



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 21 July 2017

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Regulators
- Observer, Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014)
- World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators contacts
- National Statistical Offices
- United Nations and Specialized Agencies
- Regional and Other International Organizations
- Regional Telecommunication Organizations
- Academia

**Subject: 15th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium
Hammamet, Tunisia, 14 - 16 November 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the 15th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-17), which will take place in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 14 to 16 November 2017. WTIS-17 is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Government of Tunisia.

WTIS is the main global forum for telecommunication and information society measurements. WTIS-17 will bring together government ministers, business leaders, regulators, national statisticians, academics, and data producers and analysts to discuss the measurement of information and communication technology (ICT) trends.

WTIS-17 will feature high-level debates that will bring together technology leaders, telecommunication regulators and national statisticians to discuss the role of data in creating a healthy investment climate and the importance of improving the state of ICT statistics to signal market growth potential and attract investment.

Other sessions of WTIS-17 will focus on measurement issues related to new data needs to measure the digital economy, measurement innovations, emerging ICT trends, and smart data and smart sustainable cities. It will present the results of the ITU pilot project on big data for measuring the information society, and the work of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on Household Indicators (EGH) will be presented for adoption by WTIS-17. For the first time, WTIS will

feature parallel sessions that will include lightning talks, demos and tutorials on key ICT measurement issues.

During WTIS-17, ITU will release the ICT Development Index (IDI), the global benchmarking tool that tracks countries' progress in the development of their information societies. The IDI 2017 will rank around 175 economies globally based on official, internationally comparable ICT statistics.

A limited number of side events will be organized during the event for countries to present their data collection and dissemination platforms.

WTIS-17 is open to all the membership and is primarily targeted at those responsible for ICT statistics in relevant ministries, regulatory agencies, telecommunication operating companies and national statistical offices. Experts interested in the subject of information society measurements are also welcome to attend the symposium.

Within the budget available, one fellowship per country may be granted to participants from countries with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of less than USD 2000. Priority will be given to applicants who submit a paper of direct relevance to an agenda item. Because of budgetary constraints, the countries benefiting from ITU fellowships may be required to partly contribute to expenses associated to their nominee's participation. Please note that both the contribution/paper and fellowship form must be received at ITU no later than **5 September 2017**.

Further information on the symposium, including registration details, fellowship form and all other logistical information such as accommodation and visa arrangements, can be found on our website at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/wtis2017/default.aspx>.

For any enquiries, please write to wtis@itu.int or call +41 22 730 5410.

I hope your organization will be able to participate in this important event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director