



General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 15 May 2018

Ref: CL-18/26
Contact: Ms Carla Licciardello
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To:
ITU Member States, Sector Members,
Associates & Academia

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

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the nomination phase for the [2018 EQUALS in Tech Awards](#), which recognize initiatives around the globe that are providing women and girls with the much-needed digital access, skills and employment opportunities necessary to navigate our increasingly digital world.

This year, the awards will have the following four categories:

- **ACCESS:** Initiatives related to improving women and girl's digital technology access, connectivity and security;
- **SKILLS:** Initiatives that support development of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills of women and girls;
- **LEADERSHIP:** Initiatives focused on promoting women in decision-making roles within the ICT field, as well as initiatives promoted by private sector companies from the ICT industry to bridge the digital gender divide;
- **RESEARCH:** Initiatives prioritizing research on gender digital divides and producing reliable evidence to tackle diversity issues within STEM and computing fields.

ITU members are encouraged to [submit nominations](#) until 23:59 EDT on 20 July for 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 initiative, and hope to have the chance to welcome you in person to the awards ceremony later this year.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General