



General Secretariat (SG)

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To: Ministers,

ITU Member States

Contact: Ms Gitanjali Sah

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Subject: **Invitation to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2020**

Sir/Madam,

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum, will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 9 April 2020 hosted by the ITU and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP. The overall theme is *"Fostering digital transformation and global partnerships: WSIS Action Lines for achieving SDGs"*.

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 2020 (WSIS+15) will provide a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analysis of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005.

The format, agenda, and thematic focus are the result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders and can be accessed at www.wsis.org/forum.

Considering your country's significant efforts in fostering the development of information and knowledge societies, a Policy Statement during the High-Level track on 7-8 April 2020 would be most welcome. The High-Level track will consist of the opening segment, interactive policy dialogues, ministerial round table, 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 **15 January 2020** by correspondence or by visiting our website <https://www.itu.int/go/wsispolycystatements>

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the opportunities for enhanced visibility at the Forum through the *WSIS Forum 2020 Partnerships*, as presented at www.itu.int/itu-wsis/fund.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(original signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General