

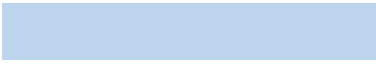
The Annual Virtual Meeting of the DTCs was officially opened by Ms Susan Teltscher, Head, Capacity and Skills Development Division, ITU. Ms Teltscher took the opportunity to thank the participants from both DTCs and partner organizations for joining the meeting, which aims at exchanging on the current achievements of the DTCs as well as on challenges and how ITU can support in responding to them. In addition, Ms Teltscher emphasized the two major ITU conferences that took place this year: The World Telecommunication Development Conference in June in Kigali and the ITU Plenipotentiary in October in Bucharest. During both events, representatives of the ITU membership and government highlighted the importance of digital skills development. The DTCL has been mentioned as a key development mechanism to overcome the digital divide and is thus highly recognized for its purpose to close the digital skills gap in developing countries, especially in underserved communities.

Mr Alfie Hamid, Senior Manager Global Partnerships, Cisco Corporate Affairs then addressed the participants by pointing out the importance of the DTC Initiative. He highlighted the recent achievements of the Cisco Academy, celebrating it's 25 years, counting 15 million students from 180 countries with 3 million students last year. He stressed that the Cisco Academy reached people who are usually forgotten, and those who do not think that digital skills are important. Therefore, the work of the DTCL is ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital revolution.

After the opening of the event, Ms Halima Letamo, Senior Capacity and Skills Development Officer, ITU, gave an update on the DTCL partnerships by stressing the three current major achievements of the ITU team in strengthening the Initiative. First, a

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Final remarks were delivered by Ms Susan Teltscher, Head, Capacity and Digital Skills Development, ITU. In her remarks, Ms Teltscher thanked all the DTCs and partners for their active participation and contributions. The feedback received during the meeting was well noted and is crucial for exploring further on training needs identified by the DTCs. Therefore, Ms Teltscher emphasized the importance of exchanging among the DTCs on success stories, challenges, and different impact measurement methodologies. The ITU and Cisco team is available for any questions or support and will continue to engage partners to support the training activities in the different countries of the initiative. A physical workshop for the DTCs will be planned for the second quarter of 2023.



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