



General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 16 June 2020

Ref: CL-20/025
Contact: Ms Gitanjali Sah
Email: wsis-info@itu.int
Tel: +41 22 730 6076

To: - Administrations of ITU Member States
- Permanent Missions in Geneva
- National Regulatory Authorities
- ITU Sector Members & Associates
- Academia

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and after careful consideration, ITU and the co-organizers UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD have decided to hold the WSIS Forum 2020 in a virtual format, highlighting the theme of *"Fostering digital transformation and global partnerships: WSIS Action Lines for achieving SDGs"*.

The WSIS Forum 2020 will be held entirely online starting on **22 June onwards**, featuring a weekly programme, including a series of thematic/country workshops, high-level policy sessions, special tracks on various thematic areas, knowledge café, a Hackathon, and exhibition addressing issues that are critical to WSIS implementation and follow-up in a multistakeholder setting. The final week of the Virtual WSIS Forum 2020 will take place from **7-10 September 2020**, consisting of policy statements, interactive high-level dialogues, a WSIS Prize ceremony, a ministerial round table as well as a series of WSIS Action Line facilitation meetings.

The virtual WSIS Forum 2020 provides Stakeholders the great opportunity to reach a wider audience, all around the world, to connect and work together to accelerate achievement of SDGs through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). WSIS Forum (WSIS+15) will also provide an opportunity to serve as a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analyses of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005.

Agenda, relevant information and other details are at www.wsis.org/forum.

I look forward to welcoming you virtually at the WSIS Forum 2020.

Yours faithfully,

[Original Signed]

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General