



The Secretary-General

Geneva, 2 December 2016

Ref: CL-16/56 ITU Member States
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Subject: ITU's support of the 2016 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) and call for voluntary contributions to the ITU Accessibility Fund

Dear Sir/Madam,

The 3rd of December marks the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). This special occasion, held since 1992, is a unique opportunity to reflect on the work that the global community is undertaking to build an inclusive society in which persons with disabilities can enjoy full access to human, social and economic rights.

The theme of this year's International Day is "Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want". This theme reflects the recent adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of these goals in building a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities. Observance of the 2016 IDPD also coincides with the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

On this special occasion I want to renew ITU's commitment to support the CRPD, in particular by advancing in the implementation of ITU Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 175 (rev Busan, 2014), "*Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities*", which defines ITU's mandate in the area of ICT accessibility.

To achieve this goal I would like to invite ITU membership to contribute to the "*ITU Accessibility Fund for the Digital Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities*", established to support the implementation of Resolution 175. The fund is open to contributions from ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, as well as from other relevant organizations. Further information on how to channel your contributions to the Fund is available at www.itu.int/accessibility.

Your support will enable ITU to continue promoting the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Houlin Zhao', is written above the printed name.

Houlin Zhao