

PREAMBLE: WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY (WTISD) - 2026

Theme: Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WT&ISD) is observed annually on 17 May to mark the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In 2026, the global community focuses on the critical role of connectivity under the theme: “**Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World.**”

The Context of Resilience

In an era defined by rapid technological shifts and increasing global unpredictability - ranging from climate-related disasters to economic disruptions-our digital networks have evolved from mere conveniences into essential lifelines. Digital resilience is no longer just a technical requirement; it is a fundamental pillar of societal stability, ensuring that education, healthcare, and governance remain functional during times of crisis.

Objectives for WTISD 2026

- **Infrastructure Reliability:** To advocate for the development of robust, secure, and sustainable digital systems capable of withstanding physical and cyber shocks.
- **Universal Connectivity:** To highlight that true global resilience is impossible as long as the digital divide exists. Connectivity must reach the most vulnerable and remote populations to ensure no one is cut off during emergencies.
- **Collaborative Governance:** To encourage international cooperation in setting standards and sharing best practices that protect global communication networks.

A Call to Action

As we celebrate WTISD 2026, the focus remains on transforming digital tools into a shield for humanity. By investing in resilient infrastructure and inclusive access, we ensure that our connected world is not only faster and smarter but also safer and more prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.

Through collective effort, we strive to build a future where **digital lifelines** are guaranteed for every citizen, everywhere.