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# Coming together for inclusive standardization

By Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20) held from 1 to 9 March 2022, underlined the key role of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standards in all of our economies and societies, as well as the fundamental importance of international cooperation.

We reviewed the strategic direction, structure and working methods of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T). Importantly, we also welcomed new members of ITU-T leadership teams for the coming study period.

A conference like WTSA-20, much like ITU standards, stands as a testament to the enduring value of international collaboration, highlighting the contributions and efforts made by all engaged participants.

Through the various committees, working groups, and over 90 ad hoc groups that were formed over nine days of the conference, we had the privilege of hearing from dedicated, long-serving ITU members deeply invested in ITU standardization work for the world to be equipped with more technologies.

In particular, I would like to thank Bruce Gracie of Canada, Chairman of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) for the past two study periods and Chairman of WTSA-20, to whom I awarded an ITU gold medal for his outstanding contribution and leadership.

In recent years, we have seen new partners moving forward with ITU as part of our standardization work. This kind of collaboration to build future-ready technical and business ecosystems has become increasingly complex, yet it is more important than ever before. As we move forward, I call on the ITU family and its partners to keep working together to accelerate digital transformation for all.

This edition of the ITU News Magazine highlights key topics discussed at WTSA-20, as well as the Global Standards Symposium (GSS) that preceded the conference.



“We had the privilege of hearing from dedicated, long-serving experts who have helped us develop excellent standards for the world to be equipped with more technologies.”

Houlin Zhao