



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

Press Release

New Milestone in Digital Cooperation: BIMSTEC Joins ITU Development Sector

Dhaka, 01 June 2026: The BIMSTEC Secretariat is pleased to announce that BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) has been admitted as a Sector Member of the International Telecommunication Union Development Sector (ITU-D).

The ITU Council, at its 2026 Session held from 28 April to 8 May 2026, approved BIMSTEC's application for membership in ITU-D. The decision was formally communicated by H.E. Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the ITU, through her letter dated 28 May 2026 addressed to H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, BIMSTEC Secretary General.

This development marks a significant milestone in strengthening BIMSTEC's engagement with ITU for advancing regional cooperation in information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, digital connectivity, capacity building and telecommunications development.

BIMSTEC's participation in ITU-D is expected to facilitate closer collaboration with ITU and create additional opportunities for BIMSTEC Member States to benefit from ITU's expertise, resources, programmes and activities. The BIMSTEC Secretariat will endeavour to leverage these opportunities, particularly in the fields of ICT and AI, for the benefit of the BIMSTEC Member States.

BIMSTEC attaches high importance to digital and AI technologies as key enablers of socio-economic development, regional connectivity, innovation and digital transformation. Its association with ITU will provide a valuable platform to further advance cooperation in emerging technologies, promote inclusive digital development and support sustainable development across the BIMSTEC region.

About BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in the following areas: Agriculture & Food Security; Blue Economy; Connectivity; Culture; Disaster Management; Energy; Environment & Climate Change; Health; Human Resource Development; Fisheries & Livestock; Mountain Economy; People-to-People Relations; Poverty Alleviation; Security; Science, Technology & Innovation; Tourism; Trade & Investment; and Women Development.

For media inquiries, please contact:

BIMSTEC Secretariat

Email: media@bimstec.org