



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular-BDT/DNS/DGS/021

Geneva, 9 February 2024

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia

**Subject: Invitation to participate in and contribute to the 2024 International Girls in ICT celebrations**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that, this year, the International Girls in ICT Day will be celebrated on 25 April 2024 under the theme *Leadership*. I invite you to contribute to the celebrations and to engage key women role-models, stakeholders, and young girls in your country.

Over the past years, Girls in ICT Day has been celebrated around the world with the bold leadership of the ITU Members. This year the main ITU celebration will be held in the Philippines and kindly hosted by the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT). While the programme is not finalized yet, I invite you to attend and consider sponsoring girls from your country, school entities to join the celebration. My team is available to assist you with the process.

Notwithstanding that you will have some girls traveling to participate, I hope you will support the 2024 Girls in ICT Day celebration by organizing programmes, trainings, and activities, as well as proactively engaging and collaborating with other relevant partners in your country, to successfully maximize the impact and outreach to as many girls as possible. For more details, please [www.itu.int/girlsinict](http://www.itu.int/girlsinict).

I am also pleased to inform you that a workshop will be organized at ITU Headquarters in Geneva to exchange views marking the International Girls in ICT Day on a day earlier than the 25th of April. The workshop is a joint effort between ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 as ITU-D Study Group 1 Rapporteur Group meetings will take place from 15 to 26 April 2024, and therefore coincide with the Girls in ICT Day celebrations on 25 April. However, the official celebrations for the Girls in ICT Day will be held on 25 April 2024 in the Philippines.

ITU's gender-disaggregated data shows that girls continue to lag behind boys. According to ITU in 2023, globally, 70 per cent of men are using the Internet, compared with 65 per cent of women—both slight increases from 2022 figures—but women account for a disproportionate share of the global offline population, outnumbering male non-users by 17 per cent. Women are nearly absent from software development, in engineering and technology research, academia and at the highest levels of policy making. They also tend to leave science and technology jobs at higher rates than men. While there is a leadership gender gap in every industry, the largest gaps are found in the STEM fields. Women in ICT tend to be in junior or support roles rather than in managerial roles, with little opportunity for advancement. They are also less likely to hold an executive position, to become ICT entrepreneurs, or be represented among science and technology policymakers.

For this reason, International Girls in ICT Day represents a unique opportunity to help bridge the digital gender divide and highlight, across the world, the critical need for strong female role models in STEM careers.

For more information on the programme, and to share details of events you are arranging, please contact Ms. Carla Licciardello, Senior Digital Inclusion Coordinator at [girlsincts@itu.int](mailto:girlsincts@itu.int) and Mr. Kishore Babu Yerraballa, ITU Area Representative at [kishore.yerraballa@itu.int](mailto:kishore.yerraballa@itu.int) by 31 March 2024.

Yours faithfully,

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava  
Director