



General Secretariat (SG)

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Ref.: **CL-20/37**
Contact: Carla Licciardello
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To:
- ITU Member States
- ITU Sector Members
- ITU Associates & Academia

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the nomination phase of the [2020 EQUALS in Tech Awards](#), which recognizes initiatives around the globe that are facilitating women and girls with essential and much-needed digital access, skills and employment opportunities required to navigate our increasingly digital world.

There will be four categories of awards:

- **ACCESS:** Initiatives related to improving women and girls' digital technology access, connectivity and security;
- **SKILLS:** Initiatives that support the 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.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s members are encouraged to submit nominations in the language of their preference [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), until 23:59 EDT on 9 August 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.

Additional information can be found here: www.equals.org or from the focal point Ms. Carla Licciardello (equals-in-tech-awards@itu.int).

I look forward to your participation in this initiative and hope to have the chance to welcome you virtually to the awards ceremony taking place in November 2020.

Yours faithfully,

(original signed)

Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General