

ITU Secretary General, Doreen Bogdan-Martin Video Message World  
Telecommunication and Information Society Day-2026



Today, more people are connected than at any point in human history. Billions of us rely on digital technologies to do the things that matter most. From accessing healthcare, to running a business, to learning, communicating with our loved ones and calling for help in a crisis. Connectivity has become as crucial to modern life as roads and electricity.

And in many parts of the world, digital infrastructure has transformed economies and communities within a generation. But what happens when those networks and services fail? Think of the submarine cables that extend more than 1.7 million kilometres around the globe and they carry 99% of international data traffic. A single earthquake can sever multiple cables at once, cutting entire regions off from the world for weeks.

Likewise, a major solar storm can disrupt power grids, satellite navigation networks, and even the global financial system that we rely on. Very often, these critical digital risks transcend borders. And when connectivity fails, the consequences fall hardest on those who can least afford them.

And that's why resilience must be built into digital infrastructure from the very beginning and it must be built collectively, with the people at the core, through international standards, capacity building, and global cooperation. This World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. Join the ITU in strengthening the digital lifelines that keep our world meaningfully and reliably connected.

Together, we can build a more resilient digital future for everyone, everywhere.