

High-level Panel and Networking Breakfast

"Strengthening Women`s Empowerment and Leadership in the ITU"

Friday, September 30, 8h00 – 9h00

Where: Unirii Hall, Palace of Parliament, Bucharest, Romania.

Organizers: ITU, together with Australia and Romania

Audience: VVIPs, VIPs, HoDs, and women delegates attending PP-22

Technology is revolutionizing and redefining the way we live, yet women are currently under-represented in telecommunication/ICT design, development, and governance. While progress has been made, the meaningful and effective participation of women and girls in field of telecommunications/ICTs, from decision-making to implementation, as well as the integration and mainstreaming of gender equality continues to be a major challenge.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22) will be the first gender-responsive Plenipotentiary. The ITU aims to reach the target of at least 35% of women participants, up from to 22% of women participants at PP-14, and 29% at PP-18.

Participation goes beyond numerical representation - it is about the extent to which women are empowered to actively engage and influence outcomes. This is why the ITU, with Australia's support, has developed and delivered a training programme to prepare women delegates to take an active role in PP-22 and beyond.

Over 100 women delegates benefited from the training. The training, underscored by the need to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the telecommunications/ICTs field, focused on bolstering the capacity of women delegates to meaningfully engage in the activities of the ITU including the Plenipotentiary Conference.

This High-level Panel and Networking Breakfast will bring together women VVIPs/VIPs representing the 6 ITU regions, the trainees, and those committed to bridging the gender digital divide to highlight the importance of advancing women's leadership in telecommunications/ICTs, as well as in the work of the ITU.

Programme

- **08:00 – Event opening**
- Welcome Remarks
 - **Mr. Houlin Zhao**, ITU Secretary-General
 - **Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, ITU BDT Director, and Secretary-General elect
 - **Mr Sabin Sărmaş**, PP-22 Chairman
 - **Hon. Michelle Rowland**, Minister for Communications, Australia (video message)
- High-level Panel Discussion: "Strengthening Women`s Empowerment and Leadership in the ITU"
 - Panellists:
 - **H.E. Ms. Ursula Owusu-Ekufu**, Minister for Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana
 - **Ms. Jocelle Batapa-Sigue**, Undersecretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Philippines
 - **Mrs. Ava Nadir**, Commissioner, Communications and Media Commission (CMC), Iraq
 - **Ms. Jibek Abdullaeva**, Chair of the Service for the Regulation and Supervision of the Communications Sector under the Ministry of Digital Development, Kyrgyz Republic
 - **Ms. Mercedes Aramendía**, President of Unidad Reguladora de Servicios de Comunicaciones (URSEC), Uruguay
 - Moderators:
 - **Ms. Lisa Gittos**, First Secretary, Cyber and Digital Affairs, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva
 - **Ms. Cristiana Flutur**, Director for international affairs, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania (ANCOM)

09:00 – Event closing