

ITU Secretary General, Doreen Bogdan-Martin Video Message
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day-2025



Happy World Telecommunication and Information Society Day!

This year's celebration is special because it marks 160 years since the founding of the International Telecommunication Union. Since 1865, ITU has been connecting the world across borders. With each new wave of technology from the telegraph to radio telephones to satellites and from mobile internet to AI, ITU has been working every day to expand digital opportunities for all. But while we've come a long way in 16 decades we know one-third of humanity is still offline. Looking closely at that unconnected population, we find a significant access gap that risks leaving millions of women and girls behind. We also know that millions more lack the skills and resources to use technology in a meaningful way. That's why this year's theme – gender equality in digital transformation – is so important. We witness that significance every year on Girls in ICT Day which has reached hundreds of thousands of young women across more than 175 countries by opening pathways to STEM education and leadership opportunities. We're building on that momentum through our renewed EQUALS Global Partnership that aims to equip 100 million women and girls with digital skills by 2035. ITU supports these global efforts because we believe everyone deserves to have the confidence, skills, and opportunities to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Because when technology's benefits reach everyone, all of humanity wins. So today, I call on all ITU Members and partners to mark our 160th anniversary by taking action and recommitting to a digital future where everyone, everywhere can participate, benefit, and lead.