****

**MINISTERIAL THEMATIC FORUMS**

**Side Event:**

Standards and Sustainable Green & Innovative Power Solutions to bring Broadband Internet Connectivity to Rural and Remote Areas

*Organized by International Telecommunication Union*

6.00 - 7.00 Tuesday 22 June

Electricity is needed for most Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), from recharging devices, powering mobile base stations, to running data centres. Energy is essential for the information and communication technology sector to help connect the world’s people and deliver the benefits of ICTs. Access to reliable and affordable electricity remains a major constraint especially in the world’s LDCs, where people stand to benefit most from the opportunities of ICTs, but where grid electricity is rare and incomes low. Electricity networks may also be leveraged to extend broadband backbones. Infrastructure sharing and re-use can be an important tool to save costs and expand services, highlighting the importance of cooperation between ICT and energy sectors and in particular for power line communications (PLC). At the same time, innovations in ICTs help build sustainable supply of electricity, which is vital to address the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. This session will discuss the importance of energy for ICTs, including for the ITU/UNICEF Giga initiatives, which aims at connecting every school in the world to the Internet by 2030. It will also highlight ITU’s work on developing greener ICTs, green communities and smart grids that can build more controllable and efficient energy systems and reduce carbon emissions. It will showcase ITU’s standards and sustainable and innovative power solutions for connectivity, to upgrade networks and integrate modern and more energy-efficient networks. This includes wireless electricity and more efficient working methods that can be used to replace or displace higher energy consuming technologies.

<https://itu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIrduGpqjkuGdF5utsTeP7cd4biK_kVflj8>

Reyna Ubeda, reyna.ubeda@itu.int