

Message

I am pleased to send this message of greetings on the occasion of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD-2019) that also marks the 154th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The theme of the day, 'Bridging the Standardization Gap' is timely and appropriate and I am glad to note that member states have taken steps to raise awareness of the WTISD among the community.

"Bridging the Standardization Gap' is one of the fundamental focus areas of ITU's mission to address disparities and the potential of developing countries to access, implement and influence ITU's international standards for progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goals. I believe that adopting such common standards would create a platform for economic growth and innovation. ICTs conforming to internationally recognized standards increase the probability of interoperability and enables economies of scale as well as grant access to global markets. It is instrumental in assuring the quality/safety of ICTs ultimately underpinning the socio-economic development of the country.

I extend my congratulations to ITU on this occasion and wish it well in its future endeavours.

Maithripala Sirisena

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