International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on activities towards implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is pleased to provide its achievements and progress made toward the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs, particularly on priority 2b which addresses the importance of "Infrastructure development, maintenance, and Information and Communication Technology infrastructure.” which underscores the need to promote open and affordable access to the Internet for all and the importance of ICT infrastructures.

ITU has mainstreamed the needs of the LLDCs in all its activities to support their ICT developments and capacity.

Some of the Achievements and high-water marks of ITU to implement the Vienna Programme of Action include: direct assistance for the development of ICTs, Digital Inclusion, Cybersecurity, Capacity Building on spectrum management, Emergency Telecommunications, Climate change, ICT infrastructure development, e-trade, and Broadband.

For instance, in Rwanda, ITU implemented the Evaluation of the Wireless Broadband project in May 2018. ITU is now providing capacity building to establish online platforms to sell their local products.

In August 2018, ITU provided support to Botswana to respond to Cyber threats by implementing a project to assist its Communications Regulatory Authority by establishing its Communications Computer Incident Response Team.

For instance, in Kyrgyz Republic, ITU provided six IT training courses to teachers in remote areas to improve the country’s education system in collaboration with the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunication.
In 2018, ITU organized regional workshop for Commonwealth Independent States in Uzbekistan on Big Data and Cloud Computing to enhance the capacity of ministries, regulators, telecom operators, universities, and general education institutions, on the benefits these technologies bring to support e-commerce and global markets.

In Zimbabwe, ITU assisted women who are at the bottom of the pyramid through leveraging ICTs and developed an online interactive platform for their economic empowerment.

Furthermore, ITU has developed different events such as the thematic workshops during the World Summit on Information Society. In 2019 a joint event with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States on “Strengthening ICT Connectivity and digital inclusion in LLDCs” which addressed key issues for enhancing ICT affordability, connectivity, and accessibility in the LLDCs. The satellite community is very keying to bridge the digital divide by providing satellite connectivity in rural areas with very affordable prices.

In addition, ITU has been fostering effective Partnerships with governments, the private sector, the UN and other stakeholders. For example, ongoing innovation and partnership projects have been deployed in Zimbabwe to identify national development agendas in line with the SDGs, and to assist the country in formulating projects to integrate telecommunication/ICTs.

Moreover, ITU adopted many resolutions, such as a resolution on Special measures for the LLDCs and SIDS for access to international optical fiber networks.

Besides, that, in 2018, ITU published two reports on two LLDCs in the Americas region—Bolivia and Paraguay—on ICT’s connectivity challenges and opportunities, ITU is supporting these two countries in benefiting from the opportunities to address the challenges encountered. This actions will promote and enhance their economic development.

In conclusion, ITU has implemented large-scale projects and programs to change people’s lives in the LLDCs, and to better integrate them into the global digital economy. Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of Vienna Programme of Action. Nevertheless, much more needs to be done, so that the LLDCs can benefit, but not suffer from, globalization. And ITU will continue to spare no effort in supporting the LLDCs in promoting sustainable development and building a more inclusive digital world.

I thank you for your kind attention.