



General Secretariat (SG)

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Contact: Ms. Carla Licciardello

E-mail: equals-in-tech-award@itu.int

To

ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates & Academia

Subject: **Invitation to ITU Members to submit nominations for the EQUALS in Tech Awards**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union and UN Women launched [EQUALS](#): The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, a multi-stakeholder initiative created to promote awareness, build political commitments, leverage knowledge-sharing, and combine efforts and resources for the greatest possible impact to achieve digital gender equality at both the global and national levels.

With the aim to align ITU's efforts under a common umbrella of actions, it is my pleasure to inform you that the former GEM-Tech Awards, a joint ITU and UN Women prize recognizing outstanding efforts in using the power of information and communication technology (ICT) to empower women and girls, has been renamed the [EQUALS in Tech Awards](#). In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that [online nominations](#) for the 2017 award are open until 23:59 EDT on 15 September, and span three categories: (Focal point: Ms Carla Licciardello - equals-in-tech-awards@itu.int)

- **ACCESS: Develop Gender Responsive ICT Governance, Policy and Access:** initiatives focusing on new legislation, policy frameworks or internal corporate strategy to improve women's digital technology access, connectivity and security.
- **SKILLS: Encourage Women and Girls to Pursue Education in STEM Studies:** initiatives encouraging more women in the STEM field (science, technology, engineering and math), focusing on the development of more relevant content, and addressing and overcoming cultural and social barriers that women face when entering STEM education.
- **LEADERSHIP: Promote Women in the Technology Sector:** initiatives that promote gender equality in ICT careers, especially initiatives where girls and women are cultivated as creators, developers, leaders and decision-makers.

The nominated initiatives will be judged by a distinguished panel of partners and previous winners, recognized as EQUALS in Tech Advisors. This group will also work together to share their best practices and to promote the call for nominations. The prestigious EQUALS in Tech Awards ceremony will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, during the [Internet Governance Forum](#) taking place from 18-21 December, 2017. Final details will be communicated closer to the date.

ITU members are encouraged to nominate their own initiatives or those of others – individuals, civil society, public sector, UN system and international organizations, private sector, academia – who have done exceptional work in the area. I am looking forward to your participation in this campaign, and hope to have the chance to welcome you in person to the awards ceremony at the Internet Governance Forum later this year.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General