



BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ

Scaling digital skills and driving impact at the Global DTC Workshop and ATC Annual Meeting 2026

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 April 2026

The ITU Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative and the ITU Academy Training Centres (ATC) programme play a critical role in advancing digital skills development and capacity building in line with the Baku Action Plan adopted at the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC 2025), which emphasizes the need for continued investment in skills to accelerate digital transformation, bridge the digital divide, and advance sustainable development. In this context, the Global DTC Workshop and the annual ATC Meeting were held at ITU Headquarters from 21 to 24 April, bringing together representatives of the ATCs, DTCs, and partners of the two programmes.

“The ATC programme and the DTC Initiative continue to play a crucial role in our work: building digital skills is key to reducing socio-economic and age-related divides,” said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of ITU’s Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). “Key outcomes of the meeting included addressing common operational challenges in the design and delivery of digital skills capacity development, particularly related to in-person training; continuing to strengthen the training evaluation frameworks for impact measurement, and the importance of scaling innovation and inclusive approaches to reach underserved communities as well as industry professionals. The meetings reaffirmed a shared vision of accelerating digital transformation and advancing inclusive and people-centered digital development. I would like to thank our partners, Cisco, ST Foundation, HP, and the Digital Skills Factory, whose engagement and contribution demonstrated the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration in advancing impactful and sustainable digital skills initiatives,” he concluded.

While the Global DTC Workshop and ATC Annual Meeting were held concurrently, joint sessions brought together representatives of the two programmes to explore common trends in training evaluation, unpack shared challenges related to training implementation, and exchange experiences on how innovative approaches such as gamification can be incorporated into the design and delivery of digital skills training. These sessions emphasized the value of closer cooperation and knowledge sharing between the two networks.

Despite catering to diverse beneficiary groups, ATC and DTC participants identified common ground in addressing shared challenges and in advancing effective, demand-driven digital skills interventions. The event also underscored the importance of partnerships in supporting sustainable capacity development and reaffirmed the role of ITU in facilitating cooperation, knowledge exchange, and technical assistance among its membership and partners.

Launched in 2019 in partnership with Cisco, the DTC Initiative aims to support countries in strengthening the digital capacities of their citizens, particularly those in underserved and rural areas. More than 764,000 course participants (52% female) from communities were provided with basic and intermediate digital skills since the inception of the programme. The network of DTCs continues to expand, with three new Centres recently joining the Initiative, from Malaysia, Nigeria, and Trinidad and Tobago.

As a successor to the Centres of Excellence (CoE) programme, the ATC programme focuses on providing ICT professionals worldwide with high-quality training to build their knowledge and digital skills, enabling them to contribute and fully engage in the digital transformation. Through the ATC network and the ITU Academy platform, over 160 courses have been delivered, and this year the programme will reach the 5,000 certified learners milestone since its launch in 2023, mostly policymakers from developing countries.

Looking ahead, the outcomes of the Global DTC Workshop and the ATC Annual Meeting provide a strong foundation for enhanced collaboration and continued investment in digital skills and capacity development efforts, which will support the ITU Membership.

Resources and background information

- ITU Flickr: [Global DTC Workshop and ATC Annual Meeting 2026](#)
- About the meetings:
 - [Global DTC Workshop 2026](#)
 - [ATC Annual Meeting 2026](#)
- For more information on the Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative, please visit: [Digital Transformation Centres Initiative | ITU Academy](#)
- For more information on the ITU Academy Training Centres (ATC) programme, please visit: [ITU Academy Training Centres | ITU Academy](#)
- [BDT Digital Impact Unlocked](#)

About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for digital technologies, driving innovation for people and the planet with 194 Member States and a membership of over 1,000 companies, universities, civil society, and international and regional organizations. Established in 1865, ITU coordinates the global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, establishes international technology standards, drives universal connectivity and digital services, and is helping to make sure everyone benefits from sustainable digital transformation, including the most remote communities. From artificial intelligence (AI) to quantum, from satellites and submarine cables to advanced mobile and wireless broadband

networks, ITU is committed to connecting the world and beyond.

For more information, visit: www.itu.int