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MESSAGE

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WT&ISD) is being celebrated annually on 17th May, marking the foundation of ITU and signing of the first Telegraph Convention in 1865, to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of Internet and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as to develop technical standards that make it easier to spread the benefits of ICT worldwide. IETE, being one of the leading technical and Scientific Institutions, celebrate this day every year, on the theme chosen by ITU. The theme for this year is "Digital lifelines: Strengthening resilience in a connected world."

Digital lifelines—comprising terrestrial networks, subsea cables, satellites, and data systems—are the essential digital infrastructure that keeps communities, governments, and businesses functioning during crises. They strengthen resilience by enabling, maintaining, and restoring critical services like healthcare, finance, and emergency communication during disasters, preventing total system failures and supporting rapid recovery. They serve as the backbone for public safety, enabling early warning systems, secure information sharing, and communication for emergency responders. Digital lifelines (e.g., satellite, low-bandwidth tools) enable humanitarian responses and maintain, economic activity, and education in regions affected by disasters or conflict. Strengthening these networks ensures that populations, especially the vulnerable, are not cut off during crises.

The need is to build resilience into digital systems from the start – in design, operation and recovery. But strengthening digital lifelines is not just a technical task. It is a shared responsibility that involves policy choices, investment, international cooperation and public awareness.

I hope the deliberations on the selected theme, on this day, all over the world, will provide effective solutions to overcome the obstacles to ensure that digital technologies provide a reliable lifeline for people, communities, and businesses during emergencies and also enlighten the nations with valuable ideas to foster a "secure-by-design" approach that moves beyond technology to include policy choices, investment priorities, and international solidarity.

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