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Heads of the United Nations Group on the
Information Society (UNGIS) member
organizations

Subject: Invitation as a High-Level Guest Speaker to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2019 (ITU Headquarters, Geneva, 8-12 April 2019)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate as a high-level guest speaker at the WSIS Forum 2019, hosted by the ITU, from 8 to 12 April 2019. The overall theme for this year is *“Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”*. The WSIS Forum is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD with the engagement of other UN Agencies, including FAO, ILO, ITC, UNDESA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNEP, UPU, WMO, WIPO, WHO, WFP, UN Women and UN Regional Commissions.

Taking into account your organization’s significant efforts in fostering the development of information and knowledge societies, a contribution to the Opening Ceremony, taking place on 9 April 2019 would be most welcome. I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your acceptance before **18 February 2019** by visiting <https://www.itu.int/go/wsispolycystatements>.

The UN General Assembly Overall Review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (UNGA Resolution 70/125) recognized the necessity of holding the WSIS Forum on an annual basis and called for a close alignment between WSIS and Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the WSIS Forum will serve as a platform for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of the SDGs.

In 2019, we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the WSIS Forum, thereby continuing to provide a platform for a “just and equal information society” for all WSIS Stakeholders as set by the Geneva Plan of Action. The format, agenda, and the thematic focus of the Forum is a result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders. All relevant documentation and the agenda for the meeting are updated constantly and are available at www.wsis.org/forum.

I would also like to invite you to attend the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) High-Level Meeting scheduled to take place on 9 April 2018 from 8:00 to 9:00 in the Secretary General’s meeting room at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Yours faithfully,

(original signed)

Houlin Zhao
ITU Secretary-General