



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DKS/DIS/NUM/070

Geneva, 19 September 2024

His Excellency
Mr. Tiit Riisalo
Minister
Ministry of Economic Affairs and
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Subject: Global ITU Innovation Forum 2024, 28–30 October 2024, Valletta, Malta

Sir,

Further to my Circular letter BDT/DNS/DGS/035 dated 1 July 2024, I am writing to extend to you a personal invitation to participate in the 2024 Global Innovation Forum (GIF-24) to be held in Valletta, Malta from 28 to 30 October 2024, under the theme "Shaping our digital futures for prosperity and well-being for all." It is evident that besides urgency in bridging the digital divide, there is also increasing concern with existing and emerging digital innovation and skills divides that require policy intervention.

This event is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and will be hosted by the Ministry for Economy, Enterprise and Strategic Projects of the Government of Malta.

The Global Innovation Forum is committed to reducing the digital innovation gap by empowering stakeholders with forward-thinking ideas, sharing insights on policy acceleration and collaborative initiative development, supporting startups and SMEs growth, nurturing innovative digital clusters and connecting them to global innovation networks.

The Global Innovation Forum 2024 aims to support ITU Membership with new, more resilient, and forward-thinking approaches to guarantee they can safely navigate a digital world that is increasingly Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA). GIF-24 is packed with a dynamic programme spread across three stages – Forum, Experience and Collaboration. This event is an opportunity for global collaboration to accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship for development.

The event will include high-level panels discussing key topics related to future thinking, shaping digital ecosystems for prosperity, innovation and entrepreneurship as economic enablers, South-South and triangular cooperation as catalysts for digital innovation, pitches from innovative SMEs/startups, and the role of youth as the future drivers of prosperity and well-being.

As part of GIF-24, we will also be hosting the 2nd meeting of the [Digital Innovation Board](#) (upon invitation) and the 2nd Meeting of the ITU Acceleration Centres (upon invitation), the two vehicles of the [Innovation](#)

[Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development](#) I established last year as part of my commitment to accelerate the achievement of the Kigali Action Plan.

I invite you to bring relevant communities, including innovative startups and SMEs, innovation hubs, digital champions, academics, and strategic digital thinkers, driving your country's digital agenda on innovation and entrepreneurship for socio-economic development.

More information is available at: <https://www.itu.int/go/GIF2024>.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to a successful Global Innovation Forum 2024.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1 – Practical Information and Programme for GIF-24

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Speaking opportunity

In line with the forum expectation, there will be no formal presentations apart from those made by keynote speakers, as appropriate. Active participation of **executive level** participants in panels is welcomed and encouraged.

If you have been pre-selected for a speaking role, the BDT innovation team will contact you or your office. If you have not been contacted and are still interested in a speaking role, please reach out to bdtinnovation@itu.int for more information.

Registration

Registration to participate in GIF-24 is mandatory.

An ITU User Account is required to register. If you don't already have one, please follow the instructions [here](#) by selecting "I am a new user". For participants who already have created an ITU User Account when registering to another ITU meeting, login with your credentials.

Please register to the event [here](#). The deadline for registration is 21 October 2024.

All registration requests for participation in these meetings must be validated by the Designated Focal Points (DFPs) of administrations and entities entitled to participate.

The list of Designated Focal Points is available [here](#). If your Entity does not have a Focal Point, or wishes to modify the contact details and/or change a focal point, you are kindly requested to provide details of his/her last name, first name and e-mail address and submit this information on your organization's letterhead by e-mail to BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int.

The participation of women and young people in delegations is encouraged.

For assistance, please contact: BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int.

Interpretation

Interpretation for the GIF Forum stage sessions will be provided based on the requests from participants. At the time of registration, participants who require a language other than English must select their choice from the list on the registration form (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish). The deadline to request interpretation through the registration system is **14 September 2024** (23h59 Hours, Geneva Time).

Practical information

Please note that participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Practical information on accommodation, including logistical details, is available on the [GIF-24 website](#).

Due to visa requirements, and in order to ensure that your visa is processed in time for the meeting, I encourage you to follow the visa instructions available on the [host country's website](#). My team in the Digital Innovation Service (e-mail: bdtinnovation@itu.int) is at the disposal of participants for any additional support.

Programme

See <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/gif-24/programme> for full programme.

	Day and Time (CET)	Forum Stage	Experience Stage	Collaboration Stage
Day 1 - 28 October 2024	8:30-10:00		Registration	
	10:00 - 10:30	Opening		
	10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break and Group Photo		
	10:45 - 12:00	Leading towards prosperity in a VUCA world - Ministerial		
	12:00 - 14:00	Lunch		
	14:00 - 15:15	Digital Futures: from vision to impact - Fireside Chat	Young Women in Ai Power Session	Digital Innovation Board - Sessions by invitation only
	15:15 - 15:45	Coffee Break		
	15:45 - 17:00	Developing bankable initiatives to shape vibrant digital ecosystems - Fireside Chat	Masterclass on Storytelling for Impact	Digital Innovation Board - Sessions by invitation only
16:45 - 18:00	Networking Social			Digital Innovation Board - Sessions by invitation only
Day 2 - 28 October 2024	9:00-10:15	Unlocking the youth dividend through entrepreneurship and innovation - Roundtable	Remarkable pitches from Digital Changemakers	ITU Acceleration Centers Meeting by invitation only
	10:15 - 10:45	Coffee Break		
	10:45 - 12:00	South-South and triangular cooperation as catalyst for emerging technology clusters - Roundtable	Masterclass on Strategic foresight	Young Women in Ai - Workshop by invitation only
	12:00 - 14:00	Lunch		
	14:00 - 15:15	How can we zero in on holistic policies and strategies that drive innovation? - Roundtable	Remarkable pitches from Digital Changemakers	Young Women in Ai - Workshop by invitation only
	15:15 - 15:45	Coffee Break		
	15:45 - 17:00	Preparing for the Growth of Startups and SMEs in Globally Connected Markets - Roundtable	Masterclass on Resilience and well-being in a digital age	Young Women in Ai - Workshop by invitation only
16:45 - 18:00	Networking Social			
Day 3 - 28 October 2024	9:00-10:15	Ecosystem4Impact: ecosystembuilders in the frontline - Fireside Chat	Remarkable pitches from Digital Changemakers	Global Collaboration to accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship by invitation only
	10:15 - 10:45	Coffee Break		
	10:45 - 12:00	Building Innovation Networks and Platforms to Achieve National Ambitions - Fireside Chat	Jury Pitch for GIF Innovation Award	Generation Connect Young Leaders Programme [GCYLP] by invitation only
	12:00 - 14:00	Lunch		
	14:00-15:00	Closing and GIF Awards		
Legend	Ecosystem Development	Youth		
	Entrepreneurship, Startup and SMEs	Innovation Networks		
	Capacity building	Opening or closing Sessions		