



General Secretariat (SG)

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To: Heads of the Regulatory Authorities,
ITU Member States

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Subject: **Invitation for Heads of Regulatory Authorities of the ITU Member States to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2019 (ITU Headquarters, Geneva, 8-12 April 2019)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum, hosted by the ITU, will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 12 April 2019. The overall theme for WSIS Forum 2019 is *“Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”*. The WSIS Forum is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP.

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 the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 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 thematic focus of the Forum are the result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders and can be accessed at: www.wsis.org/forum.

Taking into account your country’s significant efforts in fostering the development of information and knowledge societies, a Policy Statement during the High-Level Track on 9-10 April 2019 would be most welcome. The high-level track will consist of the opening segment, interactive policy dialogues, a WSIS Prize ceremony and a high-level networking programme.

In line with ITU’s gender equality and mainstreaming policy, I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage you to include women in your delegation.

I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your acceptance before **28 January 2019** by correspondence or by visiting our website <https://www.itu.int/go/wsispolicystatements>.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the opportunities for enhanced visibility at the Forum through the *WSIS Forum 2019 Partnerships*, as presented at www.itu.int/itu-wsis/fund.

Yours faithfully,

(original signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General