



Samoa's candidate for  
the Deputy Secretary General of the ITU 2023 - 2026



Gisa Fuatai Purcell



## ICTs to Improve the standard of living for all



*"I dedicate my candidacy to ensuring that digital telecommunications and transformation will continue to improve the standard of living for all. I am committed to ensuring ITU pays special attention to the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and countries with economies in transition. With the ongoing challenges of climate change, poverty, and the pandemic crippling our world, universal access to secure, affordable, and trusted ICTs is key to addressing these challenges to build back better and improve the standards of living for all. I am committed to ensuring the ITU remains relevant and contributes effectively to our global effort to build a sustainable world, to ensure resilient communities, cities, and economies, and connect the unconnected. To achieve this vision, we need improved coordination among the three sectors and continuous dialogue with the members. Supporting the LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs, and countries with economies in transition with advancing ICT infrastructure to the rural areas; and empowering vulnerable populations is critical to leaving no one behind and helping ITU members achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."*



commit to support the Secretary General



focus on resource mobilization



ensure that telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICTs) are leveraged in a sustainable manner



support public and private efforts to pursue people-centred universal access that is secure, affordable with capacity building for the unconnected.





## Leadership

**Acting Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization (CTO) while continuing her role as Director of ICT Development.** Demonstrated ability to lead and manage two high level positions through commitment, dedication and passion.

**Forging Partnership Alliances**—Organized the first ever meeting of Heads of regional and international organizations on 24 July 2019 that included ITU, OECD, African Union. The outcome were strategies to work together on Digital Transformation. Efforts for further meetings were hampered by Covid-19.

**Responsive to Country Needs** - Strength to mobilise trainings, workshops and conferences for Members States of the CTO and ITU based on their needs, particularly, in response to disaster management. Reduced the Training Consultant's fees to more than 50% benefitting the CTO Member States.

**ICT tools for Climate Change Adaptation**—through ITU, early (next-day) mobilization of satellite equipment

**ICT to support development** - ITU relevance to be strengthened through ICT commitment and focus on least developed countries (LDCs), Small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs and countries with economies in transition.

Supported the work on the inclusion of (SIDS), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) to the ITU programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC, 2006).

Supported the work on the Declaration at the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) preparatory phase included a paragraph that focus on the interests of least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.

**Championed ICT issues for the 2030 Agenda** - Successfully represented the ITU at the United Nations (UN) high level meetings on developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 in Geneva and New York ensuring ICT Infrastructure formed part of the SDGs.

Successful planning and organization of the **first Global Conference on Emergency Telecommunication (GET)** that was hosted by Kuwait (2016).

**Spearheaded telecommunication reforms at national level**

Instrumental in the telecommunication reform in Samoa through developing the national ICT policy, technical review of the Telecommunication Act 2005 that successfully achieved the liberalization of the mobile market (2003 - 2005)





## Professional Experience

2020-present	<b>Regulator</b> – Office of the Regulator, Samoa
2018 – 2020	<b>Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization, London, United Kingdom</b> <b>Acting Secretary General</b> – Led the implementation of the strategic plan to achieve the mission and mission and address ICT issues of Member States and preparation of Council meetings, conferences and reform programmes that saved Members money (July 2018 – August 2020)
	<b>Director, ICT Development</b> - Provided leadership and direction of ICT Development for the member states, implementing strategies for broadening ICT digital transformation development and address the needs of members (May 2018 – September 2020)
2016 – 2018	<b>Regional Advisor for the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization</b>
2011-2016	<b>International Telecommunication Union – Development Sector</b> <b>Head of Division</b> for Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Emergency Telecommunication, E-Waste Management and Climate Change Adaptation and mitigation.
2009-2011	<b>Project Coordinator</b> – Lead and completed on time and within budget the project of ICT for Pacific Island countries (ICT4PAC) in 14 countries.
2003-2009	<b>Secretary of the National ICT Committee of Samoa and Assistant Chief Executive Officer</b> of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT). Led the reform and liberalization of the telecommunication sector.
1995-1996	<b>New Zealand - ICT and Financial Consultant New Zealand</b> In both private and public sector including Accident Compensation Corporation, Wellington City Council, Prudential Portfolio Managers, ANZ Bank, National Bank to name a few.
1988-1995	<b>Telecom New Zealand</b> <b>Consultant, Telecom Auckland</b> – collaboration with NZ post and Post bank in sharing properties after the split of the former Post Office into Telecom, NZ Post and Post Bank <b>Telecom New Zealand Wellington</b> - Held various positions at Telecom New Zealand. Last position was Business Analyst.

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