how it undertakes its activities aimed at meeting the SDGs.

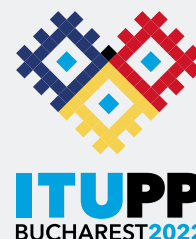
Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

In 2007, I led the establishment of a global framework for international cooperation in cybersecurity – the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA). I also played a lead role in bringing together top cybersecurity companies and experts to form a common understanding of the five pillars of the GCA initiative, as well as establishing partnerships for GCA operations. At its peak, this cybersecurity framework brought together 152 countries, making it the biggest platform for international cooperation in cybersecurity at that time.

Prior to that, a similar initiative brought together over 100 countries in EC-DC – E-Commerce for Developing Countries. In both cases, it was necessary to have a common understanding, a consensus on the challenges and strategies for putting solutions in place. This involved agreement on the most appropriate technologies as well as relevant policies and strategies. The leadership and consensus built in these two examples were recognized globally by the press, countries, and other UN agencies.

Alexander Ntoko

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



No matter what challenges we face, technology continues to evolve at the fastest speed ever. ”

Alexander Ntoko

Alexander Ntoko

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau?

I would bring a collection of solutions and strategies for digital transformation within BDT and ITU-D. These would aim to facilitate our collective acquisition of knowledge on these technologies and as well as increase efficiency in Bureau operations.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Today, the world faces several global challenges: climate change, hunger, conflicts, pandemics, wars, and lack of connectivity, to name a few.

The key promise of the SDGs was to achieve them by 2030. We are now less than eight years away, and a lot of progress is still yet to be made.

No matter what challenges we face, technology continues to evolve at the fastest speed ever. We see new ICT trends such as AI, blockchain, Web3, the metaverse and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

Let's not forget, ICTs continue to be essential in all aspects of life, but not everyone has access to them.

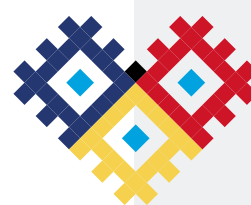
In this fourth industrial revolution, powerful technologies are often easier to acquire than during the three previous ones. We therefore have better chances to empower people, communities, and countries to actively participate – and thus make progress towards the SDGs.

More than ever, the need to better understand the capabilities of technologies is a critical reason to establish ITU-D as the world's premier ICT4D platform. As the next Director of BDT, I am prepared to spearhead the achievement of these goals.



The need to better understand the capabilities of technologies is a critical reason to establish ITU-D as the world's premier ICT4D platform. ”

Alexander Ntoko



Cosmas Zavazava

Zimbabwe

Candidate
for the post of
**Director of the
ITU Telecommunication
Development Bureau**

What is your view on the role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world?

The role of digital technologies in a rapidly changing world is that of enabler or catalyst in all the socio-economic sectors that are adapting to a new environment. As the introduction of modern technologies happens fast, our role as ITU is to ensure that appropriate policies, legal and regulatory frameworks are put in place to enable, not stifle, the rapid deployment and use of these technologies.

Deployment should be timely in addressing challenges such as climate change, epidemics and environmental degradation. Institutional and human capacity building is important for developing countries, particularly the least developed.



*The work of
the Bureau
must evolve,
consciously
adapting to
the changing
world. ”*

Cosmas Zavazava

How should the work of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector evolve to maintain relevance in today's world?

The work of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) must evolve, consciously adapting to the changing world. Beyond adapting, BDT must pre-empt social, economic, and other changes in the environment.

The ITU membership, knowing this, adopts the framework of our work at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), leaving room for innovation in implementing it. If we remain transparent, accountable, and efficient, the ITU membership will appreciate our efforts to make our work relevant. This relevance can be ensured through partnering with other United Nations (UN) agencies, regional groups, civil society, academia, the private sector and industry. Therefore, to remain relevant in today's world, BDT should address today's and tomorrow's challenges, leveraging digital technologies and addressing the challenges of all ITU Member States.

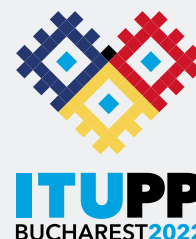
If elected, what are your three priorities and how do you plan to achieve them?

If elected, these are my three top priorities:

1. Discuss with colleagues (ITU staff) at all levels, articulate my **vision for the Telecommunication Development Bureau** and clarify BDT's mandate. This also means listening carefully to other views, and at the same time, building trust.
2. Engage staff on **issues of strategy** aimed at effectively implementing the Kigali Action Plan adopted by the latest WTDC. Having a shared strategy will get us results and, in the process, establish my leadership style.
3. Analyse the budget for the Bureau and ensure that we efficiently and effectively use the available **financial resources** to implement activities and projects for results. This will also determine any additional financial resources we may need and inform us on how to fill the gap through resource mobilization efforts, with the aim of being able to roll out and implement impactful projects across all regions.

Cosmas Zavazava

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



Through partnerships with other sectors and implementation of impactful, purposeful projects, the Bureau can contribute effectively to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. ”

Cosmas Zavazava

How can the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector contribute to progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

Currently, 2.7 billion people remain offline. Through closing the digital divide, accelerating digital transformation, and making information and communication technologies (ICTs) affordable, the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It requires working to support the deployment and use of digital solutions in agriculture, economic growth, health, education, gender empowerment, the environment, infrastructure, innovation, and every other sector, so that we can accelerate the implementation of each of the 17 SDGs.

Through partnerships with other sectors and implementation of impactful, purposeful projects, the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau can contribute effectively to reaching the SDGs. Partnerships are important to pool resources and direct them towards this “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.”

Tell us about your achievements in leadership and building consensus.

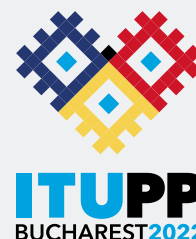
I assumed relevant leadership positions before joining ITU. I became the Controller at the Zimbabwe Government Telecommunications Agency before the establishment of the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). I was a senior diplomat serving at Minister Counsellor level at a multilateral diplomatic station. These two roles sharpened my negotiation skills, particularly in my collaboration with telecommunications stakeholders as Controller.

As a diplomat negotiating in UN agencies such as the World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, International Labour Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, and World Meteorological Organization, as well as ITU and others, building consensus through negotiations was of paramount importance.

At ITU, my work has involved interfacing with ministers, directors-general of telecommunications regulatory agencies, UN directors- and secretaries-general, and industry leaders. I have consistently achieved positive results when negotiating on policy and regulatory changes, as well as on the direction of telecom and ICT projects for development, including for humanitarian purposes. I have led through innovation and demonstrated sound leadership through the launch and implementation of successful new projects.

Cosmas Zavazava

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau



In steering ITU development activities, BDT can help the world succeed through the delivery of real and tangible results facilitated by ICTs. ”

Cosmas Zavazava

Cosmas Zavazava

Candidate for the post of
Director of the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau

What else would you bring to the table as the next Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau?

I would bring rich experience, transparency, accountability, efficiency, and strategic and innovative thinking. Respect for Member States by promoting a member-driven Bureau, listening to all stakeholders (internal and external), team spirit, and an approachable, easy demeanour are all qualities I will bring. I would also bring passion, motivation and enthusiasm within BDT.

My experience encompasses project implementation in countries at different levels of development – the least developed, landlocked developing states, small island developing states, developing and developed countries.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I am for meaningful development. In steering ITU development activities and projects, BDT can help the world succeed through the delivery of real and tangible results facilitated by ICTs. I believe that in collaboration with our Member States, industry and the private sector, academia, and UN organizations, we can make an enormous difference in closing the digital gap and accelerate digital transformation. We can also achieve affordability in terms of devices and services.

Through our efforts, we can help the world address today's challenges, including climate change, epidemics, hunger, gender gaps, limited access, and the need to truly engage and empower our youth. I am determined to bring the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau to new heights. I am for impact and results.



*I am determined
to bring the ITU
Telecommunication
Development Bureau
to new heights. ”*

Cosmas Zavazava





Radio Regulations Board
and ITU Council
candidacies

Radio Regulations Board and ITU Council candidacies

RRB – 12 seats

Region A: The Americas (2 seats)

- Chantal Beaumier (Canada) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Javier Juárez Mojica (Mexico) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Agostinho Linhares De Souza Filho (Brazil) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)

Region B: Western Europe (2 seats)

- Mauro Di Crescenzo (Italy) – [CV and vision statement](#)
- Antonio Fernández-Paniagua Diaz-Flores (Spain) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Yvon Henri (France) – [CV and vision statement](#)

Region C: Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (2 seats)

- Almira Gataulina (Uzbekistan) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Sahiba Hasanova (Azerbaijan) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Attila Matáš (Slovakia) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Rizat Nurshabekov (Kazakhstan) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Nikolay Varlamov (Russian Federation) – [CV and vision statement](#)

Region D: Africa (3 seats)

- El-Sayed Azzouz (Egypt) – [CV and vision statement](#)
- Edmund Yirenkyi Fianko (Ghana) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Samuel Mandla Mchunu (South Africa) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Hassan Talib (Morocco) – [CV and vision statement](#)

Region E: Asia and Australasia (3 seats)

- Ahmed Waleed Ahmed (Iraq) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Majed Alkahtani (Saudi Arabia) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Jianjun Cheng (China) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Revathi Mannepalli (India) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)
- Meiditomo Sutiyarjoko (Indonesia) – [CV and vision statement](#) – [Brochure](#)

The 12-member [Radio Regulations Board](#) (RRB) oversees the application of the Radio Regulations and the registration of frequency assignments made by ITU's Member States.

Radio Regulations Board
and ITU Council
candidacies

ITU Council – 48 seats

Candidate Member States presented with official short names in English alphabetical order

Region A: The Americas (9 seats)

- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Brazil
- Canada
- Cuba
- El Salvador
- Mexico
- Paraguay
- United States

Region B: Western Europe (8 seats)

- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Türkiye
- United Kingdom

Region C: Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (5 seats)

- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Poland
- Romania
- Russian Federation

Region D: Africa (13 seats)

- Algeria
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Tunisia
- Uganda

Region E: Asia and Australasia (13 seats)

- Australia
- Bahrain
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Japan
- Jordan
- Korea (Rep. of)
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Saudi Arabia
- Thailand
- United Arab Emirates

The **ITU Council**, consisting of Member States elected to regional seats, acts as ITU's governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences.

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